



49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

***Aging Reframed:  
Empowering Generations  
for Impact***

*Hosted by:*

The Ohio State University

*Columbus, Ohio*

**April 16-17, 2026**

## Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology

Advancing the well-being of older adults by promoting high-quality health and social services through education, research and consultation.

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# Proud to host the 2026 OAGE Conference

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# A Message from the OAGE President

## **Daniel J. Van Dussen, PhD**

President, OAGE Board of Directors  
Professor, Youngstown State University



Dear OAGE Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) Student and Professional Conference. Thank you to the local arrangements team at Ohio State University. Our conference theme is “*Aging Reframed: Empowering Generations for Impact.*”

Our conference begins with a preconference workshop with Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging CEO, Beth Kowalzeck. The topic of this session is “*Reframing Aging*” and will address topics such as how aging is perceived and ways to work with older adults.

This year is the second year for our Research Forum. This is an interactive session for new research directions between researchers and institutions. The posters in this session encourage matchmaking for research collaboration and to highlight the deep bench of gerontological researchers in Ohio. We would like to thank Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging for sponsoring this event.

Dr. Derenda Schubert's Keynote Address on Friday is titled, “*All Ages, One Vision: Creating Connections, Changing Generations.*” Dr. Schubert is a licensed psychologist and nationally recognized advocate for intergenerational community building. Dr. Schubert is the Executive Director of Bridge Meadows, an innovative intergenerational community design that intersects housing child welfare, senior housing, and health in one model. We look forward to her insights.

Thursday afternoon, please join us for Ohio Department of Aging’s (AGE) Director Ursel McElroy who will present the State Plan on Aging and other important initiatives from our State Unit on Aging.

Our two-day conference has a lot to offer. The concurrent sessions cover breakthroughs in research, teaching, and practice in gerontology from multiple perspectives. These symposia, workshops, poster sessions, and collections of papers create an atmosphere of discovery and information exchange.

OAGE Board and Committee members have been very busy this year. We gave testimony to the Ohio Senate and House on the impact of the OAGE/AGE Scholars in Aging. We also welcomed our 14<sup>th</sup> cohort of Scholars in Aging this spring. The Scholar’s posters will be on display before the Presidential Reception on Thursday afternoon.

This past year, we collaborated with the Maryland Gerontological Association (MGA) to offer a Careers and Conversation virtual event for our students from both states who are interested in aging. It included speakers from Anthem, The American Association of Service Coordinators, Brightview Senior Living, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Several other events are planned for the upcoming academic year.

I would like to thank our entire Board of Directors for their hard work this year. I also want to thank our outgoing Board members: Emma Griffey, Shannon Jarrott, Ling Liou, Rick Meeker, Victoria Steiner, Jennifer Wagner, and Amy Weaver. Their dedication to OAGE has helped raise the profile of our organization.

Welcome our new board members: Donna Barrett, Summit County Public Health Department; Jamie Herrman, CEO of Area Agency on Aging 7 (Rio Grande); Heather Menne, Miami University; Kylie Meyer, Case Western Reserve University; Ella Perry, Ohio University; and Renee Zuccherro, Xavier University. We also welcome our Treasurer-Elect Cheryl Kanetsky. She will help continue OAGE's growth and financial health lead by current OAGE Treasurer Ken Wilson of Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio.

Our volunteer structure depends on all of us to achieve our mission. If you are interested in becoming more involved in OAGE, please contact me ([djvandussen@ysu.edu](mailto:djvandussen@ysu.edu)) or stop by the OAGE display table during our conference.

Thank you to all our sponsors. We are grateful for your generosity; our organization would not be possible without your support. This support includes donations to the Pam Matura Memorial Student Travel Award fund. Please make sure to stop by the display tables during breaks.

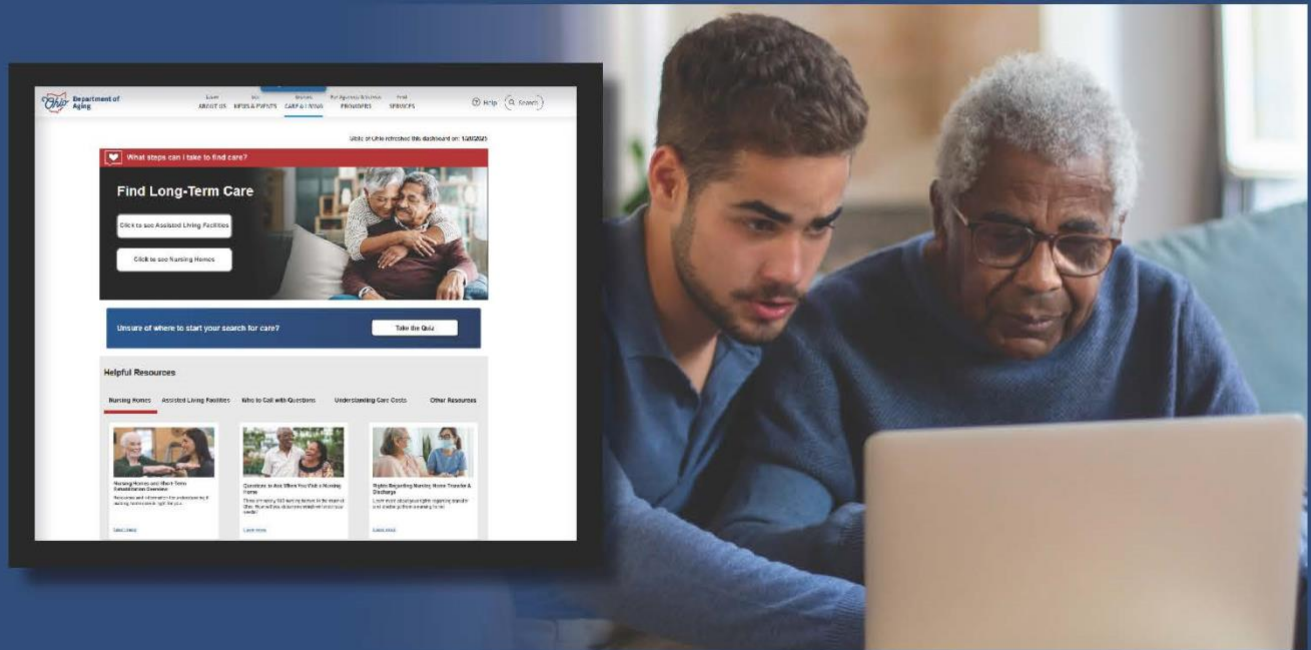
This year has been challenging in higher education. Gerontological education has never been more important. OAGE is taking the lead in advocating for increased expertise in gerontological education, research, and practice in Ohio. Our members are needed to help us grow interest in the field of aging.

Sincerely,



Dan Van Dussen

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# OAGE Board Members

## Executive Board

- **Daniel J. Van Dussen** (President) – Professor and Researcher in Gerontology and Long-term Care Administration, Youngstown State University
- **Morgan J. Minyo** (Vice President) – Research Scientist, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
- **Ken Wilson** (Treasurer) – Vice President of Programs and Business Operations, Area Agency on Aging; Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
- **Vivian J. Miller** (Secretary) – Associate Professor in Social Work, Director, Center of Excellence for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan, Bowling Green State University
- **Jennifer M. Kinney** (Immediate Past President) – Professor of Gerontology, Miami University

## Board of Trustees

- **Donna Alexander** – Long Term Care Administration Program Coordinator, Kent State University
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- **Julie Brown** – Associate Professor, Department of Social and Public Health, Ohio University
- **Cheryl Conley** – Director of Social Services, MemoryLane Care Services
- **Tina L. Dothard Peterson** – Associate Professor of Social Work, University of Cincinnati
- **Shannon Jarrott** – Professor, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University
- **Cheryl Kanetsky** – Director of Operations and Grant Administration, Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland
- **Jessica Krok-Schoen** – Associate Professor, Division of Health Sciences, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The Ohio State University College of Medicine
- **Chih-ling Liou** – Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science, Kent State University at Stark
- **Richard Meeker** – Community Living Manager/Supervise Adult Protective Services Program, Ohio District 5 AAA
- **Christine Raber** – Administration (Dean); Professor, Occupational Therapy, Shawnee State University
- **Victoria Steiner** – Faculty, Department of Population Health, The University of Toledo
- **Jennifer Wagner** – Associate Professor, Director, Optimal Aging Institute, Bowling Green State University
- **Amy Weaver** – Patricia McGovern Sweeney Professor in Nursing, Youngstown State University

## Student Members

- **Bailee Brekke** – Doctoral Student in Social Gerontology, Graduate Research Assistant, Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University
- **Emma Griffey** – Nursing Student, Ohio University
- **Grace Yarger** – B.S. Long-Term Care Administration Student, President, Kent State Gerontology Club

## Emeritus Trustees

- **Richard R. Haubner** – Director & Associate Professor of Gerontology, College of Mount St. Joseph
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- **Harvey L. Sterns** – Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Director Emeritus and Life Fellow, Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology Institute, The University of Akron

## Ex-Officio Members

- **Alex Lapso** – Legislative Liaison, Ohio Department of Aging
- **Steve Nameth** – Director, Graduate Program Review, Ohio Department of Higher Education
- **Joseph Rossi** – Chief Executive Officer, Direction Home of Eastern Ohio

# 2026 OAGE Conference Planning Committee

## 2026 OAGE Conference Planning Committee Members

- **Morgan Angles** – The Ohio State University
- **Jen Bechtel (Chair, Local Arrangements)** – The Ohio State University
- **Julie Brown** – Ohio University
- **Lauren Feyh** – The Ohio State University
- **Shannon Jarrott** – The Ohio State University
- **Jessica Krok-Schoen** – The Ohio State University
- **Beth Kowalczyk** – The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- **Chih-Ling Liou** – Kent State University
- **Morgan Minyo (Chair)** – Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
- **Marc Molea** – Ohio Department of Aging (Retired)
- **Anna Schramm** – Conference Planner
- **Jennifer Wagner** – Bowling Green State University
- **Ken Wilson** – Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio

*Thank you for all your support, time, and commitment planning the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual OAGE Conference!*

## Schedule at a Glance

### Day 1: Thursday, April 16, 2026

- **9:00 am** – Registration & Check-in
- **9:30 am** – Pre-Conference
- **11:15 am** – Research Forum
- **1:00 pm** – Opening Program
- **2:15 pm** – Breakout Session # 1
- **3:30 pm** – Breakout Session #2
- **4:45 pm** – Scholars in Aging Poster Session & Alumni Networking Event
- **6:00 pm** – President's Welcome Reception
- **7:30 pm** – Student Social

### Day 2: Friday, April 17, 2026

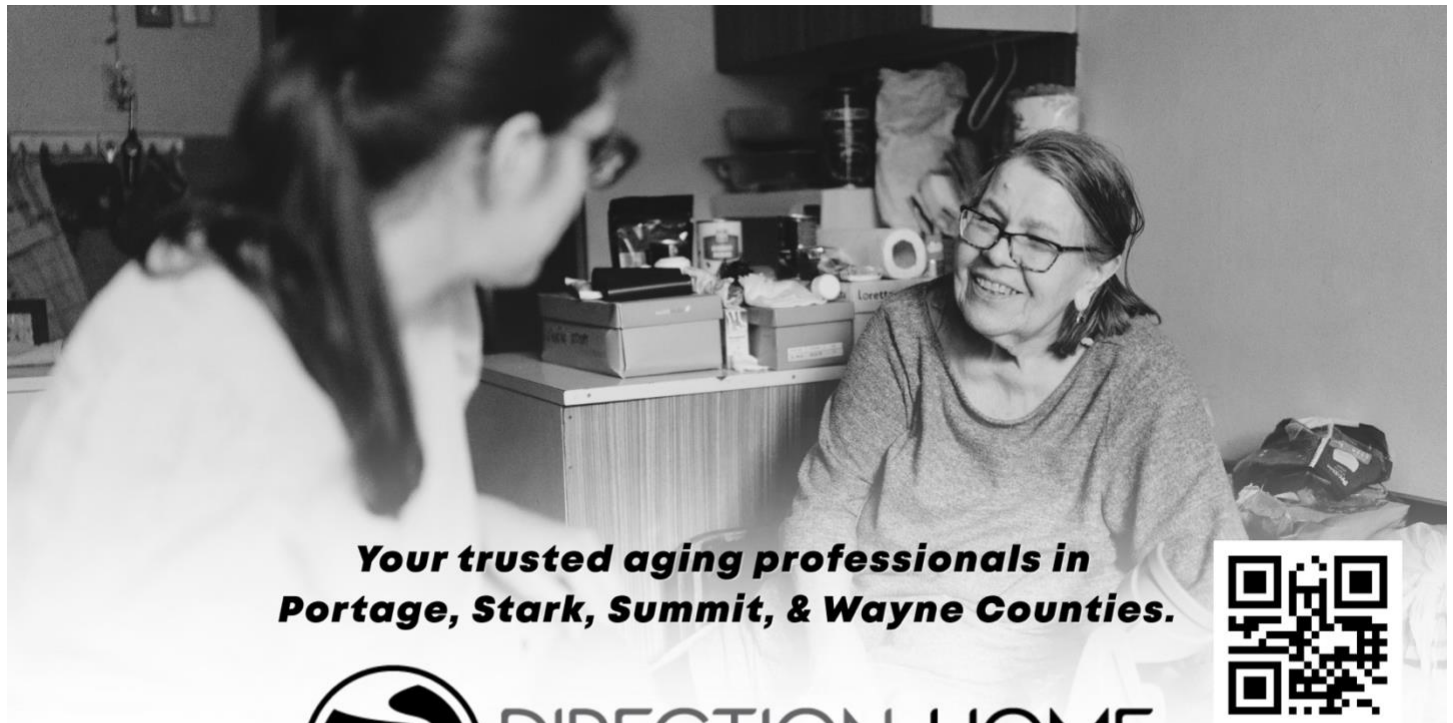
- **7:00 am** – Registration
- **8:00 am** – Opening Program & Keynote
- **9:30 am** – Breakout Session #3
- **10:45 am** – Breakout Session #4
- **11:45 pm** – Lunch & Awards Program
- **1:30 pm** – Breakout Session #5
- **2:45 pm** – Breakout Session # 6
- **4:00 pm** – Poster Session
- **5:30 pm** – Tour of Ohio Stadium
- **7:00 pm** – Board Member Dinner



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# Pre-Conference Speaker – Beth Kowalczyk



## **Beth Kowalczyk, JD**

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging*

Beth Kowalczyk is the Chief Executive Officer for the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Prior to being named CEO, she served for 11 years as the Association's Chief Policy Officer. The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) is a nonprofit Association supporting Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging and advocating on behalf of older Ohioans, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers. Prior to joining o4a, Ms. Kowalczyk was the Bureau Chief for Family Assistance Policy at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, responsible for developing and implementing policies and overseeing grants for public assistance programs. Ms. Kowalczyk started her career with Southeastern

Ohio Legal Services representing low-income Ohioans in civil matters and then joined Ohio State Legal Services Association (now known as the Ohio Poverty Law Center), as the statewide legal services advocate and expert on public assistance and workforce development programs. Ms. Kowalczyk has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kent State University and a Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law.

## **Reframing Aging: How Narrative Change Advances Practice and Policy**

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) is part of a national group of facilitators trained by the FrameWorks Institute and the National Center to Reframe Aging to advance a communication strategy that uses evidence-based interventions to increase understanding of the aging process, support policies and programs for older people, and decrease ageist attitudes. This session will provide a greater understanding of what ageism and age discrimination is and the negative impact on health and longevity. The training will share proven communication strategies and tools to effectively frame aging issues. O4a has successfully used the tools of Reframing Aging to impact public policy supporting older Ohioans. The Reframing Aging Initiative is generating a groundswell for change – from local efforts to national leaders – to tell a more balanced story of aging. This story explains that good ideas know no age limit, and that experience and wisdom can be tapped to benefit us all.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Identify the impact of ageism on health and positive aging outcomes
- Interpret current research on the American public's perceptions of aging
- Demonstrate effective communication strategies related to aging, ageism, and issues important to older adults
- Analyze how ageism influences American society and professional practice
- Explain the concept of "framing" and its role in shaping communication about aging
- Apply techniques to navigate public perceptions and promote constructive thinking about aging

*This training is approved for 1.5 CE clock hours in ethics for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

*This training is approved for 1.5 hours of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services & Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44599-001-C--26.*

# Keynote Speaker – Dr. Derenda Schubert



## **Derenda M. Schubert, PhD**

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Bridge Meadows*

Dr. Derenda Schubert is a licensed psychologist and nationally recognized advocate for intergenerational community building. As the Executive Director of Bridge Meadows, she has advanced a visionary model that brings together youth, families, and elders to create vibrant, supportive neighborhoods rooted in belonging, healing, and joy. Dr. Schubert's background in clinical psychology, combined with her leadership in nonprofit innovation, community development, and systems change, gives her a rare ability to translate human needs into community-based solutions. Her work is grounded in empathy, driven by data, and guided by the belief that healing happens best in relationships. With decades of experience across child welfare, aging, mental health, and housing, she builds bridges between sectors and people, turning bold ideas into places where all generations can thrive. These efforts are recognized by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, which cite Bridge Meadows as a model for addressing the social determinants of health through connection and community. A dynamic speaker and TEDx presenter, Dr. Schubert is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum, an Encore Public Voices Fellow, and a dedicated board member serving organizations committed to health and human potential.

## **All Ages, One Vision: Creating Connections, Changing Generations**

Every conversation, every collaboration, and every relationship you nurture has the potential to shape not just your own future—but the future of those who come before and after you. In a rapidly changing world, the ability to connect across generations is more than a nice-to-have skill; it's a superpower. This presentation invites audience members to explore how intentional intergenerational relationships can spark innovation in the workplace, strengthen support in housing and community living, and deepen personal fulfillment. Through real-world examples, practical strategies, and inspiring stories, you'll discover how your unique perspective can bridge age divides, challenge assumptions, and create lasting impact. Walk away equipped not only to thrive in your own journey, but to empower others—because when we connect across generations, we change the story for everyone.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Demonstrate the value of intergenerational relationships in personal and professional settings
- Provide actionable strategies to foster meaningful connections across age groups
- Discuss how generational collaboration drives innovation, resilience, and well-being
- Identify ways attendees can use their own perspectives and experiences to empower others
- Explore ways to align diverse generational strengths with organizational goals and growth

*This training is approved for 1.25 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

*This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services & Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44625-001-C-26.*



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# Presentation Abstracts

(in chronological order)

<p>Hosted by: <b>Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE), Ohio Department of Aging (AGE), &amp; Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging</b></p>	<p><b>OAGE Research Forum</b></p> <p>The OAGE Research Forum is an interactive poster session that allows students, researchers, and practitioners to showcase research projects that are in-development, soon-to-launch, or in-progress. The goal of this session is to encourage cross-collaboration among Ohio's research network, both nationally and regionally, as well as representation from the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) in order to further support Ohio's Aging Network with data-backed decisions and initiatives. During this interactive session, representatives from OAGE will provide attendees with an overview of the Forum's objectives. Representatives from AGE will provide comment on the role that research plays in the administration's priorities and goals for the State Plan on Aging. Following this, attendees will then have time to informally review poster presentations. The session will conclude with a roundtable discussion facilitated by OAGE representatives on key themes across projects as well as future opportunities.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe emerging research that is occurring across the state of Ohio</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for research collaboration to advance shared goals within Ohio's research network and AGE</li> <li>• Discuss gaps within Ohio's current research portfolio that represent future research and collaboration opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 11:15 am-12:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pavillion  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Research Forum</p>
<p><b>Tina Dothard Peterson, PhD, MPH, CSW, FGSA &amp; Renea Butler-King, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Tina Dothard Peterson is a tenured Associate Professor in the School of Social Work in the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. She is Director of Aging Education for the James E. Gruber Endowment for Aging Education Fund. Dr. Peterson's research expertise focuses on the intersection between aging, intergenerational caregiving, and health inequities. In 2023, she was awarded Fellow status of the Gerontological Society of America.</p> <p>Dr. Renea Butler-King is Simulations Coordinator at the University of Oklahoma in the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work. She is an affiliate with the People's</p>	<p><b>Fostering Mutual Aid: Empowerment for Custodial Grandparents During Lean Years</b></p> <p>Nationally, 1.12 million custodial grandparents are raising grandchildren (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). Variations exist in how custodial grandparents utilize informal and formal services. When cuts or gaps occur in formal services, custodial grandparents likely supplement unmet needs with mutual aid. Yet limited information exists on mutual aid practices among custodial grandparents. This workshop will apply Dean's Mutual Aid Chart (2019) framework to explore mutual aid practices among older custodial grandparents. Nineteen custodial grandparents participated in a phenomenological study of Caregiving in Later Life by Grandparents Raising Adolescent Grandchildren. Eligibility criteria were primary caregiver for a grandchild 12 or older; grandchild in home at least 3 days weekly; and grandparent 40 or older. Data collection occurred in 2015 across three states. This data remains relevant due to custodial grandparents continuing to report challenges with unmet needs given broad program and service cuts. In-depth interviews were audiotaped, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed for themes. Participants tended to be grandmothers (84.2%), married (57.9%), White non-Hispanic (52.6%) or Black/African American (37%), caregiving for grandchildren more than nine years (75%), and report never attending a grandparent support group (74.9%). Mutual aid practices emerged from past gaps in informal and formal services and caregiving role models. Sources of mutual aid included family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and peers. Custodial grandparents described mutual aid practices as sharing information to encourage and prevent health-related crises, sharing financial resources, coping with the demands of raising grandchildren, volunteering, identifying healthier recipes, exchanging meals, distributing vegetables from personal gardens, and more.</p>

<p>Institute. As an Early Childhood Social Work specialist, she applies qualitative methodology to examine the cultural context of African American children and the role of intergenerational transmission of historical trauma. Dr. Butler-King has multiple peer-reviewed publications and presentations at local, state, and national conferences.</p>	<p><b>Presentation Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define mutual aid within the context of older custodial grandparents raising grandchildren</li> <li>• Describe Dean's Mutual Aid Chart as a tool to explore mutual aid practices among custodial grandparents raising grandchildren</li> <li>• Discuss themes pertaining to mutual aid practices from in-depth interviews with older custodial grandparents raising grandchildren</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 202  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Lacey DiFranco, MA &amp; Samantha E. Tuft, PhD</b></p> <p>Lacey DiFranco has served as a Research Analyst at the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging since 2023. Her work involves coordinating projects and grants focused on developing training courses and testing non-pharmacological, psychosocial interventions for older adults, particularly those living with dementia. Lacey's interdisciplinary background in anthropology, applied sociology, and linguistics allows her to approach aging research from a unique and well-informed perspective.</p> <p>Dr. Samantha Tuft is a Research Scientist at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Since 2022, she has worked with the Elder Justice team and APS partners to develop and evaluate programs addressing elder abuse and self-neglect. Dr. Tuft leads an ACL-funded project on Oklahoma's first elder shelter and co-leads a second ACL-funded project on financial exploitation early identification, intervention, and prevention. She holds a PhD in adult development and aging.</p>	<p><b>A Corpus Analysis of Evolving Referents to the Older Adult Population</b></p> <p>Exploring the role of language and aging is a powerful way to observe perceptions and attitudes toward aging and the older adult population. This session examines the natural language patterns of common terms used to refer to older adults, highlighting how everyday word choices reflect and reinforce social attitudes. By leveraging analytical methods commonly used in linguistics and related disciplines, the presenters will demonstrate how interdisciplinary work can support scholarship in the field of gerontology. This work examines token frequency across three different corpora: 1) the Corpus of Historical American English, 2) the Corpus of Contemporary American English, and 3) the News on the Web corpus. In combination, these corpora span 20 countries, 200 years, and over 25 billion words from across multiple media formats: spoken word, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, academic texts, TV and movies subtitles, blogs, and other web pages. For this analysis, the researchers chose to examine four plural referents to older adults: "the elderly", "senior citizens", "old people", and of course, "older adults". This analysis demonstrates which of these terms are more persistent than others, and the emergence of the term "older adults". This allows the researchers to evaluate the relative successes of anti-ageist, intentional language change. The presentation will include discussion on the concept of linguistic reappropriation to consider how reclaiming or reframing certain terms can support more empowering narratives of aging.</p> <p><b>Presentation Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the natural language use patterns of terms that refer to the older adult population</li> <li>• Define language change and linguistic reappropriation as it applies to reframing aging</li> <li>• Explore corpora research as a method of analysis and how borrowing techniques from other disciplines can be applied to field of aging</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>

<p><b>Donna Alexander, MBA; Grace Yarger &amp; Wanda Schlumpf</b></p> <p>As a licensed nursing home administrator, certified dementia practitioner, and an MBA, Donna Alexander is now teaching the next generation of senior living leaders. As a faculty member at Kent State University, she utilizes The Legacy Project (TLP) as an alternative topic in a capstone course.</p> <p>Grace Yarger is a student at Kent State University, majoring in Long Term Care Administration. She is also the President of the KSU Gerontology Club.</p> <p>Wanda Schlumpf is a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Biological Sciences. She is also the co-founder and CFO of The Legacy Project, Inc.</p>	<p><b>The Legacy Project: Connecting Generations Through Stories, Strengthening Gerontology Education</b></p> <p>The Legacy Project, Inc. (TLP) is a national nonprofit that pairs college students with older adults for an interview process focused on documenting life stories. Students meet weekly with the same resident, gather their narratives through guided and conversational interviews, and create a written chapter that is later published in a collective book. Originating as a student-driven effort and now active across more than twenty-five campuses, TLP seeks to strengthen intergenerational understanding while addressing the widespread issue of social isolation among both older and younger adults. National reports estimate that roughly one in four adults aged sixty-five and older experiences social isolation. TLP's model offers a practical, relationship-centered approach, providing students with a structured way to engage with aging, memory, and identity in long-term care settings. At Kent State University, TLP is offered as an alternative to the traditional final project in Long-Term Care Administration I. Students partner with residents at Maplewood Senior Living, contribute to the creation of a published life-story book, and participate in a community celebration of the completed work. This session will outline the program's structure, demonstrate how students can join or establish a chapter at their own institution, and highlight the dual benefits for emerging professionals and the older adults who share their stories (The Legacy Project, Inc., n.d.; Maplewood Senior Living, 2025; O'Dowd &amp; Locke, 2025; Ventresca &amp; Johnson, 2025; Looking Forward Our Way, 2025).</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how TLP may strengthen intergenerational understanding by addressing social isolation for older adults</li> <li>• Explain how students can start their own chapter, highlighting benefits for both students (emerging professionals) and older adults</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Adedayo Ayomipo Adeagbo, MSc</b></p> <p>Adedayo Ayomipo Adeagbo is a PhD candidate in Medical Sociology at Kent State University with research interests in social gerontology, positive aging, and the social dimensions of health and aging. His work examines how social structures, relationships, and cultural perceptions shape the experiences of older adults. Through his research and community engagement, Adedayo seeks to advance understanding of aging as a diverse and dynamic social experience and to promote inclusive approaches that enhance dignity, connection, and quality of life.</p>	<p><b>The Light We Leave Behind: Storytelling, Identity, and Empowerment in Later Life</b></p> <p>Aging is often discussed in terms of decline and loss, often overlooking how older adults create meaning and purpose in later life. To address this gap, the researchers examined storytelling as a process of empowerment through which older adults make sense of their experiences, sustain identity, and challenge ageist stereotypes. Although existing literature in narrative and positive gerontology emphasizes the role of storytelling in supporting well-being, few studies have explored how it functions as an expression of agency that strengthens intergenerational connection. Guided by narrative gerontology and continuity theory, this qualitative study engaged twenty older adults aged 60 to 92 in semi-structured, in-depth interviews that explored major life milestones, relationships, creativity, and evolving self-perceptions. Findings from the thematic analysis revealed four major patterns: continuity of self, creative resilience, relational legacy and narrative agency. Participants described storytelling as a healing and empowering act that transformed memories into meaning and reaffirmed their sense of worth. The results revealed that aging is not a passive experience but an active process of authorship and growth. Storytelling enables older adults to redefine aging, counter stereotypes, and demonstrate the creativity, resilience, and humanity that continue to shape later life. Recognizing storytelling as a tool for empowerment can guide practices that promote dignity, connection, and emotional well-being among older adults.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how sociological and narrative perspectives enhances understanding of identity, meaning-making, and empowerment in later life</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the role of storytelling as a theoretical and methodological approach within social gerontology for promoting positive aging and countering ageism</li> <li>• Identify implications of narrative-based insights for advancing research, policy, and community practices that enhance dignity, connection, and well-being among older adults</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Kelly Freeman, MSN, AGPCNP-BC, DipACLM, FACLM &amp; Melissa Bernstein, PhD, RD, LD, FAND, Dip-ACLM, FACLM</b></p> <p>Kelly Freeman is a board-certified adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner and the Director of Workforce Development at the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. She received a master's degree from Indiana University and is currently a PhD candidate in Health Policy. She has co-authored three book chapters and has co-written many publications on lifestyle medicine. She is both a Diplomate and Fellow of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine.</p> <p>Melissa Bernstein is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. As an internationally recognized speaker and educator, she is passionate about educating students and healthcare professionals on the importance of food is medicine for improving health outcomes and quality of life. Dr Bernstein currently serves as chair of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine Education Committee.</p>	<p><b>Geriatric Syndromes: A Whole Health Approach</b></p> <p>Geriatric syndromes are multifactorial health conditions prevalent in older adults that do not fit into discrete disease categories but significantly impact functional independence, quality of life, and mortality. Common examples include frailty, falls, cognitive impairment, incontinence, depression, and polypharmacy. These syndromes often result from complex interactions among chronic diseases, aging physiology, lifestyle behaviors, and social determinants of health. Clinicians are uniquely positioned to address these challenges with proactive, holistic lifestyle-based interventions. Drawing from the six pillars of lifestyle medicine/nutrition, physical activity, stress management, sleep, social connection, and avoidance of risky substances, alongside age-friendly care utilizing the 5Ms, this presentation outlines practical strategies to optimize function, prevent decline, and support aging in place. Through a review of current evidence, clinical tools, and real-world case examples, participants will be empowered to implement lifestyle strategies tailored to older adults in diverse care settings.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define geriatric syndromes and describe their clinical significance in older adults</li> <li>• List evidence-based lifestyle interventions for the prevention and management of frailty, falls, cognitive decline, incontinence, depression, and polypharmacy</li> <li>• Recognize practical strategies for interprofessional collaboration and patient engagement in geriatric lifestyle modification.</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Jamie Carmichael, MAPA; Sara Morman; Jodi Snider, LISW-S, LICDC-CS; Luke Werhan, MPA &amp; Renuka Punjabi, MSW</b></p> <p>Jamie Carmichael serves as the Chief Program Officer for the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE). In her role, she</p>	<p><b>What are We Doing to Make Ohio the Best Place to Age in the Nation?</b></p> <p>This session comprises four presentations from senior leadership at the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE). AGE is Ohio's federally designated State Unit on Aging committed to its vision: make Ohio the best place to age in the nation. The Department serves as 2.8 million older Ohioans and their caregivers through fostering sound public policy, research, and initiatives that benefit older Ohioans across a continuum of care that spans from living independently at home to 24-hour supervision and care provided in long-term care facilities. Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging sets a bold goal that all Ohioans live longer, healthier lives</p>

<p>oversees all agency programs including nursing home quality, Medicaid and Older American Act programs, as well as other programs aimed at ensuring Ohio is the best place to age in the nation.</p> <p>Sara Morman is the Chief of the Elder Connections Division at AGE, overseeing implementation of the Older Americans Act programs. Sara joined AGE after 18 years at the Ohio Department of Health where she most recently served as Chief of the Violence and Injury Prevention Section.</p> <p>Jodi Snider serves as the Chief of the Quality Initiatives Division at AGE. In her role, she oversees the EXCEL Academy which provides no-cost, targeted clinical and technical assistance to nursing homes. Prior to coming to AGE, she served as the Chief of Licensure and Certification at the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.</p> <p>Luke Werhan is the Chief of the Program Analytics and Evaluation Division at AGE, and manages a team that works across the department to provide data analytics support.</p> <p>Renuka Punjabi is the Assistant Chief of the Division for Community Living at the Ohio Department of Aging. Renuka has worked in home and community-based services since 2015. She currently oversees the administration of PASSPORT and Assisted Living Waiver. Renuka joined the AGE team in 2024, after four years at the Ohio Department of Medicaid.</p>	<p>with dignity and autonomy. In the first presentation, the speakers will provide an overview of the Department’s strategic priorities and recent efforts. The second presentation will provide the landscape of aging in Ohio from a data perspective, including data from the state’s recent summary assessment that will inform the 2027-2030 State Plan on Aging. The third presentation will cover a wide range of topics, including Older Americans Act (OAA) changes, the new State Plan on Aging, expansion of Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and an overview of the PASSPORT and Assisted Living waiver programs. The final presentation will focus on EXCEL Academy, AGE’s initiative to cultivate excellence in long-term care, in ways that impact the quality of care and quality of life of older Ohioans living in nursing homes. Nursing home staff attend webinars and in-person instruction, receive on-site coaching/mentoring, review evidence-based material, and build “team” culture overall.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the current scope of the AGE’s efforts to modernize the aging network in Ohio</li> <li>• Evaluate AGE's efforts to improve quality in long-term care facilities, and how Ohio consumers can navigate the process for selecting the best facility for themselves or a loved one</li> <li>• Present data about the current older population and trends over time</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 2:15-3:15 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services &amp; Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44624-001-C-26.</i></p>
<p><b>Morgan Minyo, PhD; David Bass, PhD; Zoe Fete, MS; Emma Jackson, BA &amp; Rachel Cannon, MPH</b></p> <p>Dr. Morgan Minyo is a Research Scientist at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Her research focuses on evaluating</p>	<p><b>Exploring the Landscape of Evidence-Based Dementia Caregiving Programs: Findings from Best Programs for Caregiving</b></p> <p>As the number of people living with dementia increase, so does the demand for resources and support that meet the needs of family and friend caregivers. Several evidence-based support programs have been proven beneficial for caregivers and are being offered by healthcare and community organizations as a regular service. For organizations interested in implementing a program, it can be a challenge to find and learn about available evidence-based programs. Even for organizations</p>

and disseminating person-centered, evidence-based programs for older adults and their caregivers to address unmet needs and promote engagement with support services.

Dr. David Bass is Senior Vice President, Senior Research Scientist, and Director of Research, Education, and Advocacy at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. His current research focuses on development, testing and implementation of evidence-based programs, with special emphasis on care for persons with dementia and family caregivers.

Zoe Fete is a Research Analyst at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. She is a member of multiple project teams focused on the evaluation and implementation of evidence-based dementia caregiving programs, more specifically, aspects such as program availability, accessibility, and adaptations.

Emma Jackson is a third-year doctoral student at Cleveland State University, as well as a Research Assistant and Applied Aging Research Fellow at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Her research programs include investigating psychological well-being and emotion regulation for persons living with dementia and their caregivers.

Rachel Cannon is a Senior Research Analyst at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. She specializes in research focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based dementia caregiving programs. She is the lead analyst in the initiatives that developed Best Programs for Caregiving and currently serves as the project

that already offer a program, many caregivers are unaware these programs exist, leaving many programs underutilized. To fill this gap, Best Programs for Caregiving (BPC) was designed as a free, online resource for professionals and caregivers to find and compare approximately 45 evidence-based dementia caregiving support programs delivered by more than 300 healthcare and community organizations across the U.S. This session will provide an overview of caregiving programs and organizations featured on the website, including a live demonstration of how to navigate BPC. Individual symposia will highlight invaluable data and information gathered from BPC such as characteristics of organizations that offer one or more BPC programs; how programs were developed and/or culturally adapted to meet the needs of diverse racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ identified communities; the experiences of caregivers that have used BPC; and how caregiving programs impact people living with dementia. Discussion will focus on how BPC can be used as a free resource to support organizations and caregivers in the process of finding, learning about, and enrolling in an evidence-based dementia caregiving support program.

Presentation Objectives:

- Describe how to navigate Best Programs for Caregiving to find organizations offering an evidence-based dementia caregiving support program
- Describe the characteristics of the organizations that offer one or more evidence-based caregiving support programs
- Discuss the benefits of caregiver support programs on people living with dementia

**Date & Time:** Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm

**Location:** Pfahl 202

**Presentation Type:** Symposium

*This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

*This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services & Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44624-001-C-26.*

<p><b>Katie Sue Huffman, BCPA, CDP, CADDCT</b></p> <p>Katie Sue Huffman is the Founder and CEO of KSH Aging Solutions and creator of the T.E.L.L.S.™ Method, a framework that helps caregivers recognize and respond to behavioral patterns in dementia care. A Board-Certified Patient Advocate and Certified Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Trainer, Katie has over 15 years of experience bridging healthcare, law, and education to improve outcomes for older adults and families.</p>	<p><b>Decoding Behaviors: The T.E.L.L.S.™ Method for Empowering Caregivers Across Generations</b></p> <p>Understanding and responding to challenging behaviors is one of the most difficult aspects of caring for someone with dementia, yet every behavior tells a story. The T.E.L.L.S.™ Method (Trigger, Early Signs, Level of Escalation, Loss of Control, Settle/Shutdown) provides caregivers and professionals with a structured, compassionate framework to decode those stories and respond effectively. This interactive workshop invites participants to reframe how they interpret behavioral expressions across generations of care, from family caregivers and social workers to nurses and community professionals. Attendees will explore the neurological and emotional triggers behind behavioral changes, learn practical observation tools, and engage in real-world scenarios to strengthen empathy and communication skills. Developed through over fifteen years of dementia education and patient advocacy, The T.E.L.L.S.™ Method bridges evidence-based care with approachable language and actionable techniques that empower both professionals and family members. Participants will leave with new strategies to identify early warning signs, prevent escalation, and maintain dignity and connection through every stage of cognitive decline. By reframing behavior as communication rather than conflict, The T.E.L.L.S.™ Method empowers caregivers to transform frustration into confidence. This approach promotes a more compassionate, person-centered approach to dementia care.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify common triggers and early signs of behavioral changes in individuals with dementia using the T.E.L.L.S.™ framework</li> <li>• Apply practical communication and observation strategies to de-escalate behaviors and maintain emotional safety for both caregiver and care recipient</li> <li>• Reframe behavioral expressions as meaningful communication to promote person-centered care and enhance caregiver confidence across professional and family settings</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Camille Paoletta</b></p> <p>Camille Paoletta is a Radiation Therapy Student in the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The Ohio State University.</p>	<p><b>Emotional Health in Older Adults Receiving Radiation Therapy: A Descriptive Analysis</b></p> <p>Older adults make up most new cancer cases and cancer survivors. Radiation therapy is often lifesaving, yet frequently yields negative psychological symptoms, which are greatly understudied among older patients. This cross-sectional study analyzed psychological symptoms, including anxiety, depressive symptoms, sleep, and quality of life among patients enrolled in the Total Cancer Care patient registry at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. This secondary analysis focused on patients &gt;65 years of age and who completed PROMIS symptom inventories on psychological symptoms like anxiety and depression, comparing those who received radiation therapy with those who did not. Descriptive statistics and adjusted generalized linear models were used to analyze the data. Participants (n=603) had a median age of 71, 50.7% were women, and 96.4% were non-Hispanic White. Twenty-five percent had breast cancer, followed by 16.3% male reproductive cancers. There was a significant difference in adjusted anxiety mean scores between the radiation (52.8, SD=2.9) and non-radiation groups (54.4, SD=2.8, p=0.048). However, there were no significant differences by receipt of radiation for depressive symptoms, sleep, and physical and mental quality of life. Compared to the referent PROMIS t-scores (mean=50), older patients had slightly better anxiety, depressive symptoms, sleep, and slightly</p>

	<p>lower physical and mental quality of life. These findings indicate that older adults who received radiation therapy may not be at heightened risk of negative psychological impacts. Future research could help identify vulnerable subpopulations and address unmet symptom needs in older adults with cancer.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss radiation therapy as a modality of cancer treatment</li> <li>• Address the psychological symptoms older adults face while going through this modality of treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Abigail Behrend, MA</b></p> <p>Abigail Behrend is a doctoral candidate in the Adult Development and Aging PhD program at Cleveland State University. She has a Master's degree in Adult Development and Aging. Her researcher interests are centered around socioemotional processes across the lifespan, with a focus on emotion regulation.</p>	<p><b>The Role of Attachment and Emotion Regulation Choice on Well-Being Outcomes in Adulthood and Old Age</b></p> <p>Age differences in emotion regulation preferences have been observed across a number of studies, demonstrating that older adults choose strategies that could be considered passive or avoidant in nature in order to maintain or increase well-being. Attachment style could be an individual difference that influences the trajectory of emotion regulation across the lifespan. Specifically, there is some evidence to suggest older adults shift to a more avoidant attachment style. In the present study, 118 older adults (Mage = 68.08, SD = 4.82) and 119 young adults (Mage = 19.39, SD = 2.11) were asked to solve interpersonal conflict vignettes by choosing pre-validated solutions that reflect emotion regulation strategies: strategies that were more problem focused versus more passive/avoidant. Participants were also asked to explain justifications for each preferred strategy. A moderated mediation analysis was conducted to test whether attachment orientation influenced the association between age and emotion regulation strategy choice preferences as well as the subsequent mediating role of emotion regulation on the relationship between age and subjective well-being (SWB). Results revealed that while bivariate relationships between the main study variables were in the predicted direction, strategy preferences did not mediate the relationship between age and SWB across levels of avoidant attachment style. Interestingly, while it was anticipated that older adults would prefer to deploy passive/avoidant strategies more frequently than problem-focused, older adults preferred problem-focused strategies to a greater extent. The findings will be discussed in terms of better understanding of how contextual factors contribute to the paradox of well-being in older adulthood.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the contextual nuance surrounding emotion regulation in older adulthood.</li> <li>• Compare and contrast this research study to the plethora of other work surrounding emotion regulation in older adulthood, as it does not completely support previous literature</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Bethany Cox, MA</b></p> <p>Bethany Cox is a doctoral candidate in the Adult Development and Aging program at Cleveland State University. She holds master's degrees in Psychology: Experimental Research and Adult Development and Aging.</p>	<p><b>Understanding the Relationship Between Cognitive Aging, Musicianship, and Language Abilities</b></p> <p>There is growing interest in the cognitive effects of musicianship as people age. As we age, there is a balance of cognitive gains and losses. Musicianship may, in contrast, impact these abilities. For example, when compared to younger adults, older adults tend to be at a greater disadvantage for processing words in the presence of background noise (Sommers, 1996); however, musicianship may reduce these effects in older adults (e.g., Parbery-Clark et al., 2009). In this presentation, the speaker will discuss current research examining relationships</p>

<p>Bethany is interested in researching age-related differences in auditory processing related to music, spoken word recognition, and memory.</p>	<p>between cognitive aging and musicianship. Specifically, she will discuss how language abilities may be impacted by both age and musicianship. Topics of discussion will also include age-related differences in language processing, how musicianship may impact language processing, and how musicianship may interact with age-related differences in language processing. Furthermore, she will examine the OPERA hypothesis (Patel, 2011; 2014) and the MAPLE framework (Nayak et al., 2022), neurological and behavioral hypotheses surrounding these impacts. Finally, research currently being conducted in the laboratory and possible future directions for this exciting field of research will be discussed. The possible connections between musicianship and cognitive aging provide both practical and theoretical contributions that can be used to empower generations of older adults.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the ways the musicianship may impact cognitive aging in relation to language abilities</li> <li>• Present the theoretical frameworks underlying the possible age-related cognitive differences between musicians and nonmusicians</li> <li>• Explore potential practical and theoretical contributions that could be used to empower future generations of older adults</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP &amp; Cynthia A. Spitler, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Christopher Nguyen is the director of the Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology and Neuropsychology Service at The Ohio State University College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. Dr. Nguyen is a Fellow and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Neuro-psychological Society.</p> <p>Dr. Cynthia Spitler received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Home Administration, as well as a Master of Science and Education in Public Health and Doctor of Philosophy in Health Education from The University of Toledo. Dr. Spitler is an Associate Teaching Professor of Gerontology at Bowling Green State University.</p>	<p><b>2025 OAGE Professional Award Winners' Presentations: 1) From Risk Factors to Real-World Impact: Translating Cognitive and Social Aging Research into AI-Supported Interventions; 2) An OAGE Educator of the Year's Career Path and Trajectory</b></p> <p>The first portion of this session will present an evolving research program examining how behavioral engagement, psychosocial factors, and emerging technologies intersect to influence cognitive and functional health in later life. Initial work identified associations between mentally engaging activities and domain-specific cognitive performance, clarifying modifiable behavioral targets. Subsequent research examined older adults' attitudes toward artificial intelligence and their readiness for technology-supported care. Building on these findings, two ongoing studies are testing AI-guided conversational companionship to enhance social connectedness and a smart pillbox system to improve medication adherence in mild cognitive impairment. Together, this work moves from identifying risk and readiness to implementing scalable, real-world interventions. The second portion of this session will cover Dr. Spitler's Career Path and Trajectory from the time her maternal grandmother was afflicted with vascular dementia and cared for informally to her eventual placement in a nursing home for those with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. Dr. Spitler will discuss her path as she volunteered at this nursing home at age 15 and began working there at age 16 through her decision to major in Nursing Home Administration. Finally, she will discuss her work following graduation with her PhD and current role as an Associate Teaching Professor of Gerontology at Bowling Green State University.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how behavioral engagement, loneliness, and technology attitudes collectively inform the development of scalable interventions to promote cognitive and functional resilience in aging</li> <li>• Evaluate the translational progression from observational findings to AI-supported clinical applications targeting social connection and medication adherence in older adults at risk for cognitive decline</li> <li>• Explain one career path into the field of nursing homes and gerontology</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Thursday, April 16 @ 3:30-4:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p>

**Shannon Jarrott, PhD; Jill Juris, PhD; Stephanie FallCreek, PhD; Robin Stone, MS & Nathan Workman, BA**

Dr. Shannon Jarrott studies methods of connecting young and older persons for mutual benefit. Shannon is a Professor of Social Work at The Ohio State University and the Director of the Center for Intergenerational Research and Practice ("chirp"). She is the Editor of The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships.

Dr. Jill Juris is Associate Professor and Chair of Recreation Management and Physical Education at App State. She works closely with National Recreation and Parks Association. Dr. Juris has developed and studied intergenerational programs in varied community settings.

Dr. Stephanie FallCreek is past CEO of Fairhill Partners and one of the founders of Cleveland's Intergenerational School. She has supported and advocated for intergenerational programs for decades.

Robin Stone has worked in 4-H Youth Development since 2006 and currently serves as a 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator. In addition Robin has facilitated in school and after school programs, and connected and collaborated with over 50 youth serving organizations creating new avenues for meaningful youth involvement and development.

Nathan Workman is a research administration management associate in the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University. He recently completed intergenerational certification with Generations Working Together.

**BRIDGE2Health Intergenerational Mentoring: Community to Curriculum**

The BRIDGE2Health (B2H) team will share their experiences developing an iterative cycle of creating, evaluating, communicating, and standardizing an intergenerational mentor program using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach. Three papers will represent distinct phases of the B2H program. First, they describe CBPR methods of involving community partners at every step of the research process. The researchers communicated constantly across two states, engaging Extension staff, community partners, and older and younger participants to shape programming with planning and evaluation data. The first paper emphasizes collaborative efforts to gather, interpret, and share programming results. The second paper highlights quantitative and qualitative results across multiple participant cohorts. Measures emphasize life skills and social support outcomes for teen and adult participants. For example, paired samples T-Tests indicated significant differences between pre- and post-measures in three domains of functional support: appraisal ( $p < .001$ ), tangible ( $p < .001$ ), and belonging ( $p < .001$ ) for adults in both states. Qualitative data from annual focus group interviews contextualize quantitative findings by age group, state, and cohort. The third paper describes the use of CBPR strategies to develop and pilot a standardized intergenerational mentoring curriculum guided by theory and the 4-H Thriving Model. Through an iterative process involving participant input, informal and formal staff reflection, and peer review, the curriculum includes background information, resources, and directions to implement an ice breaker, main activity, and reflection across 10 sessions. This symposium illustrates the power of long-term partnerships that utilize intergenerational strategies to respond to community opportunity and need.

Presentation Objectives:

- Describe the purpose of using a community-based participatory approach to apply intergenerational strategies to a community opportunity or need, including specific strategies for partnering with community members to build, evaluate, and communicate about programming
- Illustrate teen and adult outcomes of participating in theory- and evidence-informed intergenerational mentoring programming
- Discuss how to replicate the BRIDGE2Health intergenerational mentoring program for teens and community adults 50 years of age and older

**Date & Time:** Friday, April 17 @ 9:30-10:30 am

**Location:** Pfahl 140

**Presentation Type:** Symposium

*This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

<p><b>Nikkita Jackson</b>, DSW, LISW-S; <b>Karleah Harris</b>, PhD &amp; <b>Jonathan Trauth</b>, LISW-S, EdD</p> <p>Dr. Nikkita Jackson brings over 16 years of experience practicing social work across diverse social service settings, including therapy, case management, managed care, and home healthcare. With nine years in academia, she integrates her extensive professional background into field education by fostering meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-world application.</p> <p>Dr. Karleah Harris has a PhD in Educational Psychology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Purdue University and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Her research interests include inquiry-based science learning, grandparenting, gardening, horticulture therapy, and adolescence development.</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Trauth is a Professor in the Department of Social Work at Central State University. He completed his Doctorate in Counseling at the University of Cincinnati in 2016. He also received a master's in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Theology Pastoral Counseling from Xavier University. He is licensed social worker in Ohio.</p>	<p><b>Interdisciplinary Practice as the Gold Standard: Preparing Future Professionals to Support Aging Populations</b></p> <p>As the aging population grows, higher education must equip future professionals with the knowledge and collaborative skills necessary to meet the needs of older adults. This interactive workshop reframes aging through an interdisciplinary lens, demonstrating how integrated teamwork expands care quality, increases access to services, and addresses the biopsychosocial needs of older adults. Using a hands-on, simulation-based approach, participants will observe how interdisciplinary teams, such as social workers, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, dietitians, and community health workers, jointly assess and support aging individuals. The workshop will highlight both challenges and opportunities that arise when navigating different professional perspectives, communication styles, and ethical frameworks. Participants will engage in small-group exercises modeling real-world cases involving social isolation, chronic health management, cognitive decline, caregiver burnout, and end-of-life decision-making. Each case will require teams to collaborate, make shared decisions, and reflect on the process as a whole. Through these activities, attendees will gain insight into how faculty can embed interdisciplinary collaboration into coursework, field instruction, and experiential learning to better prepare students for high-impact, team-based gerontological practice.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify core components of effective interdisciplinary teamwork in aging-related practice settings</li> <li>• Apply collaborative decision-making models to complex aging-related cases</li> <li>• Discuss how to integrate interdisciplinary team-based learning strategies into academic courses and professional training programs</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 9:30-10:30 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 202  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Jennifer Kinney</b>, PhD</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Kinney is a Professor of Gerontology in the Department of Sociology and Gerontology and a Research Fellow with the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. Her two primary research interests are how to improve quality of life among people living with dementia and gerontological pedagogy.</p>	<p><b>2025 OAGE Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: What Four Decades Taught Me About Gerontology's Future</b></p> <p>Over four decades, gerontology matured from a nascent multidisciplinary field into a robust area of scholarship—yet it faces an existential paradox. This talk traces gerontology's trajectory from the 1980s, when aging-related courses remained siloed in traditional departments; through an expansion period that saw increases in integrated programs and methodological innovation; to our current crisis: programs closing precisely when demographic realities demand increases in aging expertise. Despite clear workforce shortages and escalating societal need, gerontology programs declined from over 1,000 in 2000 to 537 by 2023 (Masters et al., 2023). Drawing on pedagogical literature and workforce data, Dr. Kinney considers several factors that underlie this paradox. Rather than lamenting this</p>

	<p>contraction, she proposes an optimistic reconceptualization: gerontology's future may lie not only in standalone programs, but also in embedding aging expertise across disciplines, centering systems-level thinking, and building practice-research-education partnerships that prepare professionals for our aging society's opportunities and challenges.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe three major phases in the development of gerontology as a discipline</li> <li>• Identify the major paradox in gerontological education/training today</li> <li>• Evaluate solutions to this paradox</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 9:30-10:30 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p>
<p><b>Bailee Brekke, MGS; Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S &amp; Tanynd Deskins</b></p> <p>Bailee Brekke is a second year PhD student in the Social Gerontology program at Miami University. She also works as a graduate research assistant in the Scripps Gerontology Center. Her research interests surround substance use among older adults, as well as state and federal policies that support this population.</p> <p>Richard Meeker is the Community Living Supervisor overseeing the Adult Protective Services Program with Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging. As Mental Health Therapist, he conducts psychosocial assessments and provides behavioral health interventions as appropriate.</p> <p>Tanynd Deskins holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from The Ohio State University and is pursuing a master's in social work at Case Western Reserve University. They have experience as a Counselor Assistant at Catalyst Life Services' Crisis Stabilization Unit and currently serve as an Adult Protective Services Case Manager.</p>	<p><b>Bridging the Gap in Care: Empowering Aging Services to Address Substance Use Disorders in Older Adults</b></p> <p>Between 2021 and 2022, 7.1 million older adults had a substance use disorder (SUD) in the United States. There are numerous negative consequences associated with substance misuse among this population, including mood disorders, lung and heart problems, and memory issues. Other problems include increased fall risk, motor vehicle accidents, and prolonged recovery times from such injuries. Despite these negative consequences, older adults face a number of barriers when seeking treatment, such as stigma and misattribution of symptoms. Moreover, only 18% of treatment programs are specifically designed to meet the needs of older adults, leaving a major gap in care. Recognizing this growing public health concern, the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has taken proactive steps to address SUDs within their community. Drawing from gerontological research, the agency developed a comprehensive manual and screening questions to assist professionals who work directly with older adults. The goal of this initiative was to increase awareness, equip service providers with tools to initiate meaningful conversations about substance use, and identify individuals who may be struggling. Efforts such as these are vital in combating the rise of SUDs among older adults. By integrating evidence-based strategies into local aging services, communities can help reduce stigma, improve early detection, and ensure that older adults receive the compassionate, tailored treatment and support they deserve. Continued collaboration between healthcare providers, social service organizations, and policymakers will be essential to building a more responsive and inclusive system of care for this population.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the scope and impact of SUDs among older adults</li> <li>• Identify barriers to treatment and service engagement for older adults with SUDs</li> <li>• Highlight innovative approaches and community-based initiatives from the Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging (AAA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 9:30-10:30 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists and substance use counselors in domain C1 in the state of Ohio.</i></p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services &amp; Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44625-001-C-26.</i></p>

<p><b>Marisa Sheldon, MSW, LISW-S; Christine Happel, MSW, LSW &amp; Phoebe Allebach, MSW</b></p> <p>Marisa Sheldon (she/her) is the Director of the Age-Friendly Innovation Center and Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County. At Age-Friendly, she acknowledges what a privilege it is to have the opportunity to inspire the next generation of those working in aging. As someone who aspires to grow old, she is dedicated to ensuring the voice of older adult's ground community change to create more livable communities for all people.</p> <p>Christine Happel is the Assistant Director of the Age-Friendly Innovation Center and Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County. Christine joined the Age-Friendly Innovation Center team in 2022. Prior to completing the MSW program at The Ohio State University College of Social Work, Christine lived in a rural co-housing community for young adults with developmental disabilities.</p> <p>Phoebe Allebach is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Age-Friendly Innovation Center and Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County. She joined the Age-Friendly Columbus and Franklin County team in 2023 as a MSW student intern and program coordinator for the Safe Routes to Age in Place project.</p>	<p><b>#ButtonUpAgeism</b></p> <p>Since 2018, the Age-Friendly Innovation Center has led #ButtonUpAgeism Initiative. This multi-faceted initiative can be adapted for a wide range of audiences and has been done with students (elementary school, high school, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral), community members of all ages, and professions across a wide range of sectors. The experience includes sharing of information on the cost (in dollars, health, and life space context) to ageism, guided community conversations about perceptions of aging, and a facilitated activity to support the reshaping of how individuals see their own aging. The conversation poses questions the encourage thoughtful reflection on how individuals view their own aging and how that shapes themselves and those they interact with each day. This workshop is designed for students and allows them to make an <i>"Aging: So Cool Everyone's Doing It"</i> button while learning about ageism and having conversations about experiences and perceptions of aging.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe ageism and how perceptions of aging impact you and those you interact with each day</li> <li>• Lead attendees in an activity to design and create a positive aging button to generate future community conversation</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 9:30-10:30 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p>
<p><b>Vivian Miller, PhD; Dan Van Dussen, PhD; Jennifer Kinney, PhD; Jennifer Wagner, MPH &amp; Shannon Jarrott, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Vivian Miller is an Associate Professor in Social Work and licensed social worker. Dr. Miller's research focuses on social connection and engagement among older</p>	<p><b>Ageism 201: Building Upon Our Successes</b></p> <p>Ageism has significant social, economic, and health impacts. This workshop helps continue the discussion of the role of professionals in reducing the impact of ageism and age discrimination among Ohio's older adult population. The goal of this workshop is to highlight successful anti-ageism strategies and areas in which we can improve as an aging network. Using the World Café®, the presenters will discuss ageism and anti-ageist strategies.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas of ageism in the interactions between aging professionals and older adults</li> </ul>

adults. She has published over 40 research articles on topics such as social connection among older adults, technology and transportation, social work and social policy, marginalized older adults, and gerontological social work education.

Dr. Dan Van Dussen serves as a Professor and Program Director of the Master of Health and Human Services at Youngstown State University. He has extensive research background in the areas of dementia, fall reduction, fracture prevention, hospitalization, long-term care administration, and gerontological education. Dan is the president of OAGE.

Dr. Jennifer Kinney is a Professor of Gerontology in the Department of Sociology and Gerontology and a Research Fellow with the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. Her two primary research interests are how to improve quality of life among people living with dementia and gerontological pedagogy.

Jennifer Wagner is an Associate Practitioner Professor in Gerontology. Jennifer has been a licensed nursing home administrator in the state of Ohio since 1996, a Certified Long Term Care Ombudsman Associate II since 2005, and a Medicare Counselor with the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program since 2013.

Dr. Shannon Jarrott studies methods of connecting young and older persons for mutual benefit. Shannon is a Professor of Social Work at The Ohio State University and the Director of the Center for Intergenerational Research and Practice ("chirp"). She is the Editor of The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships.

- Discuss strategies to address these areas of ageism among aging professionals and older adults
- Devise and implement strategies to reduce ageism in the aging network

**Date & Time:** Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am

**Location:** Pfahl 140

**Presentation Type:** Workshop

*This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours in ethics for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

*This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services & Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44625-001-C-26.*

<p><b>Amy Elliot, PhD &amp; Meghan Brady, MSG</b></p> <p>Dr. Amy Elliot is a Senior Research Scholar at the Scripps Gerontology Center and Director of Opening Minds through Art (OMA), an innovative intergenerational art program that empowers individuals living with dementia through creative expression. Her research focuses on innovations that foster person-directed long-term care environments.</p> <p>Meghan Brady is the Associate Director for OMA at Scripps Gerontology Center. Meghan has worked on research projects dedicated to making communities age- and dementia-friendly, instructed intergenerational service-learning courses for 4 years, and assisted long-term care providers with implementing arts-based activities for their residents. She believes everyone, regardless of age or ability, can share their life stories through the arts.</p>	<p><b>Engaging Students in Gerontology Through Creative Practice: Implementing Opening Minds through Art in Higher Education</b></p> <p>Opening Minds through Art (OMA) is an evidence-based, intergenerational program developed at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center to support creative self-expression among older adults living with dementia. Research demonstrates that OMA enhances mood, engagement, and empathy across generations, making it a powerful tool for experiential learning in gerontology education. This session will highlight practical approaches for integrating OMA into university courses and community partnerships to strengthen student learning and promote meaningful engagement with older adults. Presenters will share models for embedding OMA within curricula, drawing on examples from ongoing university collaborations to illustrate how OMA reinforces key gerontological competencies, challenges ageist assumptions, and deepens students' understanding of person-centered dementia care. The session will also address lessons learned from a diverse group of university partners, including strategies for navigating institutional context and overcoming barriers such as limited funding, staffing constraints, and securing leadership support. Attendees will gain implementation tools for initiating or expanding OMA-related experiential learning opportunities, including approaches to student recruitment, community-site collaboration, and aligning OMA activities with academic learning objectives. Participants will engage in a brief, hands-on demonstration to experience OMA's creative, person-centered methodology. By the end of the session, attendees will understand both the educational value of OMA as an experiential learning opportunity and the practical steps needed to implement this impactful program within diverse university and community settings.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify strategies for integrating OMA into gerontology courses and university/community partnerships</li> <li>• Describe lessons learned from university partners, including approaches for addressing common institutional barriers</li> <li>• Provide practical tools for implementing and expanding OMA-related experiential learning opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 202  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Tawiona Brown, PT, DPT, NCS &amp; Jamie O'Brien, PT, DPT, DHS, NCS</b></p> <p>Dr. Tawiona Brown is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctoral of Physical Therapy Program. She is a Board Certified Neurologic Clinical Specialist and a PWR!Moves Certified Therapist with 27 years of clinical practice and teaching experience. Dr. Brown's primary area of focus is neurology and geriatrics.</p>	<p><b>Exercise Prescription: Roles of the Multidisciplinary Team to Empower and Promote Quality of Life and Wellness of the Aging Elder</b></p> <p>Wellness encompasses domains such as social, physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and vocational (Avers and Wong 2020). Gathering wellness resources that impact aging elders due to issues such as recurrent falls, depression, nutrition, and strategies combatting social isolation can be daunting. There is a critical need amongst members of the multidisciplinary team to provide a continuous "sharing" of information regarding our specific roles and how that role impacts the aging elder to empower and improve quality of life. This presentation provides a resource for members of the multidisciplinary team regarding the utilization of movement and exercise; highlighting where members of the team play an integral role in recognizing when various wellness domains are potentially at risk amongst the elderly. In the physical domain of wellness, literature supports the use of exercise as medicine for elders who are aging typically and atypically, especially with neuromuscular conditions. It is necessary to appropriately prescribe exercises to maintain movement and function within the elderly. Langeskov-Christenson, et al.</p>

<p>Dr. Jamie O'Brien is an Associate Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. She is a Board-Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurologic Physical Therapy. Dr. O'Brien specializes in the treatment of medically fragile adults and children across a variety of care settings. She serves as an item writer for the National Physical Therapy Examination and as Vice President of Wood County Plays.</p>	<p>(2024) supports exercise as a proactive lifestyle factor preventing disease (primary prevention), a potential disease modifying therapy (secondary prevention), and effective symptomatic treatment (tertiary prevention). Additionally, this presentation will provide a review of the literature and an interactive demonstration supporting the utilization of exercise as medicine. A robust conversation will be fostered regarding how each discipline can find their role in the exercise prescription process, ranging from referring to a physical therapist or occupational therapist, a speech and language pathologist, a nutritionist, or a licensed social worker.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present peer-reviewed evidence of the use of "exercise" as medicine</li> <li>• Provide an interactive demonstration of exercise as medicine, in which participants will actively participate and receive tangible takeaways that can be used immediately</li> <li>• Describe additional resources for members of the multidisciplinary team on where they can play a role in the exercise prescription process for the aging elder</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p>
<p><b>Jordan Alpert, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Jordan Alpert is an associate professor in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and an investigator in the Center for Value-Based Care Research. He is a health communication scientist focused on enhancing the quality of the interaction that occurs between patients, providers, and caregivers. Dr. Alpert utilizes mixed methodology to understand how caregivers can facilitate improved communication to manage dementia.</p>	<p><b>Identifying Informal Caregivers' Information Needs about End-of-Life for Dementia Care: A Qualitative Analysis</b></p> <p>Although Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are terminal conditions, discussions about end-of-life (EOL) often do not occur until the late stages of the disease. Consequently, there is insufficient time to ensure that patients' values and goals of care are respected. Effective discussions about EOL must overcome several barriers, such as informal caregivers' need to focus on the short term rather than long term, the unpredictability of the disease, difficulty discussing the highly emotional topic, and they are often not initiated by clinicians. However, when thinking back about their caregiving experience, informal caregivers expressed the importance of EOL discussions occurring earlier. The researchers conducted qualitative interviews with 27 bereaved informal caregivers to identify their informational needs related to EOL. They used a constant comparative approach to develop a codebook, assign codes, and interpret meaning. Four themes emerged: 1) determining the proper time plan EOL/balancing the uncertainty of the disease with proactive planning, 2) strategies to initiate EOL discussions/identifying how to bring up EOL with clinicians and family members, 3) learning about palliative care and hospice/education about each service and knowledge to navigate them effectively, and 4) bereavement care/reconciling a range of emotions. The interviews revealed specific information needs related to end-of-life. EOL planning should be an open, ongoing discussion between the patient, informal caregiver, and clinician that evolves over time. Effective planning in the early stages supports a better sense of control over future care, reduces burden on family members, and can lead to improved outcomes.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify topics related to end-of-life that informal caregivers desire when caring for a person with dementia</li> <li>• Discuss the importance of person-centered communication to facilitate difficult discussions</li> <li>• Explain why end-of-life should be a discussion that occurs early on and continues over the course of the disease</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>

<p><b>Grace Terry, MA CCC-SLP</b></p> <p>Grace is a PhD student in the department of Speech and Hearing Science at the Ohio State University. She also works clinically as a Speech-Language Pathologist at an inpatient rehabilitation hospital. Grace's primary research interest focuses on how to improve quality of life and life participation for people with aphasia and their care partners.</p>	<p><b>"Overwhelmed but Curious": Care Partner Perspectives on Education, Resources, and Coping after Aphasia Diagnosis</b></p> <p>Care partners of people with aphasia (PWA) are faced with unique challenges, as their loved one's loss of communication may create specific barriers to expression, mutual understanding, and interaction (Simmons-Mackie et al., 2010). The present study aims to investigate the perspectives of care partners of PWA via semi-structured focus groups. During analysis, themes arose from focus groups highlighting the importance of education, the challenging and rewarding aspects of being a care partner to a PWA, and the power of a support system for care partners. First-hand accounts of care partners may serve as a guide for clinicians, as well as an important call to action for future studies.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify ways in which clinical practice and research may be informed by the perspectives of care partners of people with aphasia</li> <li>• Describe various challenges and rewards experienced by care partners of people with aphasia</li> <li>• Explain how care-partner feedback in this study demonstrates the importance of person-centered care</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Kylie Meyer, PhD &amp; Ruth Boamong</b></p> <p>Dr. Kylie Meyer is a Gerontologist and Assistant Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University and Co-Director of the University Center on Aging and Health. Her research program focuses on psycho-educational interventions to support family caregivers in multiple domains.</p> <p>Hailing from Eastvale, California, Ruth Boamong is a first-generation Ghanian-American. She is currently a 4th-year Neuroscience student at Case Western Reserve University. Ruth is passionate about the fields of psychiatry and geriatrics and hopes to become a physician who advocates for vulnerable populations.</p>	<p><b>Training Family Caregivers on Complex Care: An Opportunity to Improve Quality of Care?</b></p> <p>Family caregivers to persons living with dementia begin caregiving with little preparation. This contributes to caregiver worry when administering care, as well as the potential that care does not meet the care recipient's needs or is low-quality. Few interventions have examined how to improve quality of family caregiving. Investigators examined whether a psychoeducational intervention improved quality of caregiving. Investigators conducted a randomized control trial comparing a 6-week facilitated group caregiver training program on complex care (e.g., how to use a gait belt) to a structurally equivalent control arm focused on healthy living for caregivers. Caregivers were surveyed prior to intervention, post-intervention, as well as 3- and 6-months post-intervention. The Task Management Strategy Index measured quality of care (range= 19 to 95; alpha=0.88). A linear mixed model was applied to examine change in scores over time by group, controlling for demographic and caregiving characteristics. Caregivers (N=79) had an average score of 58.05 (SD=11.11) on the TMSI at baseline, which increased by 3.93 (SD=5.87) in the intervention arm 6-months post-intervention. The mixed model did not reveal a group by time differences at either the 3-month (b=2.18; p=.200), nor the 6-month follow up surveys (b=-1.53; p=.33). Findings represent preliminary results from an ongoing trial, which did not support the use of complex care training to enhance care quality. Although caregivers in the intervention showed improved care quality, the differences with the control condition were not statistically significant. Future research will consider explanations for limited differences between groups.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine whether a psychoeducational caregiver training program focused on complex care tasks improves the quality of family caregiving compared to a structurally equivalent healthy living control condition</li> <li>• Discuss preliminary trial findings to identify potential explanations for limited differences between intervention and control groups, informing future directions for caregiver support interventions</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>

<p><b>Derenda Schubert, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Derenda Schubert is a licensed psychologist and nationally recognized advocate for intergenerational community building. As the Executive Director of Bridge Meadows, she has advanced a visionary model that brings together youth, families, and elders to create vibrant, supportive neighborhoods rooted in belonging, healing, and joy.</p>	<p><b>Bridging Generations: Innovative Intergenerational Solutions to Enrich Connections</b></p> <p>As aging populations grow and family structures continue to evolve, the need for meaningful intergenerational connection has never been more vital. Dr. Derenda Schubert will lead an interactive discussion, offering practical guidance on designing, implementing, and sustaining effective intergenerational initiatives. Participants will explore actionable strategies tailored for building intergenerational relationships and solutions, including: 1) building mutually beneficial partnerships with schools, youth organizations, and local service groups, 2) integrating intergenerational programming into wellness, housing, and resident engagement models, 3) addressing operational and cultural barriers to adoption, and 4) measuring impact and communicating value to residents, families, and stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer guidance on how to design, implement, and sustain effective intergenerational initiatives</li> <li>• Empower leaders, practitioners, and community innovators to envision new possibilities and return home with concrete tools to expand intergenerational solutions that elevate quality of life for all ages</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 10:45-11:45 am  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Heather Menne, PhD; Kate Singer, PhD; Traci Wilson, DPhil &amp; Arcelia Armstrong, LSW</b></p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p>	<p><b>Understanding and Advancing Caregiver Navigation in Area Agencies on Aging: Organizational Models, Workforce Composition, and Outcomes</b></p> <p>Family caregivers play an essential role in supporting the health and well-being of older adults and people with chronic conditions, yet navigating fragmented systems of care can be complex and overwhelming. Caregiver navigation is a promising model to help caregivers access resources, coordinate services, and sustain their own well-being. This symposium brings together four papers examining caregiver navigation from an organizational and systems perspective. The first paper uses nationally representative data from the 2025 National Survey of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to explore common characteristics of AAAs that provide caregiver navigation services, identifying key structural and contextual factors that shape program delivery. The second paper is based on the current evaluation of caregiver navigation services and presents information on the workforce and staff who provide caregiver navigation, including their tenure in role, education, training, and main skills. Based on the 2025 AAA Survey, the third paper examines the mix of caregiver services provided across caregiver navigation programs, distinguishing approaches by level of intensity: low-touch, medium-touch, and high-touch. The final paper highlights caregiver navigation in Ohio AAAs and includes a case study of one program in Northwest Ohio. This paper will provide background on the specific program and preliminary evaluation data. Together, these papers provide a comprehensive understanding of caregiver navigation as a growing area of practice and research. The symposium will engage participants in discussion about promising models, implementation challenges, and future directions for scaling effective navigation supports to reach caregivers across care settings.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe key elements of caregiver navigation services</li> <li>• Explain the different levels of caregiver navigation services</li> <li>• Summarize the status of caregiver navigation among Ohio AAAs</li> </ul>

<p>Traci Wilson is USAging's Director of Research. Her work tracks the trends and new directions in the Aging Network through National AAA and Title VI Program Surveys and is used to develop resources that Aging Network organizations can use to enhance their organizational capacity</p> <p>Arcelia Armstrong is a licensed social worker with over 25 years of clinical experience. She is Director of Caregiver Support and Kinship Navigator Programs at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio. Her program management has been recognized nationally through earning competitive grants, and the Innovations Award from USAging.</p>	<p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 1:30-2:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 140  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services &amp; Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44625-001-C-26.</i></p>
<p><b>Emma Griffey; Bailee Brekke, MGS &amp; Grace Yarger</b></p> <p>Emma Griffey is a senior nursing student at Ohio University. She currently sits on the OAGE board as the chair of the student committee. The student committee focuses on engaging students in gerontology and encouraging them to participate in the field of aging. The student committee aims to do this through our student workshop presentation.</p> <p>Bailee Brekke is a second year PhD student in the Social Gerontology program at Miami University. She also works as a graduate research assistant in the Scripps Gerontology Center. Her research interests surround substance use among older adults, as well as state and federal policies that support this population.</p> <p>Grace Yarger is an undergraduate student at Kent State University studying long term care administration. She is an OAGE board member and sits on the student committee.</p>	<p><b>Understanding Aging Policy: Student Workshop</b></p> <p>Many students express interest in learning about aging policy but often have limited exposure to it in their coursework. This session aims to deepen students' understanding of how aging policy is developed, implemented, and shaped by advocacy. Through presentations and discussions led by two experts in the field, participants will gain insight into key programs across Ohio, such as PASSPORT, other home and community-based services, and the state-level ombudsman program. The session will also highlight opportunities for student engagement, whether through advocacy, research, or service, to ensure that Ohio remains the best place to age in the nation. In addition, students will be introduced to pathways for securing internships with aging service organizations, Area Agencies on Aging, state offices, and nonprofit partners that influence policy and practice. Presenters will briefly outline where students can locate policy resources in Ohio, including legislative updates, agency reports, and statewide initiatives that shape fields in aging. Following two brief presentations, students will be given the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussion and be encouraged to ask questions. These conversations will include guidance on how to translate classroom knowledge into practical steps toward professional involvement. By connecting academic learning with real-world policy practice, this session empowers the next generation to shape the future of aging policy in Ohio. The session concludes with tangible recommendations that students can use to begin exploring the field more intentionally, including outreach strategies, volunteer entry points, and tools for tracking policy developments over time.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how aging policy is created and translated into services and programs</li> <li>• Identify key organizations and roles within the aging network, along with internship opportunities that students can get involved in to support older adults</li> <li>• Assist students in translating presentation material into their future careers within the aging network</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 1:30-2:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 202  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p>

**Lauren Feyh**, MNM, LNHA, CDP, CMDCP; **Jennifer Bechtel**, CMHFA; **Neel Agarwal**, BS; **Sophie Pazzo**, BS & **Marina Min**, MD(c)

Lauren Feyh is an Instructor of Practice in the Division of Health Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM) and Co-Founder/Co-Director of GrowIN: Intergenerational Community Programming. Lauren was named an inaugural Eisner Prize Fellow in 2023 for advancing intergenerational work.

Jennifer Bechtel is a seasoned aging services strategist and education program specialist. As Program Manager at OSUCOM in the Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology, she leads aging education initiatives and collaborates across sectors to advance gerontology-focused interventions.

Neel Agarwal is a second-year medical student at OSUCOM who has an interest in the intersection of surgical specialties and the care of our elderly patients. He is the founder of the College's first completely student-run geriatric medicine interest group.

Sophie Pazzo is a medical student on the Primary Care Track at OSUCOM planning to pursue a career in Family Medicine. Originally from a small town in Oklahoma, she is passionate about rural medicine and integrating strong geriatric care into my future practice.

Marina Min is an MD candidate at OSUCOM with a background in communication studies. She has extensive clinical, research, and orthopedic experience, including clinical trials, emergency medicine scribing, and patient care coordination. Her interests include pain management, geriatrics, and personalized medical innovation research design.

### **Future-Ready Geriatric Workforce Development: Intergenerational Models and Early Pipeline Innovation**

As the aging population grows, the need for a skilled, compassionate, and well-prepared geriatric workforce has become a national priority. This symposium brings together two innovative models—Age UP, an intergenerational workforce development program, and G.E.M.I.N.I., a student-led initiative fostering early interest in geriatric medicine—to illustrate how collaborative, multilevel strategies can strengthen the future of aging services and healthcare. Together, these programs demonstrate how intergenerational learning, early exposure, and community-engaged education can build a resilient, inclusive, and enthusiastic pipeline of caregivers and clinicians equipped to meet the needs of older adults.

#### Presentation Objectives:

- Analyze how intergenerational and early-exposure models contribute to developing a future-ready geriatric workforce
- Compare the key components and outcomes of the Age UP and G.E.M.I.N.I. programs and evaluate their impact on workforce development and student engagement
- Describe high-impact activities to engage learners across the training continuum
- Assess how intergenerational collaboration can enhance professional development, care quality, and enthusiasm for working with older adults

**Date & Time:** Friday, April 17 @ 1:30-2:30 pm

**Location:** Pfahl 230

**Presentation Type:** Symposium

<p><b>Jonathan Trauth</b>, LISW-S, EdD; <b>Karleah Harris</b>, PhD &amp; <b>Nikkita Jackson</b>, DSW</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Trauth is a Professor in the Department of Social Work at Central State University. He completed his Doctorate in Counseling at the University of Cincinnati in 2016. He also received a masters in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Theology Pastoral Counseling from Xavier University. He is licensed social worker in Ohio.</p> <p>Dr. Karleah Harris has a PhD in Educational Psychology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Purdue University and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Her research interests include inquiry-based science learning, grandparenting, gardening, horticulture therapy, and adolescence development.</p> <p>Dr. Nikkita Jackson brings over 16 years of experience practicing social work across diverse social service settings, including therapy, case management, managed care, and home healthcare. With nine years in academia, she integrates her extensive professional background into field education by fostering meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-world application.</p>	<p><b>Hospice Social Work Supervision: System and Individual Challenges</b></p> <p>Hospice social work supervisors face unique challenges in high-stress end-of-life care environments, exacerbated by pandemics, high turnover, and the shift to virtual modalities. This interactive session equips participants with evidence-based tools to enhance supervision effectiveness, mitigate burnout, and foster resilient practice. Drawing on clinical expertise and recent research, presenters will explore key stressors, such as pandemic-induced burnout, emotional toll of virtual care, staffing shortages, funding constraints, and grief isolation, impacting supervisors and supervisees alike. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of three core supervision types: administrative (ensuring compliance and efficiency), educational/clinical (building skills in telehealth and crisis intervention), and supportive (addressing compassion fatigue). Through case studies and group discussions, participants will analyze complex demands within organizational and client systems, including adaptations for telehealth and countering misconceptions about hospice care. A focal lens will be parallel processes, where client stressors (e.g., isolation, anticipatory grief) mirror administrative pressures (e.g., budget cuts), influencing supervisory dynamics, particularly in pandemic-era contexts. Practical strategies will be provided for troubleshooting challenging supervisee scenarios, such as managing virtual care fatigue, ethical dilemmas in remote grief support, and high-turnover interventions. Participants will leave with actionable frameworks, including reflective tools, role-play exercises, and resource templates to implement immediately. This session holds broad applicability for hospice administrators, social work educators, and clinicians, promoting sustainable supervision that improves staff retention, client outcomes, and organizational resilience in evolving care landscapes.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify five primary stressors in hospice social work supervision and develop targeted mitigation strategies</li> <li>• Describe the three types of supervision (administrative, educational/clinical, supportive) and their applications in hospice settings, including telehealth adaptations</li> <li>• Analyze parallel processes and acquire practical tools for addressing challenging supervisee scenarios, such as compassion fatigue and virtual care demands</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 1:30-2:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours in supervision for social workers in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Samantha Tuft</b>, PhD; <b>Mia Canzone</b>, BS; <b>Lacey DiFranco</b>, MA; <b>Donna Salaam</b>, MSW, MA; <b>Morgan Minyo</b>, PhD &amp; <b>Zoe Fete</b>, MS</p> <p>Dr. Samantha Tuft is a Research Scientist at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Since 2022, she has worked with the Elder Justice team and APS partners to develop and evaluate programs addressing elder abuse and self-neglect. She holds a PhD in adult development and aging and</p>	<p><b>From Evidence to Impact: Applied Aging Research at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging</b></p> <p>Understanding and addressing the needs of older adults, informal caregivers, and formal service providers requires research that goes beyond theory to inform the development and dissemination of feasible programs, policies, and services that can be integrated into the routine clinical practices of health systems and community-based organizations. At Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, researchers integrate methodological rigor with community engagement to develop, evaluate, and disseminate supportive services and public policies that target the real-world needs of older adults and their caregivers. This symposium introduces students and professionals to the Institute's diverse applied aging research portfolio, demonstrating how rigorous methodology, pragmatic study designs, and community partnerships generate new scientific knowledge, advance the field's evidence base, and directly informs services across the Aging Network. Presenters will highlight active projects at the Institute that utilize cross-sector evaluations,</p>

<p>has a background in experimental psychology.</p> <p>Mia Canzone is a Research Assistant at Benjamin Rose. She assists with the implementation and evaluation of projects led by the Benjamin Rose Elder Justice Research Team. Ms. Canzone has a background in psychology and hopes to further her education in research through experience and academics.</p> <p>Lacey DiFranco has served as a Research Analyst at the Benjamin Rose since 2023. Her work involves coordinating projects and grants focused on developing training courses and testing non-pharmacological, psychosocial interventions for older adults, particularly those living with dementia.</p> <p>Donna Salaam is a researcher committed to expanding opportunities for African American participation in research and services. As the Participant Recruitment Lead for the SHARE for African American study at Benjamin Rose, she develops culturally informed outreach strategies, builds community partnerships, and supports meaningful engagement of African American families.</p> <p>Dr. Morgan Minyo is a Research Scientist at Benjamin Rose. Her research focuses on evaluating and disseminating person-centered, evidence-based programs for older adults and their caregivers to address unmet needs and promote engagement with support services.</p> <p>Zoe Fete is a Research Analyst at Benjamin Rose. She is a member of multiple project teams focused on the evaluation and implementation of evidence-based dementia caregiving programs, more specifically, aspects such as program availability, accessibility, and adaptations.</p>	<p>randomized clinical trials, and implementation science. Projects to be presented include: 1) a care coordination program for alleged victims and perpetrators of caretaker neglect; 2) an elder shelter program for Adult Protective Services clients; 3) a music intervention for people living with dementia; 4) two evidence-based dementia caregiving programs that have been widely disseminated; and 5) a free online resource for finding and enrolling in dementia caregiving support programs. Key challenges such as participant engagement, program accessibility, sustainability, and cultural adaptations will be highlighted within each individual presentation. Discussion will emphasize practical strategies for developing strong community partnerships, using data to guide program implementation, and balancing scientific rigor with the constraints of real-world settings.</p> <p><b>Presentation Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe applied research approaches that can be used to develop, test, and disseminate programs for older adults and their caregivers</li> <li>• Identify implementation challenges and describe practical strategies for effective program delivery</li> <li>• Identify applied research approaches that can be replicated in various professions when addressing community partnerships, program implementation, and evaluation</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 1:30-2:30 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Symposium</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
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**Lauren Feyh**, MNM, LNHA, ACC; **Amy Handra**, MS, MFA; **Jill Clutter**, PhD, MCHES & **Jessica Krok-Schoen**, PhD, FGSA

Lauren Feyh is an Instructor of Practice in the Division of Health Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM) and Co-Founder/Co-Director of GrowIN: Intergenerational Community Programming. Lauren was named an inaugural Eisner Prize Fellow in 2023 for advancing intergenerational work.

Amy Handra is the Director of Education at CAPA-Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, a role they have held since 2018. In this position, they have been responsible for creating and producing programs to promote arts accessibility, resulting in significant increases in participation and sponsorship funding for Education & Outreach.

Dr. Jill Clutter is an Associate Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medicine at The Ohio State University. The major focus of her research involves workforce development issues in the health professions, specifically dealing with the current generation of healthcare profession students in terms of health, interprofessional education, and teamwork.

Dr. Jessica Krok-Schoen is an Associate Professor in the Division of Health Sciences, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The Ohio State University's College of Medicine. Dr. Krok-Schoen's research focuses on geriatric oncology, cancer survivorship, symptom management, and behavioral interventions. She has been a proud OAGE member since 2017.

### **Everyone has a Story to Share: An Interactive Intergenerational Experience and Lessons Learned from the ARISE Program**

The ARISE (ARts through Intergenerational Social Engagement) program is a five-week intergenerational (IG) program focused on storytelling through the fine arts. It was developed through a partnership among Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), a nonprofit arts and theater organization, The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (OSU HRS), and GrowIN, a nonprofit organization that provides IG programming and education around nutrition, wellness, and the arts to people in central Ohio. The goal of the ARISE program is to improve the lives of multiple generations, reduce perceptions of generational differences, and increase appreciation of the arts. The ARISE program began in the summer of 2023 and continues each summer. Participants include teens from grades 9-12, undergraduate students from OSU and Columbus State University, and community-dwelling older adults and residents of long-term care facilities, all from central Ohio. This session will be divided into three parts: the first presents ARISE program details, results, and lessons learned. The second, is audience involvement with an activity from the ARISE program, storytelling through movement and dance, which will be facilitated by a teaching artist affiliated with CAPA. This session will conclude with a discussion panel of former ARISE participants (older adults, teens, college mentors), a representative from the Villages, the CAPA Director of Education and Engagement, OSU's Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving, and OSU HRS faculty. This session promotes the implementation of IG programs with multiple community partners in the context of positive aging and generational perceptions.

#### Presentation Objectives:

- Explore diverse perspectives on intergenerational learning, arts engagement, and community inclusion
- Present a storytelling-through-movement activity used in the ARISE program, recognizing how creative expression fosters empathy, communication, and connection across generations
- Identify the benefits of intergenerational engagement through the arts, with a focus on reducing generational stereotypes, enhancing social connectedness, and promoting positive aging

**Date & Time:** Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm

**Location:** Pfahl 140

**Presentation Type:** Workshop



*This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.*

<p><b>Morgan Angles, MPH, CHES</b></p> <p>Morgan Angles is a public health leader with over 15 years of experience in government and academic medicine. As Assistant Director of the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving, Morgan leads statewide initiatives in dementia education, care partner support, and community engagement. A Certified Health Education Specialist, she brings deep expertise in population health, family caregiving, and aging.</p>	<p><b>The Dementia Experience: Empathy in Practice Through Simulation</b></p> <p>Dementia impacts hundreds of thousands of Ohioans, yet few professionals or family care partners have the opportunity to truly understand the lived experience of cognitive decline. Presented by the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving, this immersive workshop offers a powerful, first-person perspective that helps attendees better grasp the realities faced by individuals living with dementia. Through guided simulation activities, participants will experience sensory changes, cognitive overload, perceptual distortions, and task-related frustrations; common challenges that influence dementia-related behavior and communication. By “walking in the shoes” of people living with dementia, attendees will gain deeper empathy and insight into how dementia shapes everyday interactions. Following the simulation, a facilitated debrief will connect the experience to evidence-informed dementia care strategies. Participants will explore practical techniques for reducing distress, improving communication, and creating supportive environments across care settings. The session will also highlight key resources within Ohio’s aging network, including caregiver support programs, statewide initiatives, and tools available to help professionals better support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. This workshop is ideal for educators, students, healthcare providers, social service professionals, and anyone seeking to strengthen their dementia knowledge through hands-on learning. Attendees will leave with enhanced empathy, actionable insights, and greater awareness of the supports available to empower Ohioans impacted by dementia.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead participants in an immersive experience about the sensory, cognitive, and functional challenges commonly faced by people living with dementia, enabling them to develop deeper empathy and a more person-centered approach in their professional practice</li> <li>• Identify practical communication techniques and strategies to improve interactions with individuals living with dementia, based on insights gained through the simulation</li> <li>• Explore statewide and community-based resources - including caregiver supports, educational tools, and evidence-based programs - to better guide and support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 202  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p>
<p><b>Patrick Mese, MSW, MGS</b></p> <p>Patrick Mese is a PhD student in Social Gerontology program at Miami University Oxford, Ohio. His research interests involve using a quantitative approach in topics such as long-term care, aging policy, dementia, caregiving, technology, and health and social care access in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p>	<p><b>Agency Staff Utilization in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Communities: Patterns and Concerns</b></p> <p>Since 2020, long-term care providers have been faced with a shortage of direct care workers. As a result, many nursing homes and assisted living communities have turned to staffing agencies. Agency staffing is believed to be associated with worse resident outcomes, but understanding of how and why providers use agency staff, and the implications of their use, is limited, especially in assisted living communities. Using data from the 2023 Ohio Biennial Survey (&gt; 90% response rate), nursing homes (N=513) and assisted living communities (N=335) that utilized agency staff for licensed nursing (Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses) and other direct care staff (Certified Nursing Assistant and Personal Care Aides) during the year were identified. Findings show that nursing homes are more likely to report higher and more extended use of agency staff than assisted living communities, which includes substituting for directly employed staff over four weeks and for all temporary reasons. In both settings, agency staff were most</p>

	<p>often engaged to address last-minute call-offs, difficult-to-hire shifts, and during the departures of an employee. The most common serious concern among administrators regarding agency staff are costs, lack of dedication to building, negatively impacting the morale of directly employed staff, inadequate time to know residents' care plans, and lack of knowledge of building policies and procedures. Since agency staffing has become a central workforce strategy, investment in the long-term care workforce is necessary to reduce the use of agency staff and this study provides important insights that help direct these investments.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the prevalence of agency staffing in nursing homes and assisted livings</li> <li>• Describe the key reasons for using agency staff for licensed nursing staff and other direct care staff in nursing homes and assisted livings</li> <li>• Describe the primary concerns that nursing home and assisted living administrators have regarding agency staffing</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Anthony Sterns, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Anthony Sterns is an Associate Research Scientist for the Scripps Gerontology Center of Miami University. He is a recognized national expert in gerontechnology and a pioneer in the application of mobile computers and smartphones to improve the quality of life for individuals living with chronic illnesses. He is a Fellow of APA Division 20 and a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing Person-Centered Care in Nursing Homes: Implementation and Evaluation of the ComPASS-21 Digital Preference Tool in 4 Communities</b></p> <p>Person-centered care empowers individuals by respecting their unique needs, preferences, and values. Implementation often falls short due to challenges in gathering and using residents' important preferences. The objective of the study was to evaluate the impact of ComPASS (Care Preference Assessment of Satisfaction), a digital tool designed to capture, share, and enable the actionable use of resident preference data during care planning meetings in nursing homes. A multi-phase pilot was performed in four nursing homes, including: 1) User testing and iterative development of the Compass-21 digital survey integrating Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI) and MDS Section F items Baseline and post-intervention interviews with residents (using the Compass-21 tool), 2) Staff, resident, and family feedback on the usefulness of the report after quarterly care planning meetings. and 3) Quantitative analysis of preference-congruence (proportion of important preferences rated "very satisfied") and qualitative analysis of barriers/facilitators. Baseline preference-congruence index ranged from 43% to 80% across sites, showing variability in fulfillment of resident preferences. ComPASS-21 reports were rated highly for helpfulness (mean 3.83/5), understandability (4.44), and usefulness (4.16). 14 of 26 residents showed post-intervention change in their preference-congruence index, with measurable improvements seen at the individual and community level, though overall group change was not statistically significant. Staff and families reported enhanced communication and targeted action items for care improvement. ComPASS is a feasible and impactful digital solution to measure the delivery of preference-based, person-centered care in nursing homes. Its real-time dashboard and automated reporting enhance care planning discussions and accountability. Further research and broader implementation are needed to maximize impact on resident satisfaction and quality outcomes.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how the use of preference-congruent care can improve care delivery in nursing home communities</li> <li>• Review the COMPASS digital evaluation tool and how it was implemented</li> <li>• Evaluate the COMPASS implementation and what was learned from the results of the implementation in 4 nursing home communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>

<p><b>Heather Reece, MGS, JD</b></p> <p>Heather Reece has worked in long-term care for over 20 years and has specialized training in conflict resolution, caregiving, and long-term services and supports. She has acted as project manager for several large, multi-year projects and has acted as Principal Investigator for a statewide, multi-phase investigation of guardianship practices that produced the first description of the adult guardianship practices of Ohio's probate courts.</p>	<p><b>"I'm Not Going to Just Listen to One Side": Care Managers' Communication Strategies to Facilitate Conflict Resolution in Home-Based Settings</b></p> <p>Most adults would like to stay in their residences for as long as possible. To achieve this, millions of individuals will require community-based supportive services. The number of individuals receiving home and community-based services is increasing rapidly. There are many sources of interpersonal conflict in caregiving relationships. Conflicts can become so intense or intractable that the provider or client terminates services. Without needed services, institution-based care may be the only option for many individuals. Semi-structured qualitative interviews with seven care managers were conducted to identify ways that they are able to assist clients, caregivers, and providers of home care services in resolving conflict. Many themes related to communication strategies emerged. These include, empathizing, planning, and solving problems. These strategies were employed by care managers at all phases of conflict resolution and enabled them to support clients, assist them in reaching resolutions, and empower clients to effectively manage conflict on their own. Conflicts are guided by how actors behave and how others react to these behaviors. The way communication is used can manage perceptions and interpretations of these interactions. The effectiveness of communication strategies can directly affect the outcomes of conflict. Being oriented to interpersonal communication and conflict resolution is not a skill typically taught to healthcare professionals. As a result, approaches to communication vary greatly among practitioners and caregivers. These insights will improve our understanding of conflict in HCBS. A better understanding will enable us to develop resources to assist clients, caregivers, and families in resolving conflict.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how care managers use a variety of communication strategies to prevent and address conflict and empower clients</li> <li>• Describe behaviors that facilitate conflict resolution</li> <li>• Provide examples of conflict situations that care managers can address</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 240  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Paper</p>
<p><b>Emelia McCuen, DPT, GCS, CCS</b></p> <p>Dr. Emelia McCuen completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2009 from Northwestern University in Chicago. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University and maintains clinical practice at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Dr. McCuen is a newly appointed executive board member of the Optimal Aging Institute.</p>	<p><b>Reframing the Principles and Frameworks of Aging to Create Meaningful Impact</b></p> <p>The Academy of Geriatrics component of the American Physical Therapy Association issued an executive summary outlining guiding principles for best practices in the management of aging adults. These six principles set a foundation for the minimum that we as a geriatric professional community should be doing to reframe the expectations and outcomes for aging adults. The Geriatrics 5 M's approach provides an interdisciplinary perspective on person-centered care that provides a holistic framework on the perspective of aging successfully. How can we integrate both perspectives with the aim of reframing social perspectives on aging? How can we continue to have a meaning impact through the service we provide to the aging adult? This presentation will provide an interdisciplinary perspective for how these six guiding principles combined with the Geriatrics 5 M's approach can empower the next generation of geriatric-minded professionals to boldly advocate for all aging adults, of all ability levels, and be innovative in their approach. It will provide tangible tools that can be immediately implemented into practice. This presentation will also provide an opportunity for collaborative conversation about what the guiding principles and Geriatric 5 M's might be lacking in the literature that should be included for a more holistic viewpoint.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the roles in supporting aging adults with the use of the Academy of Geriatrics guiding principles and Geriatrics 5 M's framework</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how to integrate the Academy of Geriatrics guiding principles and Geriatrics 5 M's framework into practice and education</li> <li>• List innovative approaches to utilizing the Academy of Geriatrics guiding principles and Geriatrics 5 M's framework to provide meaningful care to aging adults</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 230  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p>
<p><b>April Wehrle, BA</b></p> <p>April Wehrle has over 18 years of experience working in the interest of children and elder victims. She currently serves as the Senior Elder Services Coordinator of the Attorney General's Elder Justice Unit and as staff to the Elder Abuse Commission. April serves on several statewide elder justice partnerships and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS).</p>	<p><b>The "Miss Mary" Case Study on Elder Sexual/Domestic Violence</b></p> <p>Sexual abuse in later life is a topic that is rarely spoken about or researched. There is an extremely low number of these cases reported to authorities. In this workshop, participants will complete the case study, "Miss Mary," a sexual and domestic violence case study from the Federal Department of Justice. Completing the case study will include a video and case study questions through audience participation. Participants will also be encouraged to examine their own agency's responses to these sexual/domestic violence elder abuse cases, the types of assistance other agencies in their community can provide, and the value of an interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p><u>Presentation Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the dynamics of sexual/domestic abuse in later life</li> <li>• Analyze abuse in later life cases for power and control dynamics</li> <li>• Discuss the complexities of sexual/domestic abuse in later life</li> </ul> <p><b>Date &amp; Time:</b> Friday, April 17 @ 2:45-3:45 pm  <b>Location:</b> Pfahl 302  <b>Presentation Type:</b> Workshop</p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1 CE clock hours for counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in the state of Ohio.</i></p> <p><i>This training is approved for 1.0 hour of continuing education credit by the Board of Executives of Long-Term Services &amp; Supports. The BELTSS approval number is 44625-001-C-26.</i></p>

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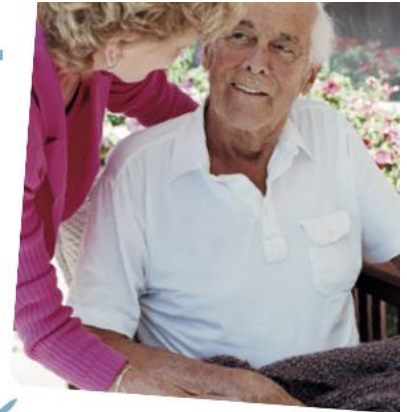


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# Poster Abstracts

(alphabetized by poster title)

<b>Friday, April 17 @ 4:00 – 5:00 pm</b> <b>Location: The Blackwell Inn &amp; Pfahl Conference Center – Pavillion</b>	
<p><b>Alexa Plotkin, BS</b></p> <p>Alexa Plotkin is a recent graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Currently a research assistant in the LIFT Lab, she works under a mentor specializing in geriatric care, contributing to many projects, some touching on aging populations. She is applying to medical school and hopes to continue integrating her engineering background with clinical research to improve care.</p>	<p><b>A Scoping Review of Sociodemographic Differences in Geriatric Orthopedic Surgery Research</b></p> <p>Given the association between age and musculoskeletal conditions treated with orthopedic surgery, as well as the presence of health differences in orthopedic care among vulnerable populations, this review aimed to (1) qualitatively assess the extent to which geriatric orthopedic research includes sociodemographic differences, and (2) outline conceptual and methodological gaps in existing research. The researchers conducted a scoping review of original research published between January 2017 and December 2023 and indexed in Medline (Ovid), Embase, Scopus, and CINAHL databases. They included studies evaluating sociodemographic differences in total knee/hip arthroplasty, hip fracture, and vertebral compression fracture. Of the initial 1780 citations, 203 met inclusion/exclusion criteria. The number of studies addressing sociodemographic differences remained small and stable, peaking at 36 in 2020. Most studies were retrospective (84.7%, n= 172), fewer were prospective (13.8%, n=28), two were interventional, and one was qualitative. The most commonly included sociodemographic characteristics were race (60.1%, n=122), age (36.5%, n=74), and ethnicity (25.6%, n=52). Study outcomes focused on utilization/cost/output (46.3% n=94), complications/adverse events (45.3%, n=92), and surgical outcomes (29.0%, n=59). Geriatrics-focused outcomes (function, cognition, mental health, quality of life, and social support) were rarely evaluated. This scoping review highlights significant gaps in the inclusion of sociodemographic differences in geriatric orthopedic surgery research. Future studies should move beyond retrospective demographic data to include patient-centered outcomes, qualitative studies that can capture the patient and caregiver experience, and interventional studies that aim to improve health outcomes for all older adults.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss to what extent geriatric orthopedic research includes sociodemographic differences</li> <li>• Outline conceptual and methodological gaps in geriatric orthopedic research</li> </ul>
<p><b>Izabella McBride</b></p> <p>Izabella McBride is a Health Sciences major with a minor in biology about to graduate this fall from The Ohio State University. After graduation, she plans to apply and attend medical school. She has been involved with research for the past couple years and has done many poster presentations regarding cancer and cannabis use.</p>	<p><b>Age Differences in Symptoms and Cannabis Use Among Cancer Patients</b></p> <p>Cancer patients of different ages experience a wide range of symptoms that can significantly affect their everyday life. Understanding these differences among age groups is important in evaluating symptom management. Cannabis use has become relevant in the use of cancer patient's symptom management, and it's important to explore how cannabis use can influence symptoms across age groups. A cross-sectional study of 1,427 cancer patients measured pain, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and vomiting, quality of life, and cognitive function. Adjusted generalized linear models were used to calculate adjusted mean symptoms by age group and cannabis use. The prevalence of cannabis use differed by age group with 24.8% current use among 783 younger patients and 18.6% use among 644 older patients. Generally, younger patients reported worse symptoms compared to older adults and among cannabis users compared to non-users. The adjusted mean symptom burden for pain and quality of life were significantly higher among young cannabis users versus non-</p>

	<p>users, however no differences were observed among older patients. No age-cannabis differences were found in other symptoms. Study results stress the importance of measuring symptom burden and strategies of symptom management among cancer patients. Future studies should consider the role of age in symptom management. The findings suggest that symptoms are worse among younger patients who use cannabis and is a way for them to alleviate symptoms. This indicates that age-specific factors influence symptom management, but additional research is needed to understand these age-related patterns among symptoms in cancer patients.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how age differences can affect symptom burden among cancer patients</li> <li>• Explore the use of cannabis and symptom management across age groups</li> <li>• Elaborate on what future research could look for in these age-related differences</li> </ul>
<p><b>HeeSoon Lee, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. HeeSoon Lee is a Professor of Social Work at Bowling Green State University. Her research focuses on areas such as stress and coping strategies, resilience, quality of life, emotional eating and eating behaviors, social connectedness and technology, and health-related issues among older adults from diverse cultural backgrounds.</p>	<p><b>Aging and Connection in the Digital Age: The Role of Virtual Networks in Older Women's Friendships</b></p> <p>Social isolation and loneliness among older adults are significant public health concerns. Friendships in later life provide emotional support, social engagement, and a sense of belonging, particularly for those with limited family support. Traditionally maintained through in-person visits, phone calls, or letters, these relationships are increasingly sustained via digital technology, especially for older adults facing mobility or geographic challenges. This study examined the benefits and challenges of virtual friendships among eight older women aged 75 to 100 from Korean Americans and White Americans. Through semi-structured interviews, the study explored how older adults use digital tools to maintain friendships, the obstacles they face, and the emotional outcomes of virtual interactions. Eight themes include technology use, comparison with in-person relationships, motivations, adoption challenges, emotional impact, cultural influences, and digital literacy. Findings show virtual networks influence social connections and offer ways to combine online and in-person interactions to enhance older adults' well-being.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the benefits and challenges of maintaining virtual friendships among older adults, particularly in relation to emotional support, social engagement, and well-being</li> <li>• Analyze how cultural factors, digital literacy, and mobility limitations influence older adults' use of technology to sustain social connections</li> <li>• Evaluate strategies to effectively integrate online and in-person interactions that promote social connectedness &amp; reduce loneliness among older adults</li> </ul>
<p><b>Elise Krueger, BA</b></p> <p>Elise Krueger is a current Master's of Gerontological Studies student at Miami University with a background in psychology and direct care experience on hospice and dementia care units. Her academic and professional interests center on the social-psychological dimensions of aging, cultural attitudes toward death, and how</p>	<p><b>Aging and Dying: Biomedicalization and the Life Course Reconsidered</b></p> <p>Medicine has profoundly reframed aging from a natural life stage to a condition to be managed, optimized, and resisted. The biomedicalization of aging, with expanding interventions and medical authority, has reshaped expectations about longevity and our encounters with mortality. As medical technologies are able to extend life, aging bodies become subject to what scholars describe as the "rescue fantasy" (i.e., an overestimation of medicine's ability to avert death; Brody, 1992). Within this orientation, the dying process is interpreted as a medical failure rather than the inevitable arc of life. Drawing on contemporary sources, this poster argues that the goal of "reframing aging" requires us to reframe death and dying. It explores how biomedicalization disrupts the life-course understanding of aging and dying as separate but sequential cornerstones in the human experience. It also considers how medical training</p>

<p>mortality salience is intertwined with ageism.</p>	<p>can be strengthened through gerontological competencies, death education, and hands-on experience with palliative care, to better prepare clinicians for recognizing the value and skills of effective end-of-life care. Doing so challenges the “rescue fantasy” and encourages a cultural shift toward embracing, rather than avoiding, the vulnerability, connection, and meaning experienced in life’s final moments. This shift fosters a model of care in which aging is supported, dying is understood as a natural event in the life course, and both are approached not with fear, but with clarity, dignity, and humanity.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how the biomedicalization of aging shapes end-of-life practices and identify revisions that can improve the quality and ethics of care</li> <li>• Explain how the "rescue fantasy" influences medical decision-making and cultural expectations of longevity, decline, and death</li> <li>• Identify the interconnectedness of aging and dying within the life course perspective and explain how reframing these processes can improve our interactions with medicine and mortality</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wisdom Obioha, BSc</b></p> <p>Wisdom Obioha is a first-year graduate student in the Master of Gerontological Studies at Miami University, Ohio. His research interests include the intersection of aging and disability with a focus on healthy aging among underserved populations, especially those with long-term/early acquired disabilities. He is passionate about advanced statistical methods and tools in social research.</p>	<p><b>Aging with Disability: Successful Aging from the Perspectives of Older Adults with Early-Acquired Disabilities</b></p> <p>The concept of successful aging in gerontology has evolved and developed over the years. However, most definitions propose objective standards for aging well, which exclude individuals with certain demographic characteristics from aging successfully. This poster explores the development of the concept of successful aging over the years through a critical disability perspective. The poster focuses on the applicability of the MacArthur Model of Successful Aging (MMSS; Rowe &amp; Kahn, 1987) to older adults aging with early-acquired disabilities and identifies its limitations. The poster proceeds to explore how the MMSS has changed over time (i.e., Rowe &amp; Kahn, 1997, 2015) and whether these changes addressed prevailing issues relating to aging well among older adults aging with disabilities. The poster then discusses prior research that addresses the limitations of these objective models of successful aging through the perspectives of older adults with a disability (e.g., Minkler &amp; Fadem, 2002; Molton &amp; Yorkston, 2016; Villar et al., 2025), and presents common domains of successful aging for older adults aging with disabilities. It concludes with recommendations for gerontological research and practice regarding the conceptualization of successful aging, especially to ensure that the concept is inclusive of individuals with diverse lived experiences and broader social factors that may impact the ability to age well. The presenter recommends expansion of the conceptualizations to include dyadic perspectives of older adults with disabilities and those who provide them with assistance.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trace the development of the concept of successfully aging using a critical disability perspective</li> <li>• Present common domains of successful aging for older adults aging with disabilities that should be considered in the definition of successful aging</li> </ul>
<p><b>Marshall Meyer</b></p> <p>Marshall Meyer is an undergraduate biology and global health student at Miami University. He has a growing interest in gerontology and public health.</p>	<p><b>Associations Between Literacy Proficiency of Ohio Counties and Quality of Care Provided in Nursing Homes</b></p> <p>Different populations in Ohio have varying levels of literacy. This study investigates any possible associations between low-literacy areas and the quality of care that is received in nursing homes. From the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies model of adult literacy and numeracy, a selection of Ohio counties ranging from best-ranked to worst-ranked on literacy for adults age 65 were cross referenced with the CMS quality data and analyzed for various quality indicators. It is hypothesized that there will be an association</p>

	<p>between counties that have higher percentages of people with low literacy levels and negative quality indicators of nursing homes. The Ohio county with the highest percentage of low literacy for adults age 65 is Holmes County. For the 5 nursing homes in Holmes County, the average overall 5-star rating is 3.6 and the staff rating is 2.4. In comparison, Delaware County has the lowest percentage of low literacy in Ohio. The 8 nursing homes in Delaware County have an average overall 5-star rating of 3.9 and the average staff rating of 2.6. The study's findings are intended to be used for future development of stronger programs focusing on the well-being of nursing home residents. The knowledge of the impacts of functional illiteracy/low-literacy on aging populations living in nursing homes can be useful for staff to better serve their residents and provide adequate care. Information regarding effects of low literacy could be distributed to professionals.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the association between literacy and quality of care in nursing homes</li> <li>• Identify how nursing homes can better serve low-literacy residents</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emma Corbett, BS</b></p> <p>Emma Corbett recently graduated from The Ohio State University (OSU) with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience, earning research distinction for her research project that examined cellular mechanisms that may enhance neurogenesis and memory in transgenic mice. She is a psychometrist at the Neuropsychology clinic at OSU, where she administers neuropsychological evaluations to adults.</p>	<p><b>Associations Between Participation in Mentally Engaging Activities and Cognitive Function Among Older Adults</b></p> <p>There are various modifiable risk factors that reduce the risk of dementia, including physical, cognitive, and social activities (Livingston et al., 2024). Prior work has suggested engagement in a greater number of hobbies is associated with a lower risk of dementia (Hughes et al., 2010). However, findings on the associations between mentally stimulating activities and specific cognitive domains remain inconsistent due to differences across studies in how cognitive activities are defined and the use of limited cognitive measures. The purpose of this study is to clarify the relationship between self-reported mentally stimulating activities and specific cognitive domains. Clinical data from 213 adults aged 50 and above (M age=66.05, SD age=9.49) who underwent neuropsychological testing were used to examine the relationship between mentally engaging activities and cognitive performance on measures of immediate and delayed verbal memory, verbal fluency, and processing speed/shifting. Composite scores for each cognitive domain were created by converting raw test scores to z-scores and averaging them. Patients also reported their regular hobbies on the clinic's history form, and these were coded according to their level of mental engagement. After accounting for relevant demographic characteristics and depression, participation in mentally engaging activities predicted better performance on immediate (B=.22, t=2.70, p=.008, r=.21) and delayed verbal memory (B=.27, t=3.26, p=.001, r=.25), verbal fluency (B=.25, t=4.45, p&lt;.001, r=.30), and processing speed/shifting (B=-.15, t=-2.31, p=.022, r=-.18). These findings underscore the potential value of encouraging mentally engaging activities as a modifiable behavioral strategy to promote cognitive health in later life.</p> <p><u>Poster Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify which specific cognitive domains (immediate and delayed verbal memory, verbal fluency, and processing speed/switching) are associated with participation in mentally engaging activities after accounting for depression and relevant demographic characteristics (e.g., age, education, occupational status)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Elizabeth Sheridan, MPH, MACPR</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Sheridan is Associate Director of Clinical Research in Orthopedics at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, with 14 years of experience in older adult research. She is a PhD candidate in Social Work, with her dissertation examining how social determinants of health influence hip fracture outcomes through an intersectional feminist lens.</p>	<p><b>Beyond Demographics: How Intersecting Social Determinants Shape Hip Fracture Outcomes Across Race and Sex</b></p> <p>Hip fractures affect approximately 300,000 older adults annually in the United States, with mortality rates reaching 8-36% within the first year. While existing research has documented disparities based on individual demographic characteristics, few studies examine how multiple systems of inequality interact to create unique risk patterns for diverse older adult populations. This poster reports findings from a retrospective cohort study of 525 adults aged 60 and older who underwent hip fracture surgery at an academic medical center between 2018 and 2024. Using an integrated theoretical framework combining the WHO Social Determinants of Health model with Feminist Intersectional Theory, the study examined which social determinants predict hip fracture outcomes and how these relationships vary by sex and race. Key findings reveal that comorbidity burden significantly predicted complications, readmissions, and mortality at both 30 and 90 days post-surgery. Each additional hour of surgical delay increased mortality odds, emphasizing the importance of rapid intervention. Notably, racial disparities emerged over time: no race effects at 30 days, but by 90 days, Non-White participants demonstrated 100% higher complication odds and 83% higher readmission odds versus White participants. This temporal pattern suggests disparities emerge after hospital discharge during community-based rehabilitation rather than acute hospitalization. Additionally, protective effects of female sex and government insurance operated only among White participants, not Non-White populations, revealing that risk prediction tools may systematically misestimate outcomes for minority patients. These findings have implications for clinical risk assessment, discharge planning, and health equity interventions in geriatric orthopedic care.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze how temporal patterns of racial disparities in hip fracture outcomes distinguish hospital-based from community-based mechanisms of health inequity</li> <li>• Evaluate the limitations of current risk prediction instruments that assume demographic factors operate uniformly across populations and identify approaches for race-stratified risk assessment</li> <li>• Compare the differential effects of insurance coverage and social determinants across intersectional positions to explain why standard protective factors do not operate equivalently for all older adults following hip fracture surgery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mercy Kalu, BSW, MGS</b></p> <p>Mercy Kalu is a purpose-driven social worker and graduate student in Gerontology at Miami University. She holds over eight years of experience working across non-profit organizations, academic settings, and community-based initiatives in Nigeria, where she has led programs that strengthen family cohesion, support vulnerable populations, and promote the health and dignity of older adults, women, and children.</p>	<p><b>Childcare by Grandparents in an Informal Kinship Arrangement in Nigeria: An Age-Long Indigenous Alternative Childcare Practice</b></p> <p>Grandparents play a critical caregiving role in many African societies where childrearing is embedded within extended family and cultural systems. In Nigeria, informal kinship care remains a longstanding indigenous alternative to state-regulated foster care, driven by communal beliefs that childcare is a shared family responsibility. This study explores the lived experiences of grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren within informal kinship arrangements in Lagos State, Nigeria. Using a qualitative design grounded in Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, in-depth interviews were conducted with five grandparents aged 50 and older residing in Festac Town. Participants were purposively selected based on their caregiving roles, with reasons for child placement including parental death, migration, marital disruption, and employment demands. The findings reveal a dual caregiving experience. Participants expressed fulfillment, emotional satisfaction, companionship, and a sense of purpose in nurturing their grandchildren and transmitting family values, culture, and identity. However, grandparents also reported challenges including sleep deprivation, inadequate rest, financial strain, increased domestic</p>

	<p>responsibilities, and limited support from biological parents or community safety nets. Notably, most participants had no contact with social workers, reflecting the absence of structured welfare involvement in informal kinship care. The study underscores the need for policy recognition of informal kinship care, welfare monitoring, financial support programs, and community-based social work services to improve outcomes for grandparents and children.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the cultural, social, and historical foundations of informal kinship care by grandparents in Nigeria and how it functions as an indigenous support system for child development and family continuity</li> <li>• Identify the positive and negative caregiving experiences reported by grandparents, including emotional fulfillment, cultural transmission, financial burden, and caregiver stress</li> <li>• Discuss potential social work and policy interventions that can strengthen support for grandparent caregivers, including welfare assistance, kinship assessment, community engagement, and integrated service delivery</li> </ul>
<p><b>Adele Ryono; David Canepa, BA &amp; Irene Liana, BA, MEd</b></p> <p>Adele Ryono is an 11th-grade student based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She serves on the San Mateo County Commission on Aging and Youth Commission, where she developed school- and library-based initiatives to reduce social isolation through intergenerational engagement.</p> <p>David Canepa serves as President of the San Mateo County (SMC) Board of Supervisors in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is committed to improving public health and community well-being. He led SMC to become the first in the nation to declare loneliness a public health emergency and has advanced mental wellness and mobility programs for older adults.</p> <p>Irene Liana is Executive Chair of the SMC Commission on Aging, where she leads advocacy efforts and initiatives that enhance quality of life for older adults. She is a founder of Villages of SMC, a nonprofit with more than 700 members and volunteers helping older adults age in place.</p>	<p><b>Developing Local Evidence-Based Programs to Foster Intergenerational Connection Between Adolescents and Older Adults: A Case Study</b></p> <p>In the United States, communities are increasingly age-segregated. Age segregation is associated with ageism, poor health outcomes, and social isolation. Among all age groups, adolescents and older adults are often the most separated, despite evidence that these populations may benefit the most from intergenerational connection. Because the state of intergenerational relationships varies widely between communities, local solutions are critical to address this divide. This poster will present a county-wide case study that assessed connections between adolescents and older adults and developed a local program to address the identified needs. The San Mateo County Commission on Aging, located in the San Francisco Bay Area, created a 12-question survey to evaluate how adolescents interact with older adults. The survey was distributed in 11 private and public high schools selected to represent the county's geographic and socioeconomic composition, and 283 responses were received. Results indicated that while 95% of respondents had an older adult in their life, 77% perceived a significant generational divide. Individuals reported a desire to increase empathy and understanding across generations. Based on these findings, the Commission developed Talk Across Time, an intergenerational conversation program in which high school students engage in hour-long conversations with older adults they know. Conversations are guided by questions designed to foster open reflection about both generations' experiences and perspectives. This poster presentation outlines a framework for evaluating intergenerational relationships at the community level and translating local data into targeted programs that reduce age segregation and strengthen intergenerational connection.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify effective methods for conducting community-based evaluations of intergenerational relationships between youth and older adults</li> <li>• Discuss how local data can inform targeted strategies to strengthen intergenerational connection and address community-specific needs</li> <li>• Examine findings from a county case study that surveyed high school students about their connections with older adults</li> </ul>

<p><b>Wanda Schlumpf, MSc</b></p> <p>Wanda Schlumpf is a Biological Sciences PhD student studying and conducting laboratory research in cancer and aging/neurodegeneration at Vanderbilt University. Wanda has spoken at four aging-related conferences and recently received the Tufts 2025 Rob Hollister Award for Graduate Citizenship for her work in the Greater Boston community regarding The Legacy Project, Inc.</p>	<p><b>Empowering Generations for Impact: Outcomes from The Legacy Project, Inc.'s Intergenerational Changemakers Fellowship</b></p> <p>Traditional aging narratives emphasize decline and dependency, silencing older adults' contributions while isolating younger generations from intergenerational wisdom. The Legacy Project, Inc.'s Intergenerational Changemakers Fellowship positions older adults (65+) and young adults (18-24) as equal partners in storytelling and civic action; not as mentors and mentees, but as co-leaders with complementary strengths. This poster will present outcomes from the inaugural 6-month fellowship (November 2025-April 2026), which brought together paired older and younger adult participants across six U.S. cities to complete two core deliverables: 1) collaborative storytelling culminating in a professionally published book, and 2) community micro-initiatives addressing issues of mutual concern. To complete the project and emphasize that both generations bring valuable expertise, each pair received a \$1,000 stipend with support from The Eisner Foundation. The poster will present pre/post-fellowship survey data measuring changes in sense of purpose, civic engagement, community connection, and attitudes toward intergenerational relationships across both age cohorts. The poster will also showcase the collaboratively authored book and analyze any recurring themes, as well as highlight the community micro-initiatives from each participating city. This work demonstrates that when provided with equitable resources and a guided partnership structure, intergenerational collaboration can challenge ageist assumptions, activate civic leadership, and produce tangible community impacts.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how structured intergenerational partnership can impact civic engagement and intergenerational/ageist attitudes</li> <li>• Describe the publication and the community change strategies co-created by the older and younger adult pairs</li> <li>• Identify how to add an actionable framework for implementing The Legacy Project's intergenerational programming in any community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Linda Kerdolff, MBA</b></p> <p>Linda Kerdolff has been a state certified long-term care ombudsman since 2018. She served as volunteer coordinator, then program director of the southwest Ohio long-term care ombudsman program. Since 2024 she has worked in the state long-term care ombudsman office as the constituent engagement manager. Linda has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati.</p>	<p><b>Empowering Residents: The Role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in Nursing and Assisted Living Homes</b></p> <p>In Ohio, there are nearly 200,000 residents who receive long-term care services and supports in their home, or by a long-term care provider like a nursing home, assisted living, or adult group home. The long-term care ombudsman is a federally mandated program that educates residents on their rights, empowers residents to speak up for excellence in their care, and advocates on behalf of residents who want help. In 2024, the statewide ombudsman program helped investigate and resolve nearly 10,000 complaints from residents. Residents who move into long-term care often experience a sense of loss of control over decisions that affect their daily living. "We didn't check our will, our dignity, and our rights at the door when we checked into these nursing homes, and people keep forgetting that," says Maurice, a nursing home resident. The ombudsman supports residents like Maurice to retain their decision-making rights, and to speak up for quality of care and quality of life issues in long-term care settings. There are 36 residents' rights spelled out in the Ohio Revised Code to help protect long-term care residents including the right to be free from abuse and neglect, the right to privacy, and the right to file a grievance without fear of retaliation. Statewide, there are over 100 ombudsmen who, on a daily basis, enter nursing and assisted living homes to speak with residents, find out their experience, educate them on these rights, and empower them with tools they can use to safeguard their health, safety, welfare, and rights.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the role of the ombudsman and how the ombudsman helps</li> </ul>

	<p>residents living in long-term care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an overview of the rights that are spelled out in federal &amp; state laws</li> <li>• Discuss tools residents can use, like a care plan meeting, to help manage their care and quality of life while living in long-term care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Krishnaa Nadig Nair, MSM; Heather Menne, PhD &amp; Kate Singer, PhD</b></p> <p>Krishnaa Nadig Nair is a PhD student whose research focuses on aging within vulnerable populations, examining these issues from both programmatic and policy perspectives. She is interested in how systems of support shape everyday experiences of aging and how community-based approaches can better meet the needs of those at risk.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing Care Through Integration: Community Health Workers in Area Agency on Aging Programs</b></p> <p>Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an essential part of the aging network, connecting older adults to health and social services that support their wellbeing. CHWs help older adults navigate everyday barriers such as medication access, nutrition, housing, and transportation, ensuring that care extends beyond the clinical setting. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) coordinate, fund, and deliver supportive services and supports that enable older adults to live at home and in the community. CHWs are one way that some AAAs accomplish their objectives. Data from the 2025 USAging AAA survey show only 13.6% (n = 53) of responding AAAs employ CHWs. Most report employing trained or certified CHWs (44 out of 53 AAAs), reflecting potential for a strong base of skilled support. Among those employing CHWs, the most common areas of involvement include programs and grants (42.6%), care management and coordination (21.3%), and outreach, education, and training (19.1%). Although few AAAs utilize CHWs, this underscores an opportunity to strengthen capacity and improve service coordination within communities. As AAAs continue to evolve to meet the needs of aging populations, more integration of CHWs could enhance outreach, continuity of care, and support for vulnerable older adults. Understanding who currently fulfills these roles can inform workforce strategies and guide research on building a stronger, more connected aging network.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the current presence and training of CHWs within AAAs</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to expand CHW roles within AAAs to strengthen coordination and outcomes for older adults</li> </ul>
<p><b>Srestha Chattopadhyay, BS &amp; Vidhi Bakshi, BS</b></p> <p>Srestha Chattopadhyay is a biomedical engineering student dedicated to applying engineering principles to</p>	<p><b>Enhancing Social Connectedness and Cognitive Well-Being in Older Adults Through AI-Guided Conversational Companionship</b></p> <p>Loneliness has become a defining challenge of aging in the modern era. As social networks shrink and opportunities for meaningful connection decline, many older adults face an increasing risk of isolation. Nearly one in four Americans over 65 experiences chronic loneliness, a condition linked to higher</p>

<p>improve patient care and health outcomes. Her work bridges biology, technology, and clinical needs, with a particular focus on supporting vulnerable and aging populations. Srestha works closely with Vidhi to develop Veera Systems, uniting biomedical insight with advanced computational tools to create accessible, patient-centered innovations.</p> <p>Vidhi Bakshi is a computer science engineering student with a strong focus on technology and artificial intelligence. Her work centers on developing computational solutions that enhance user experience and accessibility. Vidhi and Srestha are working together to build Veera Systems, combining technical innovation and human-centered design to create accessible, meaningful solutions.</p>	<p>rates of depression, cognitive decline, and diminished overall well-being. Recognizing these risks, studies such as the NIH-funded I-CONNECT trial have shown that structured, online conversation sessions can effectively engage isolated older adults and help slow cognitive decline. Veera Systems builds upon this evidence by developing a secure, AI-powered conversational assistant designed to promote daily social engagement among older adults. Through simple, reflective prompts such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?", Veera encourages users to think about recent interactions, plan upcoming activities, and maintain a sense of connection. These guided conversations also promote memory recall and cognitive engagement, supporting overall mental well-being. The platform incorporates end-to-end encryption, a user-friendly design, and adaptive prompts tailored to individual needs and lifestyles. To evaluate its impact, a series of controlled pilot studies, conducted in collaboration with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the Geriatrics Department, will assess changes before and after interaction with Veera in self-reported loneliness and community engagement. By integrating behavioral psychology, gerontology, and artificial intelligence, Veera Systems aims to strengthen social bonds, support cognitive vitality, and empower older adults to remain active, connected participants in their communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how technology-driven approaches to reducing loneliness will evolve alongside future generations of older adults who are increasingly comfortable with digital tools</li> <li>• Explain why addressing abstract issues such as loneliness and social disconnection is critical to improving health and social outcomes in aging populations</li> <li>• Demonstrate how AI-guided conversational systems like Veera Systems can be applied thoughtfully to enhance social engagement while maintaining ethical and emotional boundaries</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT</b></p> <p>Dr. Lisa Juckett is dedicated to transforming cutting-edge research into actionable solutions that improve real-world practice, with a special focus on organizations serving older adults. Grounded in the principles of implementation science, Dr. Juckett's work explores the key factors and innovative strategies that drive the adoption of evidence-based practices.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing Quality of Life Through Memory Cafés: Social Connection and Engagement for Individuals with Dementia and Their Caregivers</b></p> <p>Memory Cafés are informal, community-based gatherings that support individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers. With over 600 registered across the U.S., these programs provide safe, welcoming spaces for socializing, creative activities, and shared experiences. Research shows that Memory Cafés enhance social connectedness, improve quality of life, and reduce dementia stigma, contributing to their continued national growth. The LifeCare Alliance Memory Café Social Connection Project was one of Ohio's newest programs, supported by a \$10,000 Meals on Wheels America Socialization Grant. From June 2024 to May 2025, LifeCare Alliance staff hosted Memory Café events at a congregate dining center and collaborated with stakeholders across the Midwest to explore program models. They developed and implemented activities involving five caregivers and seven individuals with dementia or memory loss, collecting data on psychosocial outcomes such as mood and social connectedness. Activities were facilitated by LifeCare Alliance staff and graduate students from The Ohio State University's Occupational Therapy Division. Pre- and post-surveys showed participants enjoyed the activities, with caregivers reporting a significant improvement in mood (<math>p = 0.034</math>), indicating positive effects on psychosocial well-being. Many caregivers also expressed strong interest in attending future sessions. These findings demonstrate the meaningful impact of Memory Cafés on the lives of people with dementia and their caregivers. This poster will share best practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for expanding the evidence base on Memory Café effectiveness.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the purpose and structure of Memory Cafés as supportive,</li> </ul>

	<p>community-based gatherings for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the benefits of participation in Memory Cafés, including improved mood and social engagement as reported by both individuals with dementia and their caregivers</li> <li>• Identify considerations for implementing memory cafes across diverse community contexts and measuring Memory Café effectiveness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Elizabeth Hall, BS &amp; Anisha Shrestha, BPH</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Hall is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, concentrating in Community Health Education with an interest in aging &amp; dementia. She serves as the National Director of Healthcare Mission Engagement at the Alzheimer's Association, where she leads national strategy for brain health improvement, dementia-capable care pathways, and clinical practice guideline implementation.</p> <p>Anisha Shrestha is a Master of Public Health student specializing in Epidemiology. Her academic work focuses on quantitative methods and applied population health research. She also has growing interests in public health aspects of ageing, health equity, and global health, which guide my broader research goals.</p>	<p><b>Evaluating Group Engagement of People with Dementia Residing in Long Term Care Facilities Using a Novel Multisensory Device</b></p> <p>Interventions offering multisensory stimulation have the potential to address apathy, a common symptom of dementia, in long term care settings. Because apathy often manifests as reduced initiation, interest, and emotional responsiveness, measuring changes in residents' engagement helps assess the benefits of psychosocial interventions and identify meaningful group activities for people living with dementia. Group engagement during a multisensory stimulation intervention will be evaluated at two long term care facilities in Ohio. The Tovertafel (Magic Table) is a novel device that projects interactive games onto a table using infrared light, encouraging purposeful play among individuals with memory impairments. This study is a secondary analysis of data from a convenience sample of residents with moderate-to-severe dementia. Using a repeated-measures design, study participants were videotaped for analysis purposes during lunch and Tovertafel play. Emotional and behavioral responses to these activities will be coded using the Engagement of a Person with Dementia Scale (EPWDS), a validated observational tool. Paired sample t-tests will be conducted to assess differences in engagement between the two activities. Thirty residents, who were mostly White females and had a mean BIMS score of 4.5, participated in this study. On average, participants attended 2.8 Tovertafel game sessions per week with 2 to 6 individuals for about 30 minutes each. Findings related to engagement will be presented that may be useful to researchers and care professionals who are contemplating the integration of multisensory, therapeutic games as part of person-centered dementia care in long term care settings.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how multisensory technology can be used to encourage engagement among residents living with moderate-to-severe dementia in long-term care settings</li> <li>• Compare residents' engagement during regular daily activities and during Tovertafel play sessions</li> <li>• Identify how observational tools like the EPWDS can help evaluate emotional and behavioral responses to dementia-friendly activities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ashley Hettman, BS</b></p> <p>Ashley Hettman studies how the environment influences psychological processes in later life. Currently, she is interested in the role of greenspaces (broadly defined) in supporting caregiving, how access to transportation influences the benefits of volunteering, and the use of nature to maintain well-being among dementia patients in care facilities.</p>	<p><b>Fueling Connection: How Transportation Influences Social Engagement in Older Adulthood</b></p> <p>Volunteer work in older adulthood is associated with better physical health and overall well-being. Less is known how access to transportation as a structural aspect of the environment may hinder or promote volunteer work. The present study investigates how access to transportation shapes the relationship between volunteering and beneficial outcomes. Using data from Wave 8 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) – a representative sample of adults fifty years and older in the United Kingdom – the researchers examined the impact of volunteering frequency on measures of physical health and well-being, as well as the impact of different indicators of transportation use. They found that volunteering was positively associated with well-being. In addition, public transportation use in older adults' showed direct effects on well-being and physical health over and above other demographic variables, such as age and</p>

	<p>sex. The findings highlight the importance of environmental structures, such as transportation, on developmental outcomes. Future research should explore longitudinal trends of volunteering and transportation use in old age.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare the differential effect of formal and informal volunteering on older adult's well-being and physical health outcomes</li> <li>• Describe the effect of public transportation use on formal and informal volunteering among older adults</li> <li>• Summarize the direct and indirect effects of public transportation use on older adult's subjective well-being and physical health outcomes via volunteering</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wisdom Obioha, BSc</b></p> <p>Wisdom Obioha is a first-year graduate student in the Master of Gerontological Studies at Miami University, Ohio. His research interests include the intersection of aging and disability with a focus on healthy aging among underserved populations, especially those with long-term/early acquired disabilities. He is passionate about advanced statistical methods and tools in social research.</p>	<p><b>Gender Differences in Physical Activity Among U.S. Older Adults with Dementia</b></p> <p>Previous studies indicate that physical activity (PA) may benefit older adults living with dementia. However, research on physical activity in those with dementia and how it may differ by gender is limited. Using data from wave 15 of the Health and Retirement Study, the researcher estimated gender differences in PA among older adults (65+) with dementia in the United States (US; N = 583, mean age = 78.50 years, SD = 0.45). Physical activity was assessed with questions on how often respondents took part in vigorous, moderate, and light physical activities on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (everyday) to 5 (never). He collapsed categories such that frequent vigorous activity included those who engaged in PA once per week or more. The same was done for moderate and light physical activity. He then summed across vigorous, moderate, and light PA to create a total activity score. Individuals with scores at the median or higher were defined as physically active. Results indicated that 41.45% of older adults with dementia were physically active. Forty-seven percent (47.12%) of males were physically active compared with 37.30% of females. There was a statistically significant gender difference in physical activity, <math>X^2(df) = 4.52(1, 80), p &lt; .05</math>. Further research is required to determine why females may engage less in physical activity than males, including possible confounding factors.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate to what extent older adults (65+) with dementia in the United States engage in physical activity</li> <li>• Estimate gender differences in physical activity among those with dementia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Michelle Brodke, PhD</b></p> <p>Dr. Michelle Brodke joined the Bowling Green State University faculty in 2008 as an Assistant Professor in the department of applied sciences at Firelands College. In addition to publishing in academic journals, she has presented her work at several regional and international conferences.</p>	<p><b>Generational Preferences at Work: Misunderstood Boomers</b></p> <p>The modern workforce is generationally diverse with four generations working side-by-side: Boomers (born 1946-1964), Generation X (born 1965-1980), Millennials (born 1981-1994), and the newest entrants, Generation Z (born 1995-2012). Although multi-generational workforce presents opportunities and significant challenges, scholars suggest that negative stereotypes often exist across generational boundaries, leading to friction and misunderstanding in the workplace. The present research among 56 working adults specifically highlights workplace preferences across the generations. A key finding is that the Boomer generation is widely misunderstood. That is, there is a statistically significant difference between what Boomers report that they want from an employer and what other generations perceive that they want in the following areas: 1) Public Engagement – employer encourages tours, job shadowing, and/or informational interviews; 2) Focus on Employees' Strengths – employee skills are used to the best advantage; 3) Internal Engagement – the employer encourages mentoring and information sharing across units; 4) Appropriate Pay – pay consistent with market rates; 5) Flexible Work Schedule – flex hours and/or remote work; 6) Promotion Opportunities – the employer has lateral (across departments or</p>

	<p>units) and/or upward moves. Specifically, Boomers wanted these elements of work more than their colleagues anticipated. Failing to address stereotypes across the generations degrades situation awareness and limits the tools that employers may use to effectively hire, manage, and retain workers, especially Boomers. Finally, misunderstandings across the generations reduces organizations' ability to create a cohesive, high-performing, and inclusive work environment.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify aspects of work that appeal across generations</li> <li>• Identify areas where differences exist between what generations want and what the other generations think they want</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lauren Feyh, MNM, LNHA, CDP, CMDCP; Jamie Davis &amp; Jacob Kraus</b></p> <p>Lauren Feyh is an Instructor of Practice in the Division of Health Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM) and Co-Founder/Co-Director of GrowIN: Intergenerational Community Programming. Lauren was named an inaugural Eisner Prize Fellow in 2023 for advancing intergenerational work.</p> <p>Jamie Davis is a fourth-year Health Sciences major with a minor in Biology at The Ohio State University. Jamie has been involved with GrowIN for approximately two years, beginning as an intern and currently serving as an exercise leader for the Get Up and MOVE program.</p> <p>Jacob Kraus is a senior at The Ohio State University majoring in Health Sciences. As an exercise leader for the Get Up and MOVE program, he is able to share his passion for health through physical activity. Through this program, he hopes to help the aging population experience these benefits in a safe and judgement-free environment.</p>	<p><b>Get Up and MOVE: An Interactive Experience in Building Intergenerational Wellness Through Connection and Activity</b></p> <p>Get Up and MOVE is an innovative intergenerational (IG) wellness program designed to foster meaningful connections between older adults and university students through modified exercise and informal health discussions. Developed through a collaborative partnership among At Home By High (AHBH), The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (OSU HRS), and GrowIN, a Columbus-based nonprofit focused on IG education and wellness- the program integrates circuit-style physical activity with reflective dialogue to promote community, well-being, and mutual learning. Initially launched as a pilot, Get Up and MOVE has evolved into a service-learning model embedded within a gerontology course curriculum. The program not only enhances student understanding of aging and diversity but also empowers older adults through active engagement and shared experiences. This poster will outline the program's development, structure, and outcomes, and will provide practical strategies for implementing low-barrier, participant-driven IG wellness programs that build community, support healthy aging, and cultivate cross-generational empathy and collaboration.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the structure and purpose of the Get Up and MOVE program</li> <li>• Summarize how circuit-style physical activity and reflective dialogue foster community and mutual learning through intergenerational approaches in and outside of the classroom</li> </ul>

<p><b>Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S &amp; Katey Price, PhD</b></p> <p>Richard Meeker is the Community Living Supervisor overseeing the Adult Protective Services Program with Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging. As Mental Health Therapist, he conducts psychosocial assessments and provides behavioral health interventions as appropriate.</p> <p>Dr. Katey Price is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Albion College in Michigan. Her research focuses on the social and communicative behaviors of older adults as well as caregiving and dementia.</p>	<p><b>How Can We Support Older Adults in Ohio when Federal Policy is Intentionally Marginalizing Them?</b></p> <p>Sweeping overhauls, downsizing, cuts, and shutdowns at the Federal level have and continue to negatively impact vulnerable communities throughout the United States, including older adults in Ohio. Some of the more visible issues resulting from these cuts, so far, include nutritional assistance for older adults (e.g., SNAP, Meals on Wheels), access to health care for older adults (e.g., massive reductions in funding Medicare; reduced funding for long-term services and supports), and volunteer opportunities (e.g., AmeriCorps Seniors). This poster has two goals: the first is to cover the effects that the Federal cuts in funding for programs that supplement and support older adults has on Ohioans (including developments up until the conference in March 2026), and the second is to examine the ways that gerontology professionals can work and advocate locally to offset the negative effects of the current administrations' marginalization of older adults, ultimately helping to empower older Ohioans and enhance their independence and dignity.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the effects that the Federal cuts in funding for programs that supplement and support older adults has on Ohioans</li> <li>• Examine the ways that gerontology professionals can work and advocate locally to offset the negative effects of the current administrations' marginalization of older adults, ultimately helping to empower older Ohioans and enhance their independence and dignity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sara Waller</b></p> <p>Sara Waller is a third-year Social Work student at Bowling Green State University. She wrote this paper to uncover disparities among the older adult population while using what she has learned in her classes to provide possible interventions to advocate for this vulnerable population.</p>	<p><b>Identifying Social Isolation as a “Silent Killer” in Older Adults: A Review of Determinants, Impacts, and Intervention Approaches</b></p> <p>Social isolation in older adults is an increasing public health issue with significant physical, mental, and social consequences. This study presents a literature review examining the risk factors, outcomes, and prevention and intervention strategies related to social isolation among older adults. The research addresses three key questions: (1) What factors place older adults at higher risk of social isolation? (2) What are the health consequences of social isolation and loneliness? And (3) What strategies can be implemented to prevent social isolation? Individual factors such as living alone, reduced mobility, and cognitive decline contribute to isolation, while systemic factors – including long-term care facility location, nationwide staffing shortages, and deficient social programs – exacerbate the issue. Structural barriers, including socioeconomic status and racial disparities, further increase vulnerability. Social isolation is linked to both physical and mental implications. Higher rates of depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, premature mortality, and increased healthcare costs are active results of chronic isolation. Effective prevention and intervention strategies at micro, mezzo, and macro levels are critical. Social workers can provide personalized support and family engagement at the micro level, facilitate support groups and community programs at the mezzo level, and advocate for policy reforms, funding, and inclusion initiatives at the macro level. Incorporating early intervention, digital literacy, and sustained advocacy is essential to help older adults maintain meaningful social connections and improve overall quality of life.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify individual, systemic, and structural factors that increase the risk of social isolation</li> <li>• Evaluate the physical, mental, and social health outcomes associated with social isolation and loneliness in older adults</li> <li>• Recommend practical interventions to prevent social isolation and enhance quality of life for older adults</li> </ul>

<p><b>Lauryn Feacher, BS &amp; Renee' Zuccherro, PhD</b></p> <p>Lauryn Feacher is a second-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at Xavier University. She received her BS in Psychology from Florida State University in 2022. Her research interests include barriers to and motivations for improving physical health. Clinically, her populations of interest include children, families, and older adults.</p> <p>Dr. Renee' Zuccherro is a Professor of Psychology at Xavier University. She earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology, with a specialization in gerontology, at Ball State University. Dr. Zuccherro teaches undergraduate psychology and graduate geropsychology courses. Her research focuses on gerontological education, including service-learning and interprofessional education.</p>	<p><b>Instagram Sexuality: The Impact of a Brief Social Media Exposure on Student Perceptions of Older Women's Sexuality</b></p> <p>Older women's sexuality remains largely invisible within mainstream and social media, shaping persistent ageist, sexist, and heteronormative assumptions. This poster builds upon a literature review presented at 2025 OAGE Conference, offering results of a mixed-methods study examining college students' perceptions of older women's sexual expression after a brief exposure to social media imagery. Quantitative results indicated no significant changes in students' perceptions following a single social media exposure; however, qualitative findings told a more nuanced story. Students largely expressed supportive or neutral views, with fewer stereotypical responses than historically documented. Many participants engaged in meaningful self-reflection, with some initially experiencing discomfort that shifted toward curiosity or a reevaluation of their assumptions. These patterns suggest emerging cultural shifts toward more permissive attitudes among younger adults, while also highlighting the persistence of stigma and invisibility, particularly for older women who are sexual minorities. This poster will connect these findings to broader issues of representation, ageism, and the implications for future healthcare and social service professionals. It emphasizes the importance of realistic, diverse portrayals of aging sexuality and illustrates how even brief media-based interventions can spark reflection and challenge bias. Attendees will gain insight into how social media can both perpetuate and disrupt stereotypes, as well as how intentional exposure, education, and intergenerational engagement can foster more inclusive views of sexuality across the lifespan.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify common societal stereotypes and sources of stigma surrounding older women's sexuality, including how ageism, sexism, and heteronormativity intersect</li> <li>• Evaluate how social media representations influence young adults' perceptions of older women's sexual expression, drawing on mixed-methods findings from the study</li> <li>• Discuss strategies for integrating inclusive, accurate portrayals of aging sexuality into education, clinical practice, and intergenerational learning to reduce stigma and improve care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Karleah Harris, PhD; Nikkita Jackson, DSW, LISW-S; Jonathan Trauth, LISW-S, EdD &amp; Marc William Guelache Arouna</b></p> <p>Dr. Karleah Harris has a PhD in Educational Psychology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Purdue University and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Her research interests include inquiry-based science learning, grandparenting, gardening, horticulture therapy, and adolescence development.</p>	<p><b>Intergenerational Food Insecurity and the Power of Food as Medicine</b></p> <p>What we eat has a direct impact on our health and overall well-being. However, many households continue to experience food insecurity and lack consistent access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Food insecurity is a complex issue that affects individuals locally and globally, and it can persist across multiple generations. In this study, the researchers used both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the experiences of intergenerational families participating in a community gardening program. The findings suggest that participants benefited from the program, highlighting the need for additional initiatives that support intergenerational families and expand access to community gardens. Based on these findings, this proposal emphasizes the importance of community-based interventions that not only address nutritional challenges but also strengthen relationships between older adults, caregivers, and younger generations. Community gardens can serve as meaningful spaces where aging adults remain engaged, active, and connected while sharing knowledge with youth and working collectively toward common goals.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the relationship between intergenerational families and food insecurity, and identify strategies to help reduce food insecurity among elderly participants</li> </ul>

<p>Dr. Nikkita Jackson brings over 16 years of experience practicing social work across diverse social service settings, including therapy, case management, managed care, and home healthcare. With nine years in academia, she integrates her extensive professional background into field education by fostering meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-world application.</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Trauth is a Professor in the Department of Social Work at Central State University. He completed his Doctorate in Counseling at the University of Cincinnati in 2016. He also received a master's in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Theology Pastoral Counseling from Xavier University. He is licensed social worker in Ohio.</p> <p>Marc William Guelache Arouna is an undergraduate student at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, majoring in Nursing within the Department of Nursing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the role of food as medicine and the benefits of community gardening within intergenerational families</li> <li>• Demonstrate the impact of food insecurity on intergenerational families</li> </ul>
<p><b>Emerson McSparran</b>, BA; <b>Saloni Pandey</b>, BPH; <b>Ivan (Vanya) Garmatyuk</b>, BA; <b>Kate Singer</b>, PhD, MA &amp; <b>Heather Menne</b>, PhD, MGS</p> <p>Emerson McSparran is a second-year graduate student at Miami University in the Master of Gerontological Studies program with a background in psychology and neuroscience. As a graduate research assistant, Emerson focuses on home- and community-based services and the experiences of people living with dementia, especially those living alone.</p> <p>Saloni Pandey is a Master's student in Gerontological Studies with research</p>	<p><b>Measuring Loneliness, Dementia, and Living Alone in Harmonized Longitudinal Aging Surveys</b></p> <p>The HRS International Family of Studies is a growing network of longitudinal aging data collected around the world through sister studies of the Health and Retirement Study. These international harmonized datasets provide a valuable opportunity to analyze factors affecting the well-being of older adults in different countries using comparable metrics. This scoping review aims to document how cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement are measured and investigated in harmonized datasets. The two datasets chosen were the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA) and the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI). Searches based on the concepts of interest were conducted in MEDLINE, CINAHL Plus, Social Work Abstracts, and APA PsycInfo databases. Exclusion criteria included articles without English full texts available, those that did not analyze the datasets of interest, and those that did not address the research topics. For the KLoSA, 409 articles were identified across the four databases, 228 were screened following deduplication, and 170 were included for full-text review. For the LASI, 262 articles were identified, 179 were screened, and 132 were included for full-text review. These articles document cross-national similarities and differences in how cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement have been studied in Korean and Indian harmonized longitudinal datasets. Future studies will address gaps in the available literature, such as describing the prevalence of people living alone with</p>

<p>interests in health and aging, chronic disease, and physical and cognitive health in older adults. Her work focuses on understanding how different factors shape healthy aging and well-being.</p> <p>Ivan (Vanya) Garmatyuk is a Master's student in Gerontological Studies at Miami University. His interests include aging policy, dementia and cognitive decline, and global aging. His work aims to explore cultural differences and policy-driven approaches to support cognitive health in aging societies.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p>	<p>dementia or comparing levels of loneliness between people living with dementia and people without dementia in other nations.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the similarities and differences in measurement of cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement in the KLoSA &amp; LASI</li> <li>• Identify future research opportunities using these HRS harmonized datasets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ashley Simons, PhD, DPT &amp; Tawiona Brown, DPT, NCS</b></p> <p>Dr. Ashley Simons is an Associate Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Her research interests include anatomy knowledge translation to clinical practice,</p>	<p><b>Movin' On Up: Comparison of Older Adults to Young Adults in Stair Ascent at Varying Step Height</b></p> <p>The purpose of the study was to examine stair kinematic differences during stair ascent between a healthy older adult population (ages 55-75) and a healthy young adult population (ages 18-35) to determine what kinematic and phase duration differences are seen between the two populations. Data was collected using a 10-camera motion capture system. Subjects were asked to ascend a flight of four stairs at 6-inch, 7-inch, and 8-inch heights. Results showed as step height increased, the duration of stance, double support, and stair cycle increased for both populations while those for older adults were statistically</p>

<p>musculoskeletal ultrasound, and biomechanics. In addition, she currently treats outpatient orthopedic and neurologic patients in Columbus, Ohio.</p> <p>Dr. Tawiona Brown is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctoral of Physical Therapy Program. Her primary area of research is neurology and geriatrics. Her scholarly projects encompass caregiving, optimizing exercise prescription for the elderly and neurologically involved as well as falls prevention and screening.</p>	<p>significantly larger than young adults across all step heights. As step height increased, maximum hip flexion, knee flexion, and ankle dorsiflexion increased for both young and older adults during weight acceptance and pull-up; however, only older adults' maximum hip and knee flexion increased during forward continuance and ankle dorsiflexion during push-up. Regardless of step height during stair ascent, older adults had statistically significantly higher maximum hip flexion (during weight acceptance, foot clearance and foot placement), higher hip adduction (during forward continuance), lower hip abduction (during push-up), and lower ankle dorsiflexion (during pull-up). Statistical significance was measured at <math>p &lt; .05</math>. These adaptations may reflect a conservative motor strategy that prioritizes stability over speed, reducing the risk of tripping or falling. Such adjustments may preserve safety or also signal early mobility decline. These results add standard kinematic norms in the older adult population to be used in goal setting and functional correlations in rehabilitation and fall prevention programs.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe phases of stair ascent</li> <li>• Compare and contrast kinematic and angle differences seen between older adults and young adults during stair ascent</li> </ul>
<p><b>Krishna Sapkota, MHS, MA</b></p> <p>Krishna Sapkota is a PhD candidate in Social Gerontology and a research assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, Ohio. His work focuses on multimorbidity and the well-being of older adults. He has peer-reviewed and published in journals like BMC Geriatrics, with research spanning Nepal, Nigeria, and the United States.</p>	<p><b>Multimorbidity and Loneliness Among Older Americans: Longitudinal Analysis Using Health and Retirement Study</b></p> <p>Loneliness and multimorbidity are increasingly recognized as intertwined public health challenges among older adults. Although international research shows strong associations between these conditions, U.S.-specific longitudinal evidence remains limited. This study investigated the longitudinal association between multimorbidity and loneliness among older Americans. Data from the six waves of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS; 2008-2018) were utilized. This study included 9,198 adults aged ~65 years and 19,997 observations from all waves. Because loneliness was assessed in split-half samples across alternating waves, two consecutive waves were combined into a single time point, yielding three analytic periods (i.e., 2008/10, 2012/14, and 2016/18). Loneliness, a dependent variable, was measured using an 11-item UCLA scale (mean score range 1-3). Multimorbidity was measured as a count of eight chronic conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, lung disease, heart disease, stroke, psychiatric problems, and arthritis. Mixed-effects models with random intercepts and slopes assessed longitudinal associations, adjusting for sociodemographic and behavioral covariates. Results are presented as an unstandardized coefficient (b), 95% confidence interval (CI), and p-value. Data management and analysis were performed in SAS 9.4. Mean loneliness scores increased from 1.47 to 1.52 from time 1 to time 3, while multimorbidity counts rose from 2.25 to 2.66. The findings reveal that each additional chronic condition was associated with a 0.03-unit increase in loneliness (95% CI: 0.02-0.03; <math>p &lt; 0.001</math>). Multimorbidity is a significant and independent predictor of increased loneliness among older Americans. Strategies to prevent and control multimorbidity could improve social and emotional well-being among aging populations.</p> <p><u>Poster Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how multimorbidity influences trajectories of loneliness among Americans aged 65 years and older over time</li> </ul>
<p><b>Jenna Wagner, BS</b></p> <p>Jenna Wagner has a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and is currently</p>	<p><b>Palliative Care and Hospice Care: Expanding Access and Understanding</b></p> <p>The growing population of adults aged 65 and older in the U.S. is causing an increase in need for high quality end-of-life services. Palliative care and hospice care serve to support individuals with serious illnesses. Palliative care can begin</p>

<p>pursuing a Master's in Health and Human Services with a focus on Healthcare Administration. Jenna's research centers on the underutilization of palliative and hospice care, particularly in older adult populations, specifically those nearing end-of-life care.</p>	<p>at any stage to address symptoms and emotional distress, whereas hospice care focuses on comfort for patients nearing the end of life. Despite strong evidence showing reduced hospitalizations, lower healthcare costs, and improved quality of life, both services remain significantly underutilized. Misconceptions among healthcare providers and the public often result in delayed referrals, limiting patients' ability to benefit fully from supportive care. Earlier access, provider education, and policy enhancements can ensure that compassionate, patient-centered end-of-life care will increase as the aging population grows.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present key barriers to timely palliative and hospice care referrals and introduce strategies to improve access</li> <li>• Examine common misconceptions about palliative and hospice care and their impact on patient outcomes</li> <li>• Discuss ethical considerations in end-of-life decision-making, particularly related to autonomy, communication, and caregiver roles</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kaitlin Hough</b></p> <p>Kaitlin Hough is a fourth year Bachelor of Nursing Science student at The Ohio State University. She is currently leading this scoping review project in partial fulfillment of my Nursing Honors Program requirements. This includes PICOT question development and literature search.</p>	<p><b>Peer Support Programs for Informal Dementia Family Caregivers: A Scoping Review</b></p> <p>Approximately 16 million family caregivers provide care for people living with dementia totaling over 18 billion hours of care. Caregiving can have adverse effects on one's physical, psychological, financial, and social wellbeing. The purpose of this scoping review is to determine if peer support programs for family caregivers of adults living with dementia can help to improve their overall health, wellbeing, and quality-of-life. Search engines used for this review included CINAHL, PsychINFO, and PubMed using the following key words: "peer support", "caregiver", "adults", and "dementia". Research articles published between 2015-2025 were included. Covidence software was used to organize and complete the search. A total of 147 full text articles resulted from the initial search. Two duplicates were removed. Following title and abstract screening, 128 articles were excluded for reasons such as being a review article or focusing on professional caregivers (as opposed to family caregivers). After full text screening, four additional articles were excluded. Reasons for these exclusions were: no peer support included, did not focus on a program or intervention (e.g. protocol only, review article, or was descriptive in nature). This resulted in 13 articles being included in the final review. These articles focused on the following themes: 1) The inclusion vs exclusion of person living with dementia, 2) Use of technology to support caregivers, 3) Identify the power of shared experience to reduce loneliness on the caregiving journey. This review brings to light the variety of peer support interventions for informal caregivers of person living with dementia. The findings are beneficial for future caregivers as they venture through the caregiving role. Further research should focus on including and making peer support more flexible and available to all caregivers of people living with chronic conditions.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss informal caregiving for adults with dementia</li> <li>• Explain the search strategy used for this scoping review</li> <li>• Describe the major themes based on the search results</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rohita Ikkurthi &amp; Destiny Bissell</b></p> <p>Rohita Ikkurthi is a junior undergrad at The Ohio State University and the founding President of the Ohio State chapter of Perfect Pair, a</p>	<p><b>Perfect Pair: How an Intergenerational Program Reduces Loneliness in Older Adults and College Students</b></p> <p>Intergenerational programs have shown to be a promising intervention for improving overall well-being and addressing loneliness, a growing public health concern among older adults in the U.S. Using the framework of the socio-ecological model which theorizes that well-being is collectively shaped by individual, community, and societal levels, the researchers evaluate Perfect Pair,</p>

<p>non-profit organization dedicated towards reducing loneliness by creating intergenerational connections between older adults and college volunteers.</p> <p>Destiny Bissel is an undergraduate majoring in neuroscience at The Ohio State University. Destiny has experience working with older adults from 6 months of working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a nursing home in addition to working with older generations as a multi-skilled technician at a hospital for 6 months.</p>	<p>a nonprofit that fosters intergenerational connections between college students and older adults at 26 college chapters across 17 states. Student-senior pairs are made based on shared background, interests, and hobbies. Pairs then meet weekly and are able to participate in programming together, such as language learning, art, and photography. Program outcomes were assessed through a retrospective survey given to older adult and college student participants who had met with their pair for at least 12 hours. Over two years, they collected data from 39 older adults and 67 student respondents across 12 chapters, including The Ohio State University. Data from 2022 to 2024 showed that 83.3% of older adults reported reduced sense of loneliness, 73% reported improved mental well-being, and 91.9% agreed feeling increased happiness after meeting with their pair. Younger adults showed similar results with 96.7% reporting increased happiness, 95.1% reporting improved mental well-being and 91.8% reporting that they have a better understanding of long-term care. Drawing from this promising data, Perfect Pair represents a scalable program that can be used to address social isolation and loneliness for older adults and students alike.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness on older adults</li> <li>• Examine the impact of Perfect Pair's approach of intergenerational engagement in addressing challenges faced by older and younger adults, particularly as it applies to the community level of the socio-ecological model</li> <li>• Assess the scalability and potential for Perfect Pair to be expanded to more locations across the U.S.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kaelyn Rodrigues, BS</b></p> <p>Kaelyn Rodrigues is a first-year in the graduate entry Master of Nursing program at The Ohio State University. She specializes in Women's Health and plans to work as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner after graduating. Kaelyn worked as a Research Assistant in the FamCare Research Laboratory since 2023. She has led the qualitative analysis for this study as part of the larger Pair 2 Care© feasibility study.</p>	<p><b>Perspectives of Pair 2 Care© Mentees on Palliative Care for Black Older Adults Living with Dementia</b></p> <p>Black caregivers are at a high risk for negative impacts of family caregiving. Palliative care is an evidence-based, specialized form of care that involves symptom management for people living with serious or life-threatening illnesses and is underused in the Black community. Peer support is a simple, evidence-based tool that may help to provide support for this group. Pair 2 Care© is a co-designed, virtual, flexible, non-judgmental peer support intervention for Black family caregivers of people living with dementia. Trained former family caregivers serve as mentors to current caregiver mentees. The purpose of this study was to examine the perspectives of family caregiver mentees on palliative care as included in the Pair 2 Care© intervention feasibility study. Current family caregiver mentees (n=15) were paired 1:1 with former family caregiver mentors (n=11) for 6 months of peer support. A post-intervention interview was conducted with each current family caregiver mentee regarding their program experience. Thematic content analyses were conducted using descriptive coding. The following themes were identified from their responses: 1) General thoughts on palliative care, 2) Mentor-mentee interactions regarding palliative care, and 3) Caregiver need for palliative care resources and education. Study findings highlight the need for access to culturally relevant palliative care resources in the Black community. Future research should focus on the use of Pair 2 Care© to empower future generations for maximal impact towards improving palliative care outcomes for Black people living with dementia, thereby promoting health for all people.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine perspectives of Black family caregivers' access to and use of palliative care for their care recipient living with dementia</li> <li>• Describe family caregivers' demonstrated need for culturally competent palliative care resources designed for family caregivers of Black older adults living with dementia</li> </ul>

**Victor Ronnis-Tobin, PhD;**  
**Jeremy Johnson, MS;**  
**Lauryn Feacher, BS &**  
**Brennan Patterson, BS**

Dr. Victor Ronnis-Tobin is a clinical health psychologist specializing in population approaches to improvement of health outcomes, including behavioral health, chronic disease, and substance use, through community, industry and academic partnerships. His main research interests are in behavioral health prevention.

Jeremy Johnson is a doctoral student in Xavier University's Clinical Psychology PsyD program. He holds an MS in Psychology from Arizona State University and is currently involved in developing workplace violence reduction programs in healthcare, addressing adolescent suicidality in K-12 education, and advancing wellness initiatives for older adults.

Lauryn Feacher is a second-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at Xavier University. She received her BS in Psychology from Florida State University in 2022. Her research interests include barriers to and motivations for improving physical health. Clinically, her populations of interest include children, families, and older adults.

Brennan Patterson is from Springfield, Ohio and graduated in 2025 with a BS in Psychology with a minor in Investigative Sciences and a credential in research. Brennan wants to be a forensic psychologist and do mandated evaluations for the court system post-graduation.

### **Physical Activity and Functional Outcomes in Low-Income Independent Living Communities**

For older adults, physical activities' association with improved health and well-being is well documented (Pinheiro, et al, 2022; Netz, et al., 2005). Less is known about physical activity of low-income older adults living independently (Kalata, et al., 2025). Here, the researchers report baseline data from a longitudinal study of a wellness program of residents in low-income independent communities in Southwest Ohio. Baseline assessment included general health, quality of life, and physical function of participants. Participants (N = 119) were older (X=73.5, SD = 8.6), female (83.2%), and African American (60.5%) with income below \$25,000 (86%). As part of a new wellness program, participants were invited to attend a variety of activities including activities that included light to moderate exercise and other activities addressing intellectual and social needs. Overall, during the first six months of the program, 58% of participants attended activities associated with physical exercise (X=6.43, SD=8.95) and 81.5% attended non-exercise activities (X=10.48, SD=11.29). Participation in physical activities correlated positively with chair stand ( $r=0.30$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and 2-minute step test ( $r=0.24$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and negatively correlated with the Up and Go ( $r = -0.21$ ,  $p <.05$ ) on the physical functioning and participation in non-exercise related activities. No such relationship was found between physical functioning and participation in non-exercise related activities. In sum, consistent with recent findings (Toth et al., 2024), participation in physical activity may have a positive impact on physical functioning of low-income older adults in independent living communities.

#### Poster Objectives:

- Discuss the associations between physical activity and key indicators of physical functioning (chair stand, 2-minute step test, and Up-and-Go)
- Compare functional outcomes associated with exercise and non-exercise activity engagement
- Identify barriers to engagement

<p><b>Chih-ling (Ling) Liou, PhD</b></p> <p>Ling Liou is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Kent State University. Her research interests are aligned with two primary lines of inquiry: (1) aging attitudes among college students and (2) community services for older adults.</p>	<p><b>Predicting College Students' Interest in Aging-Related Careers: Suggestions for Pedagogical Interventions</b></p> <p>College students often rank working with older adults low in their future professional aspirations. This study examines factors contributing to interest in working with older adults and provides suggestions for intervention. Data were collected from 385 undergraduate students via an online survey, which included questions about the quality of relationships with a grandparent and other nonfamilial older adults, as well as previous experience and future interest in pursuing a career in an aging-related field. Path analyses using hierarchical multiple regression reveal that relationships with nonfamilial older adults significantly predict career interest (<math>\beta = .140, p = .019</math>), whereas relationships with grandparents do not (<math>\beta = .057, p = .328</math>). Relationships with nonfamilial older adults also significantly predict cognitive frameworks: ageism (<math>\beta = -.215, p &lt; .001</math>) and positive expectations (<math>\beta = .144, p = .017</math>). As expected, ageism is associated with reduced interest in an aging-related internship or career (<math>\beta = -.231, p &lt; .001</math>), while positive expectations regarding aging are related to enhancing such interest (<math>\beta = .133, p = .025</math>). The findings suggest that policy-makers and colleges can increase students' interest in pursuing aging-related careers by creating opportunities to interact and build relationships with older adults in the community.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify factors contributing to college students' attitudes toward older adults and their interest in pursuing a future career in age-related jobs/internships</li> <li>• Explain the relationships with nonfamilial elders leading to a greater impact on college students' attitudes and their willingness to work in an aging-related field in the future</li> <li>• Discuss successful interventions and best practices for colleges to increase students' interest in pursuing aging-related careers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lindsay Cotner; Cecilia Glancy, BS; Sophia Kanowsky &amp; Logan Lloyd</b></p> <p>Lindsay Cotner is a Health Sciences undergraduate student at The Ohio State University with hands-on experience in aging-focused research and inter-generational programming. She serves as a student Research Assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program and as Program Manager of Scarlet and Silver Connections.</p> <p>Cecilia Glancy is a student research assistant for AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program.</p> <p>Sophia Kanowsky is an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University and is a student research assistant for</p>	<p><b>Preparing, Implementing, and Evaluating AgeUP: A Student Research Assistant Perspective</b></p> <p>Long-term care facilities continue to face persistent staffing shortages following the COVID-19 pandemic. This is driven by high levels of burnout, limited advancement pathways, and a declining pipeline of young professionals entering the aging field. The AgeUP intergenerational Workforce Development Program is a pilot designed to address these challenges by training and incentivizing both direct care workers and ancillary staff to build core soft skills, strengthen attitudes on aging, and promote workforce retention. This poster presentation highlights key lessons learned by student research assistants throughout the preparation, implementation, and early data analysis stages of this pilot conducted at Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber. Prior to the program launch, student research assistants completed the AgeUP curriculum, which includes the embedded Elder Care Certificate. This integration allowed them to gain specialized knowledge and directly engage with content, better supporting participants. Their contributions to this pilot included refining program materials, assisting with Institutional Review Board (IRB) Submission, developing interview protocols, and coordinating logistics. Throughout the program, student research assistants also attended sessions, observed participant interactions, and helped foster intergenerational learning with staff at Westminster-Thurber. Together, these experiences offer valuable insight into the practical considerations and collaborative work required to support innovative workforce development efforts in long-term care.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the preparation and implementation process of the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development pilot, including student research</li> </ul>

<p>the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program. She is dermtch certified and works as a medical assistant in a dermatology office.</p> <p>Logan Lloyd is a student research assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program. He works as a home health caregiver and has been accepted into The Ohio State University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.</p>	<p>assistant contributions to curriculum refinement, IRB submission, and logistical coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the role of student research assistants in fostering intergenerational learning through direct engagement with participants, session observation, and completion of the Elder Care Certificate</li> <li>• Share early lessons learned and insights from the initial stages of data collection and analysis, emphasizing practical considerations for developing and sustaining innovative workforce development initiatives in long-term care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Angela Curl, PhD, MSW, LSW, FGSA</b></p> <p>Dr. Angela Curl is an Associate Professor of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University and a Research Fellow at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Her research examines mobility, driving safety, and the psychosocial impacts of driving cessation among older adults. She developed and evaluated the CARS instrument, a brief screening tool for driving safety, and has presented nationally on driving risk tolerance and mobility transitions.</p>	<p><b>Reframing the Road Ahead: Expanding Awareness of Driver Rehabilitation for Older Drivers</b></p> <p>For older adults, driving promotes independence, community participation, and emotional well-being. However, many aging drivers experiencing medical or functional changes prematurely stop driving without realizing that specialized rehabilitation is available. Occupational therapists and driver rehabilitation professionals play pivotal roles in assessing and enhancing physical, visual, and cognitive skills needed for driving and in recommending adaptive strategies or equipment. This poster will describe the professions that provide driver rehabilitation interventions, including Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists and Driver Rehabilitation Professionals (Lane et al., 2019), and highlight the continuum of services and populations served (e.g., healthy older drivers, medically at-risk). In addition, the presentation will describe the Best Practice Guidelines of the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED, 2022) for driver rehabilitation. Despite the proven benefits of these services, awareness remains limited among both the public and healthcare providers, and the number of qualified professionals – especially in Ohio – is insufficient to meet the growing needs of an aging population. Collaborations between occupational therapists and other professionals (e.g., physicians, nursing, pharmacists, optometrists, social workers), rehabilitation centers, and families can promote individually tailored safe mobility solutions to empower older adults to maintain independence, reduce isolation, and support safer communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key professions and credentials involved in driver rehabilitation</li> <li>• Explain how driver rehabilitation interventions support continued safe driving for older adults, as well as driving cessation when necessary</li> <li>• Discuss the need for greater awareness and professional training opportunities in Ohio to meet the mobility needs of an aging population</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lindsay Cotner</b></p> <p>Lindsay Cotner is a Health Sciences undergraduate student at The Ohio State University with hands-on experience in aging-focused research and inter-generational programming. She serves as a student</p>	<p><b>Scarlet and Silver Connections: An Intergenerational Walking Program</b></p> <p>Older adults face challenges such as social isolation, infrequent mobility-friendly activities, and limited opportunities for interaction with younger generations. Scarlet and Silver Connection (SSC) is a student-led walking program designed to address these needs and bridge generational gaps by pairing older adults with younger adults in the Columbus area for weekly walks and conversation. Through a simple and accessible format, SSC fosters companionship, increases motivation to stay active, and creates a shared space where intergenerational relationships can develop naturally. Under program management, SSC has</p>

<p>Research Assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program and as Program Manager of Scarlet and Silver Connections.</p>	<p>grown and transformed from its pilot phase into the structured, sustainable model it is becoming today. Ongoing observation of the program’s development, along with participant feedback, has demonstrated the meaningful impact SSC has had on its members. Older adults describe feeling more connected, energized, and supported through their walks. Students report gaining perspective, confidence, and a stronger appreciation for the aging community. Many walking pairs develop genuine friendships that continue beyond the semester, reflecting the authenticity of these intergenerational bonds. This poster highlights both the experiences of program participants and the role of leadership in creating a structure where these relationships thrive. By illustrating the positive impact of SSC and the value of student involvement in community aging programs, this poster demonstrates how simple, wellness-centered activities can strengthen relationships and build age-integrated communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe the core components of an intergenerational program</li> <li>• Identify effective recruitment, coordination, and retention strategies in community-based intergenerational programming</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sinae (Stacey) Park, BA</b></p> <p>Stacey Park is interested in behavioral and psychological symptoms in aging and clinical populations. Her work explores how individual differences influence psychological and health-related outcomes over time, using longitudinal data to better understand pathways that can inform supportive care.</p>	<p><b>Sex Differences in Longitudinal Neuropsychiatric Symptom Trajectories Across Alzheimer's Disease Stages</b></p> <p>Neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) are prevalent across stages of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and are associated with accelerated cognitive decline and heightened caregiver burden. However, it remains unclear whether the progression of NPS differs by sex across diagnostic stages. This longitudinal study included 223 participants with AD dementia (ADD), 631 participants with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and 544 cognitively normal (CN) participants from the Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) database. The Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire (NPI-Q), an informant-based questionnaire, assessed participants’ neuropsychiatric symptoms occurring within the past month at baseline, one-year, and two-year follow-up. Linear mixed effects models evaluated the interaction between baseline diagnostic stage, biological sex, and time (in years) on NPI-Q scores. Time reflected longitudinal NPI-Q changes across two years, with random intercepts and random slopes. Age at baseline NPI-Q assessment was included as a covariate. Linear mixed models revealed a significant three-way interaction between time, sex, and AD diagnostic stage (<math>\beta = 0.83</math>, 95% CI [0.15, 1.50], <math>p = .016</math>), indicating that females with AD exhibited greater increases in NPS symptoms over time compared to males with AD. No significant sex differences in NPS trajectories were observed in other diagnostic groups. Sex differences in the progression of NPS appear most pronounced in AD, with females exhibiting more symptoms over time. These findings underscore the relevance of sex as a clinical factor in monitoring and managing of behavioral symptoms in dementia. Further research is necessary to delineate the biological, environmental, and psychosocial factors contributing to these sex differences.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) progress across Alzheimer's disease diagnostic stages</li> <li>• Explain how biological sex influences longitudinal changes in NPS</li> <li>• Identify the clinical implications of sex differences in NPS trajectories for monitoring and managing behavioral symptoms of dementia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prayas Gautam, MPH; Heather Menne, PhD, MGS &amp; Kate Singer, MA, PhD</b></p> <p>Prayas Gautam is a PhD student in Social Gerontology</p>	<p><b>Social Engagement Programs of Area Agencies on Aging: Understanding Efforts to Reduce Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older Adults</b></p> <p>Social isolation and loneliness significantly affect the health and overall well-being of older adults. As part of the local fabric of aging network providers, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide support and services to older adults and their</p>

<p>at Miami University with research interests in aging and mental health. He works as a Graduate Assistant and Research Assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Before beginning his doctoral studies, he spent more than seven years in Nepal leading public health and community mental health programs.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p>	<p>families. This descriptive study examines the types of social engagement programs offered by AAAs and the institutional partnerships that support these efforts, using data from the 2022 and 2025 national AAA surveys, each with participation from more than 400 agencies. Across both years, most social engagement program types remained stable. In 2025 (N=414), the most frequently offered activities included volunteer engagement opportunities (66.7%), arts and creative programs (62.8%), technology-based engagement (56.0%), and lifelong learning activities (45.9%). These offerings continue to make up the core structure of social participation efforts nationwide. Similarly, AAAs collaborate with a wide range of institutional partners to support and enhance service delivery for older adults. Senior or community centers remained the strongest and most consistent collaborators, increasing from 79.4% in 2022 to 86.6% in 2025. Other partners were engaged at comparatively lower levels in 2025, including nutrition providers (49.0%), caregiver groups (26.3%), faith-based organizations (13.6%), health care providers (11.6%), libraries (18.7%), parks and recreation agencies (12.9%), higher education institutions (8.8%), and transportation providers (10.4%). This pattern reflects a modest shift in the collaborative landscape. Overall, these findings highlight stable program offerings alongside evolving partnership structures, emphasizing the importance of ongoing attention to collaboration as AAAs continue to support the social well-being of older adults.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify major types of social engagement programs implemented by AAAs</li> <li>• Describe partnership patterns between AAAs and community organizations from 2022 to 2025</li> </ul>
<p><b>Amy Restorick Roberts, PhD &amp; Jennifer Heston-Mullins, PhD, LISW</b></p> <p>Dr. Amy Restorick Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University. Dr. Roberts's research and teaching are dedicated to preparing future social workers and advancing knowledge that enhances the quality of life for older adults, with a particular focus on strengthening long-term care systems and supports.</p>	<p><b>Social Work Licensure and Resident Behavioral Health Outcomes</b></p> <p>A growing number of nursing home residents exhibit behavioral symptoms, including rejecting care and engaging in behaviors harmful to themselves or others. As members of the interdisciplinary care team, social services provide psychosocial care, which includes helping residents with behavioral symptoms. Although professional standards call for at least a bachelor's degree in social work, regulations allow for variation in the educational background and licensing requirements for nursing home social workers. In Ohio, eligibility to become a licensed social worker requires earning at least a baccalaureate degree in social work and passing an examination by the state board. Once licensed, social workers must complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years. This secondary data analysis examines the relationship between social work licensing and resident behavioral health outcomes in Ohio. Data were drawn from the Minimum Data Set, the Medicare Beneficiary Summary File, the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting surveys, and the 2017 Ohio Biennial Survey of Long-Term Care Facilities. Covariates in the models include socio-demographic and health characteristics of residents, and facility characteristics. Regression analyses found that social work licensure was significantly associated with both a reduction in residents exhibiting any behavioral symptoms</p>

<p>Dr. Jennifer Heston-Mullins is active in qualitative research and evaluation of long-term care policy and programs. Prior to her research career, Dr. Heston-Mullins worked within the aging network as a direct care worker and social worker in residential long-term care.</p>	<p>and a reduction in rejecting care and had no effect on wandering. While this study lends some support for mandatory credentialing, additional research is needed to explore the effect of social work licensing on specific resident outcomes.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the relationship between social worker credentialing and resident outcomes</li> <li>• Analyze the implications of findings for long-term care policy</li> <li>• Identify data sources for facility- and resident-level data in long-term care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Andrea Sensel</b>, OTD, OTR/L; <b>Avery Kasian</b>, S/OT &amp; <b>Mackenzie Alspaugh</b>, S/OT</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Sensel serves as Associate Chair and Doctoral Capstone Coordinator for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Findlay, where she has taught since 2019. Dr. Sensel is passionate about aging populations and community wellness, with research interests in dementia care, fall prevention and aging in place.</p> <p>Avery Kasian is a second-year student in the University of Findlay's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. She obtained her Bachelor's in Allied Health Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Her clinical studies include outpatient and early intervention with an interest in fall prevention and successful aging.</p> <p>Mackenzie Alspaugh is a second-year student in the University of Findlay's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Findlay. Her clinical interests include home health, long-term care, and geriatric populations with a passion for rehabilitation and aging in place.</p>	<p><b>Supporting Successful Aging in Place: The Role of Technology</b></p> <p>Successful aging in place highlights the ability of older adults to maintain safety, independence, and quality of life while remaining in their homes. While international research supported promising technologies, such as smart home systems, wearable devices, and sensor-integrated home modifications to support this goal, the U.S. lacked in widespread use and understanding. Given that falls were the leading cause of injury among adults 65 and older, effective technological supports were urgently needed. This exploratory, qualitative study investigated the perceptions, attitudes, and confidence of community-dwelling older adults regarding the use of technology in their homes for successful aging in place. Through semi-structured interviews the study sought to bridge the gap between promising innovations and user-centered adoption. By focusing on older adults' experiences, this research contributed to discerning aging as a stage of empowerment, which is driven by engagement in meaningful occupations, innovative technology, and independence.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe older adults' confidence levels towards available technologies and its influence on successful aging in place</li> <li>• Identify strategies they can utilize to assist older adults successfully age in place</li> </ul>

<p><b>Balakis Kadiri Gbadamosi, MA</b></p> <p>Balakis Kadiri Gbadamosi is a graduate student who studies the sociology of mental health and aging. Her research combines sociological theory with quantitative analysis to look at how financial behaviors during a person's life affect their health in older adulthood. Her research uses large datasets to look at how spending behavior and debt insecurity affect the mental health of older adults.</p>	<p><b>The Impact of Spending Behavior and Debt Insecurity on the Mental Health of Older Adults</b></p> <p>Older adults are increasingly entering later life with substantial financial strain and unsecured debt, raising concerns about its impact on psychological well-being. While research consistently shows links between financial hardship and mental health, less is known about how midlife financial behaviors contribute to debt vulnerability as individuals age. This poster presents a proposed study grounded in the life-course perspective and Pearlin's Stress Process Model to examine these pathways. The study investigates whether spending behavior in early to mid-adulthood predicts debt insecurity in older adulthood, whether it is associated with depressive symptoms and psychological distress, and whether it mediates the relationship between midlife spending and later-life mental health. The analysis will use longitudinal data from the Consumption and Activities Mail Survey (CAMS) and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). Spending behavior will be operationalized using a discretionary spending-to-wealth ratio, while debt insecurity will be measured through both objective unsecured debt and subjective financial strain. Mental health outcomes will be assessed using validated CES-D and psychological distress items. Socioeconomic status (income, wealth, and education) will be examined as a moderating factor. Integrating these financial behaviors, debt insecurity, and aging processes, this study aims to clarify how midlife financial decisions accumulate into later-life health disparities. Findings will support efforts to strengthen financial well-being and mental health outcomes among older adults.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how midlife spending behaviors contribute to financial vulnerability and debt insecurity in older adulthood</li> <li>• Explain how debt insecurity functions as a chronic stressor affecting mental health among older adults</li> <li>• Examine the moderating role of socioeconomic status in shaping financial strain and psychological well-being across the life course</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pamela Glaser, MSN, BSN, BA, BA; Heather Menne, PhD, MGS; Kate Singer, MA, PhD; Molly Noble, MGS &amp; Prayas Gautam, MPH</b></p> <p>Pamela Glaser is a first year PhD student in Social Gerontology at Miami University. As a Graduate Research Assistant at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, she is involved in a research project focusing on services that Area Agencies on Aging provide, transportation being one of these services.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her</p>	<p><b>The Role of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in Facilitating Transportation: Rideshare Partnerships as an Alternative to Traditional Transportation Services in Geographically Diverse Areas</b></p> <p>Access to transportation is critical for the health and well-being of older adults. The benefits are manifold: continued/increased mobility, lower risk for isolation/loneliness, increased access to healthcare/better health outcomes, continued autonomy/independence, and continued functional health. Barriers to and gaps in transportation for older adults remains a salient issue. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have established Rideshare partnerships as an alternative option to traditional transportation services. Rideshare companies (e.g., Uber/Lyft) are viable solutions for older adults who may not drive, may not be able to use public transportation and need point-to-point services, and who may live in rural areas or urban areas where the built environment is a barrier to public transportation. This descriptive study analyzed data from the National Surveys of AAAs from 2019 to 2025 on transportation services both provided by AAAs and contracted out by AAAs to a range of providers. The percentage of Rideshare partnerships across all AAAs increased from 5.3% in 2019, to 12.8% in 2022, to 15.4% in 2025. The data highlighted significant differences between rural and non-rural areas. In 2019, 18.2% of Rideshare partnerships were in rural areas, followed by 23.1% in 2022, and 21.3% in 2025. We need continued, greater, innovative solutions to the complex issue of older adult transportation in the United States. The findings provide crucial insights for policymaking and AAA program development.</p>

<p>research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p> <p>Molly Noble is a Senior Research Associate at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center, where she works primarily to implement evidence-based programs for people living with dementia and their care partners. Outside of this work, her research interests include preference-based care, dementia, and implementation science.</p> <p>Prayas Gautam is a PhD student in Social Gerontology at Miami University with research interests in aging and mental health. He works as a Graduate Assistant and Research Assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Before beginning his doctoral studies, he spent more than seven years in Nepal leading public health and community mental health programs.</p>	<p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key trends in transportation services from the National Surveys of AAAs</li> <li>• Highlight the importance of alternative modes of transportation such as Rideshare Partnerships with AAAs to fill gaps related to traditional transportation services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathias Adjei, BSc</b></p> <p>Mathias Adjei is a Master of Gerontological Studies student at Miami University, where his work centers on person-environment interactions, aging in place, and community support for older adults. His academic</p>	<p><b>Tracing the Development of the Person-Environment Fit Perspective: Applications for Home Care Innovations in Ghana</b></p> <p>Person-environment fit is one of the foundational perspectives in environmental gerontology, describing how well individual abilities align with the demands and supports found in the places where older adults live. Over time, this perspective has expanded to include social relationships, community environments, and the systems that shape daily routines. This poster traces the development of the person-environment fit perspective from its early ecological foundations through later work on personal agency, community design, and integrated care models.</p>

training includes environmental gerontology, long-term care systems, and aging in diverse cultural settings.

Using Ghana as a case example, the poster applies this perspective to a context where formal long-term care options remain limited and family caregiving continues to play a central role. Recent studies highlight how home layouts, neighborhood conditions, and financial constraints shape the daily lives of older adults in Ghana. At the same time, new home-care services are emerging to fill gaps in support. These services aim to assist older adults in their own homes rather than require relocation, which closely matches the ideas found in the person-environment fit perspective. The poster will discuss how concepts such as residential normalcy, age-friendly community design, and "aging in the right place" can guide the development of home-based care programs in Ghana. By linking theoretical development with the lived realities of older adults, the poster highlights opportunities for gerontologists, policymakers, and community organizations to support aging in familiar environments. Attendees will gain insight into how a long-standing gerontological perspective can inform practical, culturally grounded approaches to home and community support for older adults.

Poster Objectives:

- Describe the major stages in the development of the person-environment fit perspective and explain how the concept has expanded across time
- Identify how environmental, social, and community factors influence aging in Ghana, particularly in settings with limited formal long-term care services
- Apply the person-environment fit perspective to examine how emerging home-care approaches can support older adults in familiar environments

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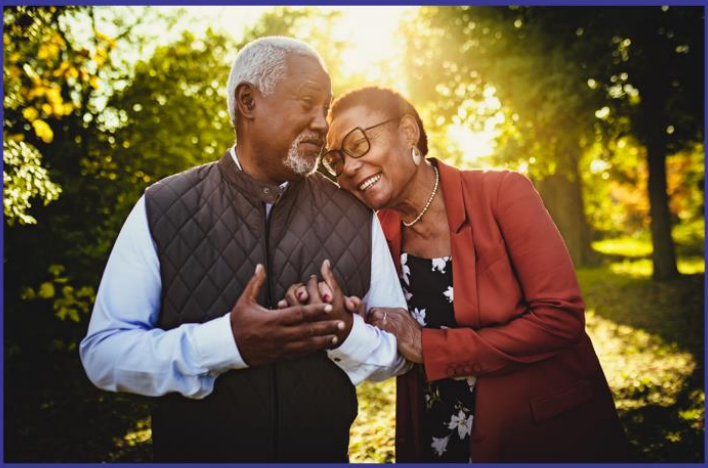


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# Ohio Scholars in Aging Program



**Department of  
Aging**

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**Scholars in Aging**

The Ohio Scholars in Aging Program provides scholars of all academic backgrounds with the opportunity to learn about aging-related policy-making, establish professional contacts, and gain career knowledge and skills in the field of aging. Since 2013, over 153 students from about 20 colleges and universities representing over 30 different majors, have participated. The program is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) and OAGE.

The program is open to emerging professionals pursuing a variety of careers. This includes students in gerontology, long-term care administration, engineering and product development, health and allied health professions, social and behavioral sciences, etc. who are engaged in practice- or research-based projects in a community-based organization that serves older adults.

This year's program includes undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled in an accredited educational institution in Ohio. Each student completed an internship or worked with a university and/or community organization to complete a project of at least 45 hours that positively impacts older adults. Scholars also participated in four learning sessions, three of which were in-person meetings and one that was virtual. They attended an all-day experience at their local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and prepared a poster presentation about their project for presentation at this year's OAGE conference.

Scholars who completed these requirements received a stipend, a certificate of completion, conference presentation experience, and the honorable designation of being a Scholar in Aging for 2026. Information about the 2027 Scholars Program will be released in the fall.

*For more information about this year's scholars' poster presentations, check out pg. 71 below.*

**If you have any questions or would like more information about the Ohio Scholars in Aging Program, please reach out to Natalie Haslage at [nhaslage@age.ohio.gov](mailto:nhaslage@age.ohio.gov).**

# OAGE Scholars in Aging Posters

(alphabetized by scholar last name)

Thursday, April 16 @ 4:45 – 5:45 pm

**Location: The Blackwell Inn & Pfahl Conference Center – Pavillion**

The 2025-2026 Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) and OAGE Scholars in Aging class will present their posters during this special session:

**Rejina Akter** – *Miami University*; “Motivations and Benefits of Participation in Intergenerational Events and Activities”

**Ryleigh Antoine** – *Lourdes University*; “Bridging Barriers to Care for Latinx Older Adults in Ohio”

**Ruth Boampong** – *Case Western Reserve University*; “Elder Sexual Abuse in Ohio: Supporting the Ohio Attorney General's Commission”

**Gabriele Cametti** – *Ohio University*; “Sound & Scissors: Exploring How Music Influences Engagement and Recall in Dementia Care”

**Shuo Cao** – *University of Cincinnati*; “Older Adults’ Sexual Health Experiences and Barriers: A Review of Ageism in Healthcare Settings”

**Katherine Cruze** – *The Ohio State University*; “Caring for the Caregiver: MemorEase as a Technological Intervention to Reduce Dementia Caregiver Burden”

**Barbara Maria Martins da Silva** – *The Ohio State University*; “Exploring Financial Autonomy and Care Relationships in Later Life”

**Fredrick Veauthier** – *Youngstown State University*; “Establishing Expert Consensus on Core Competencies for Dementia Caregivers”

**Ava Wesner** – *Ohio University*; “The Village Model: Addressing the Needs of Seniors in Underserved Areas”

**Erreannau Zellous** – *Miami University*; “Aging Refugees’ Navigation of Crisis Planning”

This poster session will also feature a special poster:

**“The Ohio Scholars in Aging Program: Major Accomplishments and Plans for the Future”** – *Olivia Ash, BS; Emma Griffey; Natalie Haslage, BS; Kamryn Kasler, BA, MGS; Jennifer Kinney, PhD & Patrick Mese, MSW, MGS*

# 2026 OAGE Professional Award Recipients

## **Educator of the Year Award**

*Donna Alexander, NHA, MBA, CDP  
Long Term Care Administration (LTCA) Program Coordinator  
Kent State University*



## **Researcher of the Year Award**

*Tina Dothard Peterson, PhD, MPH, MSW  
Associate Professor, Director of Aging Education,  
School of Social Work, University of Cincinnati*

## **Practitioner of the Year Award**

*Katie Beaumont  
Executive Director  
At Home by High*



## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Karen Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
Co-Director, Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving  
College of Nursing, The Ohio State University*

# 2025 OAGE Student Paper Award Recipients

## **Marc Molea Innovation Award**

*“ClariClips”* by **Laurelle Herron**

Ohio University

## **Arnedia Smith Outstanding Undergraduate Paper Award**

*“The Impact of Music Therapy on Treatment for Older Adults with Dementia: A Scoping Review”* by **Jenae Fisher**

Bowling Green State University

## **Dr. Jerome Kaplan Outstanding Graduate Paper Award**

*“Family Support Paradox: Exploring Family Support and Life Satisfaction among Older Adults in Rural Eastern Nepal”* by **Isha Karmacharya**

Miami University

## **Ray Matura Best Conference Theme Paper Award**

*“Sexual Desire Doesn’t Die with Old Age: Older Adult’s Perception of Aging Stereotypes in Rural Nigeria”* by **Tochukwu Okolie**

Miami University




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