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 Virginia's 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
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 16**

**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 17**

**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 18**

**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

**Saturday, November 19**

**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 20**

**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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