



Gero at FranU has a four-pronged approach.

Our four prongs are:

1. Curriculum Advancement
2. Interprofessional Collaborations
3. Community Engagement
4. Research



there is something for everyone. Continue to visit our website and social media outlets. We look forward to continuing to serve you!

Here is to healthy aging!



Dr. Lindsay Mullins PhD, FNP-BC

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

FROM THE GERO CHAIR

We diligently stay focused on the topic of global aging and the education of health profession students and older adults. Global aging continues to become increasingly important as populations around the world are aging. In many countries, the median age is rising, with a growing number of elderly individuals who require health care services tailored to their needs. Consistently, Gero at FranU's response has been educating health profession students to address the challenges of an aging population and educating older adults to help them age in place as long as they desire.

Collectively, each prong is essential to ensure that health systems can provide quality care and older adults can age healthfully.

This spring's newsletter will highlight some of the programs and activities that are new to Gero at FranU, and



Italy International Healthy Aging Course with MHA

FranU's International Healthy Aging program is heading to Italy in 2025, offering students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore global healthcare systems, engage with international aging experts and immerse themselves in the rich culture of Pieve and Rome.

This immersive course—offered in collaboration with the Physical Therapy and Nursing programs and led by Dr. Kirk Nelson and Dr. Alicia Bates—will give you a unique lens on healthy aging across borders, preparing you for a future in healthcare while experiencing life abroad.

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

If you're ready to extend your learning beyond the classroom, contact Dr. Elaine Purdy at elaine.purdy@franu.edu for more information.

Adventure (and education) awaits!

BON VOYAGE!

Supporting Our Students as They Head to France

We're thrilled for our students who will be heading to France this month as part of our International Healthy Aging study abroad program!

While in France, students will engage with community services established by the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady - including healthcare clinics, schools and housing initiatives - gaining valuable cross-cultural insight that will shape their future careers.

We're incredibly proud of these students as they embark on this transformative journey. Let's cheer them on as they take their learning (and compassion!) across borders.

Program Students: Joshua Scurria, Sean Christian, Josie Solet, Erica Reed

gerontologyatfranu.com/global-learning-at-franu-new-frontiers-in-france



ECHO Presentation

ECHO stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes and is part of Ochsner Health Louisiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (LA-GWEP). Dr. Mullins will present on safety considerations for and facilitating independence in older adults. The audience will consist of physicians, nurses, social workers and community health workers.

More info here: lams-gwep.com/mission



FranU's Research and Scholarship Week 2025

We have one research project from the healthy aging mentor-mentee program. They will be featured at FranU's annual Research and Scholarship Showcase. The Research and Scholarship Council (RSC) is hosting a Research and Scholarship Week to highlight the various forms of research and scholarship being conducted across the campus. We will host various events starting on **Monday, April 28, 2025**, and running through **Friday, May 2, 2025**. The events will take place in St. Francis Hall. The project is titled:

In primary care providers, how does an education program on geriatric-specific screening tools for depression compared to no education affect the use of geriatric screening tool(s) in practice over a 6-month period? -Christy Cremillion, RN, FNP, Student

Plant, Sip & Connect

Gero at FranU and the School of Nursing Honor Society invite you to a relaxing and creative afternoon with the Baton Rouge Succulent Co. Join us for a Plant & Sip Succulent Party for a hands-on planting experience designed to bring together peers in a laid-back, social setting. Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and a chance to get your hands a little dirty (in the best way).

The first 20 individuals to register will attend for free.

Sign up here: bit.ly/43cuQgb



For more info, contact Dr. Alicia Augustine Bates at:

(225) 526-1797 or alicia.bates@franu.edu

May 13th | 4:00-6:00 PM

St. Francis Hall



Let's grow something beautiful - together!

Bridging Classroom and Clinical with Age-Wise Kits

We believe in hands-on experiences that truly prepare our students for real-world care. One of our most impactful tools is the Age Wise Kits, which first-semester nursing students use to simulate the daily challenges faced by the geriatric population.

From cognitive decline to vision impairments and mobility limitations, these kits offer students a firsthand perspective on aging. By experiencing these challenges themselves, our students develop the empathy, sensitivity and clinical skills needed to provide exceptional care to older adults.

Want to learn more about how Fran U bridges the gap between classroom learning and clinical practice?

Read the full blog here:



gerontologyatfranu.com/bridging-classroom-and-clinical-with-age-wise-kits

