During the year 2006, the United States witnessed its largest population of elderly persons aged 65 or older. This same year, the U-M SSW is launching its first issue of the Gerontology Newsletter.

The seed for the newsletter was planted in October 2005, when the full-time gerontology faculty met and agreed that a newsletter could enhance the visibility of the School’s gerontological research and activities: (1) individual faculty scholarly and research accomplishments, as well as collaborative accomplishments, (2) U-M SSW gerontology MSW and PhD students and alumni, and (3) the School’s research and training programs, in addition to the partnerships that the School has built with the practice community through social work field education and training of MSW students.

To this end, the first issue of the Gerontology Newsletter includes content on recent faculty research and publications, MSW and pre- and post-doctoral research and training programs, MSW and PhD student activities, and alumni notes. This issue also includes a special feature on the career, life, and retirement of Ruth Campbell, a U-M SSW alumna, educator, and mentor.

This first issue is supported by funds allocated through Dean Paula Allen-Meares’ office to the Practice Area Concentrations of the U-M SSW. The Aging Practice Area Concentration expresses sincere thanks to the Dean.

—Letha A. Chadiha, Editor

Meet the faculty

Letha Chadiha’s primary research interests include family relationships, with a focus on African American female family caregivers of African American elders. Her main focus is the mental and social well-being of these caregivers.

Professor Chadiha serves as both chair of the Membership Services Committee and as member of the Executive Committee of the Gerontological Society of America’s (GSA) Social Research, Policy, and Practice section. She is national research mentor with the John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program.

Professor Chadiha is a faculty associate with the Program for Research on Black Americans, a community liaison with the Michigan Center on Urban African American Research, and editor of African American Research Perspectives. She serves on the editorial board of Social Work Research.

Professor Chadiha teaches a policy and services course in aging and evaluation methods courses.

Linda Chatters’ primary research focus is adult development and aging as it relates to the mental and physical health status and functioning of older people in a variety of social contexts. She conducts research on family social support networks and intergenerational family relationships. She is also

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interested in religious involvement among African Americans.

Professor Chatters is a faculty associate with the Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research.

Ruth Dunkle is the Wilbur J. Cohen Collegiate Professor of Social Work. Her research focus is the familial relationships of the elderly, the effects of stress on caregivers, decision making for long-term care among hospitalized elders, and coping strategies in the physical and psychological functioning of older adults.

Professor Dunkle has served as treasurer of the Gerontological Society of America and member on the Executive Committee of Rackham Graduate School and on the Editorial Board of *Health Promotion and Educational Gerontology*. She is co-director of the NIA-funded grant Social Research Training on Applied Issues of Aging. She is also on the advisory panel for the Pre-doctoral Fellowships for the Hartford Foundation. She works as a social worker at the Turner Geriatrics Clinic, U-M Hospital. This year she received the Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award from the U-M Medical School’s Geriatrics Center.

Professor Dunkle teaches courses in applied research methods and evaluation, as well as seminars in geriatrics.

Berit Ingersoll-Dayton’s research interests revolve around two themes: (1) researching stress among employed caregivers of the elderly, the quality of relationships among older married couples, and the effect of positive and negative support on older people and (2) conducting clinical research on reminiscence groups for the elderly, intergenerational family therapy, and programs for employed caregivers.

Professor Ingersoll-Dayton serves as co-director of the NIA-funded grant, Social Research Training on Applied Issues of Aging. She administers the cross-disciplinary Gerontology Certificate for graduate students at the University. She is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Marriage and the Family*. In 2002 Professor Ingersoll-Dayton became a fellow in the Gerontological Society of America.

Professor Ingersoll-Dayton teaches a practice-oriented course on social work and the elderly.

Lydia Li’s research falls into three areas, all related to elder care: (1) the stress and adaptation process of wife and daughter caregivers; (2) the dynamics of functional disability, psychological distress, and formal and informal care of frail elderly persons in the community; and (3) how family and community support, and their changes, affect the well-being of older adults in contemporary China.

In 2002 Professor Li was named Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar. She has been a faculty associate of the NIMH Center for Research on Poverty, Risk, and Mental Health at U-M. She serves on several committees of the Gerontological Society of America. She also serves as an external examiner of the gerontology program at the Hong Kong University School of Education and Professional Education.

Professor Li teaches courses on adulthood and aging and research methods.
Robert Joseph Taylor is the Sheila Feld Collegiate Professor of Social Work and the School’s Associate Dean for Research. His research interests include the informal social support networks (family, friends, and church members) of adult and elderly Black Americans. He also examines the role of religion in the lives of Black and White elderly adults.

Professor Taylor is a co-principal investigator of the National Survey of American Life and an associate director of the Program for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research.

Professor Taylor is founding editor of African American Research Perspectives. He serves on the editorial boards of The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences and the Journal of Marriage and the Family. He is a member of the Center for Scientific Review Panel, Social Psychology, Personality, and Interpersonal Processes (RPHB-4), which reviews proposals for NIH. He is lead author of the book, Religion in the Lives of African Americans: Social, Psychological, and Health Perspectives (2004), with Linda Chatters and Jeff Levin.

Training programs in aging

Geriatric Fellowship Program
This innovative program aims to address the increasing need for geriatric social workers by creating more aging-rich placements and increasing the number of students in the field of health care and social work for older people. This program, which provides fellowships to 15–20 MSW students each year, was originally developed by a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation (1999–2003). Currently, the program is funded in part by the McGregor Fund (2004–2007).

Fieldwork rotations at two or three sites expose students to the “spiral concept” of care and to the continuum of care for well-to-frail elderly. Thirty-two agencies in the consortium provide a diverse range of populations served, services offered, and methods of intervention.

An integrative one-semester seminar offered to the fellows incorporates gerontology faculty from social work, nursing, medicine, and public health.

National Institute on Aging (NIA) Training in Social Research on Applied Issues of Aging
Since 1985, the National Institute on Aging has awarded grants to the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science to provide training in applied issues in aging research for pre-doctoral and postdoctoral fellows. The objective of these grants has been to develop researchers who will contribute to the theoretical and empirical knowledge base for determining policies and programs that can enhance the well-being of aging individuals and the elderly. The current grant is funded through May 2011.

A major goal of the current training grant is to expose fellows to the substantive, theoretical, and methodological issues involved in exploring the social and behavioral influences on successful aging.

The program includes a weekly seminar in which fellows interact around substantive issues and receive and provide feedback on the development and publication of research.

Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR)
This center is one of six Minority Aging Resource Centers funded by the NIA. It is a collaborative effort by the University of Michigan and Wayne State University to promote healthy lifestyles among older African American adults through research, education, and community empowerment.

The center aims to foster high quality scholarly and empirical training, research, and interventions focused on health and health promotion among African American elders. Professor Robert Taylor is a co-leader of the center’s Investigator Development Core; Professor Letha Chadiha is a co-liaison of the Community Liaison Core.

Specialist in Aging Certificate
Professionals in the field of aging need knowledge of biological, social, and psychological func-

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Sigma Phi Omega: National Academic Honor and Professional Society in Gerontology

The Gamma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) was established at U-M in June 1999. At that time, the U-M chapter was the first and only SPO chapter in Southeast Michigan. Associate Professor Emerita Shirley Lockery served as first chapter representative.

Today there are 15 active SPO members at U-M. Membership is open to students across the University who are interested in aging and have a minimum GPA of 3.3 (undergraduates) or 3.5 (graduate students) on a 4.0 scale. Professor Berit Ingersoll-Dayton serves as current chapter representative.

Amanda Toler, doctoral student

In her fifth year of the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Sociology, Amanda Toler is working on her dissertation, which focuses on individuals with a mood or anxiety disorder. Using data from the National Survey of American Life, she is researching what factors predict different patterns of care for these individuals, how these patterns of care are influenced by the structure of the social network, and how these patterns vary across racial/ethnic and age groups. Amanda’s dissertation research is supported by an NIA Training Grant with Professors Ruth Dunkle and Berit Ingersoll-Dayton and by the GSA/Hartford Doctoral Fellows Program.

Anna Muraco, post-doc

The support of her NIA Post-doctoral Fellowship has allowed Anna Muraco to pour energies into a new study. For the past two years, she has been working in Seattle on the Caring with Pride Interview Project—funded by the Hartford Foundation—with Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, principal investigator and associate professor of social work at the University of Washington.

This qualitative and quantitative study focuses on the caregiving relationships of older age (50+ years) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults. It examines the experiences and needs of these adults who have a chronic condition and their unpaid, adult primary caregiver.

GSA & John A. Hartford Foundation pre-dissertation and dissertation awards


Rebecca Finer, alumna

Rebecca Finer, a December 2005 MSW graduate and former Geriatric Fellow, was a member of SPO and focused on Aging and Management of Human Services. She currently works at The Gerontological Society of America in Washington, D.C., as the Hartford Initiative program coordinator. The Hartford Initiative aims to strengthen geriatric social work through research, training, practicum partnerships, and curriculum development.

Morgan Gable, alumna

Morgan Gable, a December 2005 MSW graduate and former Geriatric Fellow, is interning in Washington, D.C., for the Association for Gerontology in Higher
Education (AGHE), a nonprofit that works to infuse the study of gerontology into the curriculum of higher education. Morgan’s work involves researching aging internships in nonprofits, higher education institutions, governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations across the country.

Jennifer Satorius, alumna
Among the inaugural class of AARP Scholars, Jennifer Satorius—December 2005 MSW graduate and former Geriatric Fellow—was the recipient of an AARP Scholar Award ($5,000). Mentored by Professor Letha Chadiha, Jennifer was one of 30 masters and doctoral students chosen from a national search of graduate students interested in disciplines with a focus on aging.

Visiting scholars
During 2005–2006, the U-M SSW welcomed four international visiting gerontology scholars:

- Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Awad, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt. Focus: Social factors associated with elder abuse.
- Gee-Sook Lee, Silla University, Busan, South Korea. Focus: Gerontology and the family.
- Elizabeth Ozanne, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia. Focus: Service delivery and the elderly.
- Kyu-taik Sung, Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea. Focus: Gerontology and international programs.
- Hiroko Yamada, Doshish University, Kyoto, Japan. Focus: Care systems of dementia patients.

Recent publications and grants awarded

Recent publications


Leon and Josephine Winkelman Lecture
On April 4 at the School of Social Work, Robert P. Kelch, M.D., U-M Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, presented the 2006 Winkelman Lecture, “A Socially Responsible Health Care System in the Era of Longevity Genes.” The Leon and Josephine Winkelman Memorial Lecture, established at the U-M School of Social Work by the Winkelman brothers as a memorial to their parents, provides a forum for presenting new and emerging knowledge from the social sciences and helping professions, particularly in the field of gerontology.
Ruth Campbell: A dedicated career

While not initially her first choice, Ruth Campbell now knows that geriatric social work is her true passion. She began her social work career in the early 1960s, working with teenagers in East Harlem, New York, at the Casita Maria settlement house. She was also required to direct the senior citizens club in the afternoons. To her surprise, she greatly enjoyed the times she spent with the seniors. “The club was a mix of African American, Puerto Rican, and European immigrants. I learned so much from them and found their stories immensely interesting.”

Campbell’s husband took a position at the University of Michigan in 1973, and she soon enrolled in the MSW program at U-M. She completed a field placement with Dr. Duff at U-M Hospital in the geriatric outreach arthritis program. When Dr. Duff was named director of the newly opened Turner Geriatric Clinic, he hired Campbell to work with him. She continued working at Turner for the next 29 years, shaping it into the thriving center that it is today.

The main focus of Campbell’s work has been community outreach and program development designed for diverse groups of seniors and their families. Her eventual position as the U-M’s Geriatrics Center’s associate director of social work and community programs gave Campbell the opportunity to implement many programs that still benefit area seniors: a writing group; the Housing Bureau for Seniors; day care programs for adults with memory loss; and lectures, workshops, and study groups.

Campbell identifies many challenges and successes in her work at the Turner Clinic. “Perhaps my greatest challenge was maintaining funding for programs and staff and convincing the hospital administration that community and social work programs belonged in the University hospital setting and were an integral part of successful outcomes for patients.”

Campbell completed research and published extensively on aging in Japan. She first traveled to Japan in 1976 on a Japan Foundation Fellowship and spent a year interviewing older individuals throughout the country and observing various programs.

“After traveling to Japan, I really understood the potential of aging. I watched older Japanese engaging in many traditional crafts and arts such as haiku and calligraphy. My ideas about independence and interdependence in old age were greatly expanded, and I began to learn about the dynamics of family relationships.”

Although retired, Campbell has moved to Japan to continue her research with the elderly and their families and plans to publish a book about her findings. She hopes to draw intriguing comparisons for American policy and practice.

For Campbell, the drive to assist older individuals and find better ways to address their needs will never end.

Support Gerontological Social Work Programming

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Please make checks payable to: School of Social Work, 1080 S. University, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106*
*Write “Gerontology Interest Group” in the memo line.


Recent grants


Lydia Li, PI. “Non-fatal suicidal behavior in home care elderly: The role of physical symptoms, functional disability, and cognitive impairment.” Funded by the U-M Geriatrics Center. 2006–2007. $40,000.


Gerontology Interest Group
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Linda Chatters, professor
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Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, professor
Lydia Li, associate professor
Shirley A. Lockery, emerita faculty
Robert Joseph Taylor, Associate Dean for Research and Sheila Feld Collegiate Professor of Social Work

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*Includes gender identity and gender expression

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Training programs
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itioning in later life. To address this need, the Specialist in Aging Certificate offers courses in several disciplines (e.g., nursing, law, linguistics, public health, kinesiology) that provide students with a knowledge of biopsychosocial functioning related to aging. Students complete a supervised practice of at least 50 hours with or on behalf of older persons.

The Specialist in Aging Certificate is designed for four groups of graduate students: (1) social work students concentrating in aging, (2) social work students who are not concentrating in aging, (3) graduate students in other departments, and (4) post-masters students.