Ingrid Connidis will be the distinguished speaker at the Gerontology Institute's annual Barbara Payne Lecture. Dr. Connidis currently teaches Sociology at Western University in London, Ontario. Her work has been published in several books and numerous scholarly journals including *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Family Theory and Review, Canadian Journal on Aging,* and *The Gerontologist.* Her lecture is titled “Part of the Family: The Long-term Ties of Gay and Lesbian Adults” and we are delighted to have her speak.

This lectureship was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. Barbara Payne-Stancil, founding Director of the Gerontology Center (now the Gerontology Institute) at Georgia State University. The lectureship is a tribute to Dr. Payne-Stancil's distinguished career and contributions to the field of gerontology. Inaugurated in 1993, the lectureship each year brings to the Georgia State University campus a distinguished individual from the field of gerontology. It is funded through the generous contributions of faculty, students, alumni and friends of Georgia State University.

Please join us on March 13th, 2014 for this great event!

Have someone in mind for a future lecture? Please contact us at gerontology@gsu.edu
Dr. Candace Kemp is the Principal Investigator for a new five-year study “Convoys of Care: Developing Collaborative Care Partnerships in Assisted Living” (1R01AG044368-01A1). The study began on August 1, 2013 and is funded by the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Collaborators include: Jennifer Craft Morgan and Elisabeth Burgess from the Gerontology Institute; Mary Ball and Molly Perkins from Emory University; and Patrick Doyle from Bowling Green State University and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Dr. Kemp and colleagues recently published research on inheritance in multigenerational families (The European Journal of Ageing) as well as residents’ social relationships in assisted living (The Gerontologist). Her recent work also includes collaborations with Gerontology Institute alumni, Navtej K. Sandhu (MA 2012) and Karuna Sharma (MA 2010).

Dr. Kemp notes, “This is an exciting time for the Gerontology Institute. Our new study gives us the opportunity to continue our work in personal care homes and involves residents, their families and friends, administrators, direct care workers, and other health professionals. All of these perspectives will help us understand how to create collaborative care partnerships that maximize aging in place and also lead to the best outcomes for older adults and those who care for them.”

Dr. Elisabeth Burgess continues to explore issues of sexuality across the life course. Her collaborations with Dr. Dawn Banauch from GSU’s Sociology Department have resulted in two publications this year. In addition, she continues to collaborate with Sociology colleagues on the edited reader, “Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader”. The fourth edition of this popular text, now in press from W.W. Norton, includes a new essay by Dr. Burgess, Dr. Alexis Bender (Gerontology Certificate, ’11) and Christina Barmon (current Certificate Student). This summer Dr. Burgess was named a member of the Sexuality and Aging Consortium at Widener University.

Dr. Burgess is excited about the depth and breadth of new research at the Gerontology Institute. She reports “Gerontology students of all levels have an opportunity to participate in cutting edge research that is making a difference in the lives of older adults, their families, and communities.”

In the coming semester she is looking forward to participating in several new and continuing collaborative projects with Gerontology faculty, Affiliate faculty, and graduate students.

Recent Faculty Publications

Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan (Principal Investigator) and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill colleagues recently closed out their study on state-based loan repayment and scholarship programs and their impact on the recruitment and retention of nurse faculty funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Morgan and UNC colleagues are finishing up data collection and starting analyses of data on the evaluation of the North Carolina Personal and Home Care Aide State Training grant. Her recent published work includes articles with one previous doctoral student and post-doc, Janette S. Dill, PhD, and two shared graduate school mentors: Arne Kalleberg, PhD and Victor W. Marshall, PhD.

Dr. Morgan has also presented recently with two current graduate students, Majisa Boyd and Janice Brewer, at the Southern Gerontology Society meetings in April, 2013 and the Georgia Gerontological Society meetings in August, 2013. Dr. Morgan reports, “I am looking forward to continuing the fulfilling work of working with our talented GSU students and beginning fieldwork on Dr. Kemp’s exciting new study.”

Dr. Chivon A. Mingo is embarking upon a new pilot study supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 5P30 AG015281, and the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research. The pilot study is titled, “The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program: Utilization among older Community-Dwelling African Americans in the Atlanta Region.” In addition, Dr. Mingo recently had her NIH Loan Repayment Award renewed. This competitive award was provided through the NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for her ongoing research focused on minority health and health disparities. Her recent work includes tracing the intellectual lineage of Black Gerontologists and an empirical piece looking at arthritis, perception and older adults.

Dr. Mingo is looking forward to starting two new roles this term as an Affiliate for the CDC’s Healthy Aging Research Network and as a new member of GSU’s Partnership for Urban Health Research Steering Committee. Dr. Mingo notes, “Anyone who knows me well knows that I am extremely passionate about Gerontology education. In addition to the new research project, I am also looking forward to my new role as the Undergraduate Director. I feel this role will not only allow me the opportunity to pursue one of my passions (i.e. mentoring students), but it also allows me the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the growth and development of our undergraduate Gerontology Program.”


Alumni Spotlight

Every newsletter we will be choosing an alumni to spotlight. This year, to kick off our newsletter, we chose our very own Dr. Chivon Mingo. She has a B.S. in Psychology, an Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology and an Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology from Georgia State University. Later, Dr. Mingo went on to obtain her M.A. in Gerontology and Ph.D. in Aging Studies from the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. After a two year postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute on Aging, she was hired as an Assistant Professor in the Gerontology Institute from a competitive pool of candidates. She is also an Affiliate with the Partnership for Urban Health Research, Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University.

Dr. Mingo is a Panther through and through! She brings her enthusiasm, dedication to the field of Gerontology and warm demeanor to the Gerontology Institute. She holds a distinguished leadership position as current Past Chair of the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization. This organization is dedicated to providing opportunities for career development and mentoring for both students and early career professionals. Most recently, Dr. Mingo was appointed Undergraduate Director of the Gerontology Institute where she continues to exemplify her passion and commitment to mentoring students. We are proud of our very own alumna and are delighted to have her on the faculty!

If you know any alumni worthy of the spotlight, please contact Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan at jmorgan39@gsu.edu

Alumni Club President
Stephanie Dixon
Invites You to Get Involved!

As the GSU Gerontology Alumni President for 2013-2014, I would like to make a special effort to reach out to the alumni of the Georgia State University Gerontology Institute. As an Alumni Club, we strive to enrich the lives of gerontology alumni, students, and friends by helping them establish and maintain a valuable relationship with the Gerontology Institute at GSU and the gerontology community. To become more involved in the GSU Gerontology Alumni Club, please contact us at geroalumniclub@gmail.com or 678-664-4824.

Are you Interested in Graduate Studies at the Gerontology Institute or Know Someone Who Is?

The Gerontology Institute offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) and a Certificate in Gerontology for students who wish to prepare for careers in the field of aging. Students pursuing the M.A. degree may choose either the administration or research concentration. The administration concentration prepares students to work in aging services, applying their gerontological skills to professional endeavors. The research concentration prepares students to enter doctoral programs in gerontology, sociology, psychology, policy studies, family studies, or related fields and for beginning careers with organizations engaged in aging research.

The Graduate Certificate in Gerontology is designed to integrate knowledge of gerontology into students’ own disciplinary fields. It is offered for students preparing for a variety of careers in the aging field and for professionals already working in such areas as health care, social services, recreation, government, and business.

We are currently accepting applications for both programs. The deadline for Fall admission is April 15, 2014 for the M.A. program and July 1, 2014 for the Certificate program.

For more information about the program and application process, please contact the Institute’s Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Candace L. Kemp, at ckemp@gsu.edu or visit: http://www.cas.gsu.edu/grad_admission.html.
Student Organizations Showcase

Adopt-a-Grandparent

The Adopt-a-Grandparent program was initiated in the Spring of 2012 by Meagan Jain, an undergraduate student. The program’s purpose is to promote intergenerational communication and relationships. In order to do so, college students and older adults form relationships through weekly visits and monthly events. As a member, students will “adopt” a grandparent as well as attend exciting events throughout the semester. Last year, the program led many volunteer events including “Reverse Trick-or-Treat” and an art class at a local assisted living facility. This year, the program is looking to gain new membership and expand further into the community. In September, Adopt-a-Grandparent walked in the Alzheimer’s Association’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s to show support for the cause and elected new officers for the 2013-2014 year. Students at any level or degree program are welcome to join Adopt-a-Grandparent. If you have any questions about the program, you can contact them at adoptagrandparent@gsu.edu.

Sigma Phi Omega

Alpha Omega, the GSU chapter of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) National Academic Honor and Professional Society in Gerontology, provides opportunities for personal and professional interaction and development, discussion of issues in aging, and service activities aimed at improving the lives of older adults.

Last year, we partnered with GSU’s “Adopt-A-Grandparent” Program (AGP) to visit older adults at A.G. Rhodes Health & Rehab at Wesley Woods and held a breakfast for students prior to the “Be There 4 Seniors” Rally at the State Capitol. This fall, Alpha Omega partnered with AGP for the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” to coordinate volunteers to participate in advocacy efforts and walk together at the event on September 28th.

Other upcoming Alpha Omega events include: involvement in the “Be There 4 Seniors” Rally, a service day with Meals on Wheels Atlanta, and “Careers in Aging Week” (April 6-12th, 2014), an annual event intended to bring greater awareness and visibility to the wide-ranging career opportunities in aging and aging research, and provide professional network opportunities for future leaders in the field of Gerontology.

Now is an exciting time to get involved with Alpha Omega and have your voice be heard! For more information about SPO membership please contact AlphaOmega@gsu.edu.
The Gerontology Institute welcomes our new Visiting Lecturer, Dr. Carlos Reyes-Ortiz. He is an interdisciplinary scholar with an MD from Valle University in Columbia and PhD in Preventive Medicine/Community Health from the University of Texas, Medical Campus. His research focuses on Health Disparities and Aging with an emphasis on Hispanic older adults. In the coming spring semester he will teach a variety of gerontology classes.

Get Social With Us!

The Gerontology Institute is now active on Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube! We post updates about events, student accomplishments, community happenings, and post videos and photos from our events. Connect with us!

www.facebook.com/GSUgerontology
www.twitter.com/gerontologyGSU
www.youtube.com/user/gerontologyGSU

Opportunities to Give

It’s an exciting time for the Gerontology Institute and many of our accomplishments are possible, in part, by the generous donations of our alumni, students, faculty and friends. Each year the Gerontology Institute provides financial support to the students in our programs and hosts educational opportunities open to the university and the community. Your donation will enable us to engage in outreach efforts to recruit new faculty and graduate students, hold department functions such as public lectures, and continue to promote the work of our faculty and students. There are many different ways that you can contribute including: annual gifts; donating to existing scholarships; contributing to the Barbara Payne Lectureship; or endowing new endeavors.

If you would like more information or are interested in contributing, please contact us at gerontology@gsu.edu

Call for Entries!

Have something new and exciting happen in your life? Receive an award? New research? We’d love to include you in our next newsletter! Email us at gerontology@gsu.edu

Look out for our next newsletter! We will feature four of our wonderful affiliate faculty!

Welcome Dr. Reyes-Ortiz
2013 Barbara Payne Lecture
Distinguished Speaker,
Dr. Ira Rosofsky

Ira Rosofsky, PhD, is a clinical psychologist who works in a variety of nursing homes and assisted living centers across the State of Connecticut. In his personal life, like millions of his contemporaries, he was caregiver to his own frail, elderly parents. His personal and professional experiences came together in his book, *Nasty, Brutish and Long: Adventures in Eldercare* (Avery Penguin, 2009), which was a Finalist for the Connecticut Book Award.

His book brings to life the world of eldercare—the residents who live in them, the staff who work in them, and the policies and social forces that shape them—with humor and reflections on caregiving and growing old in America.

Thomas Lynch, author of *The Undertaking*, called it “A book for policy makers, caregivers, the halt and lame, the upright and unencumbered: anyone who ever intends to grow old.” Andrew Blechman, author of *Leisureville: Adventures in a World Without Children*, said his book “accomplishes what few authors are capable of—taking an unnerving topic and turning it into a book so enthralling you won't want to put it down. Indeed, it's a meditation worthy of Marcus Aurelius and Jerry Seinfeld.” Dr. Rosofsky has a blog at *Psychology Today*, “Adventures in Old Age,” and his writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Salon*, *The Week*, and the *Village Voice*.

Dr. Rosofsky presented an intellectual and thought-provoking lecture to students, alumni, faculty, and staff of Georgia State as well as many community members. His lecture is available for you to view on the Gerontology Institute's YouTube channel.

2013 Awards Ceremony

The Gerontology Institute hosts an award ceremony to honor outstanding students, faculty members, alumni, and community members. This ceremony also recognizes all of the Gerontology Institute graduates of the year.

**2013 Award Winners**

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student**
Victoria Helmly

**Distinguished Alumni**
Betty Van Gerpen

**Outstanding Graduate Certificate Student**
Christina Barmon

**Distinguished Faculty**
Sheryl Strasser

**Outstanding Master’s Student**
Celeste Greene

**Distinguished Service**
Meals on Wheels Atlanta