

GeroNews

A Newsletter about the Gerontology Graduate Programs
University of Massachusetts Boston

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

FALL 2003

Welcome New PhD and Masters Students!!

This fall, the Department showcases its first-ever Masters class, as well as a large PhD class. A brief introduction of the new students follows, but please stop the new faces in the hall and welcome them to the Program.

Julie Amber is a part-time Masters student, and is interested in health care policies and law, as well as holistic medicine/wellness. She works as an OT on the complex medical/ventilator weaning program at Spaulding Rehab Center. She enjoys snowboarding, camping, scrap booking, swimming and playing softball. She recently finished a 50 mile walk to raise money for research for a cure to end the devastating effects of Multiple Sclerosis.

Yaw Amoako-Addo is a full-time PhD student, originally from Ghana, but a Norwegian citizen. A Full-bright Fellow, he received a Bachelor of Social Work at Oslo University College and a Master of Social Work at Goteberg University, in Sweden. His academic interest is in Economics of aging, and personal hobbies include stamp collection, nature and travel.

Sue Berger will be dividing

her time between being a part-time PhD student and working as an assistant professor at Boston University's Sargent College in the Occupational Therapy program. Sue is also a wife, a mother of 2 and in her spare time enjoys biking, swimming, hiking and reading.

Emma Chung joins the PhD program full-time from Taiwan. Her academic interests include pension and long term care. A new-comer to Boston, she enjoys cuisine, as well as squash ball.

Amy Dykstra is a full-time PhD student, coming from Maxwell, Iowa (a town of about 900 people!). She's in the process of completing her sociology Masters thesis at Iowa State. She's interested in studying quality of life in the long term care setting, and her outside interests include spending time with her pets.

Kerstin Gerst joins the PhD program part-time. She has a Masters in Gerontology and works full-time as a research and policy analyst at Medstat in their chronic care and disability division. She moved from the Midwest last year and enjoys traveling, reading and camping.

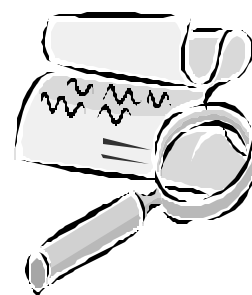


Marc Gurvitch joins the Masters program. He worked as a psychiatric nurse at St. Elizabeth's hospital in DC for 20 years before moving to Boston in '91. He lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife, Susan, a preschool teacher and his son, Eli who is 7. He tries to maintain some sort of physical activity such as swimming and weight training, and is looking for someone to help keep him motivated.

Constance Inacio joins the PhD program in addition to her full-time assistant professor job at Franklin Pierce College. She is a physical therapist as well as a geriatric clinic specialist. She has been active in the Geriatric section of the American Physical Therapy Association at both the state and national levels,

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Board of Trustees approves the new John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies

For the first time since 1982, the U Mass Board of Trustees has approved the creation of a new school on the Boston campus. The creation of the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies combines under one establishment the four centers of the McCormack Institute, as well as the university's Gerontology Institute and the graduate programs in public policy, gerontology, and public affairs. Named after the former Speaker of the U.S. House, the school will continue to be funded, in part, by a "\$6.2 million endowment awarded by Congress to conduct policy research vital to the city and the state".¹

The McCormack Graduate School will place the following units under one umbrella:

- Gerontology Master of Science and Ph.D. Programs,
- Gerontology Institute, Institute's Centers for Social Policy,
- Women in Politics and Public Policy,
- Democracy and Development,
- State and Local Policy,
- Ph.D. Program in Public Policy, and
- Master of Science in Public Affairs.

Combined, these additional units received "external funding of nearly \$9.2 million during the last five years, in addition to state appropriations for faculty and operations".¹

According to the University press release, Prof. Jeff Burr stated that "Joining the new McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies will strengthen the Gerontology Department and its graduate programs and define it as the preeminent venue in the nation for research and training in aging and gerontological policy...This is particularly important because of the aging of the Baby Boom and its impact on such issues as long-term care, health services, income security and productive aging."¹

The former McCormack Institute Director Edmund Beard is serving as interim Dean of the school while a nationwide search is being conducted.

For more information, please contact Ed Hayward at (617) 287-5302 or Annemarie Lewis-Kerwin at (617) 287-5318 or see the full press release at www.umb.edu/news/2003news/releases/08mccormack.html.

¹ All information is based on the University's Press release dated August 6, 2003.



New Students Welcome (continued from page 1)

having presented research papers at both levels.

Hannah Lee is also a full-time PhD student. Originally from South Korea, she has lived in Chicago for the past four years. She received her Masters in Gerontology from Concordia University and has been working at the Korea Trade Center for the past year and a half. Her academic interests include immigrant elderly and their life issues, and her hobbies include sports.

Linn Morill is a part-time Masters student who has over 25

combined years of geriatric social work, health policy and healthcare administration experience. She is presently a program manager at the Center for Health Policy and Research at the UMass Medical School Shrewsbury campus. Her diverse interests include in-line skating, skiing and nature photography. She is also an accomplished musician.

Rosy Sarafoudi joins the PhD program full-time. She has a Masters in Public Administration and is a recent graduate of the Gerontology Graduate Cer-

tificate Program. Her interest is in multi-cultural issues on aging.

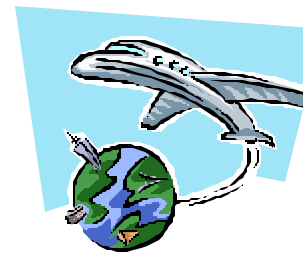
Kristin Shanahan just started the Masters program, and she currently works as an outreach worker at the Peabody Council on Aging. She is a SHINE counselor, a DECIDE instructor (Developing Elders' Choices in Defensive Education) as well as a companion for a homecare agency. She enjoys hanging out with her buddy Sherry that she met through the Best Buddies in Massachusetts program, as well as playing piano and volleyball.

Gerontological Society of America to meet in Sunny San Diego this November

The 56th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America is scheduled to meet in San Diego, California from November 21-25, 2003. This year's theme is "Our Future Selves: Research, Education, and Services for Early Development and Childhood in an Aging Society". The meeting will be organized around four concepts: Biological Sciences; Clinical Medicine; Behavioral and Social Sciences; and Social Research, Policy & Practice. Highlights of this year's meeting include the opening plenary session speaker Professor Lawrence J. Whalley, MD from Scotland's University of Aberdeen. In ad-

dition, the conference agenda includes a variety of social events, including a new members coffee. These are great opportunities to mingle and meet new people in the gerontology world.

If you are interested in going, please see the website for registration information. For students that need some help financing the trip, there are several options. One is UMBs graduate student association (see article on page 5), which offers opportunities for travel assistance to graduate students to attend a professional conference. In addition, the Gerontological Society of America offers volunteer positions at the conference. In



exchange of an eight hour commitment will be waived the registration fee. Typical assignments include helping with sessions and being available to answer questions.

The preliminary program is now available on line as is all other important information, so check out some of the topics and events at www.geron.org.

UMB Students In Action

This summer has been a busy one for many of our students. Congratulations on all their fine accomplishments!!

- **Antonia (Kathy) Coppin** defended her thesis entitled "Aging in Developing Countries: Health Status and Disability among Older Women in Latin America, A Comparison Study". In addition, she has accepted a post doctoral position at NIA under the Direction of Jack Guralnik, MD, Ph.D, so she will be relocating to Bethesda, Maryland.
- **Dongsoo Lee** also successfully defended his thesis on September 25th, 2003. The dissertation title is "Quality of Physician Care and Changes in Health Over Time Among Elderly Medicare Beneficiaries With Chronic Illness.
- **Wendy Hubenthal** had her article accepted for publication in the Adult Basic Education journal. The title of the article is: "Older Russian Immigrants' Experiences in Learning English: Motivation, Methods, and Barriers". Currently still in press, but look for it this Spring!
- **Tamara Harden** was recently awarded a minority pre-doctoral fellowship from NIH, working under Dr. Charles Drebing and Dr. Ellen McCarty at the Bedford VA. It is a two year position that will allow her to complete her dissertation, present at 2 professional conference per year, attend 2 statistical training seminars a year and provides her with administrative funding and support. In addition, she is required to work on two research projects of her own design during her fellowship.
- **Kelly Fitzgerald**, presented her research at the annual British Society of Gerontology meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne, England in Sept. The title of her poster was: Long-Term Care Ombudsmen: Advocates for a changing society. She won the annual student poster award for the most interesting, creative, etc. poster/study. This type of advocacy program is not available in the UK and generated a lot of interest. Kelly was invited back to the next annual conference to participate in a symposium on advocacy.



Kelly in front of her Poster at the BSG



Upcoming Conferences



November 21-25, 2003, San Diego, California

The 56th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America. Theme: "Our Future Selves: Research, Education, and Services for Early Development and Childhood in an Aging Society".

Contact: www.geron.org

February 26-29, 2003, Richmond, Virginia

29th Annual Meeting & Education Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Theme: "Global Aging". Contact: www.aghe.org

April 14-17, 2004, San Francisco, California

Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and the American Society on Aging. Theme: "The Road Ahead: Taking the Journey Together". Contact: www.agingconference.org

Don't miss the discounts available to you as a UMB student!!

The Office of Student Life offers students many discounts, so don't forget to take advantage of them. Perks include free admission to the JFK Library/Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts with a valid University ID, discounted tickets to the New England Aquarium and Museum of Science as well as discounts for the MBTA. For the full list, check out their website at www.umb.edu/students/student_life/discounts.html or stop in and visit them on the 4th Floor of Wheatley, Room 181.

Graduate Student Assembly

The graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is a group dedicated to graduate students' academic and professional development. They offer a variety of programs and grants. Open to all matriculating graduate students, GSA welcomes your input and encourages you to attend their meetings, which are held twice a month.

Fellowships Announcements

Gaius Charles Bolin Fellowship for Minority Graduate Students

Synopsis: Fellowships are available for minority students who are working toward their PhD in the humanities or the natural, social or behavioral sciences to complete their dissertation research.

Objective: to underline the importance of encouraging able minority students to pursue careers in college.

Eligibility: must be a US citizen, and have completed all doctoral work except the dissertation by the end of the current academic year.

Deadline : 01/01/2004

Contact and website :
William J. Lenhart, Acting Dean of the Faculty at (413) 597-4351
www.williams.edu/admin-depts/deanfac/bolin.html

EDITORIALS

Opinion pieces and letters to the editor can be submitted to GeroNews in two ways:

- 1) Opinion pieces and letters may be typed and submitted to the GeroNews' mailbox in the Gerontology Institute on the third floor of Wheatley Hall. Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- 2) Opinion pieces and letters may also be submitted by email to kerstin.gerst@medstat.com

All submissions may be edited for clarity, style, size and content.

Your contribution to GeroNews is welcomed and encouraged by the editors.

GeroNews

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We are on the
web:
[www.geront.um
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IMPORTANT DATES AT UMB

2003

September 2
October 13
November 2
November 2
November 11
November 27-30
December 1
December 12
December 15-19

Fall 2003 Classes Begin
Columbus Day (Holiday)
Pass/fail Deadline
Course Withdrawal Deadline
Veteran's Day (Holiday)
Thanksgiving Recess
Spring 2004 Class Registration
Classes End
Final Exam Period

2004

January 26
February 16
March 13-21
April 8
April 19
April 26
May 12
May 13-16
May 17-21
June 4

Spring 2004 Classes Begin
Presidents Day (Holiday)
Spring Break
Pass/fail Deadline
Patriots Day (Holiday)
Fall 2004 Registration
Classes End
Study Period
Final Exams
Commencement

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