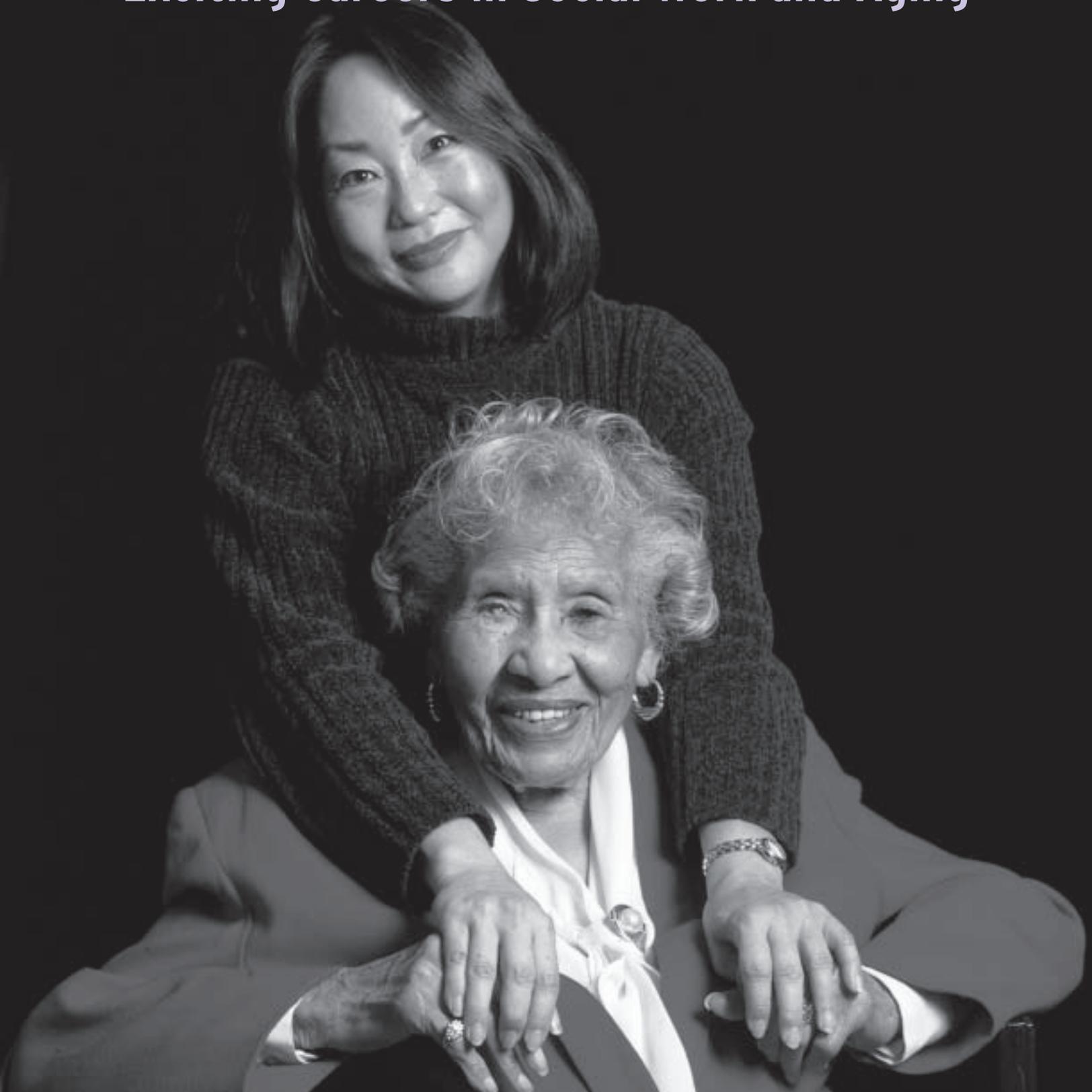


Experience

Exciting Careers in Social Work and Aging





About the John A. Hartford Foundation

Founded in 1929, the John A. Hartford Foundation is a committed champion of health care training, research and service system innovations that will ensure the well-being and vitality of older adults. Its overall goal is to increase the nation's capacity to provide effective, affordable care to its rapidly aging population. Today, the Foundation is America's leading philanthropy with a sustained interest in aging and health. For more information, please see:

www.jhartfound.org



GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORK INITIATIVE

About the Geriatric Social Work Initiative

Launched with funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation in 1999, the Geriatric Social Work Initiative prepares needed, aging-savvy social workers and seeks to improve the care and well-being of older adults and their families. The Initiative cultivates faculty leaders in gerontological education and research, develops excellent training opportunities in real-world settings, and infuses gerontological competencies into social work curricula and teaching. For more information about the GSWI and its programs, please see:

www.gswi.org

For more copies of this publication, please contact Carrie Smith of the Gerontological Society of America at (202) 842-1275 ext. 111 or e-mail her at csmith@geron.org.

Social Work in Aging



A Good Look Ahead

It's hard to predict the future, but one thing is certain. Thanks to medical and public health advances, people are living longer, and the number of older persons is growing. With the aging of the Baby Boom generation, people 65 and older will represent one out of every five Americans by 2030.

For many social workers, this older America of the future is already here. Social workers in every practice area are delivering services to families across three, four, even five generations. Gero-specialists (those trained to work with older adults) are already in high demand. In the years ahead, they will enjoy numerous possibilities for professional growth and innovation.

If you choose to specialize in social work with older adults, you too can enjoy a rich, rewarding career—a career that will have an important and far-reaching impact on the lives of others and on society. Most importantly, you will have the chance to participate in, contribute to, and become expert in national and local issues that will define the next half-century.

Need more motivation? Consider these reasons for choosing a career in social work with older adults:

- **You will challenge yourself every day.** Older adults are extraordinarily diverse with a broad range of needs. Active older adults living in the community may have concerns similar to younger middle-aged adults. In contrast, frail elders in skilled nursing facilities may have multiple issues that reach deep into and beyond the health care system.
- **You will be a team player.** To tend to patient care or client needs effectively, many clinics, hospitals, mental health, and long-term care facilities employ social workers on teams with a broad mix of health care professionals, including clinical specialists, registered nurses, and others.
- **You will meet a real and growing need.** The number of people aged 65+ is expected to double in the next 25 years to more than 70 million. And, according to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, social work employment is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2012.
- **You will lead the way.** Aging is a relatively new and growing field. Social workers with innovative ideas, programs, and products can have great impact. Perhaps you will develop a new program or start a business that addresses a pressing problem of the growing older population. Or, if you pursue an MSW, maybe you'll start your own private practice. Given the broad range of possibilities, you should have the opportunity to mold your career into exactly what you want it to be.

From Clinic to Congress

The Many Settings of Social Work in Aging



Senator Barbara Mikulski began her career as a social worker, working for Catholic Charities and Baltimore's Department of Social Services.

How would you like to do your social work from the floor of the U.S. Senate? That's where Barbara Mikulski, a U.S. Senator from Maryland, has taken her career in social work. "In the Senate," Mikulski says, "I am still a social worker—a social worker with power. I sometimes joke with my colleagues that I am a licensed do-gooder."

Much of that good has been directed toward older adults. Mikulski supported stronger pension plans for retirees, helped make quality psychological care available to seniors in nursing homes, and spoke up for older adults in May 2005 when she encouraged the Senate to renew and strengthen the Older Americans Act. She also introduced the Ronald Reagan Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act to double the federal investment in Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health.

Clearly, not everybody who chooses a career in social work with older adults will work in Congress to pass landmark legislation. But Mikulski's story illustrates an important point: Social workers in aging can make a difference in a variety of settings. They can be found in every facet of community life—in hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, and private agencies. They can provide direct counseling, run support groups for family caregivers, and advise older adults and their families about housing, long-term care, and other support services. And like Senator Mikulski, they can work on macro policy issues for either government or nonprofit agencies.

The Real Deal

Some people think all older adults are frail and bedridden. In fact, most older adults are quite vital and lead active, healthy lives. Just 4% of all people 65 and older, for example, live in skilled nursing facilities. Most still live in their communities, run errands, travel extensively, and attend social events, family gatherings, and educational tours.

The variety and number of employment settings for social work with older people are expanding as the population ages. Settings include:

- Adult Day Care Centers
- Adult Protective Services
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Bereavement Services
- Child Welfare Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Elder Abuse Programs
- Employment and Volunteer Programs
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Family Services Organizations
- Home Health Care
- Hospice
- Hospitals and Medical Centers
- Information and Referral Agencies
- Life Care Communities
- Mental Health Centers
- Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Services
- Nursing Homes
- Nutrition Programs
- Ombudsman Programs
- Outpatient Primary Care Settings
- Planning Agencies
- Prisons
- Private Clinical Practice
- Private Geriatric Care Management
- Protective Services
- Public Social Service Agencies
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Research Centers
- Respite Programs
- Senior Centers
- Senior Housing Facilities
- Veterans Services



Looking to get the right skills and experience? Consider volunteering in a senior center, a nursing home, or on a faculty member's research project in aging.

Older Adults in Action



Albine Bech, 79

Albine Bech lives near San Francisco and actively explores her lifelong dream of teaching others.

Background: After the liberation of France in World War II, Bech secured an office job with the U.S. Army. It was there that she met her future husband—an American G.I. She followed the young man to the United States, where they started a family. They divorced after 12 years of marriage, and Bech raised their three children by herself in France. Eventually she settled back in the United States with her two younger children.

The Good Life in Action: “Fifteen years ago I took a Tai Chi class and became good at that, and the instructor asked me to help teach classes. I found out then that I am good at teaching. I’ve also been trained to teach seniors how to use a new technology—WebTV. I had eight students, and I loved doing it and had very good results.” Bech continues to teach others as an instructor of aquatic exercise classes and a tutor to an elementary school child.

Family Matters: Bech has five grandchildren and one great grandchild. She is looking forward to her 80th birthday celebration with her family and a large circle of friends.

Based on an essay written by Joan Zald. Photography by Joan Zald.

The Real Deal

Most older adults never stop learning. In one study of older adults in Illinois, 70 percent said they had taken an education course or program in the last five years. Favorite courses include those on computers, current affairs, and crafts and hobbies.

Social Work@Work



Francina Harmon, BSW

Francina Harmon transferred into West Chester University's undergraduate social work program in her sophomore year. "Social work is definitely where I wanted to be," Harmon says, "because it's a field that offers so many different avenues for a career." She graduated in May 2005.

Coursework: Harmon's undergraduate coursework included Race Relations, Family Systems, and Research Methods. She also took Policy courses for two semesters. "As a social worker," she says, "you have to pay attention to the client, but you also have to understand the rules and regulations."

Field Experience: Harmon's interest in gerontology started during her internships. Her first was at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, where she worked with older adults in the dialysis unit. Then she had a yearlong internship at Lutheran Children and Family Services working with asylees and refugees—many of them older adults—from West Africa.

Role Model: "My grandmother is an unbelievable lady. She is the one that holds the family together and has been an inspiration to us all."

Next Steps: Harmon is now evaluating a variety of full-time positions to give her more practical experience and will likely return to school to earn a graduate degree in social work. "I'm looking at two areas," Harmon says, "mental health and gerontology."

The Real Deal

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and the University of Southern California used information from a national survey to compile the Database on Gerontology in Higher Education—a listing of more than 750 programs of credit instruction at all educational levels on more than 500 campuses. To learn more, visit the web site of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education at www.aghe.org.

Inspiration and Perspiration

Preparing for a career in social work with older adults



Social workers who provide services to older adults should respect individual differences, genuinely care about others, and possess passion, enthusiasm, and energy.

Many universities that offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work also provide students with a rich and varied background in the biology, sociology, and psychology of aging. For example, Mercedes Bern-Klug, who now teaches in the School of Social Work at the University of Iowa, enrolled in an Aging Studies Certificate program while she was an undergraduate student (see page 11 for a profile of Bern-Klug).

Other universities and colleges have strong social work programs but don't offer comprehensive courses in gerontology or geriatrics. Francia Harmon, who recently graduated from West Chester University in West Chester, PA, notes that her interest in older adults wasn't sparked until her senior-level internship (see page 5 for a profile of Harmon). "Many of the undergraduate courses I took touched on aspects of gerontology," she observes, "but no single course focused exclusively on gerontology."

In either case, students interested in a career in social work with older adults should proactively seek courses and opportunities to learn about aging. Even students who are not looking to specialize in social work with older adults should have some background in gerontology because every setting, including child welfare, requires a greater understanding of aging.

The Real Deal

Social work with adults is a relatively new field. As such, it is still being shaped and developed by practitioners (i.e., clinicians, administrators, community and organization planners, advocates, and policy makers) with fresh ideas and innovative practices. Working in the field of aging provides an unmatched opportunity to be part of this exciting process.

Social Work@Work



Moira Schuhart earned her BSW from George Mason University and is currently the Director of Activities at Fairfax Nursing Center and The Gardens Assisted Living in northern Virginia.

Moira Schuhart, BSW

On the Job: “My need, both professionally and personally, is to have a sense of being useful. At the moment, direct service with residents in the nursing home is incredibly fulfilling, so I am looking at effecting change at a micro level. As time passes, I am certain that my goals with this population will change.”

Challenges: “Social workers get dirty. They work with the poor and the homeless. They work with families and individuals in serious crisis. They work in rehab clinics, hospitals, advocacy groups, and foreign aid. Social workers are not working with the safe and contented.”

Rewards: “My work in the nursing home now involves my family, friends, even my children’s piano teacher. My individual community is beginning the process of blending with my job community. I’ve gained a terrific sense of completion from this work.”

Advice: “Field opportunities are where you put the theory and methodology into practice. The more you do it, the better you get. Grab any chance you can for fieldwork experience. I would also encourage students to look at things from an intergenerational perspective.”

The Real Deal

While social workers in aging do spend time assisting older people, they generally do so in the context of their families, often working with family caregivers to maintain their well-being and to obtain services, such as adult day care and respite care. In some practice settings, such as health care, social workers in aging serve a mix of younger and older people.

Beyond Coursework

The importance of real-world experience

In addition to completing the courses required of your social work degree, you will also find it helpful to gain as much practical experience as possible. Most university programs require at least a semester-long practicum in a field environment. You might consider augmenting this experience with other activities, such as:

- Volunteering in a senior center, a nursing home, or on a faculty member's research project in aging
- Participating in workshops or activities sponsored by campus gerontology programs
- Reading publications in the field of aging
- Attending meetings of regional, state, or national professional organizations where professionals and students in the field present papers and discuss important issues
- Contacting your state unit or area agency on aging about what meetings or publications might be available concerning local programs and activities for older adults

Hands-on activities such as these provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities that come with a career in social work with older adults. They also allow you to network with other professionals in the field and to build relationships that could, in time, help you advance your career.

Older Adults in Action



Carol Harris-Mannes, 67

At the age of 60, Carol Harris-Mannes earned a Master's degree in social work from Columbia University and began a second career at The Actors' Fund of America, where she provides social services for the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative.

On Second Careers: "You have to feel useful and productive as you age," says Harris-Mannes. "I returned to school after a successful entertainment industry career as a way of figuring out how to move on productively in my life."

The Good Life in Action: Harris-Mannes created a peer support group for women in the entertainment industry who are aging. The group meets twice a year for an eight-week period each time and has been highly successful in helping women make one of the most difficult transitions in their lives. "I'm quite proud of this achievement," Harris-Mannes says. "I have built up the program to assist women in the group with many issues, which includes finding resources for maintaining their physical and mental health, helping them with financial management, and showing them new ways to be creative as they age."

Misconceptions : "One of the biggest misconceptions people have about older adults," observes Harris-Mannes, "is that our brains and bodies no longer function well, that we aren't as capable as younger folks. It's absolutely not true."

The Real Deal

Just as we all do, older adults exhibit a wide range of emotional states. Most are happy, satisfied, and fulfilled. Indeed, some research has shown that negative emotions are much higher in younger adults than older adults, leading researchers to conclude that older adults express greater satisfaction with life.

Social Work@Work



Joseph Pickard, PhD, LCSW

Joseph Pickard earned his PhD from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Currently, he is an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and conducts research in a variety of interests, including aging and mental health, aging in place, and spirituality and aging.

Background: After a stint in the military, Pickard earned a degree in education. Teaching for a few years in an alternative school made him realize that helping others was his true calling. “I decided that social work would be a good fit for me, as I really enjoy working with people,” Pickard says. “Today, when people ask me what I do for a living, I don’t tell them I’m a professor. I tell them I’m a social worker. That’s how I think of myself.”

In the Field: Pickard’s experience as a social worker has been varied and wide-ranging. “In my practice, I have been an outpatient substance abuse therapist, a school social worker, and I have worked with older adults,” he says. But of all those populations, Pickard enjoys older adults the most.

Cutting-Edge Research: Research conducted by Pickard revealed that older adults seek help from religious leaders at higher rates than younger adults. “Many times,” Pickard says, “the very problems older adults face are the ones that keep them from accessing services. For that reason, I believe we need to work with natural sources of help such as religious leaders. These are the people to whom older adults are already turning.”

The Big Challenge: “As social workers, I believe our biggest challenge is to identify those elders who are at-risk and those with greater need and to get them the services they need.”

The Real Deal

When you obtain an advanced degree and related experience, advancement to supervisor, program manager, assistant director, or executive director of a social service agency or department is possible. Other career options for social workers in aging include teaching, research, and consulting. Some social workers in aging also help formulate government policies by analyzing and advocating policy positions in government agencies, in research institutions, and on legislators’ staffs.

Finding Your Way

Pursuing a career in social work with older adults

For some, working with older adults is a lifelong passion. These individuals decided what they wanted to be even before they entered college. For others, the decision to work with older adults came much later in life—sometimes as the result of an epiphany or a sudden revelation.

Karen Lee, a social worker who now works in the UCLA School of Public Affairs, describes her journey to social work in aging like this: “I was a case manager for Jewish Family Services because I needed to earn additional hours toward licensure. On my first assessment of a homebound senior, I was sent to the residence of a woman, a retired UCLA professor, about 73 or 74, who had suffered a massive stroke three months before. She was sitting in a wheelchair. Her head was leaning over, and she was drooling. I saw her, and my heart went into my stomach. I wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible.”

It was then that Lee noticed the photographs. “The circumference of the room was filled with photographs of this woman’s life. It was a full and vital life. In addition to being a professor, she was a dancer, sculptor, wife, mother, lover. I said to myself, ‘That woman is all the women in these photographs. They are all inside of her, and she deserves your respect and attention.’ From that moment, I knew this was the work I had to do.”

Older Adults in Action



John Chan, 89

John Chan has been a photographer for almost 15 years, and his work has been recognized around the world. “I’ve exhibited in China and England,” says Chan. “And in 1993, I was recognized as a Fellow at the Royal Photography Society of Great Britain.”

First Career: Chan’s first career was with the California Highway Department, where he worked for 29 years as a draftsman and assistant project engineer. He also served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II.

On Retirement: It was retirement that Chan cites as the turning point in his life. “I retired in 1980, the same year I received an AA degree in photography from the College of San Mateo. I later entered one of my student photos in a contest at the San Mateo County Fair. It won the Best in Show award, and that turned my life around.”

The Importance of Exercise: Besides photography, Chan exercises regularly, doing Luk Tung Kuen, a martial art, every morning for an hour. He also hikes eight miles every week with the Sierra Club. “We do this rain or shine, and it is like a religion to me. I have my share of aches and pains and have a chronic back problem, but I do pretty well for a man who will be 90 this December.”

Based on an essay written by Joan Zald. Photography by Joan Zald.

The Real Deal

Most older adults are similar to your grandparents—people you have known your entire life. And just like your grandparents, older adults participate in family events, offer guidance and support, and pass on family histories.

Social Work@Work



Mercedes Bern-Klug MSW, MA, PhD

For Mercedes Bern-Klug, working with older adults has been a lifelong interest. “When I was a child,” Bern-Klug says, “my mother modeled respect and interest in older adults and taught me how fascinating learning about life can be from someone who can reflect back on the decades. The older people in my life have always been the best storytellers.”

Degrees: Bern-Klug has earned a master’s degree in age-related social work from the University of Iowa, a master’s degree in Applied Demography from Georgetown University, and a doctorate in Social Welfare from the University of Kansas.

Professional Experience: “I did consulting work with the Pan-American Health Organization (the Latin American division of the World Health Organization) and helped to analyze dementia data for Latin American countries. I also consulted with the United Seniors Health Cooperative (now a division of the National Council on Aging). Later, I was hired as a staff member by this organization and worked on developing consumer-oriented information about Medicare rights.”

Advice to Students: “I would encourage students to experience different settings that serve older adults and that build on the strengths of older adults. As the population of older adults grows, there will be more opportunities for social workers to contribute to the well-being of older adults in medical and legal settings, as well as in areas such as housing, transportation, and civic engagement. We need social workers with skills in counseling and other forms of direct practice, community advocacy, public policy, and research.”

The Real Deal

Social workers in aging make a difference in a variety of settings. They work with older people who are active and healthy, those who are in poor physical or mental health, those in the community, and those in institutions.

Looking for More?

Resources in social work and aging

There are plenty of resources available to students who wish to learn more about careers in social work with older adults. The professors in your school of social work are great sources of information. Also helpful is the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, a publication released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The handbook provides information about the employment outlook, work environment, and median salary for a variety of careers, including careers in social work. You can find the handbook online at: www.bls.gov/oco.

You can also find more information about careers and the field of aging on the following web sites:

Geriatric Social Work Initiative (GSWI)

<http://www.gswi.org/careers/index.html>

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

<http://www.aarp.org/>

Careers in Aging

<http://www.careersinaging.com/careersinaging/>

American Society on Aging (ASA)

<http://www.asaging.org/>

Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE-SW)

<http://www.agesocialwork.org/>

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NAAAA)

<http://www.n4a.org/>

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)

<http://www.aghe.org>

National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA)

<http://www.nasua.org/>

Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

<http://www.geron.org/>

National Council on the Aging (NCOA)

<http://www.ncoa.org>

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

<http://www.cswe.org/>

U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA)

<http://www.aoa.gov/>

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

<http://www.naswdc.org/>

Social Work Leadership Institute

<http://www.socialworkleadership.org>



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- Theories of successful aging
- Family caregiving

Case Western Reserve University is a gerontology-rich institution, including notable campus resources such as the University Center on Aging and Health and the University Memory and Aging Center. An interdisciplinary university-wide Certificate in Gerontology can be added to the social work master's degree by taking a few courses in other departments along with the regular program of study.

Cleveland, Ohio offers students and graduates opportunities to participate in an array of aging research and services. Excellent community-based programs, residential care facilities, and health and mental health organizations for older adults provide innovative services and conduct cutting-edge research right in our local area.

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In the coming years, older people will continue to be the largest growing population in America.

What will you be doing in 2020?

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- Conferences on Social Work with Older People
- Social Work Programs with Aging Specializations, Concentrations
 - Research and Reports on Aging



To learn how you can become a part of the vision, visit:

www.Gero-EdCenter.org



Pioneering New Opportunities: Social Work Practice and Research in Gerontology

The University of Iowa | School of Social Work offers courses and field work in the area of aging at the BA and MSW levels, and the PhD in Social Work with a focal area in gerontology.

BA Students can earn the BA in Social Work while simultaneously earning a Certificate in Aging Studies.

MSW students can earn the MSW with a concentration in either Family Centered Practice or Integrated Practice and focus in gerontology, end-of-life care and/or earn the Aging Studies Certificate.

Ph.D. students can choose to focus on Gerontology. Students develop theoretical, policy, and research skills necessary to advance understanding of the elderly within the family context in a series of required classes and interdisciplinary studies. The family focus is an appropriate one at a time when the family as an institution is highlighted in national and state social policy debates. Additionally, the family is increasingly asked to care for society's most vulnerable members including the chronically ill, mentally challenged, and elderly. The program's focus on the elderly within the context of the family is unique among the region's doctoral programs

The School has recently completed a project administered by the Council on Social Work Education, with funding from the Hartford Foundation, to enhance educational programs with increased geriatric and gerontological content aimed at providing social workers with the knowledge and skills they need to improve the health and well-being of older adults and their families. Several faculty focus on aging issues in their teaching, research and practice. Professors Mercedes Bern-Klug and Sara Sanders are Hartford Scholars.

SARA SANDERS, PH.D., L.S.W.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Interests: Caregiving for aging individuals, alzheimer's disease, grief and loss, death and dying, social work education

Teaching Areas: Social Work Processes, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Gerontology, and Death and Dying

MERCEDES BERN-KLUG, PH.D., M.S.W., M.A.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN SOCIAL WORK,
Joint Appointment with Aging Studies

Interests: Gerontology, demography, nursing home social work, end-of-life issues, funeral arrangements, creative writing for social workers, aging in Mexico

Teaching areas: Introduction To Nursing Homes, Cross-Cultural/Comparative Gerontology; Basic Aspects Of Aging



LORRAINE DORFMAN, PH.D.
PROFESSOR

Interests: Gerontology, focusing on work & retirement, rural aging, family caregiving, & gerontology education.

Teaching Areas: Aging, Life Span Development, Gerontology Programs & Services

SUSAN MURTY, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Interests: End-of life services, Rural & regional service delivery, domestic violence, social networks, interorganizational networks

Teaching Areas: Integrated Social Work Practice, Social Work with Rural Communities, Community Practice, Organizational Practice, End-of-Life Care, Travel Study to Mexico

Association for Gerontology
Education in Social Work

AGESW



www.agesocialwork.org

AGE SW provides leadership and assistance to social work educational programs and professionals in order to advocate for the integration of gerontological content in undergraduate and graduate social work education, to promote the teaching of gerontology to all social workers, and to develop short and long-term perspectives in relevant curricular developments.

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The University at Albany offers many options for practice and research in the field of aging. Resources include:

- The Internships in Aging Project – a specialization in aging within the MSW program offering innovative training and enriched internships.
- Faculty renowned for their expertise in aging studies, several of whom are Hartford Scholars
- The Institute of Gerontology – fosters improved outcomes for older adults and their caregivers through research on practice
- The Center for Mental Health and Aging - develops and tests behavioral interventions for depression and anxiety disorders
- The Center for Excellence in Aging Services – addresses the research, policy and social service needs of aging persons, their families, and professional caregivers by building evidence-based innovative practices and policies. The Center includes the:
 - Dementia Interventions Consortium
 - Elder Network of the Capital Region
 - Center on Intellectual Disabilities
 - Retired Senior Volunteer Program
 - OASIS Adult Engagement and Education Program
 - Web/Satellite Instructional Center
- Opportunities within the doctoral program to focus on aging and utilize the centers on aging.

Located in New York's state capital, the University at Albany's School of Social Welfare prepares bachelor's, master's, and doctoral level social workers to provide services and further social justice for the most vulnerable persons in our local communities. The BSW and MSW programs are fully accredited. For more information, www.albany.edu/ssw or call (518) 442-5320



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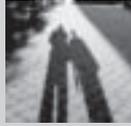
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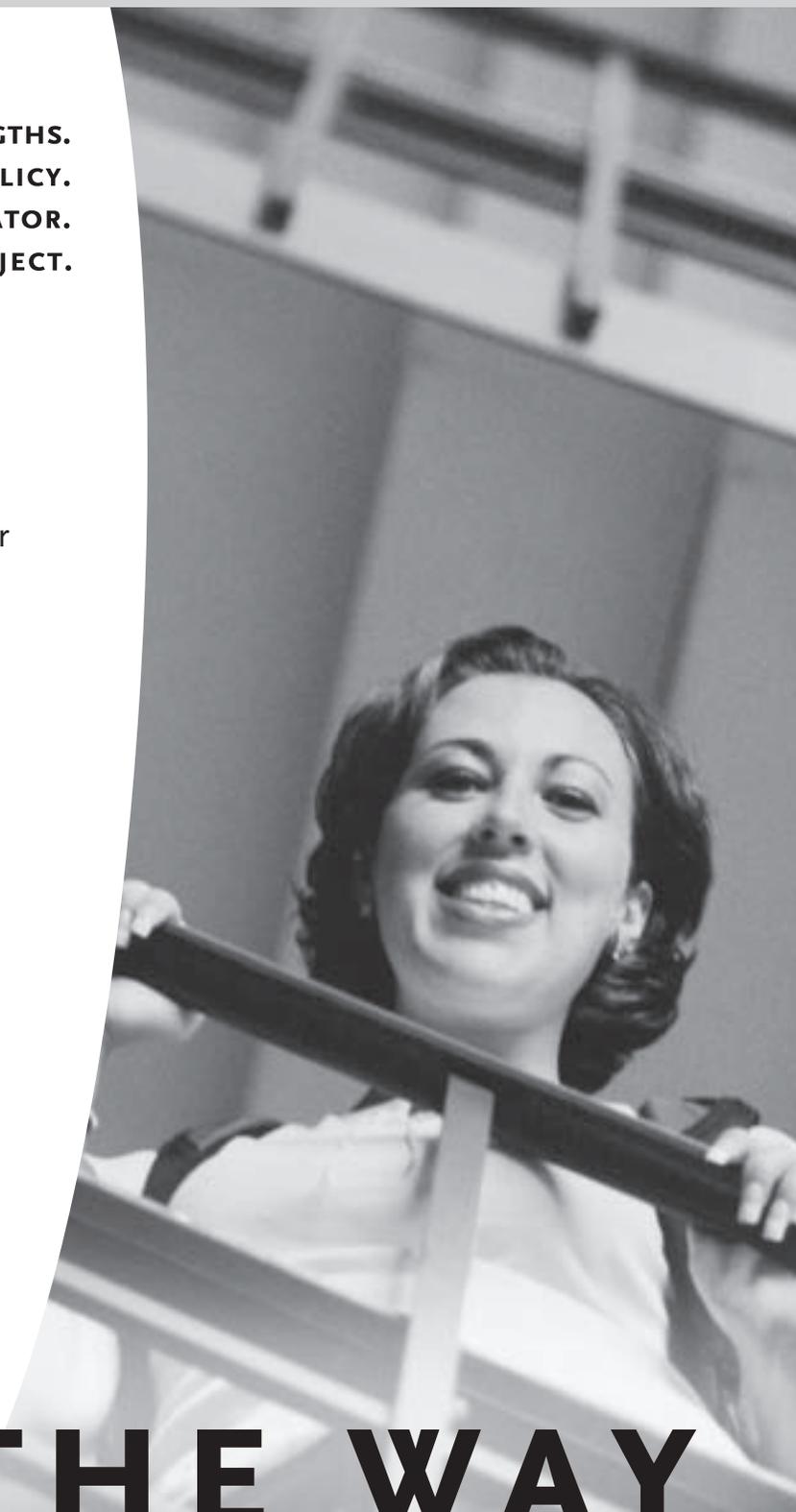
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- special publications on a variety of topics
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- *Public Policy & Aging Report*, a monthly policy publication
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Building a Gerontology Focus at Kent School of Social Work

The Kent School of Social Work is taking the lead in the State of Kentucky with a MSSW curriculum infused with aging content, aging-rich field internships and state-of-the art federal research opportunities in gerontology

Infusing Aging Content into the MSSW curriculum

The Kent School of Social Work is one of 75 outstanding social work education programs selected to participate in a unique training opportunity through the Council on Social Work Education's National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education (Gero-Ed Center) to infuse aging content in the MSSW foundation curriculum.

Practicum Partnership Program (PPP)

The PPP focuses on the development of aging-rich field internships. Through this program, full scholarships are given to students to do a specialized rotation practicum in the field of aging, with funding from the Hartford Foundation. The PPP program at Kent School secured the participation of 40 agencies in an aging consortium that meet three times a year to develop strategies to build expertise in the field of aging. Monthly seminars are developed by the consortium where important topics in the field of aging are addressed by community experts. A specialization in gerontology will be established this year as part of the PPP program.

The Geriatric Evaluation and Self-Management Services (GEMS) project

In 2004 a team of researchers and doctoral students was awarded a three year \$800 000 federal grant from the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop interdisciplinary training and best-practice methods in assessment and self-management services to the elderly population in medically underserved areas of Kentucky. Working collaboratively with older adults and their caregivers, teams of physical therapy and social work students and professionals provide high quality geriatric assessments, develop or strengthen strategies for remaining at home, teach methods for managing ones own health care needs in order to prevent health problems and improve well-being and assist older persons to use in-home technology to manage their self-care plans.

Drs. Faul, Rowan and Thibault
Faculty specializing in Gerontology





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The Society for Social Work and
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The City of Pittsburgh is ranked 4th in Sperling's "Best Cities for Seniors," but cost of living and attractiveness are only part of the appeal. The region is rich in aging resources: whether they be health, social, or cultural. The University of Pittsburgh takes pride in preparing professionals to lead, do research, and work with older adults and their families.

The School of Social Work offers students the opportunity to become outstanding practitioners in the field of gerontology through its specialized coursework, abundant field placement opportunities, and opportunities to work with faculty on aging research.

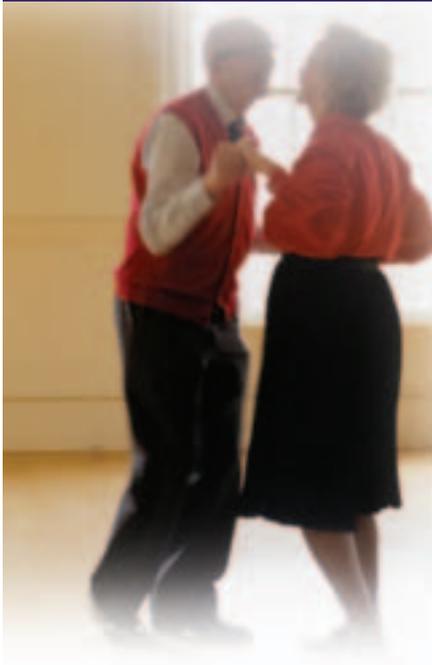
The School has received two John A. Hartford curriculum grants. The first, in 2001, resulted in BASW and MSW curricula infused with aging content. The second, in 2005, innovates field placements so that students can experience the broad spectrum of services provided to older adults and can learn the competencies essential to be excellent in their work with older adults. In addition, a faculty member has been recognized as a Hartford Faculty Scholar and two doctoral students have received Hartford pre-dissertation grants.

We are getting ready for an older society! Come, join us.

For more information see www.pitt.edu/~pittssw or contact Admissions, School of Social Work, 2104 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 412 624-6302.



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- Access to JobLink, NASW's online social work employment network

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Graduate School of Social Work

The Graduate School of Social Work at Portland State University offers a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree and a Ph.D. program in Social Work and Social Research. Gerontology is strongly represented among the interests of faculty members, who are actively involved in research in areas of geriatric mental health, Alzheimer's Disease, and end of life issues. The M.S.W. program includes an opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary study in which students may simultaneously obtain the M.S.W. and the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

The Graduate School of Social Work is committed to the enhancement of the individual and society, a dedication to social change and to the attainment of social justice for all peoples, the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of oppressed peoples, the right of all individuals and groups to determine their own destinies, and the opportunity to live in harmony and cooperation.

The School has an educational program involving five structural components:

- ◆ **The Master of Social Work Program**, which prepares professionals with advanced, analytic skills necessary for self-directed and accountable social work through concentrations in Direct Human Services, Community-Based Practice, or Social Service Program Management.

- ◆ **The Distance Graduate Education Option**, which utilizes a combination of onsite instruction, community-based field instruction, and courses delivered through EdNet, the Oregon statewide educational television network, to extend access to the M.S.W. program to students living in distant sites in the state of Oregon.

- ◆ **The Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Research Program**, which provides advanced education to prepare professionals for teaching, research, and leadership roles in the human and social services.

- ◆ **The Regional Research Institute for Human Services**, which helps improve human services through applied social research. This research assesses social problems and service needs and develops and evaluates practice and policy innovations.

- ◆ **The Child Welfare Partnership**, established in 1994, which brings together Portland State University and the Oregon State Office for Services to Children and Families for a research and training partnership to improve the delivery of child welfare services to children and families in Oregon.

The School actively seeks to promote cultural diversity.

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- ◀ A cadre of highly diverse, nationally respected gerontological educators and researchers.
- ◀ Foundation and advanced courses on multigenerational practice, policy, and social justice across the life span.
- ◀ Research opportunities with the CSWE Gero-Ed Center and the Multigenerational Institute.
- ◀ Excellent practicum opportunities with older adults in the Northwest and internationally.



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The School of Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin offers the BSW, MSSW, and Ph.D. degrees, and is consistently ranked among the top schools of social work in the United States. An interdisciplinary university-wide portfolio in gerontology can be added to the MSSW degree. The University of Texas at Austin has numerous resources that support student engagement in an array of community-based, gerontological social work research. The School is proud of its nationally renowned faculty and their research productivity.

Faculty and areas of research interests:

Roberta R. Greene, Ph.D.

- . *Family caregiving and practice*
- . *Nursing home care*
- . *Mental health services*
- . *Resiliency*

Namkee G. Choi, Ph.D.

- . *Social policy*
- . *Social service utilization*
- . *Mental health services*
- . *Minority aging*

Shirley M. Haulotte, MSW

- . *Long-term care*
- . *Alzheimer's disease and related disorders*
- . *Crisis intervention*

Elaine Cavazos, MSW

- . *Medical social work*
- . *Field education and supervision*

Current research projects:

- . *Adult protective services client assessment form validation study*
- . *Best practice in nursing home care*
- . *Assessment of depression and treatment preference among low-income older adults*
- . *Oppression and resiliency*

The School's recently founded *Life Care Institute* engages in research and produces learning materials including websites and films. Contact Dr. Greene, Director at (512) 232-4168.

UCLA Department of Social Welfare

Graduate Studies in Social Welfare and Aging

The nationally-known and respected faculty of **UCLA's Department of Social Welfare** offers undergraduate courses and graduate degrees at the masters (MSW) and doctoral (PhD) levels. Social Welfare is one of three departments including Urban Planning and Public Policy that together compose the UCLA School of Public Affairs.

The Ph.D. program includes a number of faculty and students working in Gerontology. The doctoral program is designed to train research-oriented scholars to advance the field of social work practice through research and knowledge development. The purpose of the program is to provide students with the necessary expertise, both substantive and methodological, that will enable them to assume leadership roles in academic, policy and practice settings. The program is highly interdisciplinary, and our students draw upon the rich learning resources of the entire university, from the social sciences to public health and medicine.

After a generalist first year, MSW students have the opportunity to specialize in either macro or micro practice with older adults. Advanced courses in gero-focused research, policy, and clinical and macro practice are taught by senior faculty and experienced practitioners. Internship opportunities include the Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC), an innovative program offering students experience in the full range of aging services, networking with leading professionals in the field, and support in the development of their own leadership potential.

UCLA's Department of Social Welfare is one of only a handful of social work programs to receive both a national Geriatric Social Work Practicum Partners Program (PPP), which is locally known as the Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC), and a William Randolph Hearst Aging Initiative Endowment, which has been supporting select second-year MSW students with a specialization in aging, for the past two years.

The Department of Social Welfare is in an environment rich in resources related to aging and cultural diversity. The UCLA Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology (MPGMG) has been recognized as a national leader in providing clinical care for older persons and conducting research aimed at improving the health and independence of older persons. With more than 50 full-time faculty members representing many disciplines, the UCLA MPGMG is one of the largest academic geriatrics programs in the world. The MPGMG is comprised of the following core sites: UCLA Medical Center and Center for Health Sciences, the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System-West Los Angeles and Sepulveda Centers, and the Jewish Homes for the Aging-Borun Center for Gerontological Research. These core sites also have community-based, nursing home, and home care programs, which extend the clinical and teaching missions of the MPGMG beyond the academic medical center.

Information: www.spa.ucla.edu/sw or call 310-825-2892

Faculty involved in Gerontology

A.E. (Ted) Benjamin

Professor
Research Interests: Patterns of public response to the needs of people with disabilities; access, quality and organizational models of home- and community-based services; politics of long-term care and inter-generational issues.

JoAnn Damron-Rodriguez

Adjunct Professor
Research Interests: Community-based long-term care; gerontology/geriatric education; minority aging.

Karen Lee

Field Education Faculty
Research Interests: Geriatric social work; mental health; case management; end of life; older adult issues.

Lené Levy-Storms

Assistant Professor
Research Interests: Aging, provider-client communication, social support networks, health behaviors, program evaluation.

Ailee Moon

Associate Professor, Doctoral Program Chair
Research Interests: Social welfare finance and policy; social service program evaluation; gerontology; welfare reform.

Fernando Torres-Gil

Professor and Associate Dean
Research Interests: Gerontology; the politics of aging; long-term care and services to the elderly; social policy; health care, Social Security and welfare reform; urban planning.

UCLA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



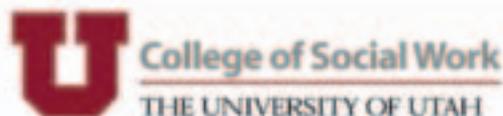
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Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging

The School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, is pleased to announce the Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging. The Kleiner Fellow will receive full support, including tuition, fees, and living expenses, for a minimum of four years, to pursue doctoral studies in gerontology at Berkeley's School of Social Welfare.

Berkeley's doctoral program is designed to inspire independence and original thought in pursuit of knowledge. The program aims to develop scholars who will make significant contributions to the knowledge base and profession of social work through excellent research, scholarship, teaching, policy development and analysis, and administration.

The Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging supports an individually-tailored program of research experience and training. Fellows participate in collaborative research activities through Berkeley's Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, which brings together faculty and graduate students from the School of Social Welfare as well as other departments to address critical issues in aging. The Center conducts cutting-edge research designed to improve programs and services to meet the needs of a growing, diverse, and ever-changing population of older Americans. Examples of current and recent Center projects include:



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California Statewide Survey of Caregivers
Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging
Personnel Needs in Aging Services
Care Management in Long-Term Care
Integration
Quality Assurance for Long-Term Care
Insurance

The Berkeley campus boasts more than 40 faculty scholars currently engaged in basic and applied research in aging. In addition, Doctoral Fellows benefit from the availability of a variety of other aging resources, including Berkeley's Resource Center on Aging, Academic Geriatric Resource Program, Center for Research and Education in Aging, and Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging.

Applicants for the Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging should complete the School of Social Welfare's Ph.D. application, which must be submitted by December 1. Please note that the Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship is highly competitive, and may or may not be awarded annually depending upon applicant pool and availability of funds.

For more information, or to request an application packet, please contact: Admissions & Fellowship, School of Social Welfare, 120 Haviland Hall #7400, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-7400.

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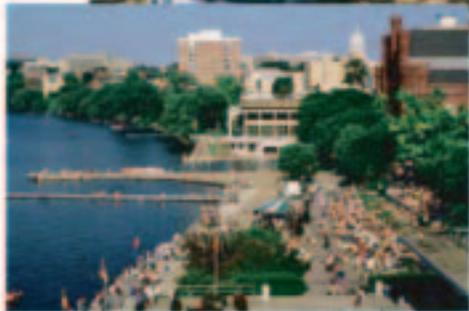
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- Wisconsin Comprehensive Memory Program
- Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center
- UW Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology



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- Betty Kramer, PhD, Palliative end of life care and family caregiving
- Sandy Magaña, PhD, Racial, ethnic and cultural variation in family caregiving
- Stephanie Robert, PhD, Long-term care policies and programs, socio-economic and social determinants of health
- Tracy Schroepfer, PhD, Impact of dying process on terminally ill elders and their families
- Marsha Seltzer, PhD, Family caregiving across the lifecourse, impact of developmental disabilities on family

University of Wisconsin-Madison
School of Social Work
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Madison, WI 53706-1510

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www.socwork.wisc.edu

Preparing Social Workers for an Aging Population

The number of older people, particularly the oldest old (85+), is growing, and they need more assistance to remain active and independent. Older adults, when they need help, receive it mainly from their families or a combination of family care and an assortment of community-based health and social services. Therefore, coordinating care with older adults, their families and complex service networks is crucial.

Aging-savvy social workers serve as “navigators” and “expeditors,” enabling older adults and families to understand and choose among the bewildering array of available health and social services. They empower older adults and families to find the care they need. They also facilitate family support, provide counseling and direct services, and coordinate care delivered through professional systems.

A Multi-Faceted Initiative

The Geriatric Social Work Initiative, supported to date by more than \$40,000,000 from the John A. Hartford Foundation, collaborates with social work education programs to prepare needed, aging-savvy social workers and improve the care and well-being of older adults and their families.



The Geriatric Social Work Initiative:

Cultivates faculty leaders in gerontological education and research through:

- The Faculty Scholars Program, which is training academic leaders to teach, mentor, do cutting-edge research, and prepare the next generation of social workers to serve older adults,
- The Doctoral Fellows Program, which is recruiting, sustaining, and preparing a cadre of talented doctoral students in geriatric social work, and
- The Doctoral Fellows Pre-Dissertation Award Program, which aims to expose more doctoral students to gerontological social work research.

Develops excellent training opportunities in real-world settings through:

- The Practicum Partnership Program, which is developing high-quality models of, and disseminating new knowledge about, aging-rich field education at schools of social work and community agencies across the country.

Infuses gerontological competencies into social work curricula and teaching through:

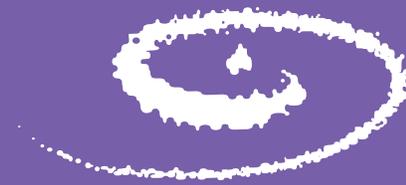
- The National Center for Gerontological Social Work (Gero-Ed Center), which promotes institutionally-driven, sustainable changes in foundation curricula and social work programs and develops policy initiatives for the broader adoption of gerontological educational resources.

For information about the Hartford-funded programs of the Geriatric Social Work Initiative, please visit the web site of the Geriatric Social Work Initiative at http://www.gswi.org/programs_services/index.html.



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