Director’s Welcome: Dr. Edward Miller, Gerontology PhD Graduate Program

It is my pleasure to welcome new and returning students, alumni, staff, and faculty to the new academic year. I hope you had relaxing but productive summers and are as excited as I am about the year ahead. The Gerontology PhD Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) is the second oldest of its kind in the world and the foremost producer of Gerontology Ph.D.’s in the country. Last year was the first year in which I served as the Director of this esteemed program. My experience in this role has proven highly satisfying in no small part to the opportunities it provides to interact with students and alumni and to learn more about their professional goals and accomplishments.

Story continued on page 12

Eight New Students Join Doctoral Program

Eight new students from various places around the globe joined the Gerontology PhD program this fall. The students were introduced to the department on August 26th during their orientation. Pages 2 & 3 contain biographies of the new students.

From left to right: Myeong Sook Hwang, Bryceton Proctor, Megan Staley, Mei Chen, Molly Evans, Hao Wei Wang, & Yang Li (not included in photo, Yijung Karen Kim)
Introducing the New 2014 Gerontology Doctoral Students

Haowei Wang: Haowei majored in Sociology before coming to UMass Boston to study Gerontology. Her research interests have always focused on aging-related issues, and she is driven by this passion to further her studies. This is her first time in the United States so everything is brand new for her. She really enjoys the beautiful campus and working with her brilliant colleagues.

Bryceton Proctor: Bryceton has a BA in Psychology from UNC-Chapel Hill, a MS in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University, and a MS in Gerontology and PBC in Non-Profit Management from UNC-Greensboro. Coming to UMass Boston to attend the doctoral program in Gerontology is a continuation of his studies at UNC-Greensboro. While there, he became very interested in health care financing among older adults. He is excited that UMass Boston’s Gerontology program is located in the School of Policy and Global Studies. He is enjoying his first semester and is getting used to navigating Boston. His Boston experience so far has been enjoyable, but he is nervous about the upcoming winter.

Mei Chen: Mei has practical work experience from working in a non-governmental organization for over six years, as well as teaching in China. Her master’s thesis focused on elder happiness. She explored the roles of psychological independence and social capital on happiness among older adults, addressing whether this relationship varied by gender, geographic location, and living arrangement. This work prompted her to further explore aging research following graduation. She likes that the professors in the Gerontology department have both extensive research and practical backgrounds. She thinks UMass Boston is a great place for her to explore her research interests.

Molly Evans: Molly is from Los Angeles, California. She earned her undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis where she studied Anthropology, Public Health, and English literature. She discovered her interest in older adults while working as a research assistant in two aging psychology labs throughout college—a Clinical Geropsychology lab and a Cognitive Control and Aging lab. Wanting to further explore her interest in aging, she began working as the lab manager of Daniel Schacter’s Memory lab at Harvard after graduation. Molly is looking forward to exploring new aspects within the field. She is passionate about impacting the lives of older adults, and is very excited to be a part of this wonderful program.
Yang Li: Yang has moved back to Boston after several years in San Diego, California, where he studied for a Doctorate in Business Administration and worked briefly on economic research at the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. Prior to that, Yang earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s in Economics, from New York University and Boston University, respectively.

Yang has developed an interest in aging as he forms close friendships with people many decades his senior and has come to realize that older people are not only undervalued but also undercared for in our society. He values the policy emphasis of the PhD program in Gerontology at UMass Boston, and in the long term, he aspires to be a professor in aging. In his earlier theses, Yang focused on creating a diagnostic index measuring socioeconomic well-being. Among the variables he investigated, he couldn’t find a convincing way to define and measure the quality of aging, and he aims to inquire deeply into this topic through his doctoral work at UMass Boston. Yang calls himself a minimalist backpacker, having traveled 42 U.S. states and several other countries on a single backpack and his internship pay. His favorite destinations so far are Alaska and Cambodia. The most rewarding part for him is making new friends and witnessing different ways of life. Yang also savors classic films and biographies. His favorite films include Dr. Strangelove (1964) and 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), both by Stanley Kubrick. This past summer, he read the biographies of Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin. “Did you know that Franklin, a Bostonian, lived to an age of 84 at a time when the average life expectancy of men was barely 40 years?” Yang asked. So far, Yang is enjoying his first semester, and he cherishes the department’s enriching and friendly environment where students and faculty members are personable and willing to offer assistance.

Yijung Karen Kim: Karen is originally from Seoul, Korea, but has been studying in the United States since 7th grade. She just graduated from Boston College in May 2014, where she double majored in Philosophy (BA) and Psychology (BA). With her background, she was always interested in the individual and societal response to aging. She is both concerned about psychological acceptance of aging as well as a personal philosophy behind it. She was drawn to UMass Boston because first of all, she loves Boston, and secondly, while looking for programs in Gerontology, she was drawn to how students get to closely work with the renowned faculty here. Currently, she is a RA for Dr. Kathrin Boerner. So far, she is so grateful that she is in the program.

Myeong Sook Hwang: Myeong Sook is originally from Korea. She worked as a teacher in Korea until just prior to coming to the U.S. She received her Master’s degree in Gerontology at the University of Central Missouri. There, she served as a Student Ambassador (UCM) to introduce her unique cultural background to international classes. Her research interests lie in social welfare policies concerning older adult quality of life, particularly in regards to health care facilities, as well as independent and productive living. She became interested in Gerontology because of her mother. Myeong Sook likes the PhD program because it is equipped with great faculty and the beautiful campus.
Second Year Students Spend Summer Working

Second year students spent the summer working and conducting research. Below, each student describes his/her summer activities.

**Ceara Sommerville:** Ceara had a very busy summer prior to starting her second year in the PhD program. She continued working as an Activities Assistant at the Golden Living Center-Dexter House nursing home in Malden, MA. She enjoyed spending her time with her residents and loved that she had extra hours with all of her friends over the summer. Additionally, she spent time working with Jan Mutchler on a few different tasks. Ceara inventoried and updated the fact sheets and trend reports on the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging website and worked with incoming needs assessment projects. She will continue both projects this year, in addition to co-authoring a book chapter on gender, race, and ethnicity, and the life course with Jan. The most exciting part of the summer for Ceara was her role as Maid of Honor in her sister’s wedding. Her sister Jamie married high school sweetheart Tony Bavaro on July 12, 2014. It was a beautiful day formally welcoming him to the family.

**Ian Livingston:** This past summer Ian worked with Dr. Eddie Miller on his nursing home research. They identified how the media portray nursing homes and if this affects/influences NH policies at the state and local levels. They used newspaper articles from around the country (over 50 newspapers and over 16,000 articles) to identify patterns and trends between 1999-2008. Once they coded all of the articles, they were able to analyze the info using SPSS and put together a presentation to disseminate results to others. As for fun stuff– his sister and her family (husband and niece) came to visit from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for two weeks.
Maryam Khaniyan: This summer, Maryam went back to Iran and worked in the rehabilitation clinic where she worked before she began her studies in the Gerontology PhD program. She wanted to figure out whether her gerontology knowledge would be useful in her work environment as an occupational therapist. She has experience working with older adults, so she thought why not take the skills she has learned here to make a difference for some elders. She found her first year of study in gerontology to be a great resource for working with older adults. Working in the rehabilitation clinic allowed her to use her gerontology studies in real-world situations. She hopes that this experience will allow her to find the right career path in gerontology.

Saehwang Han: During the summer, Saehwang worked with Dr. Jeff Burr and Dr. Jan Mutchler on two separate projects. With Dr. Burr, along with Jane Tavares, he worked on a study which examined the relationship between volunteering and five risk factors for cardiovascular disease and the metabolic syndrome among middle-aged and older Americans using Health and Retirement Study data. With Dr. Mutchler, along with Mai See Yang, he worked on a study that looked into the relationship between multiple aspects of communication/language issues of the middle-aged and older Californians with their chances of being screened for cancer using California Health Interview Survey data.

Krystal Kittle: Krystal spent the summer working with Jaimee Ryan on marketing for the department, which consisted of writing news stories on some of the Master's in Aging Services students, PhD students, and new faculty in the department, as well as some events with which our department was involved. She also worked as a graduate assistant in the College of Liberal Arts, doing a research study that focused on retention among UMass Boston's freshman students. In addition, she did an independent study with Donna Friedman, where she learned about qualitative methods, specifically interviewing techniques to understand the benefits of LGBT meal sites in Boston. As a result of taking this independent study with Dr. Friedman, she was able to submerge herself more in the LGBT aging community in Boston, which is relevant to her research interests.
Third Year Students Finish Up Second Year Paper & Intern

Third year students finished up their 2nd year papers, a requirement of the PhD program, as well as participated in internships.

**Bon Kim:** “Volunteering and Self-Rated Health among Older Adults: When Less is More”

The aim of this study was to determine whether the relationship between volunteering and self-rated health varies with annual volunteer hours using data from the 2010 Health and Retirement Study. A non-linear relationship was found between the annual number of hours of volunteering and self-reported health. Compared to non-volunteers, all volunteers had significantly better self-reported health. Respondents who volunteered between 100 to 199 hours a year benefited the most, compared to people who volunteered 1-49, 50-99, or 200 or more hours a year. Volunteering excessively seems to be a burden on health for some older adults and to have a less protective effect.

**Joosuk Sebastian Chae:** “Financial Literacy and Household Wealth of Older Adults in the U.S.”

This study used data from the 2010 Health and Retirement Study and its new financial literacy module to investigate the association between basic and advanced financial literacy and household wealth among older Americans. Results indicate that only advanced financial literacy was associated with household wealth, while basic financial literacy did not show any significant relationship. Results suggest that advanced financial literacy, reflecting applied knowledge of financial markets, and current economic activities, has a more significant role in building household wealth than basic financial literacy.

**Brittany Gaines:** “Rural, Urban, and Suburban Health Differences among Older Adults: The Role of Psycho-Social Factors”

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether self-reported health differences exist among older adults living in rural, urban, and suburban environments. We also examined the role of psycho-social factors on the relationship between self-reported health and geographic residency. Using a logistic regression, results indicate that after controlling for psycho-social factors, urban older adults have significantly better self-reported health than rural residents. These findings suggest that the inclusion of psycho-social factors does not fully diminish the influence of older adults’ living environments on self-reported health.
Elizabeth Chen: “Does Enrollment in Managed Care Predict Location of Death?”

Decedents who were continuously enrolled in Medicare Advantage from 2008 until death were 48% more likely to die outside the hospital setting than those continuously enrolled in the traditional Medicare Fee-for-Service plan. This study used a broad set of social and health variables, and confirmed findings from other studies using only administrative data. It has policy implications given that older individuals generally prefer to die at home. A provision in the Affordable Care Act eliminates incentives for private insurers to enroll individuals in Medicare Advantage. Policymakers may want to study continuing incentives to increase enrollment in Medicare Advantage, particularly since the managed care market can have spillover effects into the fee-for-service market.

This paper won the 2014 GSA Person-in-Training award in the Health Sciences section!

Deepak Kafle: Deepak interned this summer at NYU School of Medicine in New York City at the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH). He worked on the Community Health Resources and Needs Assessment (CHRNA) project, primarily in the Himalayan population in New York City. CHRNA identifies health issues, available resources, and best approaches to meet the needs of the Asian American community residing in NYC. He was involved with the survey design, administration, and analysis of the Himalayan population. He gained skills in designing survey questions, culturally sound translation, community outreach, administering surveys, new data entry software, data cleaning, coding, and analysis techniques.

He was trained in RedCap, a new and innovative data entry software, and later entered the data from the Himalayan/Nepalese community. He then converted the data into SPSS from RedCap for analysis. He re-coded the variables; analyzed, developed a preliminary report, and presented the information in a seminar at CSAAH. These activities provided him not only hands-on experiences and opportunities to learn new software, but also provided skills to speak in public, sharing the results among scholars...continued on next page

In addition, he also edited the Nepali-translated version of the survey instrument and reformatted the questionnaires. The reformatting and rewording of questionnaires made the survey administration more efficient for Nepalese older adult respondents. He learned from this task that culturally sound language and correct translation can enhance accuracy and response rate.

Deepak also worked for a community outreach program in various neighborhoods in Queens of NYC. Because he already knew some community leaders, he took a lead to reach out to community-based organizations, the Nepalese volunteers, and recruited them for CHRNA project. He provided training to interviewers and assisted in survey administration to Nepalese speaking volunteers. He learned tactics in reaching out to community-based organizations to target hard to reach subpopulations.
Department Represented at
‘A Walk to End Alzheimer’s’ Event

Sigma PHI Omega sponsored a team of 15 members from our PhD, MAS, and undergraduate programs for the Boston Alzheimer’s Walk held on Sunday, September 28th. The team was led by Kristina Turk, Ellen Birchander, and Ceara Somerville and raised $2,460 towards Alzheimer’s research and care. It was a beautiful day for the 1.5 mile walk, and everyone looks forward to participating again next year.

A Fond Farewell

Kristen Porter (5th year) sadly announces the passing of her grandmother, Ellie, at the age of 93. Many students came to know her through Kristen’s stories and posted "Nana-isms". She passed in her arms on October 18, 2014. Ellie’s lessons: “The secret to life is strong shoulders. The secret to marriage is separate bank accounts. And if life should get you down, apply more lipstick.” When asked upon her 93rd birthday about aging, Ellie said, “I never pay attention to my age and Pond’s cold cream helps.”
Updates from Doctoral Candidates:

Andrea Lindemer: Andrea recently began working for the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on an NIH funded research study. The study is focused on heart failure patients' transitions from skilled nursing facilities to home. She is thrilled to have come full circle and be working for her alma mater - the University of Colorado. Andrea also continues to work on her dissertation focused on Medicare policy.

Wendy Wang: Wendy just finalized her dissertation topic and is ready to write up a concept paper. She expects to finish the concept paper and half of the dissertation proposal by the end of this semester. At the same time, she is also working together with Dr. Szinovacz on two other projects, one project is a qualitative study examining caregiving trajectories among adult child caregivers; the other project looks at how personality differences between spouses are related to their marital quality in late life. These two projects will be presented at this year's Gerontological Society of America and the National Council of Family Relations conferences.

Emily Gadbois: Emily is currently working on her dissertation proposal, which focuses on state older driver policies and will use the National Household Travel Survey. She is hoping to set a proposal defense date soon. She is also continuing her work with Veterans Affairs (VA) and is working on papers focusing on the use of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in nursing homes across states and over time, and on the process the VA uses to contract with community nursing homes to provide care to Veterans.

On a personal note, Emily recently got engaged to her boyfriend of 8 years, Tyler Rosenholm. They plan to get married next September.

Kristen Porter: Kristen is finalizing her dissertation on resilience in people with HIV/AIDS (N=914, aged 50 and older with HIV/AIDS). She used SEM to test a moderated mediation model of the effect of HIV-stigma on psychological well-being within the context of Stress Process Theory. She credits her progress to the great support from the Dissertation Writing Group she started in early 2014. She is the chair of two symposia at this year’s GSA conference: Aging with HIV/AIDS: The Mind Body Connection and Transgender Perspectives on Risk, Resilience and Successful Aging.
2014 Successful Dissertation Defenses:

This was a record year for UMass Boston’s Gerontology program with five successful dissertation defenses! Congratulations to Caitlin Coyle, Jiyoung Lyu, Deborah Gray, Judith Poey, and Cathy Wong.

Dissertation Titles:

**Caitlin Coyle:** “Loneliness, Isolation, and Hypertension in Later Life: Gender Differences”

She is currently an AHRQ Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Health Policy and Management, Yale School of Public Health, in New Haven, CT.

**Deborah Gray:** “Patterns of Dissaving among U.S. Elders”

She is currently working as a subject matter expert at the Center for Health Information and Analysis in Boston, MA.

**Jiyoung Lyu:** “The Impact of Childhood SES on Decline in Cognition among Older Adults”

She is a research fellow at the Graduate School of Public Health Sciences at Korea University in Seoul, Korea.

**Judith Poey:** “The Social Environment, APOE e4, and Dementia: The Social Environment as a Moderating Factor Among Individuals Genetically Predisposed to Develop Dementia”

**Cathy Wong:** “Gender, race, and ethnic differences in the effects of Education on Depression in Later Life: The Mediating Roles of Mastery and Stress”

She is a research analyst in strategic planning, research, and public relations for the Orange County Social Services Agency in Santa Ana, CA.
Continued from Page 1, “Director’s Welcome”:

Last year was exceptional. Five students—Caitlin Coyle, Deborah Gray, Jiyoung Lu, Judith Poey, and Cathy Wong—received their doctorates after successfully defending their dissertations. Eight students received their master’s degrees. Students authored more than 20 articles, largely published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. They also gave 50 presentations at professional conferences and other meetings. In addition, academic and professional recognition includes two McCormack Scholars, three State Health Policy Forum participants, an American Society on Aging Student Research Paper Awardee, and the top three finishers in the Massachusetts Gerontology Association’s student paper contest.

Our alumni also continue to shine. Noteworthy examples include Bei Wu, a 2000 graduate of the PhD Program, who was named a Distinguished Professor at Duke University’s School of Medicine. They also include R. Turner Goins, a 1998 graduate, who was selected as Western Carolina University’s first Ambassador Jeanette Hyde Distinguished Professor of Gerontological Social Work; and Kelly Fitzgerald, PhD, a 2008 graduate, who was elected Vice Chair of the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing—Geneva. We could wish for no more visible and effective ambassadors for the PhD Program than our own students and alumni. They make the Department, McCormack Graduate School, and University proud.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to two new faculty members, Kathrin Boerner, Ph.D., and Len Fishman, JD, both top-notch additions to the Gerontology @ UMass Boston community. Professor Boerner joins the Gerontology Department as an Associate Professor. Previously, she served as a Senior Research Scientist at Jewish Home Lifecare and Associate Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, in New York City. Her research expertise is in adult development and aging, with a focus on coping with chronic illness, end-of-life, and bereavement. Professor Fishman, a nationally recognized leader in the field of aging policy, joins us as the new Director of the Gerontology Institute, after serving 13 years as CEO of Hebrew SeniorLife, New England’s largest nonprofit provider of senior housing and health care and, before that, as president and CEO of LeadingAge, a coalition of senior-focused nonprofits in Washington, DC, and commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health.

Professor Fishman was hired to replace Ellen Bruce, JD, a long-time faculty member and Director of the Gerontology Institute, who retired on September 1. Although Ellen’s knowledge, leadership, and humor will be missed, we wish her nothing but the best in her retirement and look forward to her continuing, albeit, less frequent presence on campus through her role in the Pension Action Center. Professor Boerner was hired as part of Provost Winston Langley’s initiative to bolster the Gerontology Department’s expertise in aging and health, an increasingly important dimension of aging policy, research, and practice. We will be searching for at least one additional faculty member this year. Please get the word out!

This is an exciting period as the Gerontology PhD Program continues to grow along with the Gerontology Department and Institute, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, and University of Massachusetts Boston. I look forward to continued contributions from alumni and students without whom Gerontology @ UMass Boston could not have become one of the brightest beacons on Columbia Point.
Pension Action Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary and Recognizes its Founder, Ellen Bruce

On September 18, the Pension Action Center (PAC) of the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston celebrated its 20th anniversary and its founder, Ellen Bruce, who recently retired from her position as Director of the Gerontology Institute. More than 100 people attended the event at the law offices of McDermott, Will & Emery in Boston, which raised more than $67,000 for the PAC. The evening celebration was filled with words of inspiration from Philip W. Johnston, McCormack Graduate School Dean Ira A. Jackson, Provost Winston Langley, Karen Friedman of the Pension Rights Center, and a special video greeting from Senator Elizabeth Warren.

The outpouring of support from the many sponsors was a tribute to the great work of the Pension Action Center and to Ellen Bruce’s outstanding career as a lawyer and gerontology professor. For more than 40 years, she has demonstrated a deep concern for older people, especially women and minorities living at or near poverty. Under her direction, the Pension Action Center has recovered more than $45 million in benefits that rightfully belonged to retirees and their families.

Prior to joining the Gerontology Institute in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, Bruce was the senior managing attorney of Greater Boston Elderly Legal Services, served on many nonprofit boards, and is a past president of the national board of the Older Women’s League and Health Law Advocates. She is also the most recent recipient of the Frank J. Manning Award for Leadership. Named for the founder of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, this award is given to honor commitment to service, mentoring, and creative leadership to provide economic security and access to care for older citizens.

The funds that were raised will enable the Pension Action Center to continue its work under the direction of Len Fishman, a nationally recognized leader in the field of aging policy who was recently appointed as the new Director of the Gerontology Institute. Also, Jeanne Medeiros, JD, will lead the Pension Action Center team as Director. Jeanne has been the managing attorney for the PAC for over 15 years and is a recognized expert in the field of pension law.
Professor Eddie Miller Encourages LGBT Community to ‘Know Your Rights’ on Social Security

On June 25, Gerontology @ UMass Boston, The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM), Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), LGBT Aging Project, and the Fenway Institute presented a town hall meeting regarding Social Security benefits to the LGBT community. Panelists including Associate Professor of Gerontology Edward Miller who addressed important changes to Social Security following the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) one year ago. The purpose of the meeting was to inform people in the LGBT community of their constitutional rights of marriage equality, which includes their eligibility for spousal Social Security benefits. The discussion began with one of Senator Warren’s staff members speaking on her behalf. He shared her statement regarding her support of the event and Respect for Marriage Act with the audience. Then panelist Linda Dorn shared a brief overview of Social Security and urged attendees to sign up for their personalized online account through the Social Security website.

Panelist Jason Wu explained GLAD’s involvement in the fight for marriage equality, explaining their lawsuit against DOMA, and belief that same-sex eligibility for Social Security spousal benefits provides same-sex couples with a safety net, just like their heterosexual counterparts. Professor Miller explained the role of Social Security, including Medicare coverage, in the health and financial safety of older adults, a fundamental right that should not be limited to heterosexual older adults. As part of a series of town hall meetings around the country, this event held at Fenway Health was informative and action oriented as the speakers repeatedly urged guests to apply for benefits no matter where they live and to spread the word to other LGBT families. Representatives from the Social Security Administration attended the event and were available for consultations.
Professor Jan Mutchler and Senior Fellow Bernard A. Steinman of the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging at University of Massachusetts Boston have been awarded a $30,000 grant for a three-phased applied research protocol designed to identify individual and organizational community assets relevant to aging in the community. For example, the research team will map concrete assets like recreation centers for seniors as well as other assets like support groups and online services.

“In an asset mapping process,” Mutchler explains, “community members partner with researchers to identify and graphically depict community strengths—both the tangible and intangible resources that may be available but under-utilized for community development and social improvement.” She notes that this research project is a logical extension of past needs assessment work conducted by CSDRA. “By bringing knowledgeable people together to identify additional resources and linking them in original ways with the known network of programs and services, asset mapping as a research protocol aims to make a positive contribution to the economic and social development of communities, to inform local decision-making, and to improve quality of life of older residents and their families.”

Also, Gerontology’s Edward Miller is teaming up with professors of exercise and health sciences Ron Iannotti and Laurie Millenkin and collaborators at Northeastern University on a fitness project to prevent obesity. Family Gym is a free Saturday morning play program for families with children ages 3-8 and is offered at two Boston Youth and Family Centers (BCYF). According to Miller, “Although Family Gym has been in existence since 2009, this Creative Economy funding of nearly $40,000 provides us the opportunity to extend this successful program to the Dorchester community.” He continued, “It also provides us with the opportunity to engage in additional research and community engagement, including linking the GoKids fitness training program (at UMass Boston) to BCYF centers and UMass Boston faculty and students to peers at Northeastern.”

Both projects began in September.
Alumni Spotlight:

Laney Bruner-Cohoto recently became the Director of Waiver Quality Management Systems for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

Jay Bulot was recently elected to serve as the President of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD.org). Also, through his leadership efforts, the state of Georgia finalized its Alzheimer’s State Plan.

Dena Schulman-Green is currently working on palliative care related projects such as her recently funded study “Integrating Palliative Care into Self-Management of Breast Cancer,” R21NR014318-01, (National Institute of Nursing Research, 2/1/14-3/30/16).

Kimberly Johnson was selected as the recipient of the Gerontology Award for Outstanding Achievement on the basis of her dissertation, “Volunteering among Surviving Spouses: The Impact of Volunteer Activity on the Health of the Recently Widowed.” Johnson also earned a highly competitive, merit-based fellowship from the Hartford Foundation that offered two years of funding to complete her dissertation. She is on her way to a tenure-track faculty position at the University of Indiana.

R. Turner Goins recently became the first Ambassador Jeanette Hyde Distinguished Professor of Gerontological Social Work at Western Carolina University.

Bei Wu was recently named a Distinguished Professor at Duke University’s School of Medicine.

Caitlin Coyle began her post-doc at Yale University this fall. She is currently working on a variety of projects and publications, e.g., Coyle, C., Kramer, J., & Mutchler, J. (in press) Aging Together: Sibling caregivers of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities.

Cathy Wong finished her dissertation this year and got a job as a Research Analyst in the Division of Strategic Planning, Research and Public Relations at the Orange County Social Services Aging Department in California.

Kelly Fitzgerald was elected as Vice-Chair of the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva. Kelly represents the International Federation on Ageing to the Committee.

Eilon Caspi is working on a variety of projects and recently presented and published the following:


Recent Student Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Publications:


Presentations:


Gleason, H. (2014). The direct care workforce: An overview of demographics, the latest research, and training efforts. Keynote Speaker at the Personal and Home Care Aide State Training Program Train-the-Trainer Event, Lawrence, MA.


Kristen Porter: Chair of two symposia at GSA: Aging with HIV/Aids: The Mind Body Connection and Transgender Perspectives on Risk, Resilience, and Successful Aging.

Awards: Elizabeth Chen won the 2014 Person in Training award from the Gerontological Society of America for her paper, “Does Enrollment in Managed Care Predict Location of Death?”
Recent Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Publications


Presentations


Grants

$39,842 (Ron Iannotti, PI, Edward A. Miller, Laurie Millekin, Jessica Hoffman, Carmen Sceppa, co-investigators). Received from the University of Massachusetts President’s Office Creative Economy Initiative for a project entitled “Family Gym: A Novel Initiative to Prevent Obesity among Families with Young Children.” Funds for period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

$36,825 (Edward A. Miller, Research Mentor). Received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Providence Medical Center for “Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Funding for Student Support.” Funds for period May 25, 2014 through May 24, 2015.

$12,000 (Edward A. Miller, PI; Pamela Nadash, co-PI). Received a Joseph P. Healey Research Grant for a project entitled “The Portrayal of the Nursing Home Sector in 49 U.S. Newspapers, 1999-2009.” Funds for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

Awards & Other Items

Ellen Bruce received the Frank J. Manning Leadership Award from the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans on September 19, 2014.

Jeff Burr was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Aging and Social Policy.
Gerontology Positions: Tenure-Track Assistant or Associate Professor

The Department of Gerontology in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston seeks to fill one or more positions at the tenure-track advanced assistant or associate professor rank to join our faculty on September 1, 2015. The department is building on its strengths in the broad field of aging and health and will make a number of additional hires over the next several years in this area. All candidates should have an emerging or established program of research with evidence of external funding.

Applicants must possess an earned doctorate in one of the following fields, gerontology, epidemiology, sociology, psychology, demography, economics, social work, organizational studies, public policy, public administration, nursing, or political science. Applicants with terminal degrees in other fields will also be considered. Research expertise in one or more of the following areas are sought: health policy, health disparities and vulnerable populations (including dual-eligible populations), health care services research, long-term care services and supports, and translational research. Applicants with expertise covering other aspects of aging and health will also be given strong consideration.

To apply, submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three sample publications, and the names and contact information of at least three references online: http://umb.interviewexchange.com/candapply.jsp?JOBID=53983

Questions may be directed to search committee co-chairs Jeff Burr (jeffrey.burr@umb.edu) or Pam Nadash (pamela.nadash@umb.edu). Review of applications begins January 15, 2015 and continues until position is filled.
### Academic Calendar

**Fall 2014**
- **Veterans Day**: Nov 11
- **Thanksgiving**: Nov 27-30
- **Final Exam Period**: Dec 15-19

**Winter 2015**
- **Classes Begin**: Jan 5
- **MLK Day**: Jan 19
- **Classes End**: Jan 23

**Spring 2015**
- **Classes Begin**: Jan 26
- ** Presidents Day**: Feb 16
- **Spring Break**: March 15-22
- **Patriots Day**: April 20
- **Final Exam Period**: May 18-22
- **Commencement**: May 29

### Upcoming National Conferences 2014-2015

**Gerontological Society of America**
November 5-9, 2014
Washington, DC

**American Society on Aging**
March 23-27, 2015
Chicago, IL

**Association for Gerontology in Higher Education**
February 26-March 1, 2015
Nashville, TN