Faculty News

Associates in the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy actively published in top academic social science journals in the past year, including *American Sociological Review*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and the *Gerontologist*, among others. Faculty associates were also active in obtaining external funding to support their research and creative activities, with active grants adding up to more than $2 million in total costs. These grants came from the National Institute on Aging, the National Science Foundation, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Bernard Osher Foundation. The quality of associates’ research was recognized in several national awards, including Anne Barrett’s 2009 award for “Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology” from the Gerontological Society of America and Jason Barabas’ award for Best Paper Presented at the 2009 Meetings of the International Society.

Student News

Graduate students in the Pepper Institute won competitive awards to support their research on aging and policy issues. Benjamin Kail, Department of Sociology, was awarded the 2009-2010 Claude and Mildred Pepper Dissertation Fellowship, funded by the Claude Pepper Foundation. His dissertation uses multiple waves of the Health and Retirement Survey to study the impact of retirement policies on the tendency of retired workers to return to the labor force. Kail graduates in Summer 2010 and will begin a post-doctoral fellowship at Duke University. Other student achievements include a NSF dissertation improvement grant to Russell Shekha, Department of Sociology, to study “Latin American Welfare State Spending: Religious Politics, International Organizations, and Human Rights.”

Focusing on the Issues

The Pepper Institute contributed to important policy discussions this year, such as the on-going debate over health care reform in the U.S. In October 2009, Gary Fournier presented “The Role of Competition in Health Care Reform” at the *Economics of Health Care Forum* at Florida State University. Bill Weissert gave multiple public presentations on health care reform throughout the year. In April 2010, the Pepper Institute sponsored a talk at the FSU College of Medicine by Dr. Arnold Relman, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and former editor-in-chief of *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Relman’s talk, “The Health Reform We Need, And Are Not Getting,” argued for a single-payer system to a large audience of social science faculty, College of Medicine faculty and students, and area physicians.

The Pepper Institute also helped host a series of policy-related talks throughout the
year. The speakers included David Sanger, chief-correspondent of the New York Times; U.S. Senator Bob Graham; Frank Brogan, Chancellor of the State University System of Florida; Bill Law, President of Tallahassee Community College; Leon County Commissioner Bryan Desloge; and Mayor John Marks.

**OLLI Growing under New Director**

The Pepper Institute continues to sponsor the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at FSU. Cory Livingston, MSW, took over as the new director of OLLI at FSU last summer. Under her leadership, OLLI offered 28 courses on wide-ranging topics such as Captain Cook and his World (taught by Edward Gray), The Sound of Movies (Don Ungurait), The Music of Irving Berlin (Gayle Seaton), Newspapers to Tweets: The Future of Communication (Bob Gabordi, Executive Editor, Tallahassee Democrat), and The Lucky Few: Between the Greatest Society and the Baby Boom (Woody Carlson). OLLI members were very active this year attending FSU theater, opera, and orchestra productions, mountain biking, kayaking, encountering wolves at Seacrest Wolf Preserve, and going on overnight trips to Seaside and Atlanta. OLLI at FSU has just over 350 members as of Spring 2010, up more than 50 percent in the past 12 months. The recent expansion of OLLI was supported by two $100,000 grants from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

**New Faculty**

Three new affiliates joined the Pepper Institute this year, strengthening the Institute’s pool of expertise on health and aging. Robert Glueckauf is a professor in the Department of Medical Humanities & Social Sciences of the College of Medicine. His current research, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, studies the effectiveness of telephone cognitive behavioral therapy for depressed African American dementia caregivers. Marshall Kapp is the Director of the new Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine & Law, and he is an expert on the legal aspects of elder care. The last new affiliate is Jeong-Su Kim, assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences, College of Human Sciences. Kim has published extensively on age-related atrophy of skeletal muscles and other neuromuscular changes related to aging, exercise, and physical function.

**Computer Lab Updated**

Demand for use of the Pepper Institute’s computer lab increased a great deal this year. John Reynolds and Deana Rohlinger used the lab for graduate classes, OLLI held two packed classes in the lab on social networking and graphics, Jason Barabas and Jennifer Jerit ran an undergrad computer-based experiment over several weeks, and Glenn Mitchell of the Pepper Center held a free workshop on “An Introduction to SAS.” Miles held a one-week class on latent growth curves between the spring and summer semesters. In April 2010, 15 new PCs and monitors were purchased with OCO funds to completely replace all of the machines in the computer lab.

During the spring semester, the webpage was redesigned and brought into compliance with FSU’s latest guidelines (http://webdesign.fsu.edu). New content includes a history of the Institute, Director’s welcome, faculty publications, and a grad student directory. Visit our new website at www.pepperinstitute.org.
Associates’ Publications, 2009-2010


Quadagno, Jill. In press. “Institutions, Interests and Ideology: An Agenda for


Taylor, Miles G. Forthcoming. “Capturing Transitions and Trajectories: The Role of Socioeconomic Status in Later Life Disability.” Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences


Associates’ Contract and Grants, 2009-2010


National Center for Family and Marriage Research, “Race Differences in the Quality of Intimate Relationships: An Examination of Explanations and Gender Variations,” Anne E. Barrett (PI), 2009, unfunded.

National Institute of Mental Health. Kathryn Rost (PI) and Deana A. Rohlinger (Investigator). “Influencing Employer
Benefit Purchasing Behavior,” 2008-2013, total costs = $2,752,111.


National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging, Continuation of 1 PO1 AG17211, Project CREATE III (Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement). Neil Charness and Walter Boot (Co-PIs). 2009-2014, direct costs = ~$1,000,000.

National Science Foundation, “Collaborative Research: Multi-Investigator Multi-Site Experiments and Infrastructure Development,” Jason Barabas and Jennifer Jerit (FSU PIs), pending: $45,697.


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