

2009 UMSL GERONTOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

4-6:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

PROGRAM

- 4:00 NETWORKING & FOOD
4:45 BUILDING TOUR 1
5:15 DIRECTOR REMARKS
- PROGRAM NEWS & INTRODUCTIONS
- AWARDING OF CALSYN SCHOLARSHIP
5:45 BUILDING TOUR 2
6:00 ADJOURN

Albert & Virginia Calsyn Scholarship in Gerontology
2009 Winner — Amy Henson!



The Faculty of the Gerontology Program and Calsyn Family are pleased to acknowledge Master of Science student, Amy Henson, for her dedication to learning and strong commitment to the field of Gerontology. Dr. Robert J. Calsyn was the Director of Gerontology from 1983-2002, and this scholarship honors his parents.

Says Amy...

I am proud to say I am a native St. Charles resident and that I have lived here for a majority of my life.

I attended Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri and earned a BS in Criminal Justice, a BA in Sociology, and minors in Philosophy/Religion and Psychology. I earned my MSW from Saint Louis University and shortly thereafter became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

I have worked in a variety of roles as a social worker, ranging from Child Support Enforcement Specialist to Crisis Intervention Counselor. For the past four years I have been working as a Care Advocate in managed care where I was introduced to the wonderful world of Medicare. This is when I realized my passion for working with the geriatric population, specializing in mental health issues.

I sought out a MS in Gerontology program that would allow me to pursue a well-balanced education and the opportunity to develop friendships and connections in this quickly growing field. Thus far my goals have been realized and I have truly enjoyed my experience at UMSL.

FACULTY RECEIVE NEW GRANTS

Congratulations to longtime Gerontology faculty member, Dr. Margo-Lea Hurwicz, for her new 3-year, \$200K grant from the Alzheimer's Association. Her project, entitled *Developing a Culturally Appropriate Measure of Alzheimer's Knowledge*, will examine the influence of cultural background on how adults understand memory loss and dementia in aging.

Program Director, Dr. Tom Meuser, received a 1-year, \$50K grant from the National Center on Senior Transportation, a subsidiary of Easter Seals. His project, entitled *Personal Meanings & Emotions in Life Space Mobility*, will look at how elders view mobility in aging and related quality of life issues.

OTHER PROGRAM NEWS

Gerontology Enrollment is Up!

We start the 2009-2010 Academic Year with more active students than at any other time in the past five plus years! We welcome six new MSG and six new Graduate Certificate students today! They join eighteen others at various stages in the program.

Gerontology Adds 3 New Core Faculty

We are pleased to welcome three new faculty to our core group this year: Dr. Shirley Porterfield, an expert in healthcare policy, Dr. Denise King, a Gerontological Social Work and researcher on caregiving, and Dr. Kwei-Hsiang Hsueh, a Gerontological Nurse and researcher on caregiving.

New Courses Enrich the Learning Experience

Students were treated to two new 1-credit courses recently. Such "mini-courses" enrich the learning experience, allowing students to learn about specialized topics while still taking the required, core courses. This summer, Kandace Fisher, a design specialist from the University of Missouri Extension taught *Successful Aging & the Built Environment*. Now, this Fall, Sylvia Nissenboim, a social worker and local leader in aging, will teach Best Practices in Aging Service Programs. Both mini-courses involved collaboration with UMSL Continuing Education, and we are pleased to work with the Alzheimer's Association Education Institute for Sylvia's course.

*** We are adding another new course this year for advanced undergraduates and new graduate students, *Intro to Gerontological Practice*. This course will be taught by Dr. King next Spring and will give students a feel for the opportunities and challenges of working with older adults in various professional settings and roles.

Interested in more info on UMSL Gerontology?

Call Dr. Tom Meuser at 314-516-5421 (meusert@umsl.edu)

Welcome...

This is an exciting time for gerontology education at UMSL! Our accomplished, multidisciplinary faculty serves a diverse, committed and growing student body. We embrace the “gerontological imagination” (previous page) and technological innovation in all of our educational activities, while retaining strong personal ties to our community and the lived experiences of older adults. With our programmatic home in the School of Social Work, wonderful physical space for learning in Bellerive Hall, and broad-based support from the University Community at large, the Gerontology Program couldn't be better positioned for educating the gerontology work force of the 21st Century!



Founded in 1980, the Gerontology Program is one of the most mature and well-established graduate programs of its kind in the U.S. today. The Program offers a number of degree options, including a *Master of Science in Gerontology* and a *Graduate Certificate in Gerontology*. 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. 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 and professional training in gerontology for our City and Region!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Meuser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "M".

Thomas M. Meuser, PhD
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Director, Gerontology Graduate Program
Associate Professor of Social Work & Gerontology
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Upcoming Courses*

Draft Plan (subject to modification)

WS2010

Monday	<i>Introduction to Gerontological Practice</i> (4670), 4-6:40 - King
Tuesday	<i>Gerontological Assessment</i> (6450), 6:55-9:35 - Meuser
Wednesday	<i>Aging & Health Behavior</i> (6441), 4:00-6:40 - Hurwicz <i>Mechanisms of Aging - Brain & Diseases</i> (5611, 5612, 1 credit each), 6:55-9:35 - Hsueh (Weeks 1-10) <i>Special Topics in Dementia Care</i> (6499, 1 credit), 6:55-9:35 - McGillick (Weeks 11-15)
Thursday	<i>Psychopathology & Aging</i> (5376), 5:30-6:45, Steffen <i>Issues in Retirement</i> (5449), 6:55-9:35 PM - West

SS2010

Successful Aging in the Built Environment (Topics, 6499, 1 credit) - Session ? - Fisher
Interdisciplinary Geriatric Care (6497, 2 credits) - Session 4 - King
May 27? (class), June 1-2 (full day conference), June 9 & 23? (class)
Interviewing Older Adults & Life Review (6130) - Session 4 - Meuser
May 22-23 (weekend intensive, 14 hours), Tuesday & Thursday Evenings (May 27 - June 24)
Advanced Social Gerontology (5361) - Session 5 - Guess?
Monday & Wednesday Evenings (June 14 - Aug 2)

* Courses are 3 credits unless noted otherwise. Some courses will be open for enrollment by community professionals through an arrangement with the UMSL CE Office. Practicum, directed study and research-related courses are not listed here. These are available every semester. Students meet with the Program Director to discuss their interests and develop a tailored program of study.

UMSL Life Review Project

Tom Meuser, PhD, Project Coordinator (314-516-5421; meusert@umsl.edu)
<http://www.umsl.edu/~meusert/LifeReview/index.html>

About the Project

The UMSL Life Review Project is an educational and community outreach effort sponsored by the Gerontology Graduate Program. *One of the best ways to learn about the aging process is through narrative gerontology – the telling and review of personal life stories!*

The Project was initiated in 2007 with formation of a new graduate course, entitled *Interviewing Older Adults & Life Review* (GER 6130, 3 credits). This course combines training in life review interviewing with video editing. Students are assigned to interview senior adult volunteers who tell their life stories on camera and for educational purposes. Students edit these stories into “Keepsake” DVDs that are presented to each volunteer as a token of appreciation. GER 6130 is offered in the Summer and open for enrollment by community professionals (see below).

With support from the School of Social Work and the Des Lee Collaborative Vision, the Project will soon begin interviewing seniors year-round in a new **Video Studio** located on the lower level of Bellerive Hall on the South Campus of UMSL. Interview footage from these interviews will be edited to support a **Gerontology Video Clip Library** available for UMSL faculty to access and show to enrich their teaching on various topics, including retirement, health, caregiving, widowhood, etc.

In October, 2008, the Project co-sponsored a full-day workshop on the *Tapestries Model of Life Review*. Over 25 students and community professionals attended. Mary Jones, MSG, a graduate of UMSL, and Spiritual Care Coordinator for Friendship Village of St. Louis, received a grant from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis. These funds allowed us to fly in *Tapestries* expert and journalist, Elizabeth Vega, to give the workshop. A video of the workshop may be viewed on the Project website (address above).

In June, 2009, the Project partnered with the Apartment Community at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows in Belleville on an **Interview Blitz Day**. Students from 6130 traveled to the Community and, following an orientation, interviewed residents in their apartments. Students and interviewees ate lunch together, and we debriefed the experience as a group. It was a valuable experience for all! A similar partnership with the **Shepherd Center** in Glendale was equally successful.

Ways to Get Involved

- Those wishing to learn life review interviewing may enroll in GER 6130. This course is open to graduate students from UMSL and neighboring institutions (when approved). Community professionals may enroll through UMSL Continuing Education. Certain restrictions apply, so it is best to contact the Project Coordinator first to discuss your interests and objectives.
- Adults, age 60 years and older, may volunteer to be interviewed and join our waiting list. There is no charge to participate and volunteers receive a DVD Keepsake video 3-6 weeks after being interviewed. As noted above, education is an important emphasis and volunteers are asked to allow de-identified clips from their interviews to be used for teaching purposes. A consent form is involved.
- Community organizations may get involved by hosting a life review lecture and/or by linking their clients/residents as potential volunteer interviewees.
- *The Project does not have dedicated funding at this time and relies on voluntary participation and other in-kind assistance (e.g., transportation for volunteers).*



Revised 9/3/09