Welcome to Gerontology @ the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston)! I hope you—new and returning students, alumni, staff, and faculty—have had a great summer, which by now has given way to the new academic year. Although summer is over, the fun and camaraderie that derives from emersion within the Gerontology Graduate Programs—including one of the oldest PhD programs of its kind and the foremost producer of Gerontology PhDs in the country—has only just began. This is the third year that I have had the pleasure to serve as Director of both the esteemed PhD program and the Masters of Science Program in Gerontology Research and Policy. My pride in the accomplishments of the Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute grows each year. Professionally, there is nothing more satisfying than the opportunities my role provides to interact with students and alumni and, when I can, help promote their professional goals and accomplishments. Story continued on page 25
Adrita Barooah
Adrita completed her undergraduate studies and her Masters in Human Development and Childhood Studies from the University of Delhi in India. She earned her second Masters in Community Mental Health Counseling from the University of Rochester in New York. She was introduced to the field of Gerontology as a Research Assistant in the Geriatrics Department at Rochester. After graduating, she worked for a year at the Jewish Home Lifecare in New York City and was involved in various projects in the Research and Community Outreach division. The wide range of faculty interests and the diversity of students at UMass Boston drew her to this school. She is enjoying the supportive environment in the department and long walks on the campus harbor walk.

Angie Corcetti
Angie majored in Feminist and Gender Studies at Bryn Mawr College. Before she pursued her MSW in social policy and aging at University of Michigan’s School of Social Work, Angie worked as an employment attorney in Los Angeles, California, advising employers and representing employees with age, sex, race/ethnicity, and/or disability-based discrimination and
harassment cases. These cases often involve wrongful termination and denial of fair pay/benefits, workplace accommodations and medical or family leave. She is very excited about pursuing her PhD at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies and working with a community of scholars committed to social justice.

**Naomi Gallopyn**
Naomi graduated from the University of Rhode Island in May 2015, where she earned a BS in Human Development & Family Studies. Within this program, she was able to tailor her classes to be focused on older adults, which allowed her to build her own track in Gerontology. She is very excited to have more focused courses on Gerontology here at UMass Boston.

Along with taking courses, she has also been a research assistant at URI and an intern at an adult day center in Cranston, RI. She is now an RA for Dr. Jan Mutchler and helps with the Age-Friendly Boston project. Naomi’s experiences in research have focused on successful aging, but she is now more interested in dementia and Alzheimer’s disease along with hospice policy.

**Leeann McMorrow**
Leeann McMorrow has a degree in music therapy from Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania and has been working as a hospice music therapist for the past four years. Her interests are in research and advocacy in music therapy and end of life care. Leeann plays violin, piano, and guitar, and enjoys singing. Originally from upstate New York, Leeann and her husband Ryan moved to the Boston area 2 years ago. She is very excited to start her first year in the UMass Boston PhD program.

**Natalie Pitbeckoff**
Natalie is from Valhalla, New York and has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In 2015, she received her master’s degree in gerontological studies from Miami University. Natalie’s master’s thesis examined the meaning and experience of engaging in a type of animal-assisted activity program that utilizes rabbits. Natalie is currently working on her first manuscript for publication which is based on her master’s thesis. She owns three rabbits and is very passionate about them and older adults! Prior to returning to academia, Natalie worked as an activity director in a continuing care retirement community. This position allowed her to grow and experience working hands-on with older adults including those suffering from cognitive impairments.
Natalie’s research interests include: health policy, long-term care, caregiving, using animals to improve the lives of older adults, and evaluation and qualitative research methods. Overall, her goal is to perform research that will provide evidence to support sound policies and programs. Her long-term career goal is to work for an advocacy organization, such as AARP, or a federal agency on aging. Natalie chose to attend UMass Boston due to the program’s strong focus toward policy and aging.

Outside of being a doctoral student, you will often find Natalie traveling, in the kitchen cooking, or watching cooking shows. Due to her father’s love affair with traveling, Natalie has had the good fortune to visit around 50 counties around the world. In the future, she would love to open a side business where she can provide gourmet style meals to older adults in need. Additionally, she is planning, if possible, to teach a course through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on international cuisines and cultures.

**Rachael Solano**

Rachael is from Malden, MA. She completed her Bachelor of Arts from UMass Boston where she majored in Gerontology. She also completed the Frank J. Manning Certificate and the Gerontology Social Policy Certificate during her time as an undergraduate student. She has worked on a few undergraduate research projects and is excited to begin the MS Gerontology Research/Policy program! When she is not on campus, Rachael can be found crocheting blankets for friends and family or hiking around the Boston area. She also enjoys traveling around the country by Amtrak and recently made the trek from California to Washington.

**Dani Waldron**

Danielle Waldron graduated from Providence College in May 2015 with an undergraduate degree in Health Policy and Management. She is interested in health policy and healthcare reform related to care for elders. She would like to study and advocate for people with lifelong disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. She decided to attend the Gerontology PhD program at UMass Boston because the program allowed her the unique opportunity to delve deeper into the study of health policy of the elderly, as well as to explore the social policy side of Gerontology. She saw this integrative approach as exciting and conducive to interdisciplinary collaboration. She is enjoying the program, learning a great deal each day, and is excited about her future research projects!
Claire Wickersham
Claire completed her bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing science at SUNY Cortland, and received her master's in gerontological studies at Miami University. She is highly interested in the village model approach to aging in the community.

Claire works part-time at Beacon Hill Village as the Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator. Her responsibilities include outreach coordination, membership development, communications and fundraising support. In the summer she also worked in the Member Services Department tracking services and member needs, providing customer service to members, and coordinating/vetting service providers.

Joyce Wang
Joyce participated in several research projects related to aging issues while she was working toward her undergraduate degree in Sociology in China. Amazed by the whole new world of Gerontology, she decided to concentrate on aging services during her MSW coursework at Washington University in St. Louis. Joyce has worked with several organizations that serve older adults, such as the National Council on Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association. Her academic interests are in productive aging and program evaluation. She loves the Gerontology program at UMass Boston and its faculty. Her experience in Boston has been pleasant thus far and she is very excited to be joining the program.

Second Year Students Spend Summer Working

Mei Chen
Mei Chen completed an internship with Professor Beth Dugan working on the Older Driver Safety Summit. She helped coordinate with the Planning Committee members of the summit and organize volunteers in preparation for the summit on June 17, 2015. The Summit had volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, including PhD students from the Gerontology department, OLLI members, undergraduates, faculty and staff. The Summit’s volunteer work has been highly recognized and appreciated. Mei also worked with Professor Beth Dugan, Yi Jung (Karen) Kim, and Molly Evans on the Environmental Scan for the towns of Rhode Island, an extension of the Healthy Aging project that began in Massachusetts.
Molly Evans
This summer Molly completed last year’s assistantship with Len Fishman by doing research on the 50 years of Massachusetts Medicaid history for MMPI with Yi Jung (Karen) Kim. She also worked with Hayley Gleason, Professor Jan Mutchler, and the rest of the Gerontology Institute’s Center for Social and Demographic Research team on the Age-Friendly Boston Initiative, a collaboration that also includes AARP and Boston’s Elderly Commission. Lastly, Molly worked with Professor Beth Dugan, Yi Jung (Karen) Kim, and Mei Chen on the Environmental Scan portion of the Rhode Island Healthy Aging Project. On a personal note, she also got engaged!

Yi Jung (Karen) Kim
This summer Karen moved to Cambridge, did research on 50 years of Medicaid history in Massachusetts for MMPI with Len Fishman and Molly Evans, and helped with the Environmental Scan portion of the Healthy Aging Project for Rhode Island.

Bryceton Proctor
This summer Bryceton traveled to North Carolina and Nevada.

From left to right: Haowei Wang, Mei Chen, Yi Jung (Karen) Kim, Yang Li, Bryceton Proctor, Molly Evans
Saehwang Han
"Productive Activities and Depressive Symptoms among Older Adults: The Moderating Effect of Socioeconomic Status"
This paper examined how the relationship between productive activity engagement and depressive symptoms may be moderated by older adults’ socioeconomic status (SES). Findings support the moderating effect of educational attainment on the association between paid work and depressive symptoms. Data for this and other second year papers derive from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a nationally representative survey drawing from a sample of community-living old adults aged 55 years and older in the United States.

Krystal Kittle
“Silent saviors: Does caring for a grandchild put grandmothers at risk for loneliness?”
The paper examined whether caring for grandchildren had an effect on grandmother loneliness and whether race moderated the relationship between caring for grandchildren and loneliness. Findings showed that grandchild caregiving is not associated with loneliness. Individuals who elect to care for their grandchildren may possess qualities from life experience that prepare
them for handling adversities, such as loneliness, associated with grandchild
care. It could be that grandmothers in the sample have characteristics associated with
loneliness that are unrelated to grandparenting. Additional grandchild caregiving data is needed
to better understand the risks and benefits associated with caring for grandchildren.

**Ian Livingstone**

*"Does Social Support Mediate the Relationship between Alcohol Consumption and Functional
Limitations in Older Adults? Findings from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS)."*

The relationship between alcohol and functional limitations has been well documented, where
higher or riskier consumption patterns have been associated with a higher likelihood of an
onset of functional limitations. This paper utilizes the conceptual framework of the Stress
Process Model to examine whether different forms of social support work as a buffer to protect
against the negative affects alcohol consumption has on functioning in older adults. The study
used two waves of the HRS (2008 and 2010); only those who did not have limitations in 2008
were utilized to determine onset of functional limitations in 2010.

Ian worked at RTI International as a Research Analyst Intern on
the Performance Measure
Development and
Implementation Program
(PMDI). The work consisted of
creating national quality
measures for post-acute care
settings which is a component
of the "Improving Medicare
Post-Acute Care Transformation
Act of 2014" (IMPACT Act).

**Maryam Khaniyan**

*“The Associations among Social Support, Social Strain and Loneliness among Middle-aged
and Older Adults: The Moderating Effects of Gender and Marital Status.”*

The goal of this paper was to examine the association between social support, social strain and
loneliness and to see how this association may be moderated by gender and marital status
among middle-aged and older adults. Her findings indicated that higher levels of perceived
social support and lower levels of perceived social strain were associated with lower levels of
loneliness among middle-aged and older adults. In addition, the negative association between support and loneliness was stronger among women, whereas the positive association between social strain and loneliness was more pronounced among unmarried men.

Gerontology Fourth Year Plus Students

Emily Gadbois
Emily is currently working on scheduling her dissertation defense, which will take place in November. She started working as a Project Coordinator in the Center for Gerontology & Healthcare Research in Brown University's School of Public Health. She got married on September 19!

Brittany Gaines
This summer Brittany Gaines was awarded an American Society for Safety Engineers (ASSE) fellowship. As part of this fellowship, she conducted a research study assessing whether factors that vary by geographic location help to explain the variance in length of disability between younger and older workers. She is currently working on drafting a journal article based on results from this project. Brittany also continues her work as a research assistant at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, MA.

Deepak Raj Kafle
Deepak recently completed a study that investigated the association between living arrangements and computer use among older adults. Older adults were expected to use computers more when living with younger people aged 7-26 years. Data were taken from the 2010 wave of the HRS. Contrary to expectations, findings indicate that older adults living in a household with younger people were less likely to use a computer than older adults not living with younger people. Further longitudinal studies are required to confirm this association.
Andrea Lindamere
Congratulations to doctoral candidate Andrea Lindemer (now Andrea Daddato), on her May 23rd wedding in Denver, Colorado! (Pictured at right).

Lauren Martin Palmer
Lauren Martin got married to Nate Palmer, her significant other of over 10 years, in September of 2014. She now goes by Lauren A. Martin Palmer professionally. Laura and Nate bought a house a month ago in Braintree, MA. Laura started a new job as a Research Policy Health Analyst at RTI International at the Waltham, MA location. She works in the Performance Measure Development and Implementation (PMDI) group and her first research project focuses on working with CMS to create quality measures for Long Term Care Hospitals. Lastly, Lauren will defend her dissertation on November 6th!

Kristina Turk
Kristina is currently working on her dissertation about specific caregiving issues for individuals caring for someone with Frontotemporal Dementia. She is also teaching at Salem State University for the second year, teaching both Cognitive Psychology and Adulthood and Old Age in the SSU Psychology Department via their online portal. Lastly, Kristina gave a presentation about Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson’s Disease and Driving at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Washington, D.C. in July.

Wendy Wang
Wendy is currently working on the proposal of her dissertation: Grandchild Care and Marital Quality in Later Life. Meanwhile, she collaborated with Dr. Jean Edward from the Nursing department on a manuscript about social determinants of health care access disparities/inequities among Hispanics in Massachusetts. Her main responsibility was generating maps to show those disparities using data from U.S. Census Bureau and MassGIS.
Eilon Caspi
Eileen Caspi wrote a piece called “Potential Therapeutic Benefits of Participation of People with Dementia on Care Farms” which is featured in the link below:
https://alzheimersspeaks.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/dementia-farms-care-farms-additional-resources/

Kelly Fitzgerald
Kelly Fitzgerald is a senior scientist and adjunct graduate faculty member at Western Kentucky University’s Center for Gerontology. Dr. Fitzgerald recently published a book with fellow UMass Boston Gerontology professionals Frank Caro, the former director of the Gerontology Department and Institute, and Robert Geary, the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*. The book “International Perspectives on Age-Friendly Cities,” brings together recent scholarly work concerned with efforts around the world to transform cities so that they are more age-friendly. Their book is now available on Amazon:
http://www.amazon.com/International-Perspectives-Age-Friendly-Routledge-Geography/dp/0415720710

Kristen Porter
Kristen Porter began her post-doc at ACRIA’s Center for HIV & Aging (NY) this summer. She is currently working on a South African aging with HIV study and numerous publications. Over the summer she was an invited guest lecturer at Boston College’s School of Social Work and presented at the Integrative Medicine for the Underserved Annual Conference held at Tufts.
Jennifer Gaudet Hefele
previously worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Schneider Institutes for Health Policy at Brandeis University, where she worked on studies related to cost, utilization patterns, and quality of healthcare for elders. Dr. Hefele’s area of expertise is in long-term care for elders, particularly on issues related to public reporting of quality, racial and ethnic disparities, and unintended consequences of policy.

Dr. Hefele is currently Principal Investigator on a study funded through The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, titled “Chasing Medicare.” This project is examining how increased focus on post-acute care affects quality for long-stay residents. She has previously received funding through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to identify consumer preferences for nursing home information and to test the development of quality measures stratified by race and ethnicity. She was also the recipient of a dissertation grant award from AHRQ. She is an active member of the Gerontological Society of America and AcademyHealth, and has recently been invited to serve on a scientific review panel of healthcare effectiveness and outcomes research grant applications for AHRQ.

Dr. Hefele received her PhD in Social Policy with a concentration in Health Policy from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Her dissertation examined the impact of Nursing Home Compare on nursing home performance, and also analyzed patterns of response by nursing homes characterized by the racial populations they serve. Dr. Hefele is a UMass alum, having received both her BLA and MA from UMass Lowell.

Dr. Hefele has a two year old daughter, a 19 year old step-daughter, a husband who works in information systems, and a cat who acts like a dog but thinks he’s a person. The family likes going for walks and bike rides and generally doing anything outdoors.
Dr. Kyungmin Kim has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of the Gerontology program. Dr. Kim received her BA and MA in Child Development and Family Studies from the Seoul National University and her PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from The Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation examined multiple family members’ perspectives on support exchanges across generations. Before joining our program, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Population Research Center, the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Kim’s research falls under two themes: (a) the social support exchanged between older parents and their adult children in normal and everyday relationships and (b) family caregiving issues in aging families. She is particularly interested in how parent-child dyads, as nested within a complex family system optimize the satisfaction of both personal and collective family needs through support exchanges, including both routine and intensive exchanges. She is also interested in dynamic aspects of intergenerational relations across levels of analysis, including various group levels (e.g., dyad, family, and culture/society) and time levels (e.g., daily and short/long term interval). She is currently working on a R03 project “Generational Family Patterns and Well-Being” funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), which examines family typologies using multiple dimensions of parent-child ties and change/stability of family typologies over time.

Dr. Kim is teaching a seminar course for the first year students with Dr. Mutchler this fall. She is very grateful for the department’s welcoming and warm environment where students and faculty members are willing to help each other. She is very excited about the opportunity to work with students who have diverse backgrounds and interests.
Recent Student Accomplishments

Student Publications


Student Awards

The National Institutes of Health, in partnership with the National Institute on Aging, has awarded McCormack Graduate School PhD student Mai See Yang an R36 Aging Research Dissertation Award to Increase Diversity. This highly competitive two year award of $69,000 includes a research stipend and covers data collection and stipend expenses. Mai See’s dissertation will explore the impacts of life events on depression in later life in older Hmong immigrants. Her study will focus specifically on three life phases: pre-migration, transition, and post-migration.
Student Awards (continued)

PhD candidate Hayley Gleason was awarded a $10,000 grant from the Eastern Bank Foundation for her project “Preventing Violence against Older Adults: Training for Home Care Aides in Massachusetts” through her impressive work with the Home Care Aide Foundation.

Student Presentations and Workshops


Recent Faculty Accomplishments

Faculty Publications and Reports


Functioning, Disability and Health [ICF]. *Clinical Rehabilitation.*


Faculty Honors

Gerontology Professor Beth Dugan was awarded tenure in spring of 2015 by the Gerontology Department in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. Dr. Dugan will also be the director of the Department’s new undergraduate Gerontology program which will welcome students starting fall of 2017.

Graduate Program Director Eddie Miller:
- Promoted to full Professor in the Gerontology Department
- Named the incoming Editor of the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* (effective January 1, 2016).
- Appointed Adjunct Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice, Department of Health Services, Policy, and Practice Brown University (Summer 2015) [Previously Adjunct Associate Professor, 2009-2015].
- Joined the Editorial Review Board Member of the *Polish Social Gerontology Journal* (Summer 2015)
- *Co-Chair, Aging, Disability and End-of-Life Theme*, Annual Research Meeting, AcademyHealth, Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 14-16, 2015.
- Asked to help develop/sign an open letter to former Secretary of State Clinton to “Commit to building 25,000 ‘small house’ residences by 2025 to replace 25 percent of the aging and outdated.” See https://sites.google.com/site/25kby25/. (Spring 2015)
- Served as a proposal reviewer for The Israel National Institute of Health for Health Policy Research. (Summer 2015).
- Interviewed live on KCBS Radio in San Francisco (740 AM, 106.9 FM), 24-hour news station, by Stan Bunger and Susan Leigh, about the enrollment in the Affordable Care Act and the growth of gap health insurance (June 4, 2015).
Faculty Grants

Elizabeth Dugan:
1. Principal Investigator. Healthy Aging in Rhode Island. Grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation (01/01/2015-12/31/2016) $325,000.
8. Principal Investigator. RTI International, Performance Measure Development and Implementation Program (09/01/2015-05/14/2016) $17,000.

Edward A. Miller:
2. Principal Investigator. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Canandaigua Medical Center projects “Investigating the Geriatrics” and “Extended Care Form and Community Nursing Home Contracting Program” (06/01/2015-08/31/2015) $38,516.

Jan Mutchler:
Faculty Presentations


Recent Alumni Accomplishments

Alumni Presentations

Coyle, C., & Gleason, H. (June 4, 2015). Using community data sources to understand the demographics of your potential clients. Presented at the Partners in Aging Home Care Aide Council Spring Conference, Boxborough, MA.


Porter, K. (August 6, 2015). Integrating Community-Based Acupuncture Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS into Hospital Services. Integrative Medicine for the Underserved 5th Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. [Oral]

Alumni Publications


The Boston regional forum of the White House Conference on Aging was held at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate on May 28, 2015. This Boston event was the last of five regional forums leading up to the White House conference on July 13, 2015.

The Boston forum brought together over 200 academics, older adults, advocates, caregivers, community leaders, and experts within the field of aging. The forum encouraged dialogue regarding four designated key issues: the promotion of healthy aging, provision of long-term services and supports, assurance of retirement security, and promotion of elder justice, regarding issues such as financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The national White House Conference on Aging occurs once each decade. White House representatives aptly reported, “In a year that marks the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security, the White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity to recognize the importance of these programs, highlight new actions to support Americans as we age and focus on the powerful role that technology can play in the lives of older Americans in the decade ahead.”

UMass’ Gerontology Institute was asked to provide the Boston forum with its recently developed national elder income security index and Massachusetts healthy aging city and town profiles. Len Fishman, director of the Gerontology Institute, and Jan Mutchler, professor and director of the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, were invited guests.
Department Represented at “2015 Walk to End Alzheimer’s”

Article by: Yang Li

UMass Boston Gerontology was represented by students, faculty, and friends at the 2015 Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Sunday, September 27th. This year, the team was organized by the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega and led by Chapter President Yang Li. The event is the nation’s largest in raising awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer’s disease. This year, the team raised a total of $2,125 to donate to the Alzheimer’s Association in advancing research and care. The team is thankful for friends of UMass Boston Gerontology who contributed to their fundraising effort.

Sigma Phi Omega (SPO)

*Sigma Phi Omega* is the national honor society for gerontology students. Officers of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter at UMass Boston are:

President: Yang Li  
Vice-President: Molly Evans  
Treasurer: Ceara Somerville  
Secretary: Bryceton Proctor  
Faculty Advisors: Nina Silverstein and Kyungmin Kim

This year, SPO has an exciting lineup of events planned. If you have any questions about SPO or an upcoming event, please contact any of our SPO officers listed above.
David Cash named new McCormack Graduate School Dean

David Cash stepped in as McCormack Graduate School’s new dean on July 27, 2015, following the promotion of previous dean Ira A. Jackson to Vice Provost for Economic Planning/Resources and Special Projects of UMass Boston. Former Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Cash has great experience within the field of public policy. With a BA in Biology from Yale, MAT in science education from Lewis & Clark, and a PhD in public policy from Harvard, Cash brings with him a passion for teaching, learning, and environmental protection and affairs. His focus while earning his doctoral degree was on bridging knowledge and action, exploring how science and technical information can inform decision-making related to environmental and sustainable development issues. Cash has extensive experience working internationally to promote these environmental and sustainability efforts. He recently represented the U.S. State Department on a clean energy and climate mission to India, and has also collaborated with regulators and policymakers in both Tanzania and Ghana through USAID. He has published numerous professional, peer-reviewed academic and lay articles and book chapters. He is the recipient of awards and fellowships from the U.S. EPA, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Harvard University, the Institute for the Study of World Politics, Howard Hughes Foundation, Earthwatch, and the Environmental Leadership Program.

When asked about his new role as McCormack Graduate School dean, Cash noted, “The McCormack Graduate School is at a crossroads, an inflection point of major growth and opportunity. I am honored and incredibly excited to join a community of scholars, students and staff, dedicated to linking research and practice, and to work together to strengthen and expand the school’s leadership role on local, state, national, and global stages.”
Fall 2015 Gerontology Seminar Series

Monday, October 5th

Sara Moorman, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston College

*Neighborhood age composition and later-life well-being*

---

Save the Date!

October 26, 2015

Francis Caro, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Gerontology, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, UMass Boston

*Age-friendly cities: Initiative Brookline*

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*
Three doctoral students from last year’s graduating cohort (2013-2014) landed postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University (Caitlin Coyle), Korea University (Jiyoung Lyu), and Kansas State University (Judith Poey). Two students from last year’s graduating cohort work in government at the Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis (Deborah Gray) and the Social Service Agency of Orange County, California (Cathy Wong). Our most recent graduate, Kristen Porter, successfully defended her dissertation, “Resilience in the Face of Adversity: Aging with HIV/AIDs,” during the 2014-2015 academic year, for which she was awarded the Dissertation Book Award from the Gerontology Department.

Kristen has been an outstanding and invaluable member of the Gerontology @ UMass Boston Community since day one. During her time at UMass Boston, Kristen published numerous journal articles, won local, state and national awards, and promoted the progress and well-being of other students by co-authoring journal articles and leading the local chapter of Sigma Phi Omega, the national gerontological honor society. Kristen also established our very successful dissertation support group. Kristen is now a post-doctoral fellow within the Center on HIV & Aging at ACRIA, a research organization that “envisions a world where all people with HIV receive the treatment, care, and support they need to lead healthy, productive lives and where new transmissions of the virus have been eliminated.”

Last year, students authored nearly 30 articles and reports, largely published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. They also gave close 50 presentations before professional conferences and other meetings. In addition, academic and professional recognition includes four McCormack Scholars (Elizabeth Chen, Hayley Gleason, Ceara Somerville, Ian Livingston), a Gerontological Society Association of American Person-in-Training awarded (Elizabeth Chen), three recipients of travel and/or research awards from UMass Boston’s Office of Global Programs (Lien Quach, Bon Kim, Sae Hwang Han), the third place winner in the poster competition at the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Gerontology Association (Abigail Butt), a paper award from the National Council on Family Relations (Hyo Jung Lee), and the winner of the 2015 Francis G. Caro Student Paper Award and Gerontology Department Scholarship Award (Bon Kim).

This has been an especially big year for doctoral student Mai See Yang. Mai See received both a Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Award and Craig R. Bollinger Memorial Research Grant from UMass Boston. She was also awarded the Gerontology Service Award for her commitment to the Gerontology Department, faculty, and students. Most significantly, Mai See was just
awarded a grant from the National Institute on Aging to fund her dissertation research on the “The Impacts of Life Events on Depression in Later Life in Older Hmong Immigrants.” Congratulations, Mai See! This year’s cohort of seven PhD students and two M.S. students certainly have excellent models to follow as they begin their educations.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to two new faculty members, Jennifer Hefele, PhD and Kyungmin Kim, PhD, both excellent additions to the Gerontology @ UMass Boston Community. Both Hefele and Kim join the Gerontology Department as Assistant Professors. Hefele received a PhD in Social Policy with a concentration in Health Policy from the Heller School of Social Policy & Management at Brandeis University (2011). She joins the Department after serving as a Senior Research Associate at the Schneider Institute for Healthcare Policy, also at Brandeis. Her research focuses on long-term care, quality of care for elders, and racial/ethnic disparities. Currently, she is working on research that looks at the impact of acute-specialization and the improvement of public reporting to meet the needs of minority populations. Professor Kim received a PhD in Human Development and Family Studies from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State University (2012). She joins the Department after serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focus is on adult development and aging, intergenerational relations in later years, support exchanges between generations, and family caregiving. Currently, she is working on a project examining the relationship between generational family patterns and well-being.

In faculty news, Professor Elizabeth Dugan was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. I was promoted to full Professor. The Department will begin searching for an assistant professor this fall, further adding to our growing faculty. The Department will also begin searching for a second, more senior faculty member with expertise in long-term services and supports as part of a collaboration with Community Catalyst whose “mission is to organize and sustain a powerful consumer voice to ensure that all individuals and communities can influence the local, state and national decisions that affect their health.” This position will offer a unique opportunity to combine the resources and scholarship of a university setting with the active engagement and practical policy expertise of a national consumer advocacy organization. See page 29 for the job ads for these two positions.

Growth in the Gerontology Department and Institute makes this an exciting period for the Gerontology PhD and MS Programs. I look forward to continued contributions from students and alumni, without whom Gerontology @ UMass Boston could not have become one of the leaders in gerontology education, research, policy, and practice nationally. Have a great year!
The UMass Boston Gerontology Institute hosted the Inaugural Massachusetts Older Driver Safety Summit on June 16, 2015. Organized by the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the Summit welcomed 240 participants including academics, engineers, car makers, policymakers, occupational therapists and other medical professionals, police officers, insurance providers, elder service specialists, and directors of councils on aging.

“We are on the threshold of the greatest later-life demographic surge in human history,” said Len Fishman, director of the Gerontology Institute at the start of the summit. “The unprecedented growth of the 65-plus population in Massachusetts will influence every aspect of life in the Commonwealth, including transportation. The quality of life of older adults and the people who care for them depends on how well we prepare for this new reality.”

The summit brought together participants from across the country to learn, connect, and brainstorm solutions to a vexing and often highly emotional problem: ensuring public and individual safety while trying to preserve the mobility and independence of older adults. Speaker after speaker talked movingly of confronting these issues in their own families, testifying to the omnipresence of the “driving dilemma” in today’s society.
Over 40 presentations were given covering four inter-related topics related to safer driving for older adults: infrastructure; policy; medical issues; and mobility. Videos of all presentations, as well as PowerPoint slide decks for many presentations, are available from the website of the Gerontology Institute: www.umb.edu/gerontologyinstitute.
The Summit proceedings lay the foundation on which a five-year plan to improve safe mobility for older drivers in Massachusetts will be created in the latter part of 2015. The Older Driver Emphasis Area Team aims to make the roads safer for Massachusetts residents of all ages.

**Summit Highlights**

Older drivers pay attention to safety:
- They tend to drive when conditions are safest
- They have higher rates of seatbelt use
- They are less likely to drink and drive

But older drivers are more vulnerable to injury or death:
- Roughly 500 older adults are injured in an automobile crash every day
- About 15 older adults die in a car crash every day
- Fragility is estimated to account for 60-95% of excess death rates per vehicle miles travelled in older drivers

Up to 25% of older adults continue driving after a physician's recommendation for driving cessation.

“Most people don’t plan ahead for driving cessation. Instead they wait until a crisis happens. That's a shame, because this is an issue that can bring families to their knees.”

--Lissa Kapust, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

A California health insurance survey of adults 65 years and older found that of the top 10 fears, first was “being diagnosed with a fatal disease.” Second was “losing the ability to drive and the driver’s license.”
Two Open Gerontology Positions: Tenure Track Professors

Gerontology Faculty Search #1

The Department of Gerontology in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at UMass Boston seeks to fill a tenure-stream faculty position to join our group as soon as possible. Faculty rank will be determined based on qualifications and experience. The Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute are building on strength in long-term services and supports (LTSS). All candidates should have a strong record of external funding or evidence of the ability to achieve significant external funding.

Community Catalyst and the Gerontology Programs at UMass Boston, with support from The Atlantic Philanthropies, have formed a partnership to advance their shared goal of transforming the way health care services and long-term services and supports (LTSS) are delivered to, and experienced by seniors and other low-income people. The person who fills this position will work closely with the Gerontology Programs and Community Catalyst. Community Catalyst is a national, non-profit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1998 with the belief that affordable, quality health care should be accessible to everyone. UMass Boston is home to one of the world’s most respected and largest gerontology programs in the world with a major concentration in LTSS, signified by the creation of a new Center on Long-Term Services and Supports. The Community Catalyst-UMass Boston partnership will combine Community Catalyst’s expertise in consumer and community engagement, policy, communication, and implementation, with the research, evaluation and training capacity of one of the nation’s most diverse research universities. The partnership will be anchored by a public scholar who holds a faculty position in the Gerontology Department at UMB and serves as a senior policy advisor at Community Catalyst.

Applicants should possess an earned doctorate in one of the following fields, gerontology, public health, 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 given full consideration. Experience in government and/or the non-profit sector is welcome. Persons interested in obtaining more information about the position may wish to schedule an appointment with a Gerontology Department faculty member attending this year’s annual meetings of the Gerontological Society of America (Nov. 18-22) in Orlando, FL.
Gerontology Faculty Search #2

The Department of Gerontology in the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at UMass Boston seeks to fill one position at the tenure-track assistant professor rank to join our faculty on September 1, 2016. The department is building on its strengths in the broad field of aging and health. All candidates should have an emerging or established program of research with evidence of external funding or evidence of the ability to achieve external funding.

Applicants must possess an earned doctorate in one of the following fields by September 1, 2016, gerontology, public health, 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 is sought: health disparities and vulnerable populations, mental health, and physical health, including mortality. Applicants with expertise covering other aspects of aging and health will be given strong consideration as well. Expertise in quantitative methodologies is also preferred. Persons interested in obtaining more information about the position may wish to schedule an appointment with one of the Gerontology Department faculty members who will be attending this year’s annual meetings of the Gerontological Society of America (Nov. 18-22) in Orlando, FL.

If you would like to schedule a meeting about either faculty opening, please contact directly one of the faculty members listed below:

Kathrin Boerner (Kathrin.boerner@umb.edu)
Jeff Burr (jeffrey.burr@umb.edu)
Beth Dugan (elizabeth.dugan@umb.edu)
Jennifer Hefele (Jennifer.hefele@umb.edu)
Edward Miller (edward.miller@umb.edu)
Jan Mutchler (jan.mutchler@umb.edu)

Detailed information on how to apply will be released soon. General questions may be directed to search committee chair Jeff Burr (jeffrey.burr@umb.edu). Review of applications begins January 15, 2016 and will continue until the positions are filled.
## 2015-2016 Academic Calendar

### Fall Semester 2015
- **November 11**: Veteran’s Day (Holiday)
- **November 26-29**: Thanksgiving Recess
- **November 30**: Classes Resume
- **December 14**: Semester Ends
- **December 16-22**: Final Exam Period

### Winter Session 2016
- **January 4**: Winter Session Begins
- **January 18**: Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)
- **January 22**: Classes End

### Spring Semester 2016
- **January 25**: Classes Begin
- **February 2**: Add/ Drop Ends
- **February 15**: President’s Day (Holiday)
- **March 13-20**: Spring Vacation
- **March 21**: Classes Resume
- **April 4**: Fall 2016 Registration Begins
- **April 18**: Patriot’s Day (Holiday)
- **April 20**: Pass/ Fail and Course Withdrawal Deadline
- **May 11**: Classes End
- **May 12-13**: Study Period
- **May 16-20**: Final Exam Period
- **June 3**: Commencement

---

### Upcoming National Conferences 2015-2016

- **MGA Forum “The Aging Network: Challenges and Opportunities for Emerging Leaders”**
  - October 23, 2015 at Lasel College in Newton, MA

- **GSA National Conference “Aging as a Lifelong Process”**
  - November 18-22, 2015 in Orlando, Florida
  - **UMass Boston Reception at GSA**
    - Friday, November 20 8-10pm
    - Stop by our booth #216 for details

- **AGHE’s 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, D.C.