

UMSL Gerontology News

An informational publication of the Gerontology Program, School of Social Work (Volume 2, 7/08)



Gerontology is Coming of Age at UMSL

This is an exciting time for gerontology education at UMSL! Our distinguished, multidisciplinary faculty serve a diverse, committed student body. Plus, with our new programmatic home in the School of Social Work, and broad-based support from the University Community at large, the Gerontology Program couldn't be better positioned for the opportunities of educating the gerontology work force of the 21st Century!



Tom Meuser, PhD

Founded in 1981, the Gerontology Program is one of the most mature and well-established graduate programs of its kind in the U.S. today. UMSL Gerontology graduates are involved in all aspects of aging-related professional practice in St. Louis and beyond, shaping positive attitudes and building meaningful structures for care and support of older adults. Today, the experience of advancing age is at least as diverse as any other phase of life, and arguably more so. The UMSL Gerontology Program embraces this diversity and makes sense of it for our students, while also grounding them in core values and competencies that define them as "UMSL Gerontologists."

Openness and collaboration are keys to our Program's success moving forward. While small relative to other degree programs at UMSL, the Gerontology Program holds a unique position in education and outreach that defies disciplinary boundaries. We all need to know about health, function and success in aging—if not professionally, then certainly for ourselves and family members. My vision for UMSL Gerontology is simple, that *we are the preeminent source for academic & professional training in gerontology for our City and Region!*

Tom Meuser, PhD, Director

New Home with Social Work in Bellerive Hall

The Gerontology Program merged with the School of Social Work last year, and now, as of June, we are sharing a new building together on the UMSL South Campus! Bellerive Hall, a former retreat center, has been renovated for our use and includes offices, a large auditorium (formerly a chapel), classrooms, and other meeting space. Gerontology is in Suite 133-134, which includes a student lounge with general use computer.



UMSL to Host 2nd Annual St. Louis Times Geriatrics Symposium

This premier professional and community education event will be held in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Friday, December 12th. Mark your calendar now! Program details will be available soon at <http://www.stlouistimes.com>. The inaugural Symposium, held last year at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, attracted over 250 participants. We expect 350 this year!

Our Mission

The Gerontology Program is committed to producing graduates who have an appreciation for the rewards and challenges of gerontological practice, and who are equipped with the knowledge to shape positive attitudes concerning aging, and who have the skills necessary to build meaningful structures for care and support of older adults in our community and beyond.

Why Study Gerontology?

Because older adults compose an ever increasing proportion of our population, and they will be consumers of a wide range of goods and services. Those with formal credentials in Gerontology should be in good position to capitalize on jobs in healthcare, social services, public policy, business, etc., that focus on our older neighbors. MSG graduates are authorized to sit for the Nursing Home Administrator licensing exam in Missouri, a helpful credential even for those that work in other areas.

Degree Options*

- Master of Science in Gerontology (30 hrs)
- Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (18 hrs)
- Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology (15 hrs)
- Graduate Certificate in LTC Administration (18 hrs)
- Combined MSG & LTC Certificate (30 hrs)

* *The MSW Program includes a Gerontology Concentration, coordinated separately by Dr. Joe Pickard. Many students in this Concentration also choose to participate in the Gerontology Certificate Program.*

Application & Admission

Applications are submitted through the Graduate School (<http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate>), reviewed for certain minimum criteria, and then forwarded to the Program for final review and decision-making. Those considering making an application are encouraged to contact the Program Director, Dr. Tom Meuser, for an information consultation (meuser@umsl.edu; 516-5421).

Upcoming Courses

Fall 2008:

- Dying, Grief & Death in Older Adulthood (GER 5620)
- Mechanisms of Aging I: The Aging Body (GER 5610)
- Mechanisms of Aging 2: The Aging Brain (GER 5611)
- Introduction to Geriatric Care Management (GER 6499)
- Educational Gerontology (GER 6498)
- Healthcare Policy (GER 6443)
- Cultural Aspects of Aging (GER 5440)

Gerontology Faculty

The Program is very fortunate to have affiliated faculty from Sociology, Psychology, Nursing, Social Work, Public Policy, Education, Anthropology and other disciplines. As of this writing, our faculty panel is undergoing some changes. We are involving more adjunct faculty from the community. More details on these changes will be provided in the next issue of this newsletter. Please address any questions to Program Director, Dr. Meuser.

Gerontology Program

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