



*Fall 2013 Newsletter*

The Center for Gerontology continually strives to build upon its reputation as a successful research center known for excellence in basic, social science, and applied research, graduate education, and the translation of knowledge to practice. This issue of the Center's newsletter focuses on new and long-standing local, national, and international community connections that provide the foundation for collaborative partnerships that are instrumental in achieving our mission of enhancing the quality of life of older adults.

*Transportation Conference on Older Adults Yields Policy and Driving Outcomes*

In December 2012, the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) and the Center for Gerontology hosted the *Senior Mobility Awareness Symposium*. Faculty affiliate Jon Antin, PhD, Director of the Center for Vulnerable Road User Safety at VTTI and Nancy Brossoie, PhD, Senior Research Associate at the Center led the collaborative effort to organize this symposium. The one-day, information-packed symposium was sponsored by the National Surface Transportation Safety Center for Excellence and brought together experts and community leaders from science, industry, and government. The aim of the event was to raise awareness and educate participants about senior mobility by showcasing the work of transportation researchers, policymakers, transportation administrators, community professionals, and advocates.



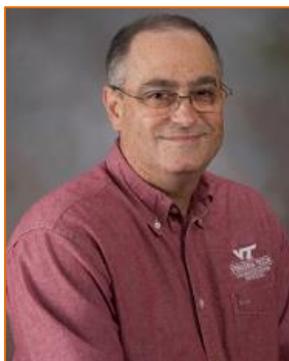
The symposium drew 75 attendees from across the country. Sessions included presentations on functional assessment, training approaches to enhance senior mobility safety, state medical reviews of drivers, vehicle automation and infrastructure, educational programs for senior

drivers, and current transportation options for seniors in the New River Valley. In addition, several driving, transportation, and research groups provided information about their current work and services including static vehicle demonstrations provided by VTTI and CarFit. Keynote speakers included Esther Wagner from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, David Eby from Michigan Center for Advancing Safety Transportation throughout the Lifespan, Jon Antin from VTTI, Jacquelin Branche, from Virginia DMV, Katherine Freund from ITNAmerica, Bruce Mehler from MIT AgeLab, Julie Lee from AARP, and the Center's own Nancy Brossoie. Symposium chair Jon Antin spoke of the conference's success: "Our intention was not to bring solely researchers together, but to bring together a variety of people: stakeholders, policy makers, federal and state agency representatives, as well as those people who actively work with seniors and are passionate about senior mobility. We were able to get these people together to talk about the issues, the latest research, and best practices; and in that way, this symposium was a great success."

The extent of the conference's success reached well beyond the one-day symposium as Drs. Antin and Brossoie were invited by the Commissioner of Virginia's DMV to serve on the Executive Committee of the DMV's Mature Driver Study during 2013. The committee has subsequently produced recommendations and proposed policy changes related to older adult drivers. Recommendations include lowering the age of driver assessment from 80 to 75; reducing the license renewal period after age 80 from 8 to 5 years; initiating a license/ identification card exchange program via mail, in-person, or over the phone; adding a functional capacity assessment at time of renewal; and educating judges, members of law enforcement, and DMV representatives on issues related to older adult drivers. In reflecting on her experience and the outcomes of the committee, Dr. Brossoie was pleased with the progress made and excited that many of the recommendations would not need to endure the lengthy state legislative process. She explained that "rather than only producing recommendations that needed to go through state approval, the DMV can implement many of the recommendations without it."



Dr. Antin found his experience serving on the committee to be rewarding as well. "The committee did a nice job of bringing a variety of stakeholders to the table, listened to the researchers that were there, and considered the data. In the end, data rather than personal ideologies or perspectives on older adult drivers, should be king, and it was good to see the committee give the data a lot of weight in their considerations."



The issue of older adult drivers is gaining increased attention due to demographic changes in the United States and the aging baby boomer population. Dr. Brossoie noted that Virginia is taking the lead on issues related to older adults and driving. "Over half of other states have no policies regarding older adult drivers, so Virginia is a pioneer on this issue. The proposed policies take into consideration the needs of older adults in terms of keeping them on the road and maintaining independence while ensuring the safety of drivers of all ages." Dr. Antin further noted the importance of researchers partnering with

community professionals, “Our work at the symposium and on the committee is a perfect example of how the translational research we do at Virginia Tech is shared with and informs practitioners, the DMV, policy makers, and other stakeholders, so we can implement actual changes in relation to driver assessment.”

For more information on issues related to older adults and driving, visit the Grand Driver Program website at <http://www.granddriver.net>. For more information about the VTTI Center on Center for Vulnerable Road User Safety, visit [www.vtti.vt.edu](http://www.vtti.vt.edu).

### *Virginia Tech Hosts First AARP TweetUp*

## **#HokiesW2K**

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Gerontology cosponsored AARP’s first TweetUp entitled *#HokiesW2K* (Hokies Want To Know). This program was part of Virginia AARP’s *We Want to Know* (#WW2K) campaign, which utilized social media to have the public pose questions to Virginia’s gubernatorial candidates. The event brought together over 50 Virginia Tech students, faculty, and community members, to tweet questions and messages during the panel session.

The event focused on the role of social media in elections and featured four invited panelists to talk about these issues. Dr. Karen Roberto welcomed attendees and introduced panel members, AARP Virginia State President, Bob Blancato, Assistant Professor of Communication at Virginia Tech, Jenn Mackay, President of the Young Democrats at Virginia Tech,



Photo source: Michelle Jones Twitter.

Andrew Whitley, and Representative of the College Republicans at Virginia Tech, Amanda Kranz. To start the session, Mr. Blancato discussed the role of political effectiveness and voter engagement for older adults using social media. Dr. Mackay explained how mobile technology has become a double-edged sword for candidates highlighting the good and the bad on a large scale. Mr. Whitley commented on the difficulties but also the importance of finding the balance between educating and engaging social media followers. Ms. Kranz discussed how social media has been effective in engaging international communities, but warned about the difficulties in talking about complex issues in short and concise online posts.

Panelists then answered questions posed by the moderator and Virginia Tech Professor of Communications, Dr. Bob Denton, as well as questions from the audience. Topics ranged from the legitimacy of online and amateur reporting, fragmented and specialized news outlets, the potential of social media to encourage third party candidates, online privacy, and how social media and mobile technology may be affecting personal relationships. In all, the event boasted over 20,000 Twitter impressions during the one hour session!

## *Community Conversations Receives Best Practice Award*

Each year the Commonwealth Council on Aging awards their *Best Practices Award* to Virginia organizations that serve older adults. This year the Elder Justice Coalition of the New River Valley received a third place prize of \$2,000 for their community outreach program entitled, *Community Dialogue on Financial Abuse among Older Adults*. This program was a discussion forum that brought together community leaders, professionals, and citizens dedicated to protecting the health and safety of older adults to discuss issues surrounding elder abuse. Sessions presented information on how to identify situations of financial elder abuse, provided resources on to whom or where to turn for help in these situations, and highlighted unique stories and challenges that characterizes various communities. Janet Brennend, an elder justice advocate, Ombudsman with the New River Agency on Aging, and community partner with the Center for Gerontology, described the program, its goals, and outcomes: “We wanted to create a program that would engage residents to identify and recognize elder abuse, provide them with the unique programs and resources they needed, and could be replicated in other areas and communities. In order to do this, we needed to create a program that respected cultural diversity, utilized trusted community members, and facilitated a community conversation.”



Ms. Brennend further explained factors unique to the New River Valley that influence the type and occurrence of elder abuse. “The New River Valley is spread out geographically and the mountains set areas apart with regards to the persons and culture. Not only is Southwest Virginia different from other communities in Virginia, but communities within the NRV differ from each other. We were aware of the community differences and designed the program to engage specific community members from Pulaski, Giles, Montgomery, Floyd, and Radford.”

The sessions outlined characteristics of perpetrators, and identified situations and circumstances in which financial elder abuse occurs. As noted by Ms. Brennend, “We wanted to introduce the idea of elder abuse and normalize the conversation... Most individuals don’t want to tell anyone about the abuse [so they] keep it to themselves.” She continued, “We had [community] residents attend our sessions and it was an eye opening experience for them. Being able to recognize the signs of abuse and knowing protections to put in place are really important, but the panelists also [became known] as community members residents can turn to and, more importantly, trust in these situations.”

Financial elder abuse accounts for nearly 3 billion dollars in stolen assets each year, and because it is a sensitive issue it is underreported. Center faculty and staff work alongside Ms. Brennend to educate older adults and families on the power of persuasion and manipulation that occurs in situations of financial elder abuse. The severity of and sensitivity around financial elder abuse prompted the Elder Justice Taskforce to design replicable programs that would provide more promising outreach to each specific community.

The Community Dialogue works with the New River Agency on Aging to promote the missions of Virginia’s Adult Protective Services, the Virginia Association of AAAs, and the Elder Justice

Coalition. The \$2,000 prize provided the Elder Justice Coalition in NRV, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, with much needed funds to continue their work. For more information on these organizations, visit their websites through the NRV Agency on Aging site at <http://www.nrva.org> and click on “Related Links.”

### ***International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics***

In June, Center for Gerontology Director Dr. Karen Roberto gave a keynote address at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) meeting in Seoul, South Korea, entitled *Changes in Family Structure and Care of Older Persons*. The IAGG is the world’s leading international organization dedicated to needs and issues of older adults around the globe. The IAGG’s World Congress meets every four years, bringing together policy decision-makers, leading gerontology and geriatric scholars, aging activists, students, and corporate executives.



During her address, Dr. Roberto discussed changing demographics and family structures across the globe; evolving types of kin relationships; current patterns of elder care, including filial care from children, grandchildren, and friends in the community; and future care issues such as how childless adults often have fewer family support resources in later life. Dr. Roberto reflected on her experience, “I was very honored to be among the eight invited keynote lecturers at the IAGG Congress, especially as I was the only woman scientist and one of only two social science researchers. Being recognized for my research on aging families and caregiving and the positive response to my talk from gerontologists from across the globe made the experience a true high point of my academic career.”

The Center was well represented at IAGG. In addition to Dr. Roberto, center affiliate Dr. Toni Calasanti gave an invited address as part of a Presidential Symposia session. Her presentation, entitled *Successfully Aging Bodies: Perceptions of Middle-Agers in the United States*, provided a critical examination of issues of positive aging and ageism in this country. Dr. Calasanti explained, “Ageism continues to persist because the definition and model of successful aging does not challenge the underlying ageist norm that ‘acting old’ is undesirable. Without challenging this assumption, we continue to undervalue old people and classic ageism dominates our way of thinking about aging.”

Other Center core and affiliate faculty presenting at the IAGG World Congress included Dr. Rosemary Blieszner (*Family Support for Caregivers and Elders with Mild Cognitive Impairment*), Dr. Nancy Brossoie (*Alcohol Misuse among Older Adults*), Dr. Julia Beamish (*Residential Technologies for Aging-in-Place*), and Dr. Eunju Hwang (*Age-Friendly Design*).

### ***MOUs Signed with Institutions in Finland and South Korea***

In May 2013, Center faculty affiliates Drs. Toni Calasanti and Neal King and Professor Sue Ott Rowlands, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, took part in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) ceremony with faculty and administrators at the

University of Turku in Finland. The focus of the MOU is to develop research collaborations, particularly in the areas of aging and gender studies. “After years of collaboration, we wanted to formalize the partnership between the two institutions and encourage further collaboration,” Dr. Calasanti explained. Thus, the MOU signifies a partnership between the research institutions that is expected to continue for a number of years. Dr. Calasanti serves as the Center’s liaison for this collaborative research effort ([toni@vt.edu](mailto:toni@vt.edu)).



Photo source: University of Turku

In June 2013, seven members of Virginia Tech’s faculty visited Jeju Island, South Korea to take part in the MOU signing ceremony co-hosted by College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and the Jeju Development Institute (JDI). Celebrating the MOU signing, Drs. Eunju Hwang and Julia Beamish, Center faculty affiliates from the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management, and Center faculty Drs. Karen Roberto, Nancy Brossoie, and Rosemary Blieszner participated in the Jeju International Seminar, *Quality of Life in Super-Aging Society: Improving the Residential Environments* (June 27-30, 2013). Dr. Hwang serves as the Center’s liaison for this collaborative research team ([hwange@vt.edu](mailto:hwange@vt.edu)) and is very excited about formalizing the partnership with the JDI (<http://www.jdi.re.kr>). “The MOU between JDI and Virginia Tech,” Dr. Hwang explained, “provides an opportunity for international research collaborations on supportive environments for older adults.”

As a result of this MOU, Dr. Hwang will continue her work on a global scale, collaborating with those at Virginia Tech and the Jeju Institute. “As a researcher, I embrace the World Health Organization’s holistic and comprehensive approach to making age-friendly environments and plan to develop research programs that include community outreach as well as the cultural aspects of housing and aging in place.” Dr. Hwang works in partnership with Drs. Brossoie and Beamish and the local Aging-in-Place Leadership Team to address issues related to housing and aging in place. “My students are taking part in multicultural housing projects, and we are working with Dr. Koh [of JDI] to create student activities and research programs that study age friendly environments and look at outcomes such as home modification, senior activity level, quality of life, and well-being.”



**The MOU signing ceremony between Virginia Tech and the Jeju Institute**

Dr. Hwang’s research team has already set in motion three research projects working with the JDI and has another visit to South Korea planned for 2014. “In the coming years, we will be working closely with Dr. Koh to keep the lines of communication open, present our research outcomes, and develop new research initiatives for the future.” For more information on the recent activities of Dr. Hwang’s research team and the MOU please visit <http://www.ahrm.vt.edu>.

## *Center Associate Director, Rosemary Blieszner Visits China*

This past April, in her role as President-Elect of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Dr. Blieszner traveled to China under the auspices of GSA, the Chinese Academy of Science, and the Sino-US Forum on the Psychology of Aging. During this visit, Dr. Blieszner took part in lecture sessions and forums at Beijing Normal University (BNU) and Tianjin Normal University (TNU). In addition to the two research forums, Dr. Blieszner was able to tour comprehensive and senior-specific community centers and take in some of the Chinese culture.

During the Forum at BNU, members of the GSA delegation presented research on family caregiving in the context of mild cognitive impairment, psychotherapy with older adults, effects of physical, cognitive, and social activity on cognitive functioning, and the role of social workers in identifying and treating depression and anxiety. Chinese scholars used this forum to discuss research on suicide ideation, the positivity effect of photographs and emotion triggers, effects of training on several cognitive functions, recognizing and diagnosing mild cognitive impairment, and literacy and leisure in relation to cognitive impairment. Dr. Blieszner reflected on these sessions, “The materials presented at these forums were both important and stimulating. We were most impressed with the quality of the questions and comments from graduate students and faculty.”



**Jilan Chen (GSA), Nancy Wilson (Baylor College of Medicine), & Dr. Blieszner in Beijing**

Dr. Blieszner then traveled to Tianjin Normal University, southeast of Beijing, to present a lecture to psychology graduate students. In addition, she and her colleagues took part in tours of eye-tracking, biometric, and other psychology labs at TNU. Dr. Blieszner described her experience at the university, “In addition to getting to know the faculty and students, we also had the opportunity to engage with community practitioners. We were able to take a tour of a comprehensive retirement and health care facility called Tiantong and a neighborhood health, recreation, and social services center offering facilities, activities, and programs for community members of all ages.” Dr. Blieszner and her fellow colleagues identified numerous potential areas of collaboration with Chinese scholars interested in psychological aspects of aging and look forward to future collaborations.

## *Fall 2013 Research Forum: Changes in the Housing Welfare System and Family Norms in Aging in Jeju, South Korea*

This fall, the Center for Gerontology welcomed Dr. Seung-Hahn Koh, Senior Research Fellow at the Jeju Development Institute Longevity Center in South Korea. His visit was sponsored by the Center for Gerontology in conjunction with the Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management’s Globalization of Consumers Project, Virginia Tech’s Institute for Society, Culture and Environment Global Issues Initiative, a college diversity grant, the CLAHS Dean’s Advisory Council on International Initiatives, and the VT New Faculty Mentoring program.

As part of his visit, Dr. Koh presented a seminar at the Center's Fall Research Forum. Dr. Koh discussed Jeju society and trends in housing affecting older adults. He explained that the island of Jeju boasts a population of over 600,000, with tourism making up over 79% of its economy. Jeju Island has the highest proportion of the oldest-old (aged 85+) in South Korea and has recently experienced shifts in population demographics. Dr. Koh also highlighted changing family norms, similar to those experienced in many other countries: shrinking family size; focus on the nuclear family instead of the extended family; social service programs addressing care for children but not adults, and increased dependence on the external social system to care for older adults rather than on family-based care.



According to Dr. Koh, housing for older adults is a growing concern due to changing demographics. From 2007 to 2012, the housing needs of single elders increased from approximately 13% to over 17%. After community development and urbanization of the 1970s and 1980s, older adults have either been left behind in rural communities or are moving into old town areas (and low income neighborhoods) in nearby cities. The demographic shifts have created what Dr. Koh described as a polarization in housing, a widening gap between where rich people and poor live. "With this widening class gap, it makes forming integrated communities harder. A major question for housing and community researchers is how to achieve feelings and actions of togetherness in today's society."

Dr. Seung-Hahn Koh, who serves as the JDI's liaison with Virginia Tech, visited from Oct 19-27, 2013. In addition to spending time with faculty and students, Dr. Koh toured the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg, and the Elder Spirit cohousing community in Abingdon. He also attended a meeting of the Blacksburg Aging-in-Place Leadership Team. In all, Dr. Koh considered his visit to Virginia as an "honor and a delight. I have a deep appreciation for being here and this marks another step in the collaboration between Jeju and Virginia Tech."

### *The Center Welcomes New Futures Board Members*

The Center for Gerontology's Futures Board represents a variety of aging-related agencies, organizations, and services across the Commonwealth of Virginia. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Center held its Fall board meeting. We are pleased to welcome four new members to the Board this fall.

#### **Lora Epperly**

Ms. Lora Epperly is the Chief Quality and Cultural Excellence Officer for Commonwealth Care of Roanoke, Inc. (CCR). Lora became acquainted with the work at the Center in 2008 and since then has partnered on several projects with Virginia Tech. Currently, she is a research team member on the Slips and Falls Prevention project (led by Center faculty affiliate Thurmon Lockhart) in partnership with the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and assisted

living facilities in Radford. Through her professional work experiences, Lora has developed a passion for engaging in research and projects that seek to improve the quality of life for older adults throughout Virginia. She is excited for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Center's Futures Board, noting, "I'm really looking forward to developing partnerships with individuals from a variety of fields. I am also hopeful that my time on the board will provide the opportunity to talk about those older adults in our area who do not have willing or available caregivers." Lora also anticipates that the conversations and outcomes of the board will address the needs of Virginia elders in ways that consider the context in each situation and remain whole-person oriented.



**Tina King, Lora Epperly, & Kathy Miller**

### **Tina King**

Ms. Tina King is the executive director for the New River Valley Agency on Aging. Her work involves planning, administering, promoting, coordinating, and implementing programs for older adults in the 4<sup>th</sup> Planning District of Virginia. Prior to assuming this position in 2006, she worked in various capacities within the agency. Tina completed graduate work at Virginia Tech in 2002 and earned a master of science in education with a concentration in Health Promotion in order to enhance her work with older adults in promoting healthy aging. She serves on several state, regional, and local councils and boards, including the Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Southwest Regional Alcohol Aging and Awareness Group, the Local Long Term Care Council, the Radford University School of Social Work Professional Advisory Council, the New River Valley Livability Initiative, and the Partnership for Access to Health Care. Tina looks forward to serving on the Futures Board and working with other members in planning, supporting, and promoting the Center's endeavors with programs, activities, and educational opportunities for students.

### **Kathy Miller**

Ms. Kathy Miller serves as the Director of Programs at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). In that capacity, she provides oversight of staff responsible for programmatic management of Older Americans Act services, the State Health Insurance Program, the Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Grant, the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program, the Virginia GrandDriver Highway Safety Grant, and various other initiatives. Prior to joining the VDA Management Team, Kathy was the Director of Home and Community Services at Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging. In addition to her experience in the aging network, she is a Registered Nurse with an extensive background in home health and human services administration. Thus, Kathy brings to the Board valuable knowledge about aging services, program management experience, and health care expertise. She anticipates consulting with Center faculty on aging education and training content, particularly from the in-home provider/aide perspective.

## **Kathy Pryor**

Ms. Kathy Pryor is the Elder Law Attorney with the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), the statewide support center that provides legal aid throughout Virginia will join the Futures Board in Spring 2014. Kathy obtained her law degree from University of Virginia in 1989, and has worked at the VPLC since 2005. At VPLC, Kathy provides technical assistance, training, and co-counseling to legal services advocates and long term care ombudsmen around the state on elder law issues, and is an advocate for systemic change around elder law and long term care issues in the administrative and legislative arenas. Kathy brings a background in Gerontology and elder law to the Futures Board and hopes to bring attention to issues such as low income seniors in long-term care facilities, programs that allow older adults to age in place safely and with a high quality of life, and the need for a culture change within nursing facilities to resident-centered care.

### *Center Welcomes New Graduate Research Assistants*

This fall the Center also welcomed two new graduate students. Yujun Liu and Sujee Kim are working with the faculty and returning graduate research assistants Michelle Butner, Emma Potter, and Raven Weaver. We are excited to have them join the Center team!

Yujun Liu is a first-year Graduate Certificate in Gerontology student and doctoral student in the Adult Development and Aging program in the Department of Human Development. She holds a Master of Social Work from George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and a BS in Administration from China Agricultural University, Beijing. Yujun is working with Drs. Roberto and Savla on various research projects this semester. Yujun's research interests include productive aging, community services for seniors, and dementia care. She enjoys reading, playing Chinese violin, painting, and swimming.



**Yujun Liu and Sujee Kim**

Sujee Kim also is enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology Program and is a first-year doctoral student in the Adult Development and Aging program. She holds a Master of Science in Human Development Family Sciences from the Ohio State University and two BAs in Counseling Psychology and Social Welfare from Handong University, South Korea. At the Center she works primarily with Dr. Savla studying changes in couple and family relationships in the context of mild cognitive impairment. She enjoys reading, cooking, and Korean food.

### *The Center Bids Farewell and Best Wishes*

The Center for Gerontology greatly appreciates and wishes to thank Ms. Debbie Petrine for her support of the Center. Debbie served as a member of the Center's Futures Board from 2007 to 2013. During her time on the Board, she was instrumental in promoting the activities of the Center and supporting participation of several of the residential care facilities that are part of her company, Commonwealth Care of Roanoke Inc. (CCR), in the Center's slips and falls research. Debbie has relinquished her seat on the Futures board in light of her recent appointment as Vice Rector of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. We wish her much success and are grateful for her contributions to the Center and continued service to Virginia Tech.



In May, the Center said goodbye to long-time Research Associate, Ms. Marya McPherson. Marya joined the Center for Gerontology as a Graduate Student Research Assistant in 2007 while she earned her Master's degree in Human Development and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. She continued on as a Research Associate until accepting a newly created position as Associate Director of the Mental Health Association of the NRV (MHA). During her time at the Center, Marya worked closely with Center faculty on several major initiatives including the MCI longitudinal research project, the Intimate Partner Violence and Rural Aging Women community-based research project, elder abuse research and the community dialogues on financial elder abuse, and a community needs assessment for the NRV Agency on Aging. Her current role at MHA involves advocacy, community education, and program development for improved community response to mental health challenges across the lifespan. We thank Marya for all the good work she did to advance aging issues while at the Center and look forward to working with her in her new community role.



### **Hold the Date!**

**18th Annual Graduate Certificate and Awards Celebration  
April 9, 2014, 7:00-9:00 pm at Fralin Life Science Institute Auditorium  
Keynote Speaker Dr. Norah Keating, University of Alberta, Canada**

## *Thanks for Making a Difference!*

Your donation to the Center for Gerontology supports a variety of activities including student travel to professional meetings, special publications, scholarships, and professional development activities. This year, Michelle Butner, Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and doctoral student in Human Development, expressed her gratitude in receiving the Futures Board Scholarship:

*"I am so grateful for the Futures Board scholarship. It has enabled me to collaborate with faculty members to develop research questions, analyze data from Center studies, and present my findings at this year's Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting. The award will help me travel to New Orleans to represent the Center for Gerontology and present my collaborative work on the impact of attending religious services on the positive affect for spousal care partners of persons with MCI. After presenting the poster, faculty co-authors and I will continue preparing the manuscript for journal submission."*

Donations can be mailed directly to the Center, or made on-line:

<http://www.givingto.vt.edu>

## *Center for Gerontology Staff*

Karen A. Roberto, Ph.D., Professor & Director

Rosemary Blieszner, Ph.D., Alumni Distinguished Professor & Associate Director

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

Nancy Brossoie, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate

Megan Stuart, M.P.H., Project Manager

Carlene Arthur, B.S., Administrative Assistant

Michelle Butner, M.S., Sujee Kim, M.S., Yujun Liu, M.S.W., Emma Potter, M.S., and

Raven Weaver, B.A., Graduate Research Assistants

## *Contact Us*

237 Wallace Hall

Center for Gerontology (0426)

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Phone: (540) 231-7657 Fax: (540) 231-7157

<http://www.gerontology.vt.edu>

[gero@vt.edu](mailto:gero@vt.edu)



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.

“Virginia Tech hires only U.S. citizens and those eligible to work in the U.S.” Virginia Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer