

John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholars Program: Scholar's Biosketches

Cohort XI

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Scholar's Name: Leslie K. Hasche

School: University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare

Dr. Leslie Hasche, L.C.S.W, assistant professor at the University of Kansas' School of Social Welfare, is interested in direct social work practice related to mental health and gerontology. Through her Hartford Faculty Scholarship, she will extend her research to understanding organizational influences on the adoption of evidence-based depression care for older adults. This research is conducted in partnership with the National Council on Aging and the treatment developers of Healthy IDEAS. Her scholarship builds directly from her history of researching community-based services' response to mental health needs of older adults and her practice experiences in health and mental health care settings.

During her doctoral education at Washington University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work, she received funding from both the National Institute of Mental Health and the John A. Hartford Foundation to support her education as a social work researcher. Dr. Hasche has published scholarly articles on the mental health needs of older adults receiving community-based social services in journals such as *The Gerontologist*, *Psychiatric Services*, and *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. She has experience collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data, and used multi-level modeling in her dissertation work.

Dr. Hasche enjoys integrating her research and previous practice experience into teaching direct practice social work courses. She has taught research methods, direct practice seminars, human behavior and gerontology courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Scholar's Name: Eunjeong Ko

School: San Diego State University

Eunjeong Ko is an assistant professor at San Diego State University School of Social Work. She received a MSW at the Hunter College, City University of New York and a PhD at the University of Kansas with a concentration in Gerontology. Prior to joining her Ph.D. program, she worked as a medical social worker and psychotherapist at the community-based hospital in New York City. She currently teaches social work practice courses.

Eunjeong's research focuses on ethnic/racial disparity in health care access and utilization. In particular, she focuses on end-of-life care planning and communication among older adults, family members and health care professionals. Eunjeong has conducted several studies on these topics and presented her findings on state and national conferences, and published in peer-review journals.

Scholar's Name: Jung Kwak

School: University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Dr. Jung Kwak is Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Kwak's primary research areas focus on surrogate end-of-life care decision-making and developing caregiver support interventions to facilitate informed caregiving decision-making and improve mental health outcomes among family caregivers. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on research methods and statistics.

Dr. Kwak recently completed a case study with Dr. Betty Kramer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison which examined end-of-life care coordination in the Wisconsin Family Care program. Currently, she is serving as a project director for a multi-site, randomized control trial of care management intervention designed to improve caregiver outcomes. She also recently received grant funding to identify caregiving and decision-support needs among spouses of persons with Parkinson's disease. She is collaborating on this project with Dr. Gary Leo from the Parkinson Research Institute (PRI) at Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Kwak's scholarly work on end-of-life care and caregiving has been published in journals including *Aging and Society*, *American Journal of Nursing*, *The Gerontologist*, and *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Dr. Kwak received her doctorate in aging studies from the University of South Florida and completed her post-doctoral training as a fellow at the Center on Age and Community, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee.

Scholar's Name: Tina Maschi

School: Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

Tina Maschi is an Assistant Professor at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service in New York, New York. Dr. Maschi earned her master's and doctorate in Social Work from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Currently, she is a Faculty Research Scholar at Fordham University's Ravazzin Center on Aging. Her interest in gerontological research in the criminal justice system is part of a natural progression of her earlier scholarship that has examined the impact of trauma and other psychosocial and environmental stressors on criminal offending during childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Her current research centers on older adults in the criminal justice system, particularly unraveling the relationship between trauma, coping resources, and physical and mental well-being among older adults in prison.

To date, Dr. Maschi has obtained both extramural and intramural funding to conduct gerontological research and evaluation projects. The 2010 John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Scholar Award supplies her with the mentorship and support to more fully examine the relationship between trauma, coping resources, and physical and mental well being among older adults in prison. This Hartford project builds upon earlier intramural funded studies from Fordham University in which Dr. Maschi partnered with the New Jersey Department of Corrections to assess the common psychosocial issues, including trauma, impacting the aging prisoner population using a random sample of 114 older adult prisoners, case record reviews and in-person interviews. Additionally, Dr. Maschi has served as the project director for the Baccalaureate Experiential Learning (BEL) Project, which was funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation through the Council on Social Work Education's Gero-Ed Center in 2006. Dr. Maschi has been instrumental in designing, implementing, and evaluating, this oral history project that provides BASW students with increased exposure to older adults with personal or family histories of immigration. In 2008, the BEL project was later extended to include MSW students and provides a website (<http://www.fordham.edu/belproject>) that is available to other social work educators and the public at large to access free guides and video and audio podcasts on how to conduct culturally competent oral histories with older adults with histories of immigration.

Dr. Maschi's research has important implications towards advancing gerontological social work in criminal justice and social work education settings. Her research on social work education serves to increase students' interest in and competencies with older adults. Moreover, Dr. Maschi has a growing publication track record on older adult offenders and has presented at national and local conferences. Her scholarship is designed to fill a critical gap in the literature by addressing the all too often neglected aging prisoner population and informing practices and policies impacting older adult prisoners.

Scholar's Name: Noell L. Rowan

School: University of Louisville

Dr. Noell Rowan is Assistant Professor and Director, BSW Program, Kent School of Social Work at University of Louisville. She has a BSW and an MSW from University of Georgia and has worked primarily in mental health and addictions treatment settings for the past 20 years in public and private settings, including private practice. She holds clinical licensure in both Kentucky and Indiana as well as special certification in alcohol and other drug counseling. She earned a PhD in social work in 2002 from the joint University of Louisville and University of Kentucky doctoral program.

Her dissertation research was a quantitative study of testing a statistical model of treatment success for LGBT chemically dependent clients. Subsequently, she has collaborated with national colleagues on several grants to explore the predictors of success in treatment of LGBT clients of gay specific and mainstream addiction treatment centers. She joined the faculty at University of Louisville in 2005 as Assistant Research Professor and was involved in the original creation of the BSW Program as Co-Director in 2007-2008, wherein she continues to lead toward initial accreditation. During her time as research faculty, she was also involved in several local, state and federal grants involving the study of health and mental health of older adults in Kentucky in both the metropolitan Louisville area and outlying rural counties. She was the Co-Principal Investigator of the Hartford Partnership Project for Aging Education (HPPAE) which brought about the creation of the gerontology specialization in the MSSW Program at Kent School of Social Work. In this endeavor, she has mentored several students at the master's level within this specialization and many of her mentees have been awarded Kent School and University of Louisville as well as state and national level honors in gerontology.

In 2009, she was honored for the Best Research in LGBT at the Diversity Symposium held at Ball State University. In addition, Noell was honored by the Kentucky Association for Gerontology as the outstanding educator in gerontology in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2007 for exceptional effort in teaching geriatrics and gerontology wherein she was nominated by one of her gerontology students. She was also awarded the Metroversity Award for Instructional Development in 2006 for innovative teaching in gerontology. She has begun a record of scholarship in the areas of gerontology, substance abuse/addictions, and the lesbian and gay population with nine peer reviewed articles and a book chapter. While working on her multiple scholarship endeavors with local and national colleagues, she has simultaneously worked to develop the new BSW program and is infusing gerontological content within the undergraduate curriculum.

Scholar's Name: Fei Sun

School: Arizona State University

Fei Sun is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Arizona State University (ASU). He is also a research affiliate with ASU's Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center and the University of Alabama's Center of Mental Health and Aging. He is originally from China and received his BA and MA in sociology from Nanjing University. He came to the U.S. in 2003 and received his M.S.W. and Ph.D. in Social Work at the University of Alabama.

Fei Sun had received a number of awards as a doctoral student, such as Spain Hickman Scholarship for International Students, Outstanding Accomplishment in Biostatistics Award given by the Applied Statistics Program at the University of Alabama, and the Graduate Council Fellowship awarded by the Graduate School of The University of Alabama.

Fei Sun's research interests in gerontological social work focus on two areas: 1) longitudinal changes in cognitive and physical functioning of older adults across ethnicity and cultural groups; and 2) Alzheimer's caregiving among ethnic minority groups and their formal service utilization. He has published articles using federal funded data from the Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver's Health (REACH), Dementia Caregiving Study in Rural Alabama, and the Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey. He is also working on projects that involve data collection on Chinese dementia family caregivers living in Phoenix in the U.S. and in Shanghai of China under the support from the ASU's School of Social Work Research Incentive funds.

Fei Sun's commitment to improving the quality of lives among older adults is also reflected in his community services and teaching. He currently serves on the Asian American Older Adults Council and the Older Refugee Council with the Phoenix Area Agency on Aging. Fei Sun has taught graduate and undergraduate courses on social policy and research methods. He offers an online graduate course "*Aging: in Social Work Perspective*" to health professions students and professionals across the state of Arizona.

Scholar's Name: Robin P. Bonifas

School: Arizona State University

Robin P. Bonifas has served as an assistant professor at Arizona State University's School of Social Work since 2007. Before beginning her academic career, Dr. Bonifas was a clinical social worker for 15 years and provided direct practice and consultation in nursing homes and geropsychiatric hospitals in Washington State and Southern California. Prior to entering the social work profession, she spent five years as a direct care worker in a nursing home, providing hands on care to facility residents.

Dr. Bonifas received her BSW, MSW, and PhD from the University of Washington in Seattle. Her doctoral dissertation was funded by a John A. Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in Geriatric Social Work and focused on identifying multilevel factors associated with positive outcomes in psychosocial care in nursing homes in Washington State.

In terms of research interests, Dr. Bonifas has two areas of emphasis: one centers on enhancing psychosocial care for individuals living in long-term care settings and the other centers on preparing social work students for effective practice with older adults across all areas of specialization. Her work has been published in several peer-reviewed journals and her research findings have been presented at numerous local, national, and international conferences. Her recent work on bullying among older adults has been featured in several newspapers across the country.

She teaches advanced direct practice in the MSW program at ASU with responsibility for courses in health/behavioral health, medical social work, and geriatric mental health.

Dr. Bonifas grew up in Bothell, Washington, a small town northeast of Seattle. Both of her parents and her mother-in-law currently require long-term care services. During her free time, she enjoys hiking, gardening, cooking, reading, and taking care of her four cats.

Scholar's Name: Lori Daniels, Ph.D., LCSW

VA Affiliation: Portland Vet Center, Readjustment Counseling Services, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Lori Daniels earned her MSW from the University of Chicago in 1987 and worked as a social worker/psychotherapist for the VAMC American Lake (Tacoma, WA) inpatient PTSD program for 2 ½ years (1988-1990) and then helped develop an dual disorder outpatient PTSD program from 1990-1992. In 1992, she moved to Honolulu, HI where she worked for 9 years as the Director of the Traumatic Stress Recovery Program/PTSD Clinical Team, overseeing a VA-based multidisciplinary outpatient clinic. She began her doctoral studies in 1996 at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. In 2001-2002, Dr. Daniels was selected as the Pre-doctoral VA Social Work Fellow and was able to complete her research through the National Center for PTSD – Pacific Islands Division. During her work with the National Center, she also co-produced a VA nationally distributed video series: *PTSD among Asian-American/Pacific Islander Veterans: Perspectives for Mental Health Providers, Medical Providers, Veterans and their Families*.

Her doctoral dissertation topic focused on social support among PTSD-diagnosed Vietnam veterans. After receiving her Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2002, Dr. Daniels began working full-time as an Assistant Professor of Social Work for Hawai'i Pacific University (Honolulu, HI) and also remained as a Consultant with the National Center for PTSD – Pacific Islands Division until 2008.

For the past 19 years, Dr. Daniels has presented information about her work with war-related PTSD, specifically on the use of traumatic-nightmares in therapy, at several International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) Annual Meetings. In addition, she was the Co-chair of an annual community-based conference: *Stress, Violence, and Trauma: Promoting Community Resilience* (Honolulu, HI) from 2004-2009. In mid-2008, Dr. Daniels returned to the mainland and began working in her current position for the Portland Vet Center (Portland, OR) as the Military Sexual Trauma Psychotherapist, providing individual and group therapy for survivors of military sexual assault.

Scholar's Name: Bryan K. Ford, PhD, MSW

VA Affiliation: Special Fellow in Advanced Geriatrics Research in the Geriatric Research, Education, & Clinical Center at Birmingham VA Medical Center

Education/Training

Samford University	B.S.	1996	English
University of Alabama	M.S.W.	2000	Social Work
University of Alabama	Ph.D.	2007	Gerontology/Social Work

Positions and Employment

- 1999-2000 Adolescent Substance Abuse Counselor, University of Alabama at Birmingham Psychiatric / Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, Birmingham, AL
- 2000-2001 Psychiatric Social Worker, Hill Crest Behavioral Health Services, Birmingham, AL
- 2001-2002 Therapist, Woods Therapeutic Services Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- 2003-2004 Group Therapist & Case Manager, Tuscaloosa County Public Defender's Office, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2007-2008 Graduate School Faculty, School of Social Work, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
- 2009-2010 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology & Social Work, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- 2008-2010 Consultant, Founder, CaringSource, LLC, Birmingham, AL
- 2008-2010 Special Fellow in Advanced Geriatrics, Geriatric, Research, Education and Clinical Center, Birmingham VA Medical Center, Birmingham, AL.
- 2011- Adjunct Instructor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, & Palliative Care, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Selected Peer-reviewed Publications

1. Gabbard, W. J., Ford, B. K., & May, J. D. (2006, May). The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act: A historical overview. *Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless, 15*, 99-116.
2. Kaufman, A., Scogin, F., Burgio, L., Ford, B., & Morthland, M. (2007). Meeting the challenges of conducting clinical gerontological mental health research in rural communities. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work.*
3. Ford, B. K., Shino, K. J., Sander, E., & Hardin, M. (2008). SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) and STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) Programs: The Private Sector, Public Sector and University Trifecta. *Journal of Research Administration, 39 (1)*, 58-77.
4. Klemmack, D. L., Roff, L. L., & Ford, B. K. (2009). An Empirically Based Typology of Religiousness/Spirituality for Use in Social Work. *Journal of Social Service Research*

Scholar's Name: Joseph Hunter, PhD, LCSW, ICDAC

VA Affiliation: Albany Stratton Veterans Administration Hospital

Dr. Joseph Hunter is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Samuel S. Stratton Medical Center located in Albany, New York. Dr. Hunter started his VA career at Stratton in October, 2007, and has since assumed the role of the Acting Regional (VISN 2) Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator. In this capacity, he has led and participated in numerous regional and national suicide prevention meetings and projects. He is also a member of VA's National Social Work Research Committee for Research and Evidence-Based Practices.

Prior to his coming to VA, Dr. Hunter was a New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and an Internationally Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (ICADC). Having been the recipient of a SAMHSA Dissertation Award, in May of 2010, Dr. Hunter completed his Ph.D. in Social Welfare at the University of Albany, State University of New York. In his 20 years of experience working in the human services field, he has worked in outpatient, inpatient, and residential levels of care, within county, state, federal, for-profit, and not-for-profit settings. He has held a wide variety of roles in his social work career thus far, including therapist, addiction program specialist, team leader, care manager, quality management specialist, program coordinator, and researcher. Dr. Hunter's research interests to date have generated studies in the areas of spirituality in adult outpatient chemical dependency treatment programs, adolescent chemical dependency evidence-based practices, and most recently older veterans at risk for suicide.

Dr. Hunter's Hartford Scholar research study entitled, "Meaning and Purpose to Prevent Suicides: A Randomized Controlled Trial," is designed to test the efficacy of a suicide prevention intervention for at-risk Veterans ages 50 and older. This study is funded by the Office of the National Director of Mental Health, Suicide Prevention. The intervention tested is entitled, "Building on Strengths according to Interests to develop Meaning and Purpose in Life Experiences" (SIMPLE), and it was developed by Dr. Hunter with input from both mental health providers and consumers of mental health services at the Stratton VAMC. The intervention relies on a conceptualization of suicide risk that is consistent with the propositions asserted in Dr. Hunter's own "Self Preservation Theory," and the unpublished manuscript describing the theory will be submitted for publication over the summer of 2011.

Scholar's Name: Edna Naito-Chan

VA Affiliation: VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System-Veterans Community Employee Development

Edna Naito-Chan, Ph.D., M.S.W., L.C.S.W. is the Associate Director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) Veterans Community Employee Development Program, which provides work therapy and vocational rehabilitation services to veterans experiencing medical and psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, homelessness and other psychosocial problems. Dr. Naito-Chan is also Adjunct Associate Professor with the University of Southern California School of Social Work Virtual Academic Center. She is a licensed clinical social worker with 20 years of clinical and administrative experience in the fields of geriatrics, palliative medicine, mental health, and veteran's issues. Dr. Naito-Chan specializes in geriatric social work and has spent most of her professional career delivering clinical services to older veterans and their families in extended and long-term care settings, such as the VA nursing home and hospice programs.

Dr. Naito-Chan's research interests are veterans' health and well-being, social support networks in older adults, and geriatric social work competencies. She was selected as a Hartford Geriatric Social Work Doctoral Fellow for her doctoral research on the relationship between social support networks and health in older adults. She has also collected and analyzed data used to develop geriatric social work competencies for the Hartford Social Work Field Training Initiative. As a Hartford/VA Geriatric Social Work Scholar, Dr. Naito-Chan is currently investigating work therapy outcomes in older adults. She has publications in such peer-reviewed journals as the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* and has co-authored a chapter on social work practice in home care settings in the *Handbook of Social Work in Health and Aging* (2006).

Dr. Naito-Chan has had previous teaching appointments at the University of California-Los Angeles and at other universities within the California State University system. She has taught social work courses in human behavior and the social environment, research, aging, and social services administration. Over the past two decades, she has served as a VA field instructor to social work graduate students, and as an educator to veterans and their families on various topics such as advance directives, bereavement, care giving, community resources, and post-stroke management. In addition, she provides clinical supervision to social work staff members preparing for licensure.

Dr. Naito-Chan earned her B.A. (1981) in East Asian Studies from the University of California-Los Angeles, her M.S.W. (1991) from California State University-Long Beach, and her Ph.D. (2005) in Social Welfare from the University of California-Los Angeles.

Scholar's Name: Juyoung Park

School: Florida Atlantic University

Juyoung Park, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University. Before earning the doctorate, she served as a social worker with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

Dr. Park earned a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and MSW and BA degrees from the University of South Carolina. Her doctoral dissertation was an examination of risk factors associated with opioid medication misuse in community-dwelling older adults with chronic pain. Her previous research work and publications addressed pain medication misuse/abuse and mental health in older adults with chronic pain.

Dr. Park's current research interests focus on nonpharmacological pain therapies in older adults with chronic pain (e.g., Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Yoga, Touch Therapy, Water Exercise). In particular, she is interested in conducting intervention studies to identify effective pain interventions for ethnically diverse older adults. She recently conducted an intervention study to determine the effect of chair yoga, touch therapy, and education in management of osteoarthritis pain in community-dwelling older adults.

Dr. Park currently teaches *Social Work with Aging Populations* and *Research Methods* at Florida Atlantic University. She has also taught *Program Evaluation* and *Human Behavior and the Social Environment*.

Scholar's Name: Nicole Ruggiano

School: Florida International University

Nicole Ruggiano, PhD, is an Assistant Professor within the School of Social Work at Florida International University (FIU). Dr. Ruggiano earned a B.A. in psychology from the University of Delaware (Newark, DE) in 2000 and a M.S.W. from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA) in 2004. In 2008, she completed her Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware.

Dr. Ruggiano's larger research interests are in the management and administration of aging services. Her doctoral dissertation focused on the organizational management and structure of intergenerational shared sites. Findings from this study have been presented at national conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. She is currently interested in research on consumer directed home and community-based services, where care recipients coordinate service delivery, rather than agencies. Specifically, she intends to examine the skills, knowledge, and resources that older adults utilize to manage the support services they receive under a consumer direction service model. Dr. Ruggiano also participates in multi-disciplinary research projects with faculty from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at FIU that focus on aging.

In addition to research, Dr. Ruggiano teaches courses in social welfare policy and macro social work practice at the B.S.W., M.S.W., and Ph.D. levels within the School of Social Work at FIU. As a macro practitioner, she has worked on several social planning and advocacy projects that address issues facing older adults. Currently, she is working on projects that aim at addressing the needs of older adults in Southeast Florida through her collaborations with the United Way of Miami-Dade County and the Alliance for Aging, the Area Agency on Aging for Dade and Monroe Counties.

Scholar's Name: Paul Sacco

School: University of Maryland

Paul Sacco received his MSW from Arizona State University in 1995, and worked as a psychiatric social worker from 1995 until 2005 when he returned to complete his PhD in Social Work. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and joined the faculty of the School of Social Work in 2009. His dissertation, "Taking the Edge Off: The Role of Stressful Events and Perceived Stress on Alcohol Use and Problems among Older Adults" was funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse.

Dr. Sacco's research focuses on the intersection of life course development, aging and addictive behaviors. Specifically, he has conducted research on the epidemiology of alcohol use and pathological gambling among older adults. He is currently conducting research on secular trends in alcohol treatment utilization among middle-aged and older adults and trends in alcohol-related hospitals admissions.

Scholar's Name: M. Lori Thomas

School: University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Lori Thomas has served as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte since 2008. She completed her PhD in Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia in 2008 and her MSW with a concentration in Social Work Administration and Policy Practice from VCU in 2006. She completed her Master of Divinity degree in 1997 and her Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1993.

Lori's research is in the area of homelessness, particularly older adult homelessness and homelessness among those experiencing trauma, serious mental illness, and co-occurring disorders. In addition to the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program, Lori is currently directing a study of the homeless and health service utilization patterns of older, homeless adults in the Greater Charlotte area. She is the principal investigator of an evaluation study of permanent supportive housing programs in Charlotte and is a consulting investigator on the evaluation of the Workforce Initiative for Supportive Housing (WISH) program. Lori is also interested in the intersection of religion and social welfare, completing national collaborative research on best practices in faith-based human services and dissertation research on faith-based advocacy organizations. These two research interests intertwine as a significant portion of homeless services are provided by faith-based organizations.

Lori has over 10 years of work experience in affordable housing and homeless services that contribute to her research. Most recently, she coordinated and directed the development and implementation of a permanent housing and comprehensive mental health program for homeless individuals in the Greater Richmond, Virginia area. On November 19, 2009, the program received the Best Housing Program Award at the Governor's Housing Conference in Virginia. Her research efforts are enriched by past experience and by her continued involvement in the homeless services and affordable housing community. She is currently the chair of the Research and Evaluation Committee on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing and is a member of Charlotte's Emergency Food and Shelter Grant Board.

Scholar's Name: Karla T. Washington

School: Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work, University of Louisville

Karla T. Washington, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville's Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work, an appointment she has held since 2009. She earned a PhD (2009) and MSW (2000) at the University of Missouri School of Social Work and earned a BA in Biology (1997) at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Her research agenda focuses on hospice and palliative care, primarily strategies to strengthen social work services to patients and their family caregivers. As a member of the Telehospice Project, she is part of a national interdisciplinary effort to improve services to hospice patients and families through the use of telehealth technologies. As such, she serves as a consultant on two NINR-sponsored randomized controlled trials of telehealth interventions in the hospice setting. She also frequently partners with other researchers within the Kent School of Social Work and investigators at the University of Louisville's Interdisciplinary Program for Palliative Care and Chronic Illness. Her research has been disseminated in numerous peer-reviewed journals and at local, state, and national conferences.

During her doctoral education, Dr. Washington was the recipient of the Jane Bierdeman Fike Doctoral Fellowship in Social Work, the University of Missouri Graduate Student Association Superior Achievement Award, and the John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Pre-Dissertation Award and Doctoral Fellowship. As a Hartford Doctoral Fellow, she conducted a qualitative study of pain management strategies among informal hospice caregivers. As a Hartford Faculty Scholar, she will build on that work, examining the relationships among patient symptom burden, caregiver coping responses, and caregiver psychological distress. She plans to use findings from this research to inform the development of a social work intervention for informal hospice caregivers.

At the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work, Dr. Washington currently teaches Human Behavior and the Social Environment in the BSW program and serves on dissertation committees for students interested in aging, bereavement, and qualitative research. In the past, she also taught Social Gerontology in the Kent School's MSSW gerontology specialization. In addition to research and teaching, Dr. Washington serves on the editorial board of *Research on Aging* and serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several other journals focused on aging and end-of-life issues.

Scholar's Name: Amanda T. Woodward

School: Michigan State University

Amanda Woodward has served as an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University (MSU) since January 2007. Amanda received a BA in Economics from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, an A.M. from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, and a PhD in Social Work and Sociology from the University of Michigan.

Overall, Amanda's research focuses on help-seeking among older adults and racial and ethnic minorities, particularly those who are struggling with mental health problems. This includes the use of different types of professional services and informal supports, as well as their integration, either simultaneously as complementary supports or consecutively as individuals move in and out of health and social service systems. It also includes furthering our understanding of factors that contribute to disparities in service use. To date, Amanda has pursued two streams of research in this area. The first is an epidemiological approach using data from the Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys (CPES). The second is a set of community-based projects on the role of information and communication technologies (e.g., email, the Internet) in the lives of older adults.

Amanda teaches research courses at both the MSW and Doctoral levels as well as an online elective on Evidence-Based Practice in Mental Health and Aging. She is also leading a pilot study abroad program to Finland with two other faculty members in Summer 2011. The program is for MSW students and focuses on comparative social welfare policy. Over the course of two weeks, students will visit a variety of social service agencies in Helsinki and Tampere and meet with practitioners, researchers, and social work students to learn about social work education and practice in Finland and the pros and cons of service delivery under a different social welfare structure.

When she isn't working, Amanda sings in the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, reads an unfathomable number of mystery novels, and gardens as the Michigan weather allows.