

Current Statistics:

- 107 Minors
- 29 Certificate Students
- 17 MA Students
- 7 Core Faculty
- 27 Affiliate Faculty
- 4 Part-Time Instructors

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From the Program Director...

Welcome new undergraduate and graduate Gerontology students. We're off to a great start this fall and there are lots of exciting plans for the rest of the year. I encourage you to get involved in SPO & the Gerontology Club. Co-Presidents Austin Jenkins and AviElle Raymore and the other officers are hoping for your involvement and support.

The North Carolina Conference on Aging was held in conjunction with the Southeast Area Agency on Aging Association (SE4A) annual meeting in Asheville in September. Several faculty members participated along with AviElle Raymore

(MA student) and Hallie Putt (MA student in Criminal Justice and Criminology & Graduate Certificate in Gerontology), who presented along with their faculty mentors.

Dr. Miriham Camargo, a geriatrician from Peru and graduate of our Certificate Program, visited Charlotte in early October and met with faculty, students & community partners.

All gerontology minors are required to complete a field placement in conjunction with the Senior Seminar. If you are planning to graduate next spring, summer or fall 2013, you should take the course in spring 2013. See the reminder below about mandatory planning meetings.

We have a great opportunity coming up this spring that

requires lots of advance planning. The Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) will hold their annual meeting here in Charlotte April 4-7. SGS is the regional organization and is a forum for both academics and service providers. Students, faculty and community partners are invited to participate as presenters and volunteers. Dr. Hancock and I will be organizing local arrangements and we are hoping for lots of enthusiasm and support to make this conference a great success.

Here's to a great year!



Dr. Dena Shenk

Announcements and Upcoming Events

GRNT 3600 Senior Seminar and Field Placement Experience in Gerontology

You should take GRNT 3600 this spring, if you plan to graduate in spring, summer or fall 2013. You will not be able to register until your field placement is approved.

Please RSVP to Shannon Zurell & attend one of the mandatory planning meetings:

Monday, October 15 1:00-2:30 (in Barnard 244)

Tuesday, October 16 11:00-12:30 (in Barnard 244)

Tuesday, October 16 1:00-2:30 (in Barnard 244)

For more information or to RSVP contact [Shannon Zurell](#).

November 5, 2012

Registration for Spring Semester 2013 begins at [UNC Charlotte](#)

February 28-March 3, 2013

[Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Meeting \(AGHE\)](#)

St. Petersburg, Florida

April 4-7, 2013

[Southern Gerontological Society Meeting \(SGS\)](#)

Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel, Charlotte, NC

Deadline for submissions: December 7

From the Undergraduate Coordinator...

Dr. Cynthia Riffe Hancock

As the Undergraduate Program Coordinator I'm excited to see the fourth issue of our UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program newsletter. Once again I want to thank our work-study student, Michelle Stanley, for her excellent effort in helping us to create this issue.

We recently graduated over 30 minors and our numbers are quickly bouncing back as we continue to attract undergraduate students from multiple undergraduate areas of study into our program. In fact, Gerontology at UNC Charlotte is arguably the largest Gerontology Program in the UNC System of Universities. As you meet our minors please feel free to ask them about their gerontology experience at UNC Charlotte. We continue to impact students who are not even in the minor as we instruct over 160 each year in intergenerational service-learning in our Aging and the Lifecourse class. Many thanks to Ms. Kellie Gonyar and Dr. Louise Murray for helping to make this course an exceptional experience for our students each year.

Our Gerontology Club/Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society continues to have a positive presence in the campus and local community. Please note that Sigma Phi Omega is a National Gerontology Honor Society for students AND community partners. If any of our community partners are interested in membership in Sigma Phi Omega, please contact me. This Honor Society is open to faculty, students, and community partners.

I hope each of you have a wonderful fall and can take the time to see the beauty in what's around you.



Spotlight on Faculty: Christine Davis

Written by Michelle Stanley

Dr. Christine Davis' area of study is health communication, with an emphasis on Communication and Aging, and End-of-life Communication. She has conducted research with hospice, as well as research related to being a woman moving through middle age.

She developed her interest in aging as a child due to her grandmother living with her. More recently, Dr. Davis was Executive Director of the Shepherd's Center in Winston-Salem, which is a ministry where older adult volunteers help other older adults. It's a strengths-based model that she has embraced in her

work, with the goal of keeping older adults healthy and active as long as possible by focusing on what they can do instead of what they can't do.

Dr. Davis regularly teaches courses in Communication and Aging and End-of-Life Communication. She also will be teaching a course on Healthcare Narratives next fall.

Her current research projects include a paper about "Motherline stories," family stories passed throughout the generations of women that construct female identity in the family; and a book about end-of-life communication.

This summer Dr. Davis and her husband Jerry celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip through national parks. They hiked, rafted, and jogged in 3 states, and drove over 3,000 miles. They have a sheltie named Maggie and love to sail on Lake Norman.



Community News: Understanding Dementia Care

By Jasmine Patterson and Dena Shenk

The UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program welcomed nationally renowned Alzheimer's and dementia care expert, Teepa Snow, to campus for a day of events on "Understanding Dementia Care." on July 13. We co-sponsored this day-long event with Senior Helpers, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) & other co-sponsors. Jasmine Patterson assisted with the planning and publicity for the day's event as her Practicum for the MA in Gerontology.

The morning session provided health care professionals with knowledge, skills, and strategies for providing help to people with dementia. The methods recognize losses and use retained abilities to promote optimal care and positive outcomes in interactions. A free seminar for care providers and family members was held that evening on "Essentials for Your Journey Together" providing essential information on how to have a positive and meaningful relationship with loved ones with dementia based on understanding the behaviors of a person with dementia. Each of the seminar participants received a copy of the video Senior Gems developed by Senior Helpers in conjunction with Teepa Snow. In addition, the AFA Quilt to Remember was on display throughout the day. The AFA Quilt to Remember is the first national dementia-related quilt of its kind. It is grand in scale and continuously growing as individuals and organizations from across the country contribute panels.

The event was such a huge success that plans are now underway to bring Teepa back next July. In addition, the Gerontology Program has received a contract to develop an assessment of the training program based on Teepa's approach. The UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program is pleased to be involved in these valuable efforts to improve the lives of people with dementia and the people who care for them.



Alumni Spotlight: Kellie Visker Gonyar

Since graduating from UNC Charlotte with her Master's Degree, Kellie Gonyar has worked with the Council on Aging as a Graduate Assistant, an Office Manager and an Education/ Advocacy Program Manager. Her thesis led to the development of a Senior Disaster Registry system in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Kellie is also a part-time lecturer here at UNCC and she is currently employed by Carolinas HealthCare System in the Post Acute Care Services division as a Service Excellence Coordinator.

In her current position, Kellie is responsible for coordinating, coaching and supporting long-term care facilities and home health and hospice agencies in order to improve or maintain patient, physician and employee satisfaction. Kellie's Degree has helped her in many ways including: networking opportunities provided by the Gerontology Pro-

gram; an understanding of needs within the aging population; and enhancing her research, analytical, writing, and presentation skills.

In her free time, Kellie enjoys spending time with her husband, her dog, and her two cats. She also enjoys going to the gym, watching football (she's a Panthers fan), scrapbooking, and gardening.

Kellie's advice for those who are interested in the Gerontology Program is that, "more and more people are living to experience old age and our society needs people who understand and value aging and the life course. It should be everyone's goal to live long enough to experience old age. Why not be part of the movement to ensure a better future for our current older adult generation and the generations to come." She also added that the only thing that she would

change about her time at UNCC is that she would have taken some business and marketing classes, because there is a huge opportunity to market to the aging population.



Gerontology Club/Sigma Phi Omega Gamma Psi News



The Gerontology Club/Gamma Psi Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega has organized many fall events for students and faculty. In September, members participated in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in Kannapolis raising over \$1550 (three times their goal) for this great cause.

The group will hold the annual "Reverse Trick-or-Treating" event in

October by visiting different long-term care communities and passing out "goodie" bags to the residents.

In early November, the club will be participating in the campus American Red Cross blood drive. Last semester, the campus-wide blood drive broke the UNCC record for the third year in a row. The club hopes that we will break that record once again.

During the holiday season the club will start collecting donations for the Cabarrus County Senior Center Angel Tree. Items needed include: snack packs, pens/pencils, note pads, playing cards, eyeglass cleaners, tissues, mints, shampoo, hair care products, toothpaste/toothbrush, hand sanitizer, shaving cream, and lotion.

The club/SPO will also continue to support the UNCC Explore Open Houses and Major's Day by staffing a resource table for the Gerontology Program.

The Club/SPO would like to thank everyone for their support and wel-



comes the involvement of all students and community partners.

Our 2012-2013 SPO/Club Officers are:

[AviElle Raymore](#), Co-President

[Sarah Blanton](#), Co-President

[Leland Stewart](#), Vice-President

[Lauren Medlin](#), Secretary/Treasurer

Recognitions...



Drs. Dena Shenk, Cynthia Hancock, and Anita Blowers attended the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Conference/NC Conference on Aging in Asheville, NC September 9-12, where the Gerontology Program exhibited. Dr. Shenk presented in a preconference on dementia. Dr. Blowers, with Gerontology graduate student Hallie Putt, presented "Enhancing Court Services for Older Adults: Models for Community Collaboration."



We welcome new Gerontology Faculty Affiliates:

Lori Farney Visiting Lecturer in Sociology

Scott Gordon, Professor and Chair, Kinesiology

Aravind Kailas, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Susan Kennerly, Professor of Nursing and Director-Graduate Division in Nursing

Nigel Zheng, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering and Science



Congratulations to:

Dr. Ling Liou, graduate of our MA in Gerontology, received her doctoral degree from Virginia Tech in December 2011. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio for 2012-2013, where she is teaching Gerontology and Sociology courses.

Amber Stokes accepted a position as full-time assistant to the Independent Living Activities Director after completing her Gerontology field placement in a different department at Plantation Estates Retirement Community in Matthews, NC.

Danielle DelPiano was accepted into the Associate Development Leadership Program with Bayada Home Health Care, in the personal care division. This job has taken her to center city Philadelphia.

Julia Gibson is now the Administrator of the NC State Veteran's Home in Black Mountain. This is a new 100 bed skilled nursing facility.

Trudy Moore-Harrison was asked to serve as a member of the Strategic Health Initiative on

Aging Committee of the American College of Sports Medicine for a term of three years.

Amelia Sawyers Holt was married September 23, 2012. She is a graduate from the minor and is in the Graduate Certificate program.

Jennie (Leeder) Clark gave birth to Liam Kevin on April 1, 2012. Jennie is a graduate of our minor and MA.

Leland Stewart is this year's recipient of the NMR Gerontology Graduate Scholarship. Lee is a graduate of Winston Salem State University with a major in Gerontology and is in his first year of the MA in Gerontology.

Radio 4 The Ages is on at a new time and station. It now airs Saturday mornings 10 AM to 12 PM on WRHI (AM 1340 and FM 94.3) and is streamed live at: WRHI.com and Radio4theages.com. Radio 4 The Ages is hosted by David Gwilt, who earned a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology.

*Pictured (top to bottom):
Dr. Blowers, Ms. Farney,
Dr. Kennerly, Ms. Holt.*

Interested in learning more about or applying to the Graduate Program in Gerontology?

CONTACT US:

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UNCC SPO/Gerontology Club

To apply to the program:

All program information can be found at gerontology.uncc.edu. Submit your application to the program through Apply Yourself on the UNC Charlotte Graduate School website:

Please note the following changes in policy:

Applicants to the Graduate Certificate Program in Gerontology who are already enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral program at UNC Charlotte will not be required to submit letters of recommendation as part of their application.

For students applying to the MA in Gerontology after completing the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology with a GPA of at least 3.0 and no grade lower than a B, it will be possible to waive the GRE or other standardized test score requirement.

For further information about applying to the MA or Graduate Certificate Program in Gerontology, please contact Dr. Shenk at dshenk@uncc.edu or 704-687-5091.