



faculty, who serve as educators for the future of healthcare providers, actively participated in discussions on a range of subjects, including ageism.

To further advance our knowledge, GERO is attending the GSA 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting. This conference, held by the Gerontological Society of America, will be a great opportunity to learn about the latest trends, research and key issues related to aging. We look forward to sharing this information with you in future communications. In addition to our commitment to staying up-to-date in the field of gerontology, we continue to support our senior priest community through workshops.

On the global front, we are gearing up to send eight selected students to Porto, Portugal, as part of our growing relationship with our sister university in Porto. We've also sought funding to bring Portuguese students to FranU for an enriching healthcare abroad experience.

As we've witnessed, the world has become more interconnected than ever, with

people from diverse corners of the globe staying connected round-the-clock. Thus, our FranU students, upon graduation, will have had the valuable opportunity to travel abroad and gain insights into all facets of aging. Our partnership with ESSM remains invaluable as it aligns with our mission to prepare graduates with global perspectives while upholding our ministry and Franciscan identity.

We hope you find this newsletter both enjoyable and enlightening. Here's to celebrating the journey of healthy aging!

Warm regards,
Dr. Lindsay Mullins PhD, FNP-BC

Sister Agnes Marie Fitzsimons Endowed Chair of Gerontology Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University



Dr. Lindsay Mullins PhD, FNP-BC

FROM THE GERO CHAIR

In October, we observed "Debunk Ageism" as a national awareness day, shedding light on this escalating issue. Ageism, the act of stereotyping or discriminating against individuals or groups based on their age, was the focal point of our celebration. At FranU, we take pride in our role as leaders in the care of older adults and as advocates for healthy aging. We emphasize the importance of staying informed about matters affecting older adults, and one way we do this is through our annual "Lunch n' Learn" sessions, which provide a platform for educators to convene and discuss pertinent healthcare topics. Just recently, we hosted this year's event, where our FranU



CONGRATULATIONS!

2023 Porto, Portugal International
Healthy Aging Students

Abigail Ngui	Gabrielle Leblanc
Alanna Boudreaux	Kalia Phillips
Collin Hebert	Patrick Hart
Emily Hicks	Peyton White

We're excited to announce that these students have been accepted into the 2023 Porto, Portugal International Healthy Aging Program! We are excited for them to embark on a remarkable journey of learning and exploration and are proud to have them represent us on this incredible adventure! Be sure to follow along on their adventure through our social media channels!

SEND US YOUR WORK!

GERO FranU wants to highlight the brilliant work of the students at our University! Conduct any research that pertains to healthy aging? Send us your project, and we would love to highlight you on our social media channels, website and community newsletters.

Send your work to gero@franu.edu!



WE WELCOME TO THE GERO TEAM!



Jeffrey Thompson, ScD, DPT, OCS

Associate Professor
Director of Clinical Education, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Dr. Jeffrey Thompson, ScD, DPT, OCS Cert. MDT is an Associate Professor at FranU and the Director of Clinical Education in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. He is a physical therapist with special interest in geriatrics and healthy aging. He has taught for over 15 years in higher education and currently serves as the Assistant Dean for the School of Health Professions. He is a certified orthopedic clinical specialist in physical therapy and certified in mechanical diagnosis and therapy. Dr. Thompson's teaching and research interests are in orthopedics, biomechanics, and efficacy of interventions with focus on the spine in the aging population. Dr. Thompson will lead our students on this year's trip to Porto, Portugal!



Elaine Purdy, DHA, MBA, M.Ed

Assistant Professor
Chair, Department of Business and Health Administration
Program Director, Master Health Administration

Dr. Elaine Purdy is an Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Business and Health Administration, Program Director, Master Health Administration at FranU.

Dr. Purdy has joined the Gero Champions and will be researching long-term care trends for older adults. Prior to joining Franciscan University, Dr. Purdy held various positions at Vanderbilt and Louisiana State University. She served as Director of Customer Relations and Quality Performance Improvement for Patient Access Services at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and as Director of Recreation and a faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology.

Dr. Purdy's educational background includes a bachelor's and master's in education from Northeast Louisiana State University, an MBA degree from Tulane University and a doctorate in healthcare administration from Central Michigan University.

GSA 2023



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