Congratulations Gerontology Graduates!!

2015 Doctoral Degree Graduate:
Kristen Porter

2014/2015 Master’s & Certificate Degree Graduates:
Theresa Ahrens, Kathleen Arment, Teresa Barker, Donna Blackwell, Leah Bleicken, Amy Brocious, Veronica Buckley, Katherine Cardinal, Ralph Choate, Susan Curtin, Vanessa DeAndrade, Debra Dodds, Mary Ann Graham, Kathleen Greeley, Gary Groth, Lisa Hooper, Karen Jensen-Germaine, Andrew Kerwin, Shaun Kinsella, Erin Kopecki, Carolyn Koszarek, Marissa Lewis, Rachel Lively, Francine McCarthy, Susan McNulty, Anita Mendoza, David Morgan, Tracy Newhouse, Idrialis Perez, Diana Pernigotti, James Reynolds, Patricia Sanders, Debra Shaw, Shagun Sodhi, Olivia Sokolowski, Susan Sotiros, Samuel Taylor, Parthena Tsinidis

Older Driver Safety Summit
On June 16th, UMass Boston will host the Older Driver Safety Summit, a major statewide initiative on older driver safety. Faculty members from the Gerontology Department and Gerontology Institute will speak, Kathrin Boerner, Beth Dugan, and Nina Silverstein, and students Emily Gadbois, Kristen Anderson, and Brittany Gaines will present research findings. McCormack Graduate School Dean Ira Jackson will be a MC for the keynote sessions. There will also be representative from various sponsors such as Ford, AAA, iTN GreaterBoston, Tufts Health Plan Foundation, US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and many more!
Gerontology Students & Faculty Awarded Funding from Office of Global Programs

Three Gerontology projects have been awarded funding by the Office of Global Programs at UMass Boston. Having received the largest number of applications in the history of the program this year, the Office of Global Programs applauded the high quality of proposals submitted by all participants.

Gerontology faculty member Kathrin Boerner’s proposal “Comparison of US and German Centenarians: Care needs, Resources, and Health” was selected for funding under the International Seed Grants Program. This program supports UMass Boston faculty interested in developing international research/education programs.

Gerontology PhD student Lien Quach received funding for travel to attend an international conference and present her scholarly work. She will be attending the 2015 International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics European Region Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

Gerontology PhD students Bon Kim and Sae Hwang Han received funding for their research project, “Productive Aging and subjective well-being among Chinese and Korean older adults”, in the Student/Postdoc International Research Project competition. This program provides funding for UMass Boston students interested in pursuing and developing an international research project.

“This is wonderful news,” says Gerontology Department Chair Jeff Burr, “congratulations to each of the proposal submitters! Once again, we are reminded that aging is both a local and global phenomenon. On behalf of my gerontology colleagues, we thank Schuyler Korban, Vice Provost and Director of the Office of Global Programs, for supporting this important work.”

Article from: UMass Boston News

Community Engagement

This Thanksgiving, Gerontology department students Bon Kim and Mai See Yang, and alumna Caitlin Coyle volunteered with Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly, a non-profit organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among older adults in the U.S. They delivered Thanksgiving dinner to older adults who are socially isolated in the Boston area. Caitlin encouraged Bon and Mai See to participate in this important event.
Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2014

Last year, UMass Boston’s Gerontology department was well represented at GSA, with numerous presentations by students, faculty, and alumni. (Please see below.)

Students:

**Chae, J., Porell, F., Miller, E.A., & Bruce, E.** “Financial Literacy and Household Wealth in Later Life.”

**Chen, E., Porell, P. Dugan, E., & Miller, E.A.** “Does Enrollment in Capitated Health Plans Predict Location of Death?”

**Gadbois, E. Miller, E.A., Gidmark, S. Guihan, M., & Intrator, O.** “Lessons from the VA Nursing Home Program for Provider Contracting under the Affordable Care Act.”

**Gadbois, E., & Intrator, O.** “Oversight of Veterans Health Administration Community Living Centers: The CLC Dashboard.”

**Kafle, D., Dugan, B., Burr, J., Kittle, K., Quach, L., & Thapa, S.** “Are Living Arrangements Associated with Fall-Injuries among Older Adults?”

**Kim, B.** “Life Satisfaction and Volunteering among Older Whites and Hispanics: Findings from the HRS.”

**Kim, B.** “Volunteer Activity and Self-Rated Health of Older Adults: Is More Better?”

**Livingstone, I.** “Oldest Old Adults with High Physical Activity Levels: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study.”

**Luger, T.M., Richardson, L.M., Feng, H., Harvey, L.L., & Houston, T.K.** “Age and geographic differences in the use of personal health records.”


**Sommerville, C.** “Social Engagement of the Oldest Old: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study, 2010.”

**Taveres, J., Han, S.H, & Burr, J.** “Helping Others and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors: Does Volunteering Get ‘Under the Skin’ Later in Life?”

Faculty:

Barooah, A., Boerner, K., Van Riesenbeck, I., & Burack, O. “Finding the bed empty: Experiences of Certified Nursing Assistants in the context of resident death.”


Miller, E.A. “Nursing Home Care in the Veterans Health Administration.”


Jopp, D., Boerner, K., Christoph, R., & Kruse, A. “Life satisfaction and its predictors in very old age: Findings from the Second Heidelberg Centenarian Study.” In P. Martin (Chair), Well-being and Health in Centenarians: Findings from Germany, Japan, Portugal, and the USA.

Professor Jan Mutchler Receives UMass Boston Grant

Professor Jan Mutchler was awarded a grant for her service work, “Age-Friendly Boston Initiative, A Compendium of Community Programs and Partners.” This $10,000 grant will support data collection at the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, which is partnering with the City of Boston and AARP to make our capital city a World Health Organization recognized Age-Friendly City.

Please see page 9 for more information on the Age-Friendly Boston Initiative.

PHOTO: Dr. Jan Mutchler
We Need to Have a Plan for Long-Term Care

To begin her address at UMass Boston, activist, author, and long-term care advocate Ai-Jenn Poo asked audience members to turn to one another and share a story about someone who took care of them. She talked about two of her grandparents: One who died in an nursing home that was a poor fit, the other thriving at home at the age of 89 in part because of a caregiver named Mrs. Sun.

“We [as a family] did not have a plan. We as a country don’t have a plan either. And it’s gotten to the point where we as individuals can’t afford to not have a plan,” Poo said.

Poo said that someone turns 65 every eight seconds in America; by 2030, 20 percent of the population will be over that age. And although the average yearly stay in a nursing home costs $87,000, the typical at-home caregiver makes less than $9 an hour. Poo says a “care grid” is needed to bring home options to every home in America.

“Poo is the director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and co-director of Caring Across Generations, a national coalition of 200 advocacy organizations working to transform the long-term care system in the United States. She is a 2014 MacArthur Foundation fellow, a 2013 World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, and was named to TIME’s list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012. Her new book is titled The Age of Dignity: Preparing for the Elder Boom in a Changing America.

UMass Boston’s Labor Resource Center and university partner the Brazilian Immigrant Center sponsored the talk along with 35 other supporting organizations.

Poo praised the Brazilian Immigrant Center and other Massachusetts organizations that worked tirelessly to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. Among other provisions, the bill includes the right to maternity leave.

“Massachusetts has really been on the front lines of innovation and health care around the country. Most of our health care costs in this country go toward care for older adults. And there is an enormous amount of waste in the way that that care is delivered,” Poo said. Instead, investments should be targeted at “the non-medical caregiving work that takes place both on the part of family caregivers and professional caregivers like domestic workers, preparing them to provide high-quality preventative care, quality-of-life based care, so that they have the support to manage chronic illnesses, prevent unnecessary emergency room visits, and so much more, ultimately saving our health care system money while improving the quality of life of our loved ones all across the state,” Poo said.

Article by: Colleen Locke

PHOTO: Ai-Jenn Poo
New Healthy Aging Report Released!

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation released the second edition of the Gerontology Institute-produced Massachusetts Healthy Aging Data Report: Community Profiles 2015. The report provides the “big picture” about the health of older citizens in each of the 351 cities and towns of Massachusetts as well as the 16 neighborhoods of Boston in areas such as asthma, voter registration, and traffic fatalities involving older adults.

“One of the exciting things about this project is that we are looking at a broad conceptualization of health. It’s not, ‘Are you alive or are you dead?’ but what’s your quality of life and are you able to engage in the things that make life rich and meaningful?” said Associate Professor of Gerontology Elizabeth Dugan, the principal investigator of the report. Dugan, co-principal investigators Frank Porell and Nina Silverstein, and their team of students have been working to understand why some communities do better than others when it comes to healthy aging by evaluating existing data from such sources as the U.S. Census, the CDC, and the FBI. The key findings are:

- Income and education levels had more influence than any other variable on community population health
- Communities with lower crime rates and higher voter participation rates tend to be healthier
- Communities that are more racially diverse tend to have better health
- Healthy behaviors and preventive services make a difference in healthy aging

The findings are posted on the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative website.

“These are not data that sit on a shelf,” said Silverstein, a professor of gerontology and a fellow in the Gerontology Institute. “Community leaders are able to print these profiles out, see where they’re doing better or worse than state rates, for example, how are they doing in terms of prevalence of chronic conditions like Alzheimer’s disease, hypertension, glaucoma, and diabetes.”

There is global interest in the model the UMass Boston researchers have developed. In October, Silverstein presented the Massachusetts model at a conference in Turkey.

“It resonated with people,” she said.

This semester Silverstein is asking her elder action research class to look at the profiles and think about what communities might need interventions.

**The Tufts Health Foundation has also commissioned the Gerontology Institute to produce a report in Rhode Island.**
SPO Induction Ceremony & Careers in Aging Event

The Gamma Upsilon Chapter at UMass Boston welcomed 26 new members at its new member induction ceremony on April 2. New members come from all academic levels, including 3 undergraduates, 19 students from the Masters in Aging Services program, and 4 PhD students. Preceding the induction ceremony was our Careers in Aging event, which featured a panel of 3 UMass Boston alumni discussing their career paths. Panelist Kristen Porter is a current SPO member and has just defended her PhD dissertation. She is the CEO of Zen Executive LLC, a consulting and event production firm with a focus on social justice. Kristen will start a postdoc at ACRIA in NYC to further her research on aging with HIV/AIDS. Kristen was joined by Caitlin Coyle, another UMass Boston Gerontology alumna, who is currently a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Health Policy & Management within the Yale School of Public Health, furthering her research interests in social aspects of health and health services for older adults and people aging with disabilities. Our third panelist, Lisa Gurgone, is also a UMass Boston alumna, with a graduate certificate in Women in Politics and MS in Public Affairs. Lisa is the executive director of the Home Care Aide Council, a nonprofit trade association focused on improving quality of care by empowering the home care aide workforce.

Massachusetts Gerontology Association Conference

On May 1st, UMass Boston hosted the Massachusetts Gerontology Associations Annual Conference, “White House Conference on Aging, Implication for Massachusetts.” The goal of the event was to provide information and perspectives from leaders at the national and state levels regarding what’s happening at the White House Conference on Aging and what it means for Massachusetts. The conference had several expert presenters including, Sue Thomson, Acting Secretary Massachusetts EEOA, Patricia Yu, Beth Dugan, Andrew Eschtruth, Ken Smith, Tina Matz-Costa, Betsy Crimmins, Amanda Lehning, And Jessica Costantino. The event was a great success!
Boston Kicks Off Age-Friendly City Initiative with Help from Gerontology Institute

The city of Boston, in partnership with AARP and the UMass Boston Gerontology Institute, has begun the 5-year process of becoming a World Health Organization recognized Age Friendly City. The process includes a needs assessment of the city, followed by an action plan and movement to improve identified deficits in 8 designated domains: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community and health services. The Civic Academy event served as an introduction of the Initiative to the community and as a preliminary opportunity to hear from community members and advocates about strengths and opportunities for improvement among the 8 domains for aging in Boston. Speakers included Emily Shea, Commissioner of Elder Affairs; Andrea Burns, Director of the Age-Friendly Initiative; Michael Festa, State AARP Director; Boston Mayor Marty Walsh; and UMass Boston’s Jan Mutchler. Mayor Walsh emphasized the importance of inclusion of community members in the planning for Boston as the city is faced with the growth of two major populations: seniors and students. Addressing the needs of the senior population in Boston requires paying attention to the student population as well. For example, to address limited housing options for seniors, colleges and universities are encouraged to build more on-campus housing for their students to alleviate private housing limitations for other residents. Mayor Walsh and his administration are taking an active role in addressing the needs of older residents in the city but hope to “make something very strong stronger” and aim to do so through the Age-Friendly Initiative. The UMass Boston Gerontology Institute is the research partner for the Initiative. Jan Mutchler and her research team will be collecting massive amounts of data under the 8 domains through a variety of methods to capture the state of the city as it relates to aging over the next year and a half. Saturday’s Civic Academy was the first opportunity to collect data from community members, who were given the chance to express concerns and suggestions about the current state of the city. Though participants remained positive about the Initiative and the city as a whole, residents expressed concerns about the city’s responsiveness to the needs of seniors. Issues brought up included food security, prescription medication support, public safety, and walkability. There was an expressed interest in senior centers, both by neighborhood and for the whole city, so seniors have a dedicated space for health and recreation. Other concerns included communication and team work. City government departments need to work together to address the needs of seniors and to better communicate with one another and with the population they serve. Boston has a wealth of resources for seniors; however, seniors and city government need to be better connected so that seniors have a more comprehensive system of formal support.

Article by: Ceara Sommerville
Alumni Spotlight

Natalie Leland recently published and presented the following:


Eilon Caspi recently published and presented the following:


*** In addition to his work, Caspi and his wife, Caitlin Eicher Caspi, also welcomed their first baby, Natalie Errera Caspi! She was born 6 pounds and 9 ounces on February 4, 2015, at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.
Alumni Spotlight

Dena Schulman Green is research scientist at Yale’s School of Nursing. She recently published/presented the following:


Book chapter:

Presentations:
Schulman-Green, D. “Conducting qualitative research interviews with vulnerable populations.” Presented at the SILVER Study Speaker Series. Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, May 2015.


Schulman-Green, D. “A program of research in palliative care. Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team Conference. Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT, October, 2014.

Kelly Fitzgerald organized a workshop of Gerontological educators in Europe. Her presentation for the conference was:


Kelly also recently published and presented the following:


Presentations:


Alumni Spotlight

**Kristen Porter** accepted a postdoc position at the ACRIA (NY, NY) to continue her research on aging with HIV. The ACRIA Center on HIV & Aging is recognized as an international authority on the emerging issue of older adults and HIV. She will work under the Director of Research & Evaluation, Dr. Mark Brennan-Ing, who was a member of her dissertation committee. In addition to receiving the Gerontology Book Award, Kristen also recently published the following:


Porter, K. Differences in CAM use among HIV+ Older Adults by Ethnicity, Modality and Disease Severity. In K.E. Porter (Chair), Aging with HIV/AIDS: the mind body connection. 67th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington, D.C., November 2014.


**Debra Gray** is now the Manager of Analytics at the Center for Health Information and Analysis. She was also recently named a Research Fellow at the Center for Financial Security at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Kimberly Johnson** recently presented,


Planned Summer Activities for Students

—**Ceara Somerville** will be spending much of her summer at UMass Boston this year, working with Jan Mutchler and the Center for Social & Demographic Research on Aging (CSDRA) on multiple needs assessment projects and the Age-Friendly Boston Initiative. She will also be working with Pam Nadash and Gary Groth on an independent study about resident-to-resident mistreatment in nursing homes. Ceara will continue to spend her weekends working as an Activities Assistant at the Golden Living Center Dexter House nursing home in Malden, MA. She will be presenting with Hayley Gleason and Caitlin Coyle at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) 40th Annual Conference and Tradeshow Conference on July 13. They will present on the needs assessment work completed by the CSDRA in collaboration with Councils on Aging in Massachusetts. Ceara is looking forward to a busy and productive summer.

—**Ian Livingstone** will be working at the RTI International, a non-profit research organization this summer as a research assistant. He will specifically be assisting with a CMS Performance Measures project.

—**Emily Gadbois** plans to spend her summer finishing up and defending her dissertation, as well as looking for a new job!

—**Maryam Khaniyan** will be working as a research assistant for Professor Mutchler. Her main role will be working on the Needs Assessment and Boston Age-Friendly projects. She will also be interning at Kit Clark Senior Center in collaboration with the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research (CMMHR). CMMHR is conducting the Positive Minds – Strong Bodies study to examine how to build collaborative research to provide mental health and disability prevention treatments in community-based organizations (CBOs), like Kit Clark, that serve ethnic minority elder clients. Maryam will conduct recruitment, screening, and participant interviews for the intervention, in collaboration with staff at the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research.

—**Bon Kim** will be working as a research assistant for Professor Beth Dugan this summer on the Healthy Aging Collaborative. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation recently commissioned Professor Beth Dugan to produce a report for the state of Rhode Island. Bon is very exciting to be working on this project!

—**Mai See Yang** will be teaching an undergraduate course this summer, Southeast Asians in the U.S., working with Dr. Jan Mutchler on the Age-Friendly Boston Initiative, needs assessments, Multicultural Coalition on Aging, and FOCIS project. In addition, she is also working with a doctoral student in the Higher Education Department to examine how civic engagements affects low-income and underrepresented Asian American
Planned Summer Activities for Students

—Krystal Kittle is continuing her spring internship with Fenway Health and the LGBT Aging Project. She will participate in on a project team for a qualitative study that will include conducting 7 focus groups throughout the state to identify the current and anticipated needs, concerns, and preferences related to housing among community-dwelling LGBT older adults in Massachusetts. Their goal is to develop a survey instrument from the information provided in the focus groups. Ultimately, the aim of the survey is to identify the housing needs and preferences of older LGBT adults in MA and describe how the results may vary by race, relationship status, geographical area, socioeconomic status, health care needs, and proximity to social support. Data from the focus groups and the survey will inform a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of LGBT older adults for welcoming, affirmative, and affordable housing options in MA.

—Brittany Gaines is continuing to work as a research assistant at the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, MA, in the Center for Disability Research. Her work there is focused on regional and geographic variation in return-to-work outcomes between younger and older workers. She will also be taking the qualifying exam this summer.
Recent Student Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Publications


DOI:10.1080/02701960.2015.1005289


Presentations


Gleason, H., Coyle, C., & Gurgone, L. “Providing care to clients with mental and behavioral health diagnoses.” Presented at the annual ASA Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL, March 25, 2015.

Recent Student Publications, Presentations, and Awards (continued)


Recent Student Publications, Presentations, and Awards (continued)

Awards

Bon Kim, 3rd year PhD student won the 2015 Francis G. Caro Student Paper Award for her paper, “Volunteering and Self-Rated Health Among Older Adults: When Less is More.”

Hyo Jung Lee received an award from the National Council on Family Relations for her paper entitled, “Does moving in with adult children benefit older Korean’s health?”

Mai See Yang received a Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Award from UMass Boston. She also received the Craig R. Bollinger Memorial Research Grant for Fall 2014 from UMass Boston.

Lien Quach received a $1000 award from the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Programs to attend the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics European region Conference in Dublin, Ireland from April 23-26, 2015.

David Morgan, a current MAS student, won the Kuehen Fellowship.
Recent Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Publications


Recent Faculty Publications, Presentations, and Awards (continued)


Presentations

**Miller, E.A.** “The Path to Consumer Advocacy Influence in Long-Term Care Value-Based Purchasing.” Presented at Incentivizing Better Quality in Long-Term Care: Where Do We Stand and Where Should We Go From Here? A National Invitational Conference for Medicaid Policy Makers and Department of Human Services, University Minnesota School of Nursing. Atlanta, Georgia, March 10 –12, 2015.


Grants

Kathrin Boerner was awarded $2,960 from the Office of Global Programs, University of Massachusetts Boston, to support an international work meeting focused on data analysis and manuscript preparation (Project title: “Comparison of U.S. and German Centenarians: Care Needs, Resources, and Health”).

Edward A. Miller (Research Mentor) received $7,650 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Providence Medical Center for “Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Funding for Student Support.” Funds for period May 24, 2015-August 31, 2015.

Edward A. Miller (PI) received $19,562.29 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for Projects Investigating the Geriatrics and Extended Care Form and Community Nursing Home Contracting Program.” Funds for the period June 1 through August 31, 2015.

Jan Mutchler was awarded $10,000 to support data collection at the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging.

Beth Dugan received the following grants:

- Principal Investigator. Healthy Aging in Rhode Island. Grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation (1.1.2015-12.31.2016) $325,000.
- Expert Consultant - the Southeast Regional Center of the Women's Health Initiative (7.1.2011-12.31.2015). Develop manuscripts, ancillary study proposals, participate in scientific interest groups.
- Principal Investigator. “Determining risk factors for adverse driving events involving older drivers in Massachusetts” Joseph P. Healey Research Grant Program (7.1.2014-6.30.2015) $7,500.00.
- Co-Investigator. Safety and Mobility in a Large Cohort of Older Women Drivers. Yale Pilot Projects (1 year, $10,000.00).
- Principal Investigator. Tufts Health Plan Foundation sponsorship of the Older Driver Safety Summit (2015, $10,000).
- Principal Investigator. Ford Motor Co. sponsorship of Older Driver Safety Summit (2015, $10,000).
Academic Calendar

Fall 2015

Classes Begin  Sept 8
Columbus Day    Oct 12
Veterans Day    Nov 11
Thanksgiving    Nov 26-29
Final Exam Period  Dec 16-22

Upcoming National Conferences 2015-2016

Gerontological Society of America
November 18-22, 2015
Orlando, FL

American Society on Aging
March 20-24, 2016
Washington, DC

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education
March 3-6, 2016
Long Beach, CA