The 64th Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting is the nation's largest interdisciplinary conference in the field of aging. An estimated 4,000 professionals attended the five-day gathering in Boston. The theme for 2011 was "Lifestyle → Lifespan" and the program schedule contained more than 500 scientific sessions featuring research presented for the first time. We here at UMass-Boston had nearly 100% participation in the conference this year among both students and faculty. The attendees enjoyed meeting highlights such as: symposia, posters, papers, and networking. Many prospective applicants stopped at the UMB booth (see below) to meet our students and to earn about our programs. The Conference was a great way to support colleagues, network, and learn about current research in diverse subfields of gerontology. Plan to attend next year’s meeting in San Diego, CA where the theme of the conference will be: “Charting New Frontiers in Aging”.

Above (from left): Dr. Jeff Burr, Mai See Yang, and Dr. Jan Mutchler pose with their poster.

Left (from left): First-year students, Hayley Gravette, Wendy Wang, Andrea Lindemer, Kristina Turk and Ping Xu represent UMass Boston at the UMass Booth in the exhibition hall, for some it was their first GSA conference!
Right: UMass-Boston students and faculty are shown attending the Transportation and Aging Interest Group meeting at GSA. Dr. Nina Silverstein was given an award in recognition of her contributions to research in the field. From left: Dr. Mary Leary who is head of the National Center for Senior Transportation, Lauren Martin, Dr. Nina Silverstein, Kelli Barton, Maryanne Nguyen, and Dr. Beth Dugan.

Above: Corina Oala, a third year student is shown presenting her 2nd year paper at GSA.

Above: Jyoung Lyu (left) and Yao Chi Shi (right) present research undertaken during their assistantship.

Above: Abigail Butt (left) and Lauren Martin (right), both fourth-year students presented some evaluation work that they completed for a local non-profit.

Above: Kristen Porter, a second-year student presented work that she completed for a course.
Recent Accomplishments

Awards:

**Nina Silverstein**, Professor of Gerontology, received a Special Recognition Award in honor of her outstanding contributions to senior transportation research by the Gerontological Society of America’s Transportation and Aging Interest Group.

**Caitlin Coyle**, PhD student, was selected as the winner of the Sigma Phi Omega, Academic Honors & Professional Society in Gerontology’s 2012 Presidential Paper Award for her second year paper titled, *Social Isolation, Loneliness and Health among Older Adults*.

**Yung-Ping Chen**, Professor Emeritus of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston was the 2012 winner of The International Insurance Society (IIS) John S. Bickley Founder’s Award. The John S. Bickley Founder’s Award Gold Medal for Excellence recipient is elected by senior insurance executives and leading academicians, and honors individuals who have made a significant, lasting and recognized contribution to insurance thought, product, practice or education.

Publications and Reports:


Recent Accomplishments (Continued)

Presentations and Workshops:

**Aydin, M., Padilla-Frausto, I., Grant, D.** *Chronic Health Conditions and Psychological Well-Being: Barriers to Health Care Utilization Among Older Adults in California.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

**Barton, K., Lee, C., Nguyen, M., Dugan, E.** *Investigating Gender Differences in the Association between Hearing Impairment and Driving Behavior among Older Adults.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

**Berger, S.** *Challenges in the Art of Interviewing: Transitioning from Clinician to Researcher.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]

**Berger, S.** *Low Vision Rehabilitation for Older Adults: Review and Recommendation.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]


**Bruce, E.** *Evaluating Economic Security among Older Adults.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

**Bruce, E., Martin, L.** *Impact of Pension Plan Design on Retirement Benefits in the Massachusetts Public Retirement System.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

**Bruce, E., Martin, L.** *Increasing the Election of Spousal Benefits in the State Pension Plans.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

**Bynum, J., Leland, N., Gozalo, P., Teno, J., Mor, V.** *Variation in Care transitions among Patients with Hip Fractures.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


**Carter, M., Porell, F.,** Zhu, M. *Using Administrative Claims Data to Identify Adverse Medical Events among Older Adults.* 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]
Recent Accomplishments (Continued)


Coyle, C. Social Isolation, Loneliness and Health Among Older Adults. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]


Devine, F., Szinovacz, M. Intergenerational Transfers: A Qualitative Study. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Dugan, E., Lee, C., Porell, F. Disease Severity and Driving Cessation: Findings from the Health and Retirement Study. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Gerst, K., Michaels-Obregon, Wong, R. The Effect of Obesity on ADL Disability Onset Among Older Adults in Mexico and the United States. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]

Goins, R., Innes, K., Dong, L. Correlates of Lower Body Functioning Among Older American Indians: The Native Elder Care Study. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]


Hyde, J., Perez, R., Forester, B., Whitfield, T., Doyle, P.J., Hennen, J. Facility and Resident Characteristics Correlated to Length of Stay in Assisted Living Dementia Units. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]


Kerschner, H. STARS Program: Linking Seniors with Supplemental Transportation Programs. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]

Kim, G. Bryant, A., Goins, R., Worley, C., Chiriboga, D. Disparities in Health Status and Health Care Access and Use between Older American Indians and Alaska Natives and Non-Hispanic Whites. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Lee, S. Types of Disability and Living Arrangements among Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese Older Adults in the United States. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Lee, C., Dugan, E., Porrell, F. Risk Factors for Driving Cessation among Older Whites, Blacks and Hispanics. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Lee, H., Burr, J. Older Adults’ Dental Care Service Utilization: A Test of the Behavioral Health Care Utilization Model. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Miltiades, H., Shearer, J. Differences in Preferences for Pet Dogs versus Human Companionship and Depression in Caucasian and Latino Elders. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Lee, H., Barton, K., Nguyen, M. The Utilization of Health Care Services by Older Adults with Self-Reported Memory Decline. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Lyu, J., Lee, S. Effect of Excessive Alcohol Consumption on Cognitive Functioning among Older Adults. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Martin, L. Blurring the Line Between Transportation and Health Care: Door-Through-Door Medical Escort Services. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]
Recent Accomplishments (Continued)

Martin, L., Butt, A., Sit, W., Athey, A. *Door-through-Door Medical Escort Service: Participant Satisfaction and Volunteer Opinion of Effectiveness*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Mutchler, J., Coyle, C., Kramer, J. *Sibling Caregiving in Families including an Adult with Intellectual Disability*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Nadash, P., Doty, P., Mahoney, K. *Cash for Care in Europe-Implications for CLASS*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Nadash, P., Shih, Y. *Taiwan’s Public Long Term Care Insurance Plan*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]

Recent Accomplishments (Continued)


Nguyen, M., Barton, K., Lee, C., Dugan E.. Regional and Organizational Characteristics of Alternative Senior Transportation Providers. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Oala, C. The Effects of Religiosity on the Onset and Recovery from Depression in Older Adults. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Porell, F., Carter, M. Understanding the Long Term Consequences of Injury: Transitions to Disability after a Seminal Injury. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Quach, L., Yang, M., Netown, R., Burr, J., Lipsitz, L. Depression and Falls among Community-Dwelling Elderly: The MOBILIZE Boston Study. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Semla, T., Damron-Rodriquez, J., Berger, S. Advancing Universal Multidisciplinary Competencies in the Care of Older Adults. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Oral]
Recent Accomplishments (Continued)


Shih, Y. *The Effects of Volunteering and Other Social Activities on Life Satisfaction in Later Life*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Wong, C., Silverstein, N., Norman, A. *Massachusetts Home Care Programs and Reasons for Discharge into Nursing Homes*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]


Yang, M., Burr, J., Mutchler, J. *A Demographic Profile of Middle-Aged and Older Hmong from the American Community Survey*. 64th Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-22, 2011. [Poster]

Other Accomplishments:

Associate Professor Edward Alan Miller served as Guest Editor of a special issue of the *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* on the long-term care provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The issue will be published this spring.
On December 5th, 2011, Dr. Holly Prigerson came to campus for the Gerontology Institute Colloquium Speaker Series. Dr. Prigerson is currently the Director, Center for Psychooncology & Palliative Care Research within the Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Brigham & Women's, Hospital Harvard Medical School. Her lecture focused on the Prolonged Grief Disorder among older adults.

Caitlin Coyle: How did you get interested in the field of aging? Particularly, how did you find yourself working in the area of end-of-life care and Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD)?

Holly Prigerson, Ph.D. (HP): I was very close to my grandparents who were immigrants from Poland. As they got older, I became interested in issues that would affect their healthcare. An Economics professor at Stanford suggested I study the Medicare Hospice Benefit and that is what I focused my dissertation on, socialization to dying. When I moved from Yale to Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, they assigned me to the Late Life Mood Disorders Group. That’s where I noticed that grief was behaving differently than the depressive symptoms in older widows and widowers. I received a NIMH K. Award to Study Late Life Bereavement, I then organized a consensus on complicated/prolonged grief and then received NIMH R01 funding to test those consensus criteria.

CC: In your opinion, what is the most significant or interesting finding that you have made to-date?

HP: That’s a hard one. Today I presented my grief research but some of the end-of-life care studies had an impact on clinical care, too, and been part of the political “Death Panel” debate so that has been interesting. The finding that grief is distinct from bereavement-related depression and that it is associated with as much if not more distress and dysfunction has been the finding that I am cited for the most at this point, along with the diagnostic criteria for PDG validated for DSM-5 and ICD-11.

CC: What advice do you have for today's graduate students interested in aging?

HP: For one, petition for more funding of research on aging. For two, pick a topic that will make a difference in the lives of older adults or those who care for them. Don’t just study something because it seems like the hot topic; pick a topic that is pivotal for the health and well-being of older adults. Craft a question that will have an answer that matters to the lives of older people..

CC: Other than PDG which you discussed in today's talk, what are your primary research areas of interest?

HP: I am very interested in clinical communication, particularly cancer care, and how that shapes patients and their family members’ understanding of their illness, treatment options, and actual care. I work with Jan Mutchler on NCI funded work to identify the most promising targets of interventions to reduce Latino-White disparities in advanced cancer care and have an R01 to audiotape conversations to determine ways to make end-of-life discussions more culturally competent.
On January 24, 2012, Dr. Julie Keysor came to campus for the Gerontology Institute Colloquium Speaker Series. Dr. Keysor is the Director of Boston University’s Center for Enhancing Activity and Participation among Persons with Arthritis (ENACT) where she is also an Associate Professor of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. She recently received a $4 million grant from the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to establish a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) in Arthritis.

Caitlin Coyle: How did you get interested in aging, particularly arthritis, and the relationship between environment, and the creation of disability?

Julie Keysor, Ph.D. (JK): I began my career as a physical therapist in my early 20’s and my favorite population was older adults. My favorite area of physical therapy (PT) was inpatient rehabilitation. Working with the older adult population became difficult when I developed arthritis as a young adult. I left the inpatient setting and worked in home-health care for several years while I pursued graduate studies. I absolutely loved working with people in their home environment. The role of family, community, environment, and supports is crystal clear! My interest in arthritis stems from my own personal interests plus the experience of my patients. Early in my career I felt that factors outside of the Biomedical Model such as social support, psychology, and environment were important aspects of chronic disease management.

CC: What advice would you give to young scholars in the field of Gerontology?

JK: It is great that you are here, and STICK WITH IT! Gerontology is a terrific field and we need more great leaders.

CC: In your opinion, what has been your most interesting finding to date?

JK: Great question. It’s difficult to say. My environment-participation work, I think, has made important contributions to the disability field; but we really need more longitudinal and intervention studies to really understand the determinants of participation. There is still so much to disentangle in the disablement process.

Editorials

We welcome contributions to GeroNews and encourage you to submit recent activities, opinion pieces or letters to the editor! Please send all contributions to Caitlin.coyle001@umb.edu
Interesting Resources—Recommended by our alumni and faculty!

**Old People Driving (2006) by Shaleece Haas**

*Old People Driving* chronicles the adventures of 96-year-old Milton and 99-year-old Herbert as they confront the end of their driving years. The film follows Herbert as he takes his last drive, hands over his keys and comes to terms with the reality of life without a car. Milton, meanwhile, continues to drive every day and vows to do so until he feels he’s no longer safe on the road. Through their stories, and a review of the latest traffic safety research, the film dispels some of the myths about elderly drivers without shying away from the fact that many will outlive their ability to drive safely.

*Old People Driving* has screened at film festivals around the country and has received awards including Best Short Documentary at the Phoenix Film Festival, an honorable mention at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, and the Margaret and William Hearst Award for Excellence in Documentary Film.


GSA’s latest book features the most comprehensive overview to date of volunteering and service activities among older people. This unique publication includes forward-looking essays by leading scholars in the field, supplemented by classic research articles from GSA’s peer-reviewed journals. “Civic Engagement in an Older America” is the capstone product of a multi-year initiative at GSA — funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies — designed to stimulate research on older adult civic engagement.

---

**GeroNews Editorial Board**

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Edward Miller**, Edward.Miller@umb.edu

Managing Editor: **Caitlin Coyle**, Caitlin.Coyle001@umb.edu
Gerontology PhD Student Wins President’s Paper Award

Gerontology PhD student, Caitlin Coyle, has been selected as the winner of the Sigma Phi Omega (SPO), Academic Honors & Professional Society in Gerontology’s 2012 Presidential Paper Award for her second year paper titled, Social Isolation, Loneliness and Health among Older Adults.

Sigma Phi Omega’s President’s Student Paper Award was initiated in 2005 to recognize outstanding SPO student presentation submissions at the annual Aging and Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) meeting and Educational Leadership Conference. Sigma Phi Omega presented the first annual President’s Student Paper Award at the 2006 AGHE Annual Meeting. Students whose abstracts are accepted for presentation at the annual AGHE meeting are eligible for the SPO President’s Student Paper Award. Papers are reviewed by the SPO award committee.

As the winner of this award, Caitlin presented her paper at the SPO Paper Session I and Business Meeting Friday, February 24, 2012 at the AGHE Annual Meetings. The meetings took place in Arlington, VA. There were five papers presented at this session which speaks to the high level of competition that Caitlin faced. “We have two sessions of papers, so you had some fierce competition” Rona Karasik, Outgoing President of SPO said. Included within this highly prestigious award was a cash prize of $200.
Upcoming Events

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Bei Wu is presenting “Aging, Race/Ethnicity, and Oral Health in the U.S.” Monday April 2, 2012 1-2:15 p.m. in the Healy Library 11th floor multipurpose room at the University of Massachusetts Boston. The presentation is sponsored by the Gerontology Department, Gerontology Institute and the Office of International and Transnational Affairs. Dr. Wu will also speak at the Gerontology honor society (Sigma Phi Omega) induction ceremony later than afternoon, from 4:00-5:00 p.m..

Bei Wu, PhD is Director of International Research and a tenured Professor at the Duke University School of Nursing. In addition, she is a Professor at the Duke Global Health Institute and a Senior Fellow at the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. Dr. Wu is a 2000 graduate of the University of Massachusetts Boston, earning her doctoral degree in Gerontology. Dr. Wu holds adjunct faculty appointments at Shanghai University and Wuhan University in China and at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina Greensboro in the United States. She is the author of more than 75 journal articles and book chapters and has co-edited 2 books. Dr. Wu is a regular reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and for more than a dozen scholarly journals. An outstanding researcher, Dr. Wu has been Principal Investigator for research grants totaling more than $4.4 million dollars focused on long-term care, dementia care, oral health disparities, cognitive health, and global aging. Dr. Wu is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for

Sigma Phi Omega Gerontology Honor Society

Induction Ceremony & Annual Meeting

Gamma Upsilon Chapter, University of Massachusetts Boston

Monday, April 2, 2012

3:00 to 4:00 PM Induction Ceremony & Annual Meeting

(McCormack Building, 3rd Floor, Ryan Lounge—RM 0721)

with

Gerontology Department Social Event following the Ceremony

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP by March 23 to SPO Treasurer Corina Oala

at CorinaOala@hotmail.com
Academic Calendar

Winter Session 2012
January 3    Classes Begin
January 16   Martin Luther King Day (Holiday)
January 20   Classes End

Spring Semester 2012
January 23   Classes Begin
January 30   Add/Drop Ends
February 20  Presidents Day (Holiday)
March 11-18  Spring Break
March 19     Classes Resume
March 26     Mid Semester
April 2      Fall '11 Registration Begins
April 5      Pass/Fail Deadline
April 5      Course Withdraw Deadline
April 16     Patriots Day (Holiday)
May 09       Classes End
May 10-13    Study Period
May 14-18    Final Exam Period
May 28       Memorial Day (Holiday)
June 1       Commencement
Activities and Announcements

~ Upcoming Conferences ~

GSA 65th Annual Meeting
Charting New Frontiers in Aging
November 14-18 2012
San Diego, CA

AGHE’s Annual Meeting
AGHE’s 39th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference
“Waves of Change: Charting the New Course for Gerontology Education”
February 28-March 3, 2013
St. Petersburg, FL

American Society on Aging
Annual Conference of the American Society on Aging
Marriott Wardman Park
March 28-April 1, 2012
Washington, D.C.

Massachusetts Gerontology Association
Heller School for Social Policy & Management @ Brandeis University
May 15, 2012
Waltham, MA

Careers in Aging Week is an annual event intended to bring greater awareness and visibility to the wide-ranging career opportunities in aging and aging research. Universities and colleges across the world participate by sponsoring events at their schools or in their communities. For more information: