

The College of Arts & Sciences, University of Missouri — St. Louis,
is pleased to announce...



The Hellen & Will Carpenter Series

on Contemporary Issues in American Society for Spring 2013

Wednesday, April 3rd, 6:00—9:00 p.m. (6:00 Hors d'oeuvres Reception, 7:00 Program)

@ the J. C. Penny Conference Center, North Campus

Free & Open to the Public

Register @ <http://www.umsl.edu/~socialwk/Gerontology/index.html>

Health Disparities in Cognitive Aging: Perspectives on Memory Loss from Science & an Examination of Minority Cultures

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

Dr. Dorothy Edwards and her colleagues use neurological, neuropsychological, occupational performance and outcomes research methods to explore the effects of cognitive impairment and racial disparities in adults with stroke and Alzheimer's disease. She collaborates extensively with University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty in Neurology and Geriatric Medicine, as well as investigators at Washington University in St. Louis, Georgetown University and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

She is a Professor of Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy, Neurology, and Medicine. She Chairs the Department of Kinesiology and leads the Minority Outreach Program of the WI Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.



Dorothy Farrar Edwards, PhD
Professor & Researcher
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Panel of Discussants

Steve Jones, PhD
Professor of Cultural
Anthropology,
Murray State University



Yakima Young-Shields,
EdD(c), APRN, BC, APN
Teaching Assistant Professor
of Nursing, UMSL



B. Joy Snider, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Neurology
Washington University School of
Medicine



Tom Meuser, PhD
Associate Professor
Director, Gerontology Program
School of Social Work
Panel Moderator

What are Health Disparities in Cognitive Aging?

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of memory loss and cognitive decline in older adults. While symptoms are similar across people, the experience of AD can differ based on a given individual's racial, cultural and/or ethnic background. Such differences are best understood in Caucasians vs. African Americans. African Americans tend to be diagnosed later in the course of AD, when more impaired and less likely to benefit from current drug therapies. Fewer are started on available treatments as a result. Such disparities harm individuals and families alike, and erasing them is a priority of the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, and many other prominent organizations.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Edwards, will discuss how such disparities in cognitive aging occur, their likely and potential causes, and how clinicians and researchers are working to bring about change. While discrimination is certainly part of such disparities, other factors, such as cultural beliefs, family norms, and the structure of our medical system are also important contributors. The Discussants will comment on these and other factors. *Come and learn more so you can make a difference in this important area!*

