FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR... Dr. Barbara White

You will see as you read further, it has been a busy and productive 2 years since our last Gerontology Program newsletter. Major milestones during that time include completing our 5-year internal and external program review, hiring a new tenure track faculty member, and developing a minor in Gerontology that will begin admitting students spring 2017. We’ve doubled the number of sections of our general education course, Perspectives on Gerontology (GERN 400), because we are now responsible for Gerontology content for all undergraduate students in the School of Nursing. Our graduate and certificate programs continue to grow, as well. We have also re-activated our Gerontology Faculty Interest Group (GFIG) on campus to foster collaborations in education, research, and practice, and are in the process of developing a Gerontology Alumni Association. Our National Honor and Professional Society (Sigma Phi Omega) chapter has been active on campus and in the community.

We recently hosted faculty from J.F. Oberlin University in Tokyo, Japan to discuss possible collaborations and hosted international visitors to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) for a pre-conference tour of older adult resources in Long Beach and on campus. Both students and faculty have presented at state and national conferences, and our faculty and students have been recognized for their achievements in the field. Nurturing the program over the past years has been a highlight of my career. Please congratulate Dr. Maria Claver who will become the new Gerontology Program Director as of Fall 2016. I will remain the Executive Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on campus. Please keep in touch!

Gerontology Student Engagement in Research
By: Maria Claver, PhD

Collaborative research requires a different set of skills than research undertaken as a sole investigator. It is important that students gain experiences working with a research team as well as develop skill sets as an individual conducting a research project. This academic year, three Masters in Gerontology students, Stuart Mizokami, Joy Miller, and Ellen Wong, collaborated with Dr. Claver to undertake a research project entitled, “Ethical Considerations of Sexual Expression in Adult Day Health Care.”

This project, supported by the CSULB Ukleja Center on Ethical Leadership, aimed to better understand the types of sexual expression most often observed by ADHC staff among older adult clients, staff responses to this type of expression, and any discipline-specific or agency-specific policies that help guide staff to ethically handle the behaviors. Sexual expression is a healthy behavior among adults of all ages, but may become an ethically-ambiguous situation when considering adults who may have cognitive impairments or other conditions hindering full capacity to give consent. The research team’s goals include presenting results at a Ukleja Center event at the end of the semester, and completing a manuscript to be submitted to a professional journal.
Last January, Dr. Bruce Batten and Dr. Hisao Osada from Oberlin University in Tokyo paid a visit to our program here at CSULB. A couple of years earlier, I had the honor of travelling to their university to participate in a one-day conference they were having on aging issues in Japan. Oberlin University is only one of two universities in Japan that offers graduate degrees in Gerontology, which is surprising given the demographics of their aging population.

A dialogue was starting during the Tokyo visit, and we continued this discussion with them during their visit to explore ways for our two programs to collaborate on aging issues....stay tuned. Dr. Osada is very fond of older American cars so the ride I gave him in my old 1966 Mustang seemed to please him greatly. It was a highlight for both of us.

Effective Spring 2017, the Gerontology Program will expand to include a minor! The 15-unit minor includes three required courses (GERN 200: The Journey of Aging; GERN 400: Perspectives on Aging; and GERN 492g: Internship in Gerontology), and two approved gerontology-related electives. GERN 200 is a brand new course and will focus on positive aspects of aging.

The minor is one component of a larger effort to grow the Gerontology program and reach students who may have transferred into CSULB having taken Gerontology coursework elsewhere. This will allow students to transfer up to 6 approved lower division units into the minor. CSULB continues to have a 24-unit, upper-division certificate and Masters degree.

The Gerontology Faculty Interest Group (GFIG) has had a busy year!

Faculty from across campus gathered several times during the year to network with community agencies, learn about global datasets in aging, and share research in progress and future projects. The goal of GFIG is to foster cross-campus collaborations in teaching and research among faculty (and staff!). GFIG appreciates the support of the CHHS Dean’s Office.
Dr. Gruenewald holds a Bachelor of Science degree from UC Davis in Psychobiology with a minor in Sociology, an MA in Psychology and a Master’s in Public Health from UCLA, and a PhD from UCLA in Health Services Management and Policy. Dr. Gruenewald has held teaching positions at both UCLA in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, and most recently at the Davis School of Gerontology as USC.

Dr. Gruenewald has active memberships in a number of professional organizations including the Gerontological Society of America, The American Psychosomatic Society, and the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics. She is the principal investigator on multiple research grants in the field of aging including several from the National Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging. She has a history of over 50 publications in several refereed journals in the field of aging. We are pleased to have her as a faculty member and look forward to her many contributions to the growth and strength of our program.

Welcome To Our New Faculty:
Tara Gruenewald, PhD

ACHIEVEMENTS

SELECTED STUDENT/ALUMNI PRESENTATIONS

Parisa Shams, MSG(c):
Community Engagement in a Senior Center—A View from the Frontline, 2015 Aging in America Conference, Chicago, IL

A Perception in the Epidemiology of Aging, 2015 California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics annual meeting, Long Beach, CA

Rosemary Lewallen, MSG
Organized and facilitated an elder abuse awareness event in collaboration with councilmembers supernaw and Mungo (LB), Safe Long Beach, & the Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team, June 2016, Eldorado Senior Center.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Graduate Dean’s List of University Scholars and Artists

2015: Elena Ionescu
2016: Noelle Bringmann

Gerontology Scholarship Recipients, Spring 2016
Antanique Darling, Cynthia Escarcega-Calderon, Carla Garcia, Frances Ginder, Katherine Martinez

Long Beach Cares Scholarship
Katherine Martinez
Gerontology Program Participates in Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Presentations

CSULB have been a co-sponsor of the Phi Beta Kappa, Rho Chapter Visiting Scholar Program Spring Semester 2015. In collaboration with the Department of Economics and Department of Political Science, the Gerontology Program coordinated several campus events bringing Visiting Scholar Dr. Kathleen McGarry to CSULB to share her knowledge about public policy as it relates to economic issues and the economics of aging.

Dr. McGarry is Professor of Economics and Chair of the Economics Department at UCLA. Her areas of particular interest include long-term care and health spending by the elderly and she has also studied interventions aimed at preventing Alzheimer’s Disease and cognitive decline. She served as a Senior Economist in the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2000-2001.

From March 9-11, 2015, she was in residence at CSULB, meeting with faculty and students in a variety of fields. She visited a Gerontology 400: Perspectives in Gerontology course to discuss the topic of poverty and the elderly and gave a public lecture on the same topic later that day to a group of students and faculty from various disciplines across campus.

Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honor society for students of the liberal arts and sciences and the CSULB Rho Chapter is among only three PBK chapters in the CSU system. The Visiting Scholar program aims to stimulate the quality of intellectual activity at the university. Dr. McGarry's presentations and the lively discussion that followed certainly fulfilled that aim. The Gerontology Program is especially impressed with the fact that Dr. McGarry presented issues about aging to a wider campus audience.

Service Learning Partnerships

The CSULB Gerontology Program partnered with the following agencies, which have provided our students with service learning opportunities throughout the year.

- Alzheimer’s Orange County
- CA Commission on Aging
- Long Beach Senior Center
- Houghton Park Senior Center
- Sunrise Senior Living in Huntington Beach
- Meals on Wheels
- Pathways Hospice
- St. Joseph’s Hospital
- SCAN Independence at Home
- The Canterbury
- EngAGE at Long Beach Senior Arts Colony
- Sea Cliff Healthcare
**PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH**

Beverly White, DrPH, RN, A/GNP

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**


**AWARDS**

2015 CCGG Betty and James E. Birren Senior Scholar Award.

**CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH**

Casey Goeller, MSG

- Feb - Attended AAC&U General Education and Assessment Conference in New Orleans
- Mar - Attended and presented a poster at AGHE in Long Beach
- Feb/Mar - Online Classroom Workshop - Facilitator
- Jan - Flipped Classroom Workshop - Participant
- Jan - Certification as a Master Peer Reviewer for Online Classes, Quality Matters
- Jan - Certification as a Master Peer Reviewer for Online Classes, QOLT (CSU Rubric)
PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS
DR. MARIA CLAVER

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH


ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Teaching strategy workshop. Session presenter, Fun Ways to Approach Examination Times (January, 2016).
  
  Academic Technology Services, CSULB. Supervisor: Francine Vasilomanolakis.

- Teaching strategy workshop. Session presenter: Dos and Don'ts in ALC (December, 2015). Academic Technology Services, CSULB. Supervisor: Francine Vasilomanolakis

- Center for Community Engagement's Instructionally-Related Activities (IRA) - Service Learning Award (Fall 2015 & Spring 2016)


- Instructor Conflict Resolution certificate program (October – November, 2015). Student Life Development / Leadership Academy, CSULB.


- Committee member of the educational, award, and planning committees for the 35th Annual Meeting California Council Gerontology and Geriatrics, 2015. Supervisor: Price Rachel; Monica Henke.


- Faculty Advisor, Delta Eta Chapter, Sigma Phi Omega (GAHPS) 2015-16
Our chapter of the Gerontology Honor Society (Sigma Phi Omega) has been hard at work in spreading the exciting news about the field of Gerontology on our CSULB campus, as well as throughout surrounding communities. We offered our members opportunities in serving the community, conference scholarships, general meetings with a speaker series, thesis/study sessions, social events, fundraising, and end of the year banquets. The Gerontology Honor Society, simply known as GAHPS, has been very active in the community! In Fall 2015, we participated in three Alzheimer’s Walks and raised $520 for the Alzheimer’s Association. In addition to this, we teamed up with Volunteer Action on Aging to deliver Thanksgiving meals to needy elderly all over the Los Angeles area. And we did not stop there, as we also asked members and the community to donate socks to the well known organization, Socks for Seniors. We were humbled and astonished at the participation of the FCS Department in donating over 100 pairs of new socks to warm the feet of less fortunate elderly. And we happily delivered the donated socks just in time for the Holidays! Moreover, we teamed up with St. George Church (Bellflower, CA) to raise money for homeless veterans. Our efforts have managed to purchase over 200 blankets and helped some homeless veterans past the cold winter season. To bring sweet moments to our members and friends, we teamed up with See’s candy and with Veggie Grill, in order to fundraise for the organization.

GAHPS also partnered during Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 with PATHS and USC in their “80-20” Event where students in their 20s tried to bridge the intergenerational gap and have dinner with older adults age 80 and up. Our most proud moment, however, was the outreach we set out to do with high school students. GAHPS visited Lawndale High School to hold a two-hour workshop with over 150 students where various gerontological topics were presented; this was a huge success! Aside from community outreach, GAHPS has offered five general meetings per semester with a strong speaker series. Speakers from different careers within the field of aging spoke to our GAHPS members on the importance of being a Gerontologist. Thus far, we have had older adults, care managers, an estate planning attorney, a long term care planner, a geriatrician, as well as a commissioner from the California Commission on Aging. All speakers shed important light on the field of aging by presenting many perspectives while teaching us how Gerontology is everywhere. On the academic side, GAHPS held thesis and study sessions. GAHPS members were encouraged to attend various workshops offered by CSULB Thesis Office. With a busy agenda, GAHPS doubled its active members and allowed us to offer scholarships to attend conferences for our members.

As you can read, we have been busy! But hard work always pays off! SPO National took notice and made GAHPS the featured chapter on the SPO National website! We worked hard and we are proud of our accomplishments, so we invite you to check us out at http://www.sigmaphiomega.org. We are signing off from the successful 2015-2016 academic year, yet we look forward to continued success!

Yours truly,
Miriam Henan, MSG(c)
GAHPS President

GAHPS (Left to right) Antanique Darling (treasurer), Paige Garner (Secretary), Miriam Henan (President), Veronica Maggiore (Vice President)
Although the Gerontology Program has long sought to develop collaborations, both in the U.S. and abroad, the 2016 Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) conference, held in Long Beach in March 2016, provided an optimal opportunity to demonstrate the power of those collaborations. One exciting event during the conference was a meet and greet between students of our Global Aging class and two of our global partners, Dr. Tsuann Kuo from Taiwan and Dr. Jan Jukema from the Netherlands. Our lively discussion included topics such as the legalization of marijuana, euthanasia and caregiving challenges.

Another event was a collaborative, two-part workshop about designing a residential care facility for elderly (RCFE). Dr. Claver, Elizabeth Dobson (CSULB MS Gerontology) and Antanique Darling (current MS Gerontology student) partnered with researchers and academics from around the country and an architect to provide a hands-on experience of the charrette, a process commonly used when a new development such as an RCFE is being planned.) Additionally, Dr. White presented the process and results of a community assessment conducted with Dr. Gail Farmer and Theodora Papachristou (Health Science), and funded by the Archstone Foundation, in preparation for establishing a University affiliated, aging-in-place Village model in Long Beach’s multiethnic community. One of the highlights of the Conference was the presentation by Reath Melendez of her thesis “Eldercare Responsibilities Among California State University Faculty and Staff: A Needs Assessment.” Reath is the recipient of the AGHE 2016 Graduate Student Paper Award!

The Gerontology Program also hosted a pre-conference tour of local senior services and the CSULB Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for international participants at the annual conference. We also sponsored the tote bags each AGHE participant received, and graduate students hosted our program table in the exhibit hall. In addition to these specific activities, attendance at the AGHE conference allowed CSULB faculty, students, and alumni to network and plant the seeds for future collaborations.
ALUMNI CORNER: Where are they now?

Nenette Cáceres, MSG (2015)

I've been MIA the last several months but I wanted to tell you of a few good things that have happened (in part thanks to you). I was accepted into the PhD program at Loma Linda and the University of South Florida. Most likely I will go to Loma Linda since they offered me full funding and possibly a teaching position. I also started working at the Sepulveda VA in the geriatric/gerontology research center. I'm super excited! My commute is literally 7 minutes! More importantly, the research that is being done is interesting and of course the gero population is awesome. Finally, the project I was working on last summer is finalized and my abstract got accepted to the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

Nakia Thierry, MSG 2014

Nakia received her Master’s in Gerontology at CSU Long Beach in 2014. Already serving the older adult community as a Social Worker Case Manager, she instantly knew that she wanted to be involved with policy planning and learn more about senior advocacy when she joined the program in 2012. Once in the program, Nakia grabbed as many opportunities as she could when they were presented to her. She responded to a job posting that was sent by Gerontology faculty for a Dementia Program Director position at an assisted living. She was hired and was able to apply the knowledge and skills that she learned from the Seminar in Administration and the Aging and Dementia classes. In that position, she formed management experience by overseeing employees and residents with dementia. With Nakia’s personal interests in mind, she took an Aging in California class, which allowed her to get a better understanding of the resources and services that are provided for older adults. She also learned the barriers that may limit older adults receiving access and techniques to help older adults overcome the boundaries they face.

Today, after two years of working for the County, Nakia is now a Senior Citizen Representative for the Office on Aging in Orange County. She assists older adults by hosting health and resource fairs while providing them with information about local services (i.e. long-term care, financial, medical, support, etc.) within their community, and absolutely loves her job. For those who are currently in the program, Nakia suggests to take advantage of the various opportunities being offered and to continue to explore your interests. She highly emphasizes being in constant communication with faculty because they are available to lead and connect you to resources. The reality is, we are going into an aging world and older adults are our future so be confident and continue to explore your interests.

By Cynthia Okialda, MSG(c), Graduate Assistant, 2014-15
Rachel Price, MSG 2005

It has been ten years since Rachel graduated from the Gerontology Master’s Program here at CSU, Long Beach. When she initially entered the program, she had a difficult time figuring out exactly what she wanted to do in life. After taking time to find her interests, she realized she wanted to focus on education and evaluation. She also has a fascination with numbers and appreciates how you can utilize data to improve projects or programs. Like every student and professional out there, Rachel struggled to find a job where she could apply her knowledge and skills. Many jobs she applied for asked for many years of experience in the field and/or being bilingual. After many attempts, she ultimately came across a position in an academic institution that involves her main passions - education and evaluation.

Rachel has been able to apply and use the knowledge she learned throughout the program to her career. The most meaningful and most beneficial to her career were Research Methods and Seminar in Administration. Applying the methods learned has helped her develop and implement projects, manage and write grants. Taking the elective course Grants Administration & Management hugely prepared her and she says “the more you understand the process, the better you can apply it more in life”.

Rachel served in two capacities, as the Deputy Director for the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC), within the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, and as the Executive Director for the California Council on Gerontology & Geriatrics (CCGG). She is currently working for the Health Services Advisory Group, California’s Quality Improvement Organization, doing quality improvement technical assistance for nursing home teams across California. With more than ten years under her belt since graduating, Rachel is a force to be reckoned with!

Rachel expresses that as Gerontologists, we may always be seen as “newbies on the block” and we all need to advocate for ourselves. The more you can show your value to employers, the better your chances of being hired. As a future Gerontologist, you can be the experienced professional in the field of Gerontology that others will come to you for when seeking help. So continue to show your worth and value!

By Cynthia Okialda
Masters in Gerontology Graduates

**Summer 2014**

**Elena Ionescu:** Sexual Behavior in Dementia Diagnosed Older Adults: Curriculum For Residential Caregivers in Dementia Friendly Communities

**Nakia Thierry:** Perceptions of Recovering Substance Abusers and Treatment Providers on Appropriate Delivery Methods of Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services to Older Adults

**Fall 2014**

**John Fay:** California Employer Perspectives on Older Working Adults Specific to the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Mandate

**Donna Griggs:** Older Adult Volunteer Value in the Workplace: Voices of Experience with the Long Beach Fire Ambassador Program

**Amanda Shaon:** The Relationship Between Social Support and Current Life Satisfaction in Combat Theatre Veterans Aged 50 and Older

**Spring 2015**

**Gina Semenza:** Evolving Abilities A Framework for an Aging and Disability Lifestyle Blog

**Jordan DeLachica:** Widowhood and Grief Support: Gerontology Curriculum for Older Adults

**Steven Grande:** Factors that Influence Use of Social Media Among Older Adults

**Summer 2015**

**Nenette Caceres:** Factors Affecting Quality of Life of Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment

**Dilhari Gunathilaka:** Compliance with Dietary Restrictions Among African American Older Adults With Chronic Kidney Disease in a Nursing Home Setting

**Michelle Queen:** Older Adults' Knowledge Regarding HIV/AIDS

**Reath Melendez:** Eldercare Responsibilities Among CSULB Faculty and Staff: A Needs Assessment

**Fall 2015:**

**Stuart Mizokami:** Fall Risk Factors Among Cane and Walker Users and Non-users

**Spring 2016**

**Joy Miller:** The Beach Village Web Pages Development Project: California State University Long Beach Center for Community Engagement

**Summer 2016**

**Nathalie Sevilla:** Aquatic Aerobics Resource Guide for Low Income Housing Facilities for Older Adults

**Noelle Bringmann:** Transportation Program for Members of the Long Beach Village

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**Gerontology Certificate Graduates**

Cynthia Bridgewater
Juan Castro
Alexa Champion
Viridiana Chavez
Carla Francisco
Carla Garcia
Frances Ginder
Karen Gonzalez
Hannah LaMadrid
Don Le
Linda McCollom
Isabel McGraw
Janelle Murata

**Congratulations!**
Gerontology Program Goals

Provide a flexible interdisciplinary curriculum that gives new and seasoned professionals the competencies necessary for success in the field of aging.

Provide experiential as well as didactic graduate education and professional training in gerontology for individuals planning to become professionals in public and private agencies.

Provide professional field experiences in gerontology in order to enhance understanding of concepts, themes, and skills related to aging at various life stages, within different gender and racial/ethnic groups and among people with various abilities.

Provide knowledge and skills necessary to plan, develop, and implement innovative programs to meet the needs of the State’s vast and growing aging population.

Explore aging-related professional values and ethics.

New Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education (2014)

See: https://www.aghe.org/resources/gerontology-competencies-for-undergraduate-and-graduate-education

Thanks to our parttime faculty who teach the GE course (GERN 400) and inspire students daily with their passion for the field of aging!!

Lisa Lares, MSG
Jacqueline Lauder, MSG
Cynthia Schlesinger, MSG
Melanie Weir, MSG

Created by: Montserrat R. Salvat, MSG(c)