



Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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The Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services conducts activities to improve services for California's elderly through research, education & collaboration. These activities are made possible through the generous support of the Kleiner Family Foundation and other donors.

Issue Highlights...

- CalSWEC Aging Initiative
- Hartford Award Winners
- Creating Aging-Friendly Communities
- Amanda Lehning Receives START-MH Scholarship
- Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging

CalSWEC Aging Initiative

Berkeley is a key participant in the Aging Initiative of the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), a nationally recognized model for social work education and training that already has trained more than 2000 professional social workers. CalSWEC's Aging Initiative (AI) has the overarching mission of developing "a competent social work workforce to meet the needs of aging Californians and their families, through curriculum development, workforce development, and capacity development and sustainability. The Aging Initiative consists of 40 members with balanced representation of leaders from schools of social work, county social service agencies, and private non-profit organizations. Activities are supported by a \$655,000 grant from the Archstone Foundation.

Regional Collaborative. Berkeley participates in a Regional Collaborative with San Jose State University, San Francisco State University, and several county Departments of Adult and Aging Services to develop sustainable funding strategies for geriatric social work education, including possible MediCal reimbursement for social work services provided to older adults. One of three such collaboratives statewide, the project includes stipends for students in aging, with funding from the Archstone Foundation and the Collaborative partners.

Curriculum Development. The CalSWEC Aging Initiative has developed and tested a set of Curriculum Competencies, which address four areas: 1) culturally competent social work; 2) social work practice across the lifespan; 3) late-life human behavior and the social environment; and, 4) social policy and administration of services for older adults. California's seventeen schools of social work currently are being asked to rate their aging-related curriculum activities, including the extent to which these Aging Curriculum Competencies are covered in their MSW curricula.

Workforce Development. In its efforts to promote an adequate labor force of social workers with expertise in aging, the Aging Initiative currently is developing a statewide workforce survey designed to identify geriatric social work jobs within human service settings and assess current and future personnel needs.

Together, these activities represent an exciting new effort to foster a competent social work workforce that can meet the needs of aging Californians and their families. More information about the CalSWEC Aging Initiative is available at <http://calswec.berkeley.edu/indexAge.html>.

Center's Graduate Research Associates Receive Hartford Awards

Several of the Center's Graduate Research Associates have received awards from the Hartford Foundation as part of its Geriatric Social Work Initiative (GSWI). The GSWI is a multi-faceted initiative to help define and promote the special role of social workers in improving and providing vital service in the care of older adults. The Center's Graduate Research Associates have received the Hartford Doctoral Fellowship and Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award, which are both designed to help cultivate faculty leaders in gerontological education and research.

Graduate Research Associate Nancy Giunta was one of six outstanding social work students chosen as recipients of the prestigious Hartford Doctoral Fellowship, which provides dissertation support, mentorship and leadership development for promising students. The Hartford Doctoral Fellowship was created to help social work doctoral students to become the next generation of geriatric social work faculty as teachers, role models and mentors for future generations of geriatric social workers. Nancy received a \$50,000 award as well as a \$20,000 matching grant from the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare for her dissertation titled "Caregiver Support Programs and Policies: A Mixed Methods Evaluation of Implementation Efforts in 50 States." Nancy has worked at the Center since beginning her graduate studies at Berkeley in 2000.

There other Center Research Associates have received Hartford Pre-Dissertation Awards. Each Pre-Dissertation Awards in 2005 or 2006. Each Pre-Dissertation award recipient is given a stipend to attend both the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting and The Society for Social Work and Research Annual Meeting. In addition they attend workshops designed to develop their research skills. Hartford Pre-Dissertation awardees include:

Kristen Gustavson (2005). Kristen began working at the Center in the Fall of 2003 as a first year PhD student in Social Welfare. She received a B.S. in Gerontology from the Leonard Davis School at the University of Southern California in 1996. She went on to obtain an MSW with an emphasis in practice with older adults and families from California State University, Long Beach in 2001.

Erica Auh (2006). Erica began working at the Center in the Fall of 2003 as a first year student in the combined M.S.W. and PhD program. Erica graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in Economics.

Amanda Lehning (2006). Amanda began working at the Center in the Fall of 2005 as a first year PhD student in Social Welfare. She received a B.A. in History from the University of Delaware in 2000. In 2005 she earned a Master in Social Service degree from Bryn Mawr College.

For more information about the Geriatric Social Work Initiative, go to their website at www.gswi.org.

Creating Aging-Friendly Communities

“A Social Engagement Model for Creating Aging-Friendly Intergenerational Communities” was the title of a paper presented at this summer’s World Conference of the International Federation of Social Work in Munich, Germany, by Professor Andy Scharlach, Director of the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services. This paper examined the characteristics of “aging-friendly” communities and processes for their development. Interest in this issue reflects the increasing importance of physical and social environments that enable individuals to maintain a sense of consistency, continuity, and connectedness throughout their lives.

Dr. Scharlach’s presentation described *Contra Costa For Every Generation (CCEG)*, an innovative countywide initiative whose mission is “to make our local communities good places to age.” The CCEG model is based on five principles:

- Building a community based on respect, mutuality, interdependence, and coexistence of all generations;
- Developing social structures for addressing the current and future needs of aging individuals;
- Providing choice and quality options;
- Recognizing and embracing diversity;
- Respecting aging as a lifelong process.

CCEG brings together more than 300 volunteers, including government officials, private industry, nonprofit organizations, and individual citizens. It is funded by the John Muir/Mt. Diablo Community Health Fund and Y. & H. Soda Foundation Healthy Aging Initiative & Funding Partnership, The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, and the Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services Department. Earlier this year, this unique social engagement model was selected by the National Council on the Aging as one of the country’s leading Promising Practices in Civic Engagement.

To date, CCEG has sponsored three Countywide Summits on Aging, which have engaged community leaders and “aging-friendly advocates” in the process of identifying strategies for community change. With the assistance of Professor Scharlach and other experts, CCEG conducted a scientific survey of older adults and has begun to develop strategies for identifying, promoting and supporting existing aging-friendly practices in various community sectors. More information about *Contra Costa For Every Generation* can be obtained at www.foreverygeneration.org.



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Amanda Lehning Receives START-MH Scholarship

Amanda Lehning, a second year doctoral student and Graduate Student Researcher at the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, was selected from a national competition to participate in the Summer Training on Aging Research Topics – Mental Health (START-MH) program this past summer. Conducted by the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry at University of California, San Diego with support from the National Institute of Mental Health, this program gives students an opportunity to gain research experience while working with a mentor.

Working with Dr. Andrew Scharlach, Amanda used data from the 1999 National Nursing Home Survey to look at mental health service use among nursing home residents. Her findings indicate that nursing homes are not addressing the mental health needs of a majority of nursing home residents with a diagnosed mental disorder. While nearly 40% of nursing home residents in this sample had at least one mental disorder, three-fourths of these residents received no mental health services. Those nursing home residents who did not receive mental health services were more likely to be older, married, not covered by Medicaid, and less likely to live in a for-profit facility with at least 100 beds.

At the completion of the ten-week training program, Amanda gave a poster presentation at a conference held at UC San Diego. The conference provided an opportunity to meet other students and researchers from across the country interested in mental health and aging, representing such fields as medicine, nursing, and psychology.

Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging

The School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley is currently accepting applications for the Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging. The Kleiner Fellow will receive full support, including tuition, fees, and living expenses, for a minimum of four years, to pursue doctoral studies in gerontology at Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. The application deadline is December 1.

Berkeley's doctoral program is designed to inspire independence and original thought, in pursuit of knowledge. The program aims to develop scholars who will make significant contributions to the knowledge base and profession of social work through excellent research, scholarship, teaching, policy development and analysis.

The Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging supports an individually-tailored program of research experience and training. Fellows participate in collaborative research activities through the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, which brings together faculty and graduate students from the School of Social Welfare as well as other departments to address critical issues in aging.

Applicants for the Kleiner Fellowship should complete the School of Social Welfare's Ph.D. application by the December 1 deadline. For more information or to request an application packet, contact the Admissions & Fellowship Office at the School of Social Welfare at socwelf@berkeley.edu or call 510/642-9042.