

UMSL Gerontology News

An informational publication of the Gerontology Program, School of Social Work (Volume 1, 2/08)



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

UMSL Gerontology Launches Professional Education Series

The Gerontology Program and School of Social Work will partner with the Alzheimer's Association to offer a special Spring Colloquium entitled "Ethical Decision-Making in the Transition to Long-Term Care" on Tuesday, April 1st, from 3—6:30 PM.

Our Summer Colloquium, tentatively titled "Visual Perception & the Aging Driver: Advising Patients & Clients to Promote Safety" will take place in June (date TBA). Partners for this program include the UMSL Colleges of Optometry and Nursing, as well as the School of Social Work. See the *Gerontology homepage for program and registration information.*



The Inaugural Fall Gerontology Colloquium, 11/8/07, at the JC Penny Conference Center. Over 120 professionals and students were in attendance! Above, Gerontology students gather with keynote speaker, Darby Morhardt, MSW, LCSW, Associate Professor of Medicine, Northwestern University (third from the left).

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)

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

Summer 2008:

- Interviewing Older Adults & Life Review (GER 6130)
- Issues in Retirement (GER 6449)

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

Core Faculty:

- Tom Meuser, PhD, Director (Psychologist)
- Ann Steffen, PhD (Psychologist)
- Chikako Usui, PhD (Sociologist)
- Margo Hurwicz, PhD (Anthropologist)

Affiliated Faculty:

The Program is very fortunate to have affiliated faculty from Nursing, Social Work., Public Policy, Education, and other disciplines. Please visit our website for a full listing.

Gerontology Program

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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.