



Gerontology Program

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Current

Statistics:

- 88 Minors
- 16 Certificate Students
- 22 MA Students
- 6 Core Faculty
- 23 Affiliate Faculty
- 8 Part-Time Instructors

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From the Program Director...

We proudly present the first issue of the UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program newsletter. We envision this as a forum for current, past and future Gerontology students to learn about our program including faculty and student activities and accomplishments.

Thanks to Jessica Hicks who helped develop this premier issue as an under-

graduate research assistant in her final semester as an undergraduate Gerontology minor. Please remember to send us updates about your professional and personal milestones and accomplishments to be highlighted in future issues.

We have compiled a listing of current positions of our graduate alumni and encourage all undergraduate and graduate alumni to

send us your latest information. Check the Gerontology Program website for regular updates:

gerontology.uncc.edu.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

March 17-20, 2011

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

Cincinnati, Ohio

April 11, 2011

[UNC Charlotte Gerontology](#) Careers in Aging Event

[Sigma Phi Omega](#) Inductions & Celebration of Graduates

Time and place TBA

April 14-17, 2011

[Southern Gerontological Society Meeting](#)

Raleigh, NC

From the Undergraduate Coordinator

As the [Undergraduate Program](#) Coordinator I'm very pleased to see the inaugural issue of our UNC Charlotte Gerontology Program newsletter. Our undergraduate program has seen tremendous growth over the last few years setting new record numbers in every way possible.

We currently have 88 minors representing 18 major areas of study. We have over 30 minors participating in community field placements this spring during their Senior Seminar capstone course. Many of our minors are active in our [Gerontology Club](#) which so far this year has participated in a record number of events. These events include a reverse trick or treat at Aldersgate, an intergenerational music program at The Laurels, Thanksgiving dinner at Madison Saints Paradise South, creating and selling gerontology program shirts, participating in Major's Day, and walking and volunteering at the Alzheimer's Memory Walk.



It is truly a pleasure to work with our minors who are a unique group of students with a passion for the study of aging and older adults. I'm glad to meet with anyone at any time to discuss our undergraduate gerontology offerings at UNC Charlotte.

Spotlight on Faculty: Boyd Davis

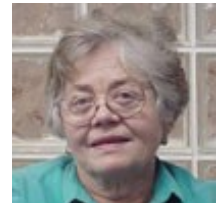
[Dr. Boyd Davis](#) has over 50 years of teaching experience and we are proud to have her as a core faculty member in Gerontology. As a linguist, her focus is on the language of older people and patient-provider discourse.

She particularly enjoys studying the language of persons with cognitive impairment, for example

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. In her research, Davis creates communication interventions and training tools for all, especially health care professionals. She is determined to eliminate any racial disparities; therefore, she strives to create materials that are multicultural, multilingual and multimedia. She recently created culturally sensitive multimedia materi-

als to assist with dementia communication.

Her research and her four grandchildren are her focus, hobbies and habits.



Community News: Gen Silent Written by Tamara Rosser, Gerontology MA student

For the first time in history, the Charlotte Film Festival worked with the [Gay Charlotte Film Festival](#) to showcase the path-breaking film [Gen Silent](#). Gen Silent is a documentary directed by Stu Maddux that follows the lives of six LGBT seniors for one year, highlighting their fears of discrimination and abuse in long-term care settings. The seniors featured in the film represent a generation that fought hard for LGBT rights. Many are now forced back into the closet to avoid homophobic caregivers and residents within their care communities. As the film unfolds, we see small but inspiring triumphs made in creating supportive communities, as well as hope for permanent change within the entire care industry.

Following the screening, members of Charlotte's [Lesbian and Gay Community Center](#) scheduled a forum to discuss how Charlotte's LGBT community could begin to address the issues of aging. The goal was to start a conversation on the availability of LGBT-friendly elder care options and to understand the current climate for aging gays in Charlotte. Those in attendance heard candid assessments of this climate from Debi Lee of [Centralina Area Agency on Aging](#), and area Assisted Living Specialist Nancy Culp.

For those who missed the September screening of Gen Silent, it can be viewed at the LGBT film festival scheduled for March 26-28, 2011. The film will also be purchased for the UNC Charlotte library as soon as it's made available early in 2011.

Alumni Spotlight: Jennie Leeder Clark

Jennie Leeder Clark graduated from UNC Charlotte with her Master's degree in Gerontology in 2005 and a B.A. in Sociology and minor in Gerontology in 2003. Jennie's first job in Gerontology was a sales position in a Senior Living Community.

Currently, Jennie is the Development Coordinator with the Alzheimer's Community Care (ACC) in West Palm Beach, FL. ACC is a non

-profit organization that offers specialized service of care to patients and their caregivers living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. "I am very impressed with the services we offer to many patients and caregivers and satisfied with the work I do day-to-day, which helps me raise money for these services."

Jennie is active with the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Young Friends Norton Museum

group, the Dining for Women group, and a local Girls Soccer Club. Most of her free time is devoted to coaching a local girls' soccer team. She spends her remaining time with her parents and two sisters.



Gerontology Club/Sigma Phi Omega Gamma Psi News

Gerontology Club members Ally Fuller, Jessica Hicks, and Kelsie Moeller volunteered for the Summer Carnival at [Shad's Landing](#). The Summer Carnival was held September 30th and included a ¼ mile walk around the property, horseshoes, crochet, moon bake walk, and paddle ball. Prizes were awarded and fun was had by all.



The Gerontology Club helped with this year's

[Alzheimer's Association](#) Memory Walk by volunteering at the registration table, raising funds, and walking. It was great to see a sea of 49er green in the midst of the Memory Walk sea of purple.

The club held a Reverse Trick or Treat at [Aldersgate Assisted Living Community](#) this past fall.

Our club and minors continue to

participate in events at our partnering Service Learning sites including helping with a community garden at [The Laurels](#) and serving Thanksgiving dinner at Madison Saints Paradise South Senior Living Community.



Meet our Club Officers...

Sarah Glick, President is studying exercise science, gerontology, and interdisciplinary health studies. She will graduate in May 2011 and hopes to work in cardiac rehabilitation.

Jessica Hicks, Vice President graduated in December with a sociology major and gerontology minor. She enjoys volunteering for Hospice.

Kelsie Moeller, Treasurer, a senior, is completing a bachelor's degree in Public Health with a minor in Gerontology. She plans to

continue graduate studies in Gerontology.

Katie Davies, Secretary, is a senior at UNC Charlotte with plans to graduate in December of 2011. She plans to study Occupational Therapy in graduate school.

Sara Agner, Senator, earned a BS in Psychology with a minor in Gerontology from UNC Charlotte and is enrolled in the MA in Gerontology. She works as a part-time social worker and in a Geriatric Care Management company and plans to become an administrator at an Assisted Living Community.

Christine Churchill, Co-Senator, is a Graduate Certificate student in Gerontology. She recently earned a BS degree in Biology from UNC Charlotte. She hopes to work for a government agency enriching the older African American community.



Awards and Recognitions



Dr. Cynthia Hancock received the UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts and Sciences [Excellence in Teaching by a Full Time Lecturer Award 2009-2010](#). She was selected from eight finalists.

Dr. Dena Shenk is the 2011 recipient of the [Hiram J. Friedsam Mentoring Award](#) given by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Dr. Shenk has also been selected by the [Society for Applied Anthropology](#) for promotion to Fellow Status.

Dr. Louise Murray earned her EdD in [Educational Leadership](#) from UNC Charlotte in December 2010. She also won 2nd place in the UNC Charlotte

Graduate Student Research Fair for her paper "Transitions of Care Among Older Adults from Nursing Homes to Hospitals."

Stephanie Ahrendt, BS, was selected as the 2010 Outstanding Senior in Gerontology for her enthusiastic leadership of the club and her gerontological scholarship.

Jeena George, an MA student was awarded the [NMR Gerontology Graduate Scholarship](#) for 2009-10.

Karel Kalaw, MA, earned the third place student paper award at the Southern Gerontological Society meeting in Richmond, VA

in April 2010. Her paper was based on her thesis research on the aging experience of Filipino immigrants in Charlotte. Ms. Kalaw was also the recipient of the 2009 South-eastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging ([SE4A](#)) Scholarship. She is currently enrolled in the Gerontology PhD program at Miami University of Ohio.

Ling Liou, MA, was awarded the third place student paper award at the annual conference of the Southern Gerontological Society in St. Petersburg, FL, April 2009. Ms. Liou is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in Human Development at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Support the Gerontology Program and Gerontology Club by sporting Gerontology gear:

Green short sleeve T-Shirts are \$10
White short sleeve polos are \$20

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