



THE CENTER FOR GERONTOLOGY

2016-2017 Newsletter



ISCE/Center for Gerontology

“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these.”

--George Washington Carver

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In August 2016, Karen A. Roberto, Ph.D., transitioned from her role as Director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech after serving in that role for 20 years (1996-2016). Among her considerable accomplishments, Karen increased the number of Faculty Affiliates from 18 to 78, mentored scores of students, and raised the visibility of the Center for Gerontology.

I am thrilled, excited, and honored to become the 3rd full-time director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech! I follow a tradition of outstanding directors who were also outstanding gerontologists: William J. McAuley, Ph.D. (1983-1995), and Karen A. Roberto, Ph.D. (1996-2016). From 1983-2015, Rosemary Blieszner, Ph.D., served as the Associate Director of the Center for Gerontology.

Since its inception in 1978 and because the persons most intimately associated with the Center were and are so very outstanding, students from across the country and around the world came to be part of it.

Its mission is to foster and facilitate multidisciplinary research that enhances the quality of life of older adults. In support of this mission, the Center focuses primarily on three streams of coordinated research: Family Gerontology, Health and Aging, and Elder Rights.

I was one of those students fortunate enough to be a recipient of a Certificate for Gerontology, being a student in the first group of certificate students to receive the award from Karen Roberto. To my understanding, I am the first director to be a recipient of the award from the Center that has come to mean so much to me and to my career.

In this first newsletter under my directorship, I acknowledge the amazing work of those who have gone before me, know that they have all made amazing contributions to the CfG, and have laid a fabulous and secure scaffolding upon which to build.

Over the course of 2016-2017 and beyond, we will put forward a vision of the CfG for the next decade, one that contemplates the viability of online courses, revisits the number of credit hours to

qualify for the Certificate, building partnerships within the university and external to it, and preparation of a Center grant with federally supported, multi-year funding exploring a common theme with a research exploring a number of core foci. *More on this will follow! PBT*

CfG 2016 by the Numbers

A quick glimpse of the Center for Gerontology...

78	Faculty Affiliates
18	Certificate Students
109	Certificate Alumni/ae
17	Futures Board Members
13	Current Externally Funded Research Projects



Lemonade on the Lawn



The Center for Gerontology, located in the Institute for Society Culture and Environment, held its inaugural *Lemonade on the Lawn* event this year on September 8, 2016. Affiliate faculty members, students, and friends of the Center enjoyed lemonade, fruit, and cheese while reveling in each other's company and discussing all things gerontological. The purpose of this event was to meet, connect, and to thank the many affiliates and students who are conducting research, teaching, and outreach on aging.

Erica F. Wood, Fall Forum Speaker

Erica F. Wood, J.D., Assistant Director, American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging gave the CfG Fall Research Forum Presentation on September 30, 2016. Her presentation was entitled *Adult-Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making: Research and Policy on Enhancing Self-Determination and Choice*.

Erica Wood been associated with the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging since 1980, where she has worked primarily on issues concerning adult guardianship, health care and financial decision-making, legal services delivery, dispute resolution, health and long-term care, and access to court. She has participated in national studies on public guardianship and guardianship monitoring and played a role in convening national consensus conferences on guardianship. In 2013, she received the Isabella Horton Grant Guardianship Award from the National College of Probate Judges. In 2016, she was appointed by the Governor to the Virginia Commonwealth Council on Aging.



Breaking the Cycle of Addiction



On January 9th, 2017, the Virginia Medical School Education Summit held its regular meeting at the UVA to discuss current practices and share successful approaches in preparing medical residents to address substance misuse with their patients. SAMHSA, a major supporter of addiction education and funder of Nancy Brossoie's 3-year regional student training grant, convenes the quarterly meetings. The group is dedicated to breaking the cycle of addiction by developing quality education and integrative care. Pictured is Secretary Hazel, head of Virginia's Health and Human Resources (center back) with representatives from SAMHSA, medical schools, and regional SBIRT grantees, including Dr. Brossoie.

The Newest CfG Faculty Affiliates



Giselle Datz, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the School of Public and International Affairs and Faculty Fellow with the Global Forum for Urban and Regional Resilience at Virginia Tech. Her research focuses on sovereign debt restructuring, financial crises, and pension reforms. Giselle's interest in aging emerged out of her study of the link between government debt issuance and private pension fund strategies. She is particularly interested in understanding private pensions as financial investments subject to financial innovation and volatile macroeconomic conditions.

An interesting fact about Giselle is that she enjoys learning and practicing Qi Gong.

Kathy Hosig, PhD, MPH, RD, is an Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences at Virginia Tech. Kathy is a registered dietitian with a BS degree in nutrition and dietetics from Virginia Tech, a doctorate in human nutrition from Purdue University, and a master of public health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She teaches health education/health behavior and program evaluation in the master of public health program. Her research focuses on promotion of healthful eating and physical activity habits through public health programs across the lifespan, and she has experience with developing collaborative partnerships at the local and state levels.

Kathy serves as the Director for the Virginia Tech Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHPR). CPHPR is housed in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and supported by the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment. The mission of CPHPR is to foster interdisciplinary, collaborative public health practice and research activities at Virginia Tech and among external public health agencies, organizations, practitioners, and researchers.

Kathy became interested in working with older adults when she taught a graduate course in nutrition and aging. She has the pleasure of working directly with older adults through a community-based type 2 diabetes education program delivered through a partnership between CPHPR and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Kathy and her husband have six children. They adopted the youngest three as a sibling group from foster care in Montgomery County. They plan to continue serving as a foster family when the older kids are launched!



Affiliates in the News

France Belanger: KoMePol-IT-Fellow, University of Koblenz-Landau (Germany). June 2017. Awarded the KoMePol-IT fellowship to develop new research collaborations and perform research and seminars at the University of Koblenz-Landau in June 2017.

Doris T. Zallen, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Science and Technology in Society, November 2016, published "Evaluation of a Web-Based Decision Aid for People Considering the APOE Genetic Test for Alzheimer Risk" in *Genetics in Medicine*, which validated an online educational tool for Alzheimer genetic-risk testing. This aid is freely available online at: genetestornot.org. Zallen also presented a paper, "Well, Good Luck With 'That': Reactions to Learning of Increased Genetic Risk for Alzheimer's Disease" at the American Society of Human Genetics meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in October 2016, which received a Reviewers' Choice designation.

Welcome to the Newest Certificate Student!

Jennifer Tomlin is a Virginia Tech employee who works at the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS) as a Business Development Manager. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1997 with a BS degree in Engineering Science and Mechanics. In between, Jennifer worked for several corporations, including nine years with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

This semester, she began a graduate studies program, taking classes in Science and Technology Studies (STS) and pursuing a certificate in Gerontology. She has studied classical ballet her entire life and became interested in aging issues as a teacher working with adult ballet students. Jennifer's academic interests include investigating mobility and wellness in elderly subjects, including the use of technology to measure and model subject performance. From an STS perspective, she is interested in how technology integration can affect mobility practice and in the stakeholder network required to develop a research program. She is working with Jon Greene at ICTAS, Saul Halfon in STS, Matthew Komelski in Human Development, and Pamela Teaster at the CfG. With the strength of the program of study and her advisers, Jennifer looks forward to bringing together her passion for movement and for technology innovation.



Current Externally Funded Research Projects

Abaid, N. T., Moran, R. J., & Roberto, K.A.
(Senior Personnel)

*EEG-Based Control of Working Memory
Maintenance Using Closed-Loop Binaural
Stimulation*

National Science Foundation

Brossoie, N.

*Extending Independence and Energy Security for
Vulnerable Seniors in Virginias New River Valley*
Community Foundation of the New River Valley

Sands, L.P.

Sleep disruption and Postoperative Delirium
University of California San Francisco

Savla, J., Roberto, K.A., & Blieszner, R.

*Families in Rural Appalachia Caring for Older
Relatives with Dementia*

Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Fund

Brossoie, N.

*SBIRT Training for Students in Health Professions
in Rural Southwest Virginia*
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
Administration

Roberto, K.A.

Appalachia Community Cancer Network
National Institutes of Health

**Roberto, K.A., Teaster, P.B., Savla, J., &
Brossoie, N.**

*Assessing the Impact of Involuntary Relocation on
Nursing Facility Residents*
VA Department of Medical Assistance Services

Sands, L.P.

Medical Student Mentorship Support
G&C Various Private Sources

Sands, L.P., Roberto, K.A., & Hong, Y.

*Healthcare Consequences of Disaster-Related
Disruptions in Home and Community-Based
Supports*
Department of Health and Human Services ASPR

Teaster, P.B.

The New York Guardianship Study
Vera Institute of Justice

Teaster, P.B., & Roberto, K.A.

The Kentucky Justice Studies
University of Kentucky

Teaster, P.B.

*Research and Recommendations on Restoration of
Rights in Adult Guardianship*
American Bar Association (The Greenwall
Foundation)

Teaster, P.B., & Roberto, K.A.

*Financial Exploitation by Conservators Assessing
the Problem and Crafting Victim-Centered
Responses*
National Center for State Courts (Office of Victims
of Crime)

Center for Gerontology Futures Board (External Advisory Board)

James Dau, State Director, AARP Virginia

Lora Epperly, Director of Business and
Development & Care Innovations, CCR, Inc.

Cynthia B. Jones, Director, Virginia Department of
Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

Tina King, Executive Director, New River Valley
Agency on Aging

Dr. Richard Lindsay, Geriatrician

Dr. Katherine Luci, Geropsychologist,
Community Living Center, Salem, VA

Marilyn P. Maxwell, Center for Gerontology
Fellow

Paige McCleary, Director, Adult Protective
Services Division (DARS)

Kathy Miller, Director of Programs, Virginia
Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
(DARS)

Sallie Morgan, Director, Mental Health
Association of Fauquier County

Ferne Moschella, President & Chief Executive
Officer, Warm Hearth Village

Robert F. Peck, Founder and President, Premier
Consulting Services, Inc.

Kathy Pryor, Virginia Poverty Law Center

Sue Ranson, Executive Director, Good Samaritan
Hospice, Inc.

Terry Smith, Director, Long-Term Care DMAS

Dr. Brian Unwin, Section Chief, Geriatric and
Palliative Care Services, Carilion Center for
Healthy Aging

Susan Williams, Center for Gerontology Fellow



Save the Date!

21st Annual Recognition & Awards Celebration

April 25, 2017

Time: 7:00- 9:00 pm

Where: Fralin Auditorium

Keynote Speaker for the 21st Annual Recognition & Awards Celebration, Richard Schulz, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh



Richard Schulz is the Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, Director of Gerontology, and Associate Director of the Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his Ph.D. in social psychology from Duke University.

Dr. Schulz has spent most of his career conducting research and writing on adult development and aging. His work has focused on social-psychological aspects of aging, including the impact of disabling late life disease on patients and their families. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than three decades to conduct descriptive longitudinal and intervention research on diverse older populations representing illnesses such as cancer, spinal cord injury, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, and arthritis.

He has been a leading contributor to the literature on the health effects of caregiving, Alzheimer's disease caregiving, and intervention studies for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease. This body of work is reflected in more than 300 publications, which have appeared in major medical, psychology, and aging journals including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. He is also the author of numerous books, including the *Handbook of Alzheimer's Caregiver Intervention Research* and the *Quality of Life Technology Handbook*.

In the last decade, Dr. Schulz has become interested in supportive interventions, including technology-based approaches designed to enhance patient functioning and quality of life of both patients and their relatives.

Dr. Schulz is the recipient of several honors, including the Kleemeier Award for Research on Aging and the Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award from the Gerontological Society of America, the M. Powell Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award for Applied Gerontology, the Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award, and the Developmental Health Award for Research on Health in Later Life from the American Psychological Association. In 2014, he was appointed Chair of the National Academy of Medicine's Committee on Family Caregiving for Older Adults.

Virginia Tech Presentations at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana

Wednesday, November 16th

Name: Nancy Brossoie
Title: Home Matters: Actions Taken by Older Residents to Age in Place

Name: Toni Calasanti
Title: Successful Aging 2.0: Ageism Redux

Name: Sujee Kim
Title: Dyadic Discrepancy in Awareness of Mild Cognitive Impairment Abilities and Caregiver's Burden

Thursday, November 17th

Name: Raven Weaver
Title: Expectations of Formal Service Use among Older Adults Living in Rural Appalachia

Name: Tina Savla
Title: Typologies of Formal and Informal Support Networks for Older Adults: A New Look Using NHATS Data

Friday, November 18th

Name: Laura P. Sands
Title: How to Publish: Editor's Confidential Presentation: GSA's New Open Access Journal: Innovations in Aging Access Journal

Name: Aaron M. Ogletree
Title: Life Events, Public and Private Religious Practices, and Depression in the Second Half of Life

Name: Karen A. Roberto; Tina Savla, & Rosemary Blieszner
Title: The Value to Old Persons of Chosen Kin as Supporters

Name: Laura P. Sands
Title: Self-Reports of Distress and Fear from Hurricane Sandy Predict Health Care Utilization a Year Later

Name: Tina Savla
Title: Collateral Kin and Non-Kin Caring for Older Adults

Joint Dessert Reception for Friends of Gerontology: Virginia Tech, University of Alabama, Georgia State University, Iowa State University, University of South Florida, Wayne State University, sponsors

Saturday, November 19th

Name: Karen A. Roberto, Raven Weaver, Nancy Brossoie, Pamela B. Teaster, Tina Savla, & Zhe Wang
Title: Family Perceptions of Involuntary Closure of Health Care Facilities: Processes and Outcomes

Name: Kendra O'Hora
Title: Family Life Review Promotes Sharing and Learning During Older Adults' Transition to Assisted Living

Name: Megan Dolbin-MacNab
Title: Reunification in Custodial Grand Families

Name: Tori Coan
Title: Gender and Life Satisfaction in Retirement: Recent Findings from the HRS

Sunday, November 20th

Name: Sarah Giles
Title: Gray Matters: Privilege in the Age of #Grannyhair



Upcoming 2017 Gerontological Conferences

- ✚ **Association for Gerontology in Higher Education**
March 9-12, 2017
Miami, Florida
<https://www.aghe>

- ✚ **American Society on Aging**
March 20-27, 2017
Chicago, Illinois
<http://www.asaging.org/>

- ✚ **Southern Gerontological Society**
April 6-9, 2017
Asheville, North Carolina
<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/>

- ✚ **Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging**
May 22 & 23, 2017
Roanoke, Virginia
<http://vgcoa.com/>

- ✚ **International Association for Gerontology and Geriatrics**
July 23-27, 2017
San Francisco, California
<https://www.iagg2017.org/>

Current Graduate Certificate Students

Kendra Arsenault, Human Development

Sadie Giles, Department of Sociology

Chris Grogg, Master of Public Health

Sujee Kim, Human Development

Laura M. Kozimor, Human Development

Kara Lattimer, Commonwealth Campus

Jennifer LeFurgy, Urban Affairs & Planning

Yujun Liu, Human Development

Meghan MacGhee, Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise

Jill Naar, Human Development

Aaron Ogletree, Human Development

Emma Potter, Human Development

Cameron Rose, Master of Public Health

Alyson Scullin, Master of Public Health

Bradford Stucki, Human Development

Jennifer Tomlin, Commonwealth Campus

Raven Weaver, Human Development

Yuxin Zhao, Sociology

Center for Gerontology Staff

Pamela B. Teaster, Ph.D., *Professor & Director*

Karen A. Roberto, Ph.D., *University Distinguished Professor & Senior Fellow*

Rosemary Blieszner, Ph.D., *Alumni Distinguished Professor & Senior Fellow*

Nancy Brossoie, Ph.D., *Senior Research Associate*

Laura P. Sands, Ph.D., *Professor*

Tina Savla, Ph.D., *Associate Professor & Research Methodologist*

Carlene Arthur, *Operations Coordinator*

Chris Grogg, Anna Harris, Mark Jin, Aaron Ogletree, Emma Potter, Jessica Stephen Premo, Marlene Stege, Evan Thomas, Raven Weaver, Mandy Zhang, Yuxin Zhao, *Graduate Research Assistants*

Paddy Bibizadeh, *Undergraduate Research Assistant*



The Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology is a
Collaborating Centre and member of the Global Ageing Research Network in the
International Association for Gerontology and Geriatrics

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