



Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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School of Social Welfare

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<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/aging>

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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 the JM Long Foundation.

Issue Highlights...

- Family Caregiver Support Project Update
- Scholarship Recipients
- Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging
- New Center Staff Members
- Recent Publications

Family Caregiver Support Project Update

The Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services continues to work on the findings from its landmark California Family Caregiver Survey and other research based on the Center's Interagency Agreement with the California Department of Aging which ended in Jun 2003. In addition to the recent publication of several articles on past research findings, the Center's Family Caregiver Research Team continues to analyze the survey findings regarding family caregiver use of respite and counseling services, the experiences of racial and ethnic caregivers, employed caregivers, and the impact of caregiving on the family.

The Center staff also has been busy augmenting the findings of its statewide telephone survey with the results of in-depth focus group interviews. Focus groups were conducted with 13 diverse ethnic and cultural caregiver populations within the state of California, including African Americans, Cantonese-speakers, Filipinos, Gay men, Koreans, Lesbians, Native Americans, rural Hispanics, rural non-Hispanics, Russians, and Vietnamese. Culturally and ethnically matched moderators directed semi-structured discussions with 130 caregiver participants to gauge their specific needs, issues, and concerns relating to their caregiver experience and use of support services.

Several cross-cutting themes emerged from the focus groups, including (1) familism as a motivation for caregiving; (2) availability and use of support networks; (3) the changing role of natural helping networks; (4) positive and negative impacts of adversity; (5) discrimination as a barrier to service use; and (6) the need for information and culturally-appropriate services.

For example, many of the ethnic groups viewed the role of the caregiver as an obligation, cultural duty or even a "career" over a lifetime. Within these groups, there was often an issue of mistrust of government agencies, so providing care was not only a family obligation but also a way to assure the quality of care. An example of the impact of adversity on caregiving is that of the HIV/AIDS epidemic; it has resulted in Gay men being more aware of their role as caregivers as well as some of the programs and services available. Several ethnic groups reported that the availability of support networks for caregivers is changing across generations, with younger generations not maintaining the same traditional values and ideas of caring for older family members that had been instilled in older generations.

Many of the challenges facing caregivers affected their use of formal support services. Often caregivers lacked both the knowledge and access to support networks or other services. Many barriers were identified as part of this challenge in accessing services, including discrimination, language, and lack of financial resources. Recommendations for improving formal services included a central source of accurate information, such as a hotline, culturally competent service providers, availability of caregiver training and support groups, and monetary assistance. ●

2003-2004 Kleiner Foundation & Center Scholarship Recipients

James Midgley, Dean of the School of Social Welfare, and Paul Grey, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, presided at the School's Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Women's Faculty Club, where several students in the aging specialization were recognized for their academic and professional promise: Jill Nielsen, Cara Goldstein, and Hai-Jin Yang.

Jill Nielsen was awarded the 2003-2004 Rose Kleiner Foundation scholarship. She is a second year MSW student with an emphasis in Gerontology. She received a B.A. in Psychology from UC Davis in 1997, and worked first as an elementary school teacher and later for Family Caregiver Alliance, before starting her Master's degree. Currently, Jill is an intern at Adult Protective Services in San Francisco and spent last year's placement at one of the Institute on Aging's adult day health centers working with frail elderly individuals. She has been working as part of the Center's team since June and has been examining caregivers' use of supportive services.

Cara Goldstein was awarded the 2003-2004 Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services scholarship. She is a first year MSW student specializing in Gerontology. She received her B.S. in Psychology with a concentration in Gerontological studies from Virginia Tech University. Previously, Cara worked in Washington, DC, as the Center Coordinator for Generations United's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. She is currently working on Berkeley's Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging project. Her interests include intergenerational programs, kinship caregiving, and aging policy.

Hai-jin Yang also was awarded the 2003-2004 Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services scholarship. She is a second year MSW student specializing in gerontology. She received her B.A. in Social Welfare from Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea, in 2001. Prior to beginning graduate school, Hai-jin did an internship at St. Mary's Hospital in Korea. Her first year placement was at Presentation Center, Adult Day Health Care in San Francisco. She is doing her second year placement at San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services, Adult Protective Services. ◀



Jill Nielsen



Cara Goldstein



Hai-jin Yan

Consortium for Social Work Training in Aging Continues

The third and final cohort of MSW Hartford Fellows completed their yearlong training in Bay Area county departments of adult and aging services (DAAS) in May. In all, 37 MSW students from the three participating schools of social work (UC Berkeley, San Francisco State and San Jose State) completed training in DAAS over the four year period of the grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York as part of its initiative to strengthen social work training in aging. Our project was among six similar projects funded nationwide, and is the only one to focus on public sector aging services.

Although student stipends are no longer available from the Hartford Foundation, students continue to be interested in these public sector settings. In addition, the participating DAAS continue to use the training model that was developed and refined over the four-year grant period. This training model differs from traditional models by incorporating a series of rotations through all DAAS programs, enabling students to become familiar with the full range of its operations. Typically, this includes adult protective services, the Area Agency on Aging, and a variety of case management and in-home support services for elderly and disabled adults. Students also are assigned a small caseload of clients in a primary program area in order to develop practice skills.

CSWTA is continuing its work in promoting social work training in public sector agencies by producing a training manual that can enable others to implement this unique training model. Projected to be ready in the spring, the manual will be available to both DAAS and social work schools across California. It will include background information about the development of the model, as well as tools and other materials that can be used to develop training units in DAAS. As a first step in the development and dissemination of the manual, all DAAS and social work field programs are being surveyed to assess the current level of training in these public agencies. For more information, contact the project director, Barrie Robinson, at <bkr@uclink.berkeley.edu>. ◀



Pictured left to right Jeff Jue, Ruth Atkin, Margaret Tynan, John Cullen, Barrie Robinson, Michael Peck, Pam Borrelli, James Midgley, Eileen Levy, Cindy Bircher, Mary Counihan, Chris Mathias, Andrew Scharlach, Leticia Gonzalez, Dianne Mahan



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New Center Staff Members

Erica Auh is a first year student in the combined MSW (Management, Administration, and Planning) and PhD program. She graduated from Wellesley College with a B.A. in economics. She is currently working on the National Family Caregiver Support Project at the Center.

Kristen Gustavson is 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. Recently, she worked as a clinical social worker for the Orange County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services, in the Department of Older Adult Services. She is currently working on the National Family Caregiver Support Project, analyzing data comparing employed and non-employed family caregivers.

Natasha Ong is a second year student in the MSW (MAP) program. She received her B.A. in Sociology and Communications with a minor in German Literature from UC San Diego. Prior to attending Berkeley, she worked at a daytime homeless shelter for poor and homeless women in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. Last year, she completed her first year Field Placement at the UC Berkeley Retirement Center and in the summer of 2003, she was a research assistant at the California Center for Long-Term Care Integration at USC. This year, her Field Placement is at the Alameda County Department of Public Health. Her research interests include Baby Boomers, aging and health policy.

Recent Publications

During the past months the Center's staff and colleagues have been busy publishing their research findings. In addition to the articles listed below, more detailed reports are available at the Center's web site - <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/aging>

Scharlach, A., Simon, J. L., & Dal Santo, T. (2002). Who is providing social services to today's older adults? Implications of a survey of aging services personnel. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 38(4), 5-17.

Scharlach, A., Giunta, N., Robinson, B., Dal Santo, T. (Summer, 2003). Care management in long-term care insurance: Meeting the needs of policyholders? *Journal of Case Management*, 11(2), 73-81

Giunta, N., Chow, J., Scharlach, A., & Dal Santo, T. (In press). Ethnic differences in family caregiving in California. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.

Kietzman, K., Scharlach, A., & Dal Santo, T. (In press). Local needs assessment and planning efforts for family caregivers: Findings and recommendations. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Whittier, S., Scharlach, A., & Dal Santo, T. (In press). Availability of caregiver support services: Implications for implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program. *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*.

Scharlach A., Dal Santo, & Mills-Dick, K. (In review) A system of quality assurance for long term care insurance. *Journal of Aging and Social Policy*.

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