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Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

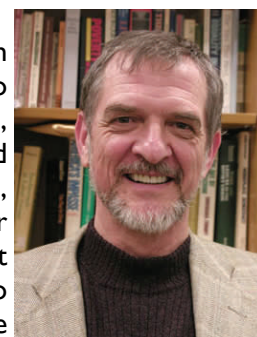
Welcome to the Spring Edition of *Sociology News*! The past year has been a year of outstanding productivity and accomplishment for the Department of Sociology. Our collective intellectual life was also enhanced by stimulating presentations by several outstanding faculty search candidates, and we also had the benefit of a series of lectures, meetings and other events with two internationally renowned visiting scholars whose work cuts across the areas of gender, age and life course studies, Gunhild Hagestad and Carroll Estes.

Gunhild Hagestad, who is Professor of Sociology at Agder University in Norway and holds an adjunct appointment in our department, visited in January before delivering a major keynote address to the United Nations in New York on the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Older Person. Our students and faculty were treated to a preview of her UN presentation.

Carroll Estes, Professor of Sociology at the University of California – San Francisco, visited in February. Her visit was co-sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women, and was made possible by an award from the Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), arranged by Professor Sue Hinze. This edition of *Sociology News* contains articles about both of their visits.

This has been another year of significant accomplishment and recognition for both faculty and students. Brian Gran published an edited volume, *Public and Private Social*

Policy (co edited with Daniel Beland). Two faculty members, Gary Deimling and Emilia McGucken, were nominated for teaching awards. Just as we are going to press, we have received word that a CDC grant for a Prevention Research Center based in Cleveland, of which Professor Jessica Kelley-Moore, who is the Principal Investigator, has been funded. More details to come!



Professor Dale Dannefer

Our graduate and undergrad students were also the recipients of University-wide awards. Doctoral student Rebecca Siders received the Marie Haug Award from the University Center for Aging and Health, and Rachel Bryant received the Ruth Barber Moon Award. Doctoral students Robin Shura and Michael Flatt received the Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award in recognition of their outstanding instruction to students. Eight undergraduate Sociology majors received special recognition for their commitment and excellence in the study of Sociology.

Of course, we always welcome hearing from alumni, and we wish you continued success in all of your endeavors. Please let us know of job openings you or your colleagues may have, as our talented graduate students may be just what you need. If you are on campus, please feel welcome to stop by the department.

Dale Dannefer
Chair

By Marcie
Lambrix

Professor Gunhild Hagestad Delivers a Preview of Her Presentation to the UN

Over a decade ago, the United Nations announced 'The International Year of Older Persons 1999'. This program, officially launched on October 1, 1998, was ushered in with an all day program entitled *Towards A Society for All Ages*, held at UN Headquarters in New York. The key speakers at the event were United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and our esteemed colleague, Gunhild Hagestad, who is a professor at Agder University in Norway and adjunct professor in our department (for more details on the UN event, visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/idop98.html>)

This contextual background that framed Professor Hagestad's talk is important for two reasons. First is the more historical and substantive issue. Those of us who had the pleasure of attending Gunhild's lecture got a sneak peek of what she later presented to the UN when she addressed the Committee on the state of a *Society for All Ages*. She presented findings from her own empirical research, as well as that of others in the field, all of which has served to shed light on the various structural factors that perpetuate age segregated societies. Additionally, Gunhild addressed the very real consequences of these segregating forces, for example policy and institutionalization, and what it means to the three stages of life-particularly the young and old, the "bookend" generations. Professor

Hagestad placed special emphasis in her talk on the critical need for these two generations to come together and learn from one another, but how our societies are set up in such a way that these two populations have very limited interaction with one another. Professor Hagestad's data and arguments that supported the integration of these populations was convincing, and she challenged those of us who consider ourselves to be gerontologists to break free from the traditional ways of conceptualizing aging and policy research and how we can develop better ways of integrating the lives of children and grandparents.

The second reason that the context of Gunhild's talk is important because of the way she chose to start of her talk-- she opened by advising the audience that the talk she gave to the UN over 10 years ago was perhaps the talk that she had prepared most for in her life. In her stern yet compassionate voice, she told us "when you give a talk to Kofi Annan, you prepare". And while most of us will never have the opportunity to present to Kofi Annan, or at the United Nations for that matter, her words of advice are critical, as they come from her personal experience of dedicating yourself to something you believe in, and in conducting research that looks beyond simplified causes, to the greater structural root issues, rather than those that mask the surface. Gunhild has a rare gift for the work she does, and she presents to her audience with an ease and sophistication that by all means demonstrates, she's prepared.

In sum, not only is Gunhild Hagestad's research excellence in the field of aging and the life course an inspirational and proactive exemplar other scholars can learn from, but we as scholars and as human beings can learn from her truly provocative and gracious character.

Marcie Lambrix is a current graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology.



Gunhild Hagestad

Department of Sociology Hosts Feminist Activist Carroll Estes

By Susan Hinze

In February, Professor Carroll Estes, of the University of California-San Francisco, recipient of the 2008 Sociologist for Women in Society Feminist Activist Award, travelled to Cleveland to deliver two lectures, "Feminism and Activism in the Academy" and "The Economic Meltdown: Older Women and the Politics of Aging". She also met with graduate students to share in their areas of interest at Case Western Reserve University.

The SWS Feminist Activist Award is given to an individual who has consistently used sociology to better the lives of women. As Professor Estes' visit made clear, she believes in a public-spirited citizenship, and works tirelessly to bring older women to the forefront as a political economist of aging and critical gerontology. In addition to SWS, her visit was sponsored by Case Western Reserve University's Women's and Gender Studies Program at CWRU, the Department of Sociology, and Flora Stone Mather Center for Women.

Professor Estes has an impressive range of academic and activist accomplishments. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and past President of the Gerontological Society of America, the American Society on Aging, and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She has served as consultant to U. S. Commissioners of Social Security and Congressional Committees on Aging. She is well known for her landmark contributions to theoretical developments in the Political Economy of Aging and Critical Gerontology. Her current work is on long term care, mental health and aging, feminist, intergenerational politics, and social movements surrounding the privatization of Social Security and Medicare. Among her books are: *The Aging Enterprise* (Jossey Bass, 1979), *Social Policy & Aging* (Sage Pub., 2001), and *Social Theory, Social Policy and Aging* (Open University Press, UK, 2003, with co-authors Simon Biggs and Chris Phillipson). She currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

The first talk by Professor Estes was billed as "A Conversation with Carroll Estes: Feminism and Activism in the Academy." In my introduction, I noted that our speaker had been ringside during key historical moments dating back to her scholarship and activism in the pre-Civil Rights era and into the

Women's Movement during which she knew and worked with activists and scholars like Betty Friedan, Tish Sommers (co-founder of the Older Women's League) and Maggie Kuhn (co-founder of the Gray Panthers). However, I corrected myself and said, "She hasn't been ringside; she's been IN the ring!" I then corrected myself again and remarked, "There should

be no past tense here; she's still in the ring!"

In fact, Professor Estes had joined us in Cleveland directly from Washington, DC where she spent two days consulting at a legislative staff meeting for the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee (the money committees for social security). In January, she had a VIP seat at Barack Obama's inauguration.



Carroll Estes

During the conversation, Professor Estes traced her own commitment to social justice back to the racially segregated South and her sadness at witnessing separate drinking fountains for "coloreds," poll taxes and literacy tests to vote. Her own father's image was hung in effigy after he, a U.S. District Judge, ordered school integration in Dallas. But it was her mother's influence that gave rise to her feminist consciousness. As she described in a recent article (Estes 2008), she was aware from an early age that her mother - a woman of enormous talent and vitality - was suffocated by the structural impediments, internalized oppression and rage of living in "a man's world." Carroll entertained the large luncheon audience of faculty, graduate students and staff with stories of her own experiences as a woman in academia during a period when women were not taken seriously.

After obtaining her Stanford undergraduate degree in three years, she began graduate school at the University of California Berkeley only to leave after being told that she'd never make it "as a girl." Despite her academic successes there and mentoring by intellectual giants Reinhard Bendix and Herbert Blumer, Estes left the program and later found her way

Carroll Estes (cont.)



“For whom
and for what
do we
pursue our
discipline?”

back to graduate school at Southern Methodist University. Her PhD. was earned at the University of California, San Diego. After working at Brandeis and Simmons College, she returned to California in 1972 to accept an assistant professorship, reaching the rank of full professor in 1979. In her 2008 article in the *Journal of Aging Studies*, Professor Estes reflected on her intellectual journey including her embrace of conflict theory, and symbolic interactionist/constructionist theory.

Those theoretical strands were evident in her second talk, titled “The Economic Meltdown: Older Women and the Politics of Aging.” However, feminist theory is central as she used it to challenge the individualism and masculinist assumptions of the economic paradigm. More generally, Carroll used an intersectionality approach in which race/ethnicity, class and gender figure prominently into a “crisis of legitimacy”. In capitalism, the state, and democracy. She focused on the impact of the current financial crisis on older women. She quoted Nancy Folbre (2001): “The Invisible hand of markets depends upon the invisible heart of care. Markets cannot function effectively outside the framework of families and communities built on values of love, obligation, and reciprocity.” In short, ageism and sexism have corrupted the social contract and put older women at risk for high rates of poverty, morbidity and mortality. Public policies need to be reshaped to compensate and/or insure caregivers of elders, children and grandchildren. She concluded with a call to activism, and a commitment to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

In her final formal talk, Professor Estes engaged graduate students in sociology around their areas of interest. She discussed the connection between critical sociology and public sociology, and answered numerous questions about how to navigate an academic and/or activist career in sociology. Graduate students came away from the talk inspired and informed as she highlighted her own experiences working in the field and mentoring dozens of students along the way. Professor Estes is the first woman in the nine campus UC system to found a Research Institute (for Health and Aging). It is especially impressive that Carroll has maintained her critical intellectual scholarship while resisting the relentless pressure to be mainstream. In short, she continues to fight the good fight for social justice by wielding her scholarship as a powerful weapon inside and outside of the academy.

Most inspiring to me is her commitment to “lift while climbing” in terms of mentoring and nurturing graduate students, junior faculty, and activists. Professor Estes has lived the longstanding feminist motto, the personal is political. That motto, combined with her passion for igniting a sociological imagination, is a powerful combination and has earned her audiences far and wide, academic and nonacademic. Professor Estes asks: “For whom and for what do we pursue our discipline?” In her short visit at Case Western Reserve University, she provided some answers to that question and motivated many of us to reaffirm our own commitment to using a critical, sociological, feminist lens as we teach, serve and produce scholarship. As Adrienne Rich (quoted by Professor Estes) writes: “We cast our lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.” (From *Natural Resources*.)

Susan Hinze is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and is also Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program.

Graduate Students Present Research Findings at the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project

By Scott Adams (with David Warner)



On January 28-29, 2009 I traveled to Chicago, to attend the *National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project* (NSHAP) Early Results Conference. NSHAP is a longitudinal study of adults aged 57-85 focusing on issues of aging, health, and sexuality. With the first wave of data available for public use, the Early Results Conference brought a number of researchers and graduate students from around the country together to present preliminary findings from these data.

I am proud to report that Case Western Reserve Sociology was well-represented at the conference. Five graduate students, including myself, along with Professors Sue Hinze and David Warner attended sessions over two days and it was clear to the other participants that there is a lively group of intellectuals in Case Western Reserve Sociology interested in health, aging, and inequality. The primary reason for our significant presence at the conference is that Professor Linda Waite, the principal investigator of NSHAP, visited campus last spring as part of the ACES Distinguished Lecture Series. During her presentation, Professor Waite discussed the strengths of NSHAP and encouraged applications to the Early Results Conference.

In response to Professor Waite's request for applications, my fellow graduate students, Rachel Bryant and Melinda Laroco, and I started brainstorming. We were initially struck by the fact that NSHAP includes a great deal of information pertaining to sexuality in old age, which contradicts a number of popular myths that erroneously assert the asexual status of older adults. Consequently, we prepared a paper and presentation entitled "Variation in Masturbatory Frequency with Age: What is the Impact of Health?". This is an important research topic because few previous studies have considered the place of this form of sexual expression in old age. It was quite thrilling to have the chance to share our research with others in the scientific community and receive valuable feedback!

Beyond providing an opportunity to conduct and present research, the conference contributed to my academic and professional development in two other

important ways. First, I was able to witness an array of impressive and exciting presentations. Other conference attendees presented on topics ranging from the influence of religion in later life to health disparities among older adults, all of which were fascinating. Second, the conference served as a great networking platform, allowing me to engage in conversation with a number of graduate students and researchers in both the formal conference setting and in a more informal setting at a dinner that was held for the attendees.

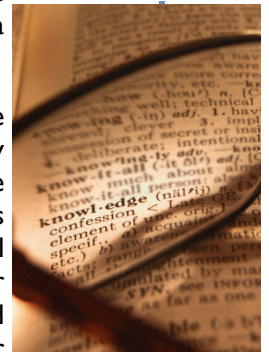
These informal social aspects of the conference were important in that they added a certain amount of depth to the presentations. By taking a few moments to chat with the other presenters, I had the opportunity to learn about the career trajectories of other attendees and understand how they came to their particular presentation topics. Furthermore, in these conversations I witnessed firsthand other researchers' enthusiasm for and dedication to social science.

It is also worth mentioning that the dinner itself was one of the more fun and memorable meals in my life because every time a new course was served, at the request of Professor Waite, all the attendees played a form of musical chairs and moved to a new seat in an effort to become better acquainted with the others. (Yes, it is true; social scientists can in fact be *social*!)

As a result of attending the NSHAP Early Results Conference, I returned to Cleveland with a wealth of useful advice and encouragement. Currently, my colleagues and I are implementing this advice to continue the research presented in Chicago. I can honestly say that this conference was an extremely constructive professional development experience, and I am grateful to all those whose dedication and hard work made the conference possible.

More information on NSHAP can be found at: <http://www.norc.org/nshap>

Scott Adams is a current graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology. David Warner is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology.



By Lynn
Falletta

Sociology Graduate Student Association

As the 2008 Fall semester commenced, a handful of graduate students began meeting weekly to discuss the formation of a new student group with the intention of helping to shape the Department of Sociology in a way that is mutually beneficial to students and faculty. The group met after multiple emails and conversations revealed that many students would like to play a more active role in the development of departmental policies and in improving the student experience within the department. Students involved expressed that the best way to address student issues was to organize and actively collaborate with faculty to make sure that students' voices are heard.

After several meetings, the group wrote and ratified the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sociology Graduate Student Association (SGSA). Officers were elected for the 2008-2009 academic year, including Lynn Falletta, president; Rachel Bryant, vice-president and Melinda Laroco, secretary-treasurer. Additionally, Robin Shura was appointed to the role of activities chair. Founding documents were submitted to the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and SGSA is now officially recognized as a graduate student group by GSS.

The purpose of SGSA is to promote and facilitate communication and collaboration among graduate students, faculty and staff in the Department of Sociology at Case Western Reserve University. Activities are focused on improving the overall quality of the graduate student experience and facilitating opportunities for professional socialization and development. While the goal of SGSA is to improve graduate student life, the group also hopes to positively impact student satisfaction with the sociology program, improve departmental visibility, and work with faculty to develop student policies which both meet current students' needs and are attractive to top potential students.

A commonly asked question is how SGSA is different from the role of the departmental student representative, a position currently held by Antje Daub. SGSA and the representative are two distinct roles, but have established a

commitment to collaborate. The departmental student representative is the official graduate student liaison to the faculty and as such attends all faculty meetings to communicate individual student and general student concerns to faculty, communicates faculty meeting summaries to students, holds office hours, and maintains open communication with graduate students to determine their issues and concerns.

Representatives of SGSA will only attend faculty meetings when needed to discuss group activities. SGSA meetings and activities provide the opportunity for students to meet as a group to discuss and brainstorm ideas and allow students to take an active role in identifying and executing activities to improve the student experience. SGSA undertakes specific projects regarding student concerns which require the efforts of multiple students.

Short-term goals of SGSA include:

- Obtain space and supplies
- Develop relationships with alumni, including an alumni survey and publish up-to-date information on the department website
- Provide input and assistance on grad fora
- Work with faculty regarding departmental policy on technology fee

Longer term goals include:

- Develop code of rights and responsibilities for sociology graduate students
- Capitalize on visits of external reviewers to set up workshops/discussion groups on campus for students
- Develop regional student conference
- Become active voice in departmental policy decisions

The group has secured a bulletin board in the sociology hallway in Mather and a link on the departmental website. Please check these out for updates on the activities of SGSA. For more information, contact one of our officers or better yet, attend a meeting.

Lynn Falletta is a current graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology.



Recreating Meaning When Children Leave the Home

Race, Class and Family Structure Differences in the Experience of Launching Children

By Karie Feldman

Growing up, I watched my mother put aside her career for her family, waiting to achieve her own dreams later. It was not until I read about similar stories from other women striving to balance family and career goals and realized just how different the norms and expectations are for women. Upon reading Arlie Hochschild's *Second Shift*, I began to see the problems my mother faced not as personal troubles, but rather as social issues. Further reading alerted me to ways these issues are confounded by poverty and discrimination. I am surprised by the lack of knowledge regarding the diversity of experience among women today. While many have tried to modify the misconception that most modern families consist of a breadwinner father, a stay-at-home mother and young children, the literature still supports this illusion. This realization fueled my commitment to research that explores the unique stories of women. I hope that my research can address some of the long-term ramifications of inadequate support for women raising families.

My research considers how women of differing race, social class, and family structure adjust to children leaving home. Prior research considering this phase in family life has included only middle-class, married, White women. Mothers of different backgrounds, though, have spent decades of their lives raising their children. For some, the child's successes and failures become a yardstick by which mothers judge the quality of their efforts. For others, parenting has taken a lesser role secondary to other important roles such as work, spouse, or daily survival. I hope to discover how women of different backgrounds differ in terms of identity, relationships, and attitudes regarding motherhood.

Over the past year I have collected and entered my quantitative data, learning even more about process than about my dissertation topic. In my desire to learn specifically about women whose children had recently left home, I contacted a number of companies that sell targeted mailing lists. For a reasonable fee, companies promised that they could select people based on race, marital status, and income level, and one even claimed they could provide me names of women whose children had left within the past two years. After sending out thousands of surveys (thank you to Michelle, Callie, my sister, my husband, and my parents), I have discovered that these targeted mailings are not as accurate as I had assumed. Over a fifth of the people I heard from had never had children, close to the same number had launched their children more than 20 years ago, and another large group of people still had children living at home. Nonetheless, I achieved a sample size of 417 mothers with no children living at home. Among these, 74 women had launched their children within the past five years. While I would still recommend purchasing name lists for data collection, I would caution researchers to

use screening questions in their instruments, and make allowances in their budgets for ineligible respondents.

One key variable examines how women adjust their lifestyle when children leave home. Survey questions that comprise this variable considered whether women felt that when children left they should reinvest in their own goals, take the lead in maintaining relationships with their children, and whether children leaving represented a relief from burdens and stressors of motherhood. Not only does race, socio-economic status, and family structure appear to have little influence on mother's adjustment, but even time since children left seemed unrelated. This lack of relationship suggests that parenting is so salient that the meaning of motherhood changes little, even decades after women launch their children.

Another scale focused on how women had expected to feel when their children left home. A related scale suggested that older, White, higher income, and retired people expected greater desire for involvement with children after they leave. This is not surprising, since these women tend to have fewer competing demands that would keep them from pursuing these interests. Additionally, there is evidence in the literature that women who are married (and make up most of the women living with others; e.g. Aronson & Huston, 2004) and women with daughters tend to put more effort into maintaining relationships with adult children (e.g., Lawton et al, 1994).

As I begin to analyze my data I am excited for the next step in this process. I plan to convene focus groups to discuss both differences and similarities in the experience of launching one's children, to invite women to respond to findings from the quantitative portion of the study, and to help me interpret the true meaning of the results. I am excited to meet with women whose children have recently left home to see if I have captured this experience with the questions I chose in my instrument. Responses to my survey have been positive. A number of women wrote notes letting me know that they enjoyed participating, and one respondent even sent me a book written by her husband about being a father, presumably to let me know that launching children is a major transition for both parents. As I complete my research over the next year, I look forward to learning from the reactions and comments of my committee and other working in my research

Karie Feldman is a current graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Sociology.



Cancer Survivor Research Program

By Gary
Deimling

The Cancer Survivor Research Program is beginning its 12th year studying the quality of life of older adult long-term cancer survivors, and we have received permission from the NCI to extend our work until at least June of 2010. Our research has focused on the intersection of aging and cancer (See our recent article in *CANCER* for a comprehensive review of key issues). Older adult cancer survivors have the dual vulnerability conferred by their advancing age and the legacy of cancer and its treatment, and minority survivors face the additional threat brought on by well documented racially linked health disparities. Our research documenting the additional health threats that cancer can produce over and above those that result from co-

morbidities associated with aging. That analysis will soon be published in the *Journal of the American Geriatric Society* (Deimling et al., in press) in an issue dedicated to research on the health of older adult survivors. Two of our prior graduate student project members, Jacquelin Arendt and George

Kypriotakis were instrumental in this aspect of our work.

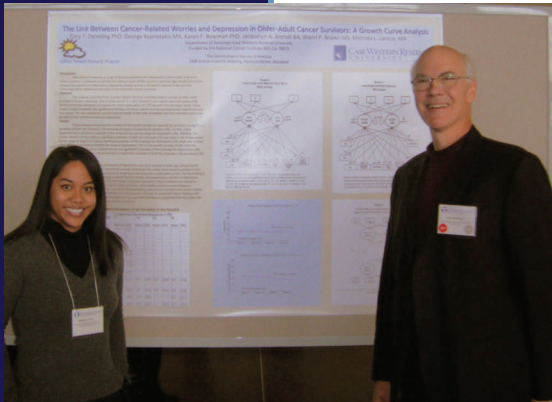
The past year has been a highly collaborative year for the project. Dr. Bowman continues to work with Dr. Julia Rose on manuscripts that examine the ways that older survivors use oncology and primary care. Their analysis will serve as one source of pilot data for our planned R01 application testing models of care for older, long-term survivors. Dr. Deimling continues to collaborate with Drs. Boaz and Eva Kahana and Dr. Samantha Sterns (one of our graduates) on post-traumatic transformation among survivors.

Our most recent work takes advantage of the six waves of data we have collected over the past ten years on nearly 500 survivors, examining the trajectories in quality of life outcomes as they are affected by the combined challenges of cancer and aging. We now are preparing a revision of an article for *Psycho Oncology*, the major journal on the psycho-social aspect of cancer. George Kypriotakis has played the major role in this work as we continue our collaboration with colleagues Drs. Scott Hofer and Andrea Piccinin at Oregon State University.

This past year has brought two new graduate students to the project, Sherri Brown and Melinda Laroco, each of whom has carved out an area of research in cancer and aging. Sherri's work adds to our analysis of identity and cancer and she will present those findings at the ASA meetings this August. She is also interested in racial differences in health beliefs and the use of health care practices and plans to present that analysis at the Gerontological Society in November. Melinda's work is breaking new ground by looking at how biophilia is related to coping and psychological distress. She recently presented preliminary findings at the OAGE conference and she hopes to present her work on the use of complementary and supplementary health practices by older survivors at GSA this fall.

We continue to prepare our final report for our current grant while translating that report into a book that will tie together all of our previous findings. The tentative title on this manuscript is *Cancer in Later Life: The Dual Challenges of Survivorship and Aging*, which we hope to complete in late 2010 and have published by Springer Publishing.

Gary Deimling is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and is Director of the Quality of Life After Cancer Research Project.



Gary Deimling and Melinda Laroco at the Research Showcase

For more information see:

Deimling, G., Arendt, J., Kypriotakis, G., Bowman, K. (in press, *Journal of the American Geriatric Society*) Functioning among Older, Long-term Survivors: The Role of Cancer and Co-morbidities.

Avis, E. N., Deimling, G. (2008) Cancer Survivorship and Aging, *Cancer* Vol. 113, S12.

Visit <http://www.case.edu/artsci/soci/Deimling/> for more information on publications and presentations.

Marshalling Responsive Care

Elders Enhance the Quality of Life in Their Final Years

By Eva Kahana

My colleagues, May Wykle and Jessica Kelley-Moore and I are currently in the second year of a five year study focusing on proactive “care getting” among elderly adults nearing the end of life. This study is a follow-up of 1,000 elders enrolled in our long-term longitudinal study of adaptation to frailty among Florida retirees, and also includes elders from the Cleveland area. Focus of end-of-life research is typically found on terminally ill patients. Our study is unique in considering elders without a specific illness diagnosis, but who are at high risk of mortality based on age, and indicators of frailty such as falls.

We are exploring strategies used by these elders to obtain responsive care and maintain comfort and a sense of being cared for during the final years of life. Our conceptual framework is based on our theory of Preventive and Corrective Proactivity which proposes that older adults can engage in forward looking adaptation even in the face of increasing frailty and social losses. Indeed, our longitudinal study has documented that planning ahead and marshalling support contribute to maintenance of psychological well-being and engagement in valued activities. Furthermore, we have found that elders who have a greater future orientation are better able to deal with illness related stressors of late life. Similarly, religious and spiritual dispositions have also been found in our research to contribute to good quality of life.

Our major interest in the ongoing study is in the ways proactive adaptations can contribute to eliciting informal care and support that offer comfort close to the end of life, and elicit responsive medical care from health care providers. We recognize that adaptive tasks, near the end of life, relate to maintaining physical comfort (reduced pain and fatigue), psychological comfort, (absence of depression), social comfort (a sense of being cared for, and existential comfort (knowing that one’s wishes are respected).

Our research also indicates that during chronic illness enduring care partnerships form whereby patients, physicians, and caregivers work together to ensure high quality of care close to the end of life.. Furthermore, our study demonstrates that elders of this generation, who have life-threatening illness, such as cancer are reluctant to advocate for themselves as health care consumers, but they offer clear advice to others to pursue active consumerism so that others are able to act as their own health care advocates.



For more information see:

- Kahana, E., & Kahana, B. (2003). Contextualizing successful aging: New directions in age-old search. In R. Settersten, Jr. (Ed.), *Invitation to the Life Course: A New Look at Old Age* (pp. 225-255). Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Company.
- Boswell, G., Kahana, E., Dilworth-Anderson, P. (2006). Spirituality and healthy lifestyle behaviors: Stress counter-balancing effects on the well-being of older adults. *Journal of Religion and Health*. 45(4), 587-602.
- Kahana, E., & Kahana, B. (2007). Patient proactivity enhancing doctor–patient–family communication in cancer prevention and care among the aged. In D O’Hair, G. Kreps, & L. Sparks (Eds.), *Handbook of Communication and Cancer Care*, (pp. 37-54). New York: Hampton Press.
- Kahana, E., Kahana, B., & Wykle, M. & Kulle, D. (in press). “Care-getting”: A missing link to completing the lifecycle in social gerontology. In D. Biegel and G. Singer, (Eds), *Journal of Family Social Work Special Issue*.
- Kahana, E., Kahana, B., Kelley-Moore, J., Adams, S., Hammel, R., Kulle, D., Brown, J., & King, C. (in press). Toward advocacy in cancer care among the old-old: Cautionary personal actions and bold advice to others. *Journal of American Geriatric Society*.

Eva Kahana is the Robson Professor of Sociology, Nursing, Medicine, Applied Social Science and Humanities in the Department of Sociology and the Director of the Elderly Care Research Center.

Faculty Updates

In March, 2009, **Dale Dannefer** delivered an invited lecture entitled "Cumulative Advantage and the Life Course: Practices of Containment, Principles for Change" to the Department of Sociology at Keele University in Northern England.

Gary Deimling was invited to the University of Nebraska to give a colloquium in April, 2009 on "Coping strategies used by older adult cancer survivors" as part of their "Careers in Aging Week" sponsored by their Gerontology Program.

Brian Gran published *Public and Private Social Policy: Health and Pension Policies in a New Era* (co-edited with Daniel Beland) (2008, Palgrave Macmillan)

In February, **Professor Gran** was also quoted on the front page of the New York Times, on the reversal of the "Dover Ban", the policy prohibiting photography of coffins of American soldiers being returned to the USA.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/weekinreview/15seelye.html>

Susan Hinze is serving as Director of Women's and Gender Studies.

With doctoral student, Noah Webster, graduate Alumni Heidi Chirayath and colleague Joshua Tamayo-Sarver, **Professor Hinze** wrote an article "Hurt Running from Police? No Chance of (Pain) Relief: The Social Construction of Deserving Patients in Emergency Departments", being published in *Research in the Sociology of Health Care*.

Professor Hinze also presented at two national conferences on her research:

Hinze, Susan W., Tanetta Andersson and Brian Gran. 2009. "Applying a Race/Class/Gender Intersectional Approach to the Impact of Social Support on Physical and Mental Health of Older Adults." Presented at the Jan. 29th National Social Life, Health and Aging Project Early Results Conference: Chicago, IL.

Tanetta Andersson and **Susan W. Hinze**. 2009. "The Power of Intersectionality: The Influence of Race, Class and Gender on Social Support and the Physical and Mental Health of Older Adults." Presented at the April 1-4 Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: New Orleans, LA.

Eva Kahana gave the keynote address at the Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology Conference in April, 2009 at the University of Akron. Her topic was "Proactive Aging – Options for the Future."

Professor Kahana has also been invited to speak on "Successful Aging" at the Supportive Technology & Design for Healthy Aging: What you can do NOW Conference, University of Washington Institute on Aging in May, 2009.

In February, **Professor Kahana** delivered a lecture at the Mandel School of Applied Social Science "From Survey to Intervention Research: A Professional Journey" and in June, she delivered a lecture on Health Literacy" at the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Independent Living Conference.

Additionally, **Professor Kahana** has had a busy year in the media with three newspaper articles appearing in 2008: (1) Anxiety Helps Elderly Women Live Longer. *Cleveland Clinic news release*, March 13; (2) For a fee, firms make skies friendlier for seniors. *Palm Beach Post*, June 22; and (3) New devices on the market or in the works aim to help elderly users navigate life with more ease. *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, September 17.

Centers for Disease Control announced that CWRU will become one of the new sites for a Prevention Research Center (Elaine Borawski & Sue Flocke, Co-Directors). As part of this five-year, \$5M award, **Jessica Kelley-Moore** is Principal Investigator of the PRC core research project entitled "Increasing Access to Healthy Food Options in Disadvantaged and Underserved Urban Neighborhoods." This ambitious project provides a neighborhood-level intervention to address the chronic problems of healthy food availability in impoverished areas.

Jessica Kelley-Moore, David Warner and Dale Dannefer presented a poster entitled "The Forward Reach of Inequality: Cumulative Dis/Advantage and Intergenerational Transfers" at the MacArthur Conference on *Intergenerational Issues in an Aging Society* in January.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOCIAL POLICY

Health and Pension Policies in a New Era

Edited by Daniel Beland and Brian Gran



Awards and Recognition

Teaching Award Nominations

Professor Emilia McGucken was nominated for the **Carl F. Wittke Award**. This award was established in 1971 in honor of Carl Wittke, a former faculty member, dean, and vice president of Western Reserve University. The Wittke Award is presented each year to two Case Western Reserve University faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Professor Gary Deimling was nominated for the **Jackson Award**. This award recognizes outstanding advising and mentoring of undergraduate students at Case Western Reserve University. It was established by J. Bruce Jackson, Adelbert '52, in honor of Dean Carl F. Wittke. Dr. Wittke served as an advisor, mentor, and friend to Dr. Jackson when he was an undergraduate student at Western Reserve University.

Graduate Awards

Rebecca Siders was awarded the *Marie Haug Award*, which honors Haug's pioneering work in aging at Case. This award is presented annually to graduate students who have shown exemplary performance in their gerontological studies. Rebecca also received an award in appreciation for her outstanding dedication, guidance and patience from the Pennsylvania State University, Shenango Campus.

Rachel Bryant was awarded the Ruth Barber Moon Award. This award is given to graduate students who have demonstrated academic promise and leadership abilities.

Michael Flatt and **Robin Shura** were both awarded the Graduate Dean's Instructional Excellence Award in recognition of providing outstanding instruction to students of the university.

Undergraduate Awards

The **Robert C. Davis Award** for demonstrating commitment to sociological studies

- **Rebecca Diorio & Ashley Soloman**

The **Mark Lefton Award** for excellence in sociological studies

- **Rebecca Gans & Jacob Kornblatt**

The **Stella Berkeley-Friedman Award** for a graduating senior for the highest academic achievement in the study of sociology

- **Lauren Yessnow & Allison Lansell**

The **Schermerhorn Award** for an outstanding student in sociology

- **Neel Agarwal & Erika Mosyjowski**

Elizabeth McDonald, a sociology major, was selected as SOURCE 2009 Summer Research Scholar.

- Elizabeth's research will focus on analyses of international school anti-bullying interventions.

Department of Sociology alumni, **Doris Wilkinson**, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women Leading Kentucky. Janet Holloway, executive director of Women Leading Kentucky, said Wilkinson was the natural choice to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. "Dr. Wilkinson is truly a pioneer," Holloway said. "As such, Women Leading Kentucky could not have found a better candidate to receive our Lifetime Achievement Award. She has mentored and inspired generations of women and continues to impact the lives of her students."

She has three pieces of advice for women just starting out in their careers or changing careers during these turbulent economic times: "Follow your basic interests - not because they are marketable but because they are your fundamental aptitudes and interests," Wilkinson said. "Second, set achievable goals with the right level of aspirations; setting unachievable goals can lead to frustration and stress. Third, always maintain your integrity."



Alpha Kappa Delta

This year 20 students were inducted into Alpha Kappa Delta, the national Sociology honor society. These inductees have maintained a high standard of excellence in their Sociology courses and who demonstrate serious interest in the academic field. The Iota of Ohio Chapter at Case is one of more than 500 AKD chapters throughout the United States and six other countries and they join over 80,000 students and faculty that have been inducted into the society since 1920.



2009 Initiates

Rebecca Ciciretti
Maggie Davis
Brittany English
Lakita Fox
Nicole Gerencser
Donte Gibbs
Ariel Goldberg
Daniel Hong
Loretta Laffitte-Griffin
Jessica Liang

Elizabeth A. McDonald
Sana Minhas
Erika Masyjowski
Natisha Patel
Samantha Salman
Michael A. Schmid
Alex H. Song
Erica Steckl
Shaleika Vargas
Yuliya Volokh

Thinking Above 'The Hypothetical Line of Social Justice': Undergraduates Travel To Hear White Privilege Speaker

On March 25th, students in SOCI 349 Social Inequality traveled to Baldwin Wallace College to hear diversity speaker, Peggy McIntosh. Internationally renowned for her paper entitled, "White privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack", Dr. McIntosh explained that her women's studies background pushed her to think about 'conferred dominance' by societal systems, but this time in the context of race. "I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets (e.g., special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools, and blank checks) which I can count on cashing in each day," explains McIntosh. Highlighting this taxonomy Matt Marciak, undergraduate student, writes: "Many of the listed privileges were not obvious to me in the least until I read her work and heard her speak about them. Privileges such as #3, 'If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure of renting or purchasing housing in an area which I can afford and in which I would want to live' and others about neighborhood and quality of life were perhaps most poignant for me. I never thought about white privilege the way she presented it in her list.....I even found myself interpreting it from the different perspective, if I were not white, and found that many of the privileges no longer applied." Another student, Nadra Williams, relates: "Meeting Peggy McIntosh was truly a great experience...I

had the opportunity to ask her about her reasons for using the term 'people of color'. While I was not given the answer I was looking for; I was able to speak to her one-on-one after the lecture to clarify why I asked the question, which was to see if she saw any negative aspects in using this phrase. While I know that it is necessary to create the dichotomy to show privilege of whites vs. those who are not white, I feel such language has a very important role in the way we can start to make changes around our viewpoints on issues of race." Senior, Meri Nagapetyan, adds: "...she put everyone in the audience on the spot and had them pair up and share privileges and disadvantages based on their own background and experiences. It was an engaging and memorable speech." Finally, Pre-Med major, Alex Song reflects: "Her convincing arguments helped me recognize both the advantages and disadvantages as an Asian American, and I wondered what my own story of 'Asian privilege' or 'Asian discrimination' would state". Graduate student, Tanetta Andersson is the instructor of this course and CWRU's Center for Civic Engagement and Learning kindly loaned the class a van for group transportation.



Dr. Peggy McIntosh

Alumni and Student Updates

Congratulations!

Doctoral Graduates

Andrew Hund successfully defended his dissertation in April 9th. His dissertation was entitled, "Uncovering the Interconnection of SES and Ethnicity to Health Related Quality of Life (HRQOL)".

Prospectus Defenses

The following graduate students successfully defended this Prospectus and are now working towards completing their dissertations!

Noah Webster, October 2, 2008

"The Embodiment of Diabetes and the Affect on Self-Care Strategies"

Lynn Falletta, November 17, 2008

"Individualization of Children's Mental Health Services and Research: Federal Funding through the Request of Applications (RFA) Process as a Reflection of Ideology?"

Joshua Terchek, April 13, 2009

"The Experience of Inattention: A Sociological Approach to Attention Deficit Disorder in Adults"

Undergraduates

- **Brittany Kelly** will be attending Georgetown Law School
- **Nida Aziz** will be attending med school at Ohio State University
- **Horace Consolo** will be attending Marshall Law School at Cleveland State University
- **Yuliya Volokh** will be attending Cleveland State University to pursue a masters in Linguistics.

VISIT US ONLINE!

To learn more about the department or upcoming events, go to www.case.edu/artsci/soci

We'd like to hear from you!

Email us at debra.klocker@case.edu to share any news, job leads or comments.

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Please consider supporting the Department of Sociology as we continue building on our achievements. You can contribute to our success by making a gift to the department. Your gift allows us to continue to offer opportunities for our students to excel academically and to conduct important research. You can give online at giving.case.edu.



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