

Curriculum Vita

DEAN BLEVINS

ADDRESS

Home: 530 South Main Street
Orrville, Ohio 44667-2202
Phone: (330) 682-8247
Voice Mail/Pager: (330) 347-6122
FAX: (330) 972-5174
E-Mail: dblevin@valkyrie.net

Office: The University of Akron
Department of Psychology
Akron, Ohio 44325-4301
Phone: (330) 972-7280
FAX: (330) 972-5174
E-Mail: dblevin@uakron.edu

EDUCATION

Graduate

Ph.D. anticipated in June, 2002.
A.B.D., 2001.
The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio
Major: Psychology, Applied Cognitive Aging
Graduate Certificate in Gerontology

M.A., 2000. The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio
Major: Psychology, Applied Cognitive Aging
Thesis: *Impact of Ageist Stereotypes on the Perception of Self Among Older Adults*

Post-Baccalaureate

B.A., 1998. The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio
Major: Psychology

Undergraduate

B.A., 1996. The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio
Majors: Political Science & Secondary Education, graduated Cum Laude
License: State of Ohio Teaching Certificate (7/96 - Present), License #: 4-HS-S, 3633019

1990, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio
Major: Political Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND INTERESTS

Current Research Interests and In-Progress Works

Contemporary End of Life Issues. In collaboration with Dr. James Werth and several other faculty and students at the University of Akron, this group of projects focuses on community and academic research and education of the psychosocial issues confronted by persons at the end of life from terminal illnesses and/or old age. Projects are being conducted as a component of a newly created *Working Group to Improve Psychosocial Care at the End of Life* (<http://www.uakron.edu/eol>). Projects include the psychosocial components of palliative and long-term care, including patient mental health, family relations, existential concerns, treatment access and utilization, national and state health policy advocacy for the inclusion of psychology in these domains, and evaluation and recommendations for federal and state health programs (Medicare, Medicaid, LTC policies).

Stereotypes and Older Adults. Extending the findings of my Masters thesis, this project is investigating the effect institutionalized stereotypes have upon the functioning and perceptions of self across the life span, including defensive and behavioral reactions to stereotype exposure. The current sample consists of approximately 800 participants from 18 to 92 years of age. The data is being used for several manuscripts in progress. Also included are on-going research projects examining self-personality structural influences on the effects of stereotypes.

Mental Health and Cognitive Functioning in Older Adults. Focus on various psychosocial issues (e.g., stress and coping, social support) and the cognitive functioning (e.g., executive control processes, decision making) of community-dwelling older adults in treatment for schizophrenic, depressive, and substance abuse disorders. Also included is an examination of the patterns of community treatment utilization and program evaluations.

Research Training

June, 1997 - August, 2001. **Research Assistant** to Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities included implementation of new research projects, continued involvement of on-going projects, grant writing, and development and preparation of manuscripts for publication.

May, 1999 - August, 1999. **NIMH Research Training Assistant** to Dr. Cameron Camp at the Myers Research Institute, a division of the Menorah Park Center for Aging, Beachwood, OH. Responsibilities included designing and implementing interventions with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life of persons with dementia and severe sensory impairments. Responsibilities also included the development and testing of home-based interventions for non-institutionalized persons with dementia.

September, 1994 - January, 1995. Assisted Dr. Jesse Marquette, Director of Survey Research, Political Science, The University of Akron, with the "Summit County Kids Voting Project." Responsibilities included community subject recruitment, data collection, and data entry.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August, 2001 - Present. **Part-Time Faculty**, Department of Psychology, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH. Responsibilities include the design and instruction of a large section (150 students) of *Introduction to Psychology* and a section of *Cognitive Psychology*.

January, 2001 - June, 2001. **Co-Instructor**, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities include the design and instruction of a distance-learning *Introduction to Psychology* course. The course structure involved team teaching the course to one on-campus and four off-campus locations via a fiber optic connection. The University of Akron ranks within the top 2% of all US universities in its promotion and use of distance learning technologies. Other responsibilities included the creation of a Web-enhancement component, whereby non-traditional students could partake in scheduled reviews and office hours via the Internet, and the training and supervision of graduate-level teaching assistants in the distance learning technologies.

January, 2001 - June, 2001. **Instructor**, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities include the design and instruction of an upper-level undergraduate course entitled *Cognitive Processes*. Other responsibilities include the creation of a Web-enhancement component, whereby non-traditional students could partake in scheduled reviews and office hours via the Internet, and the training and supervision of a graduate-level teaching assistant. On a scale from 1 to 5, with lower numbers indicating more favorable performance, means were 1.71 (SD = 0.48), 1.57 (SD = 0.79), and 1.71 (SD = 0.95), respectively for “Knowledge of Subject Matter”, “Enthusiasm for Subject Matter”, “Satisfaction with Overall Effectiveness”.

June, 2000 - August 2000. **Instructor**, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities included the design and instruction of an upper-level undergraduate course entitled *The Psychology of Adult Development and Aging*. Student evaluations were excellent. On a scale from 1 to 5, with lower numbers indicating more favorable performance, means were 1.20 (SD = 0.45), 1.40 (SD = 0.89), and 2.40 (SD = 0.55), respectively for “Knowledge of Subject Matter”, “Enthusiasm for Subject Matter”, “Satisfaction with Overall Effectiveness”.

July, 1998 - August, 1999. **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities included teaching full-semester and summer sections of *Introduction to Psychology*. Student evaluations were excellent. On a scale from 1 to 5, with higher numbers indicating more favorable performance, means were 5.00 (SD = 0.00), 4.67 (SD = 0.50), and 4.56 (SD = 0.53), respectively for “Knowledge of Subject Matter”, “Enthusiasm for Subject Matter”, “Satisfaction with Overall Effectiveness”.

September, 1995 - June, 1996. **Secondary Teacher**. Social Studies Department, Washington High School, Massillon, Ohio. Mentor: Harry Ifantedes. Responsibilities included class design, test construction, and advisement for 190 general and 15 special education students enrolled in U. S. History and American Geography.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August, 2001 - Present. **Administrative Assistant.** *Attending to Psychosocial Issues Near the End of Life: A SPSSI-sponsored International Conference* to be held on February 2-3, 2002. My involvement includes all aspects of the design and conduct of the upcoming conference, including program development, marketing, and website creation (<http://www.uakron.edu/eol/conference/>) and maintenance. Post conference activities include primary responsibility of reporting all public policy priorities developed through the conference.

June, 2001 - Present. **Associate Director of Public Policy.** *Working Group to Improve Psychosocial Care at the End of Life.* The University of Akron, Akron, OH. My primary role is to facilitate discussion on the implications health policy has upon the provision of psychosocial care for those near the end of life.

2000 - 2001. **Textbook Reviewer.** Invited reviews of adult development and aging textbooks, supplemental textbooks, and instructional materials (McGraw-Hill & Springer publishers).

September, 1999 - December, 2000. **Testing and Assessment Consultant.** Barrett and Associates, Akron, Ohio. Responsibilities included the administration and scoring of standardized paper-and-pencil and oral promotional examinations for Ohio-based police and fire departments.

June, 1999 - June 2000. **Head Teaching Assistant.** Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Responsibilities included the scheduling and officiating of weekly teacher-training meetings involving 21 graduate teaching assistants, the preparation, distribution, and processing of standardized tests and teacher evaluations across 25 sections of Introduction to Psychology (approx. 2000 students). Additional projects included joint coordination with faculty in incorporating technology into the classroom and testing procedures; specifically, the use of Power Point for daily lectures, computer-based classroom management and testing, and web-based course enhancements.

GRANT EXPERIENCE

Following are grant submissions with which I have been intimately involved. My participation includes identification of grant monies, literature reviews, project designs, the preparation of submissions, and administration of awarded funds.

Kopera-Frye, K., Zarski, J., & Dermer, S. (2001, May). Project FAM-FIRST: Study of Alcohol and Families. Grant proposal in the amount of \$425,289 submitted to SAMHSA CSAT. D. Blevins as Project Research Director. (Under Review).

Blevins, D. (February, 2001). Akron's Gerontology Association. Grant submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents Extracurricular Activities Fund via the University of Akron in the amount of \$3,400. (Grant awarded in the amount of \$2,900).

Werth, Jr., J. L., Anderson, J. R., & Preston, C. (December, 2000). Attending to Psychosocial Issues Near the End of Life: A SPSSI-Sponsored International Conference. Grant proposal to host the conference submitted in the amount of \$20,000 to APA's Div. 9 (The Society for the Study of Social Issues). D. Blevins as Conference Director Assistant. (Grant awarded in the amount of \$20,000; conference scheduled for February 2-3, 2002).

Werth, Jr., J. L. (December, 2000). The University of Akron's Study on End-of-Life Issues, Concerns, and Decisions over the Lifespan. Grant proposal in the amount of \$3,100 submitted to the Faculty Scholars Program at the University of Akron. D. Blevins as Co-Director of Research. (Grant approved for \$2000).

Blevins, D. (February, 2000). Akron's Gerontology Association. Grant submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents Extracurricular Activities Fund via the University of Akron in the amount of \$3,087.20. (Grant awarded in the amount of \$2997.00).

Kopera-Frye, K. F., Waehler, C. A., Sterns, H. L. et al. (1999, March). DUI recidivism: Prediction and intervention. Grant proposal in the amount of \$1,350,505 submitted to NIH, Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing DUI Recidivism. D. Blevins as Project Research Manager. (Not funded).

Blevins, D. (February, 1999). Akron's Gerontology Association. Grant submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents Extracurricular Activities Fund via the University of Akron in the amount of \$2,693.20. (Grant awarded in the amount of \$2651.00).

Kopera-Frye, K., and Sterns, H. L. (1998, January). Understanding patterns of treatment utilization and client perceptions of efficacy among mentally ill older adults. Grant awarded in the amount of \$9009.75 from the Ohio Urban University Program.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2000 - Present. Student Member. American Society on Aging.

2001 - Present. Student representative to ASA's public policy committee.

2000 - Present. Member, Ohio Psychological Association.

2000 - Present. Member, Psychology of Women (APA Division 35).

2000 - Present. Division 35 liaison to the APA Interdivisional Geropsychology Practice Coalition.

1999 - Present. Member, Adult Development and Aging (APA Division 20).

1999 - Present. Member, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (APA Division 9).

1998 - Present. Student Member, Gerontological Society of America.

2001 - Present. Student representative to GSA's public policy committee.

1997 - Present. Student Member, American Psychological Society.

1997 - Present. Student Member, American Psychological Association.

COMMITTEE WORK

August, 2000 - Present. University of Akron Campus Representative to the Ohio Psychological Association.

August, 1999 - June, 2001. Student representative to departmental faculty meetings.

January, 1999 - February, 2001. Treasurer, Akron's Gerontology Association.

1998 & 2001 Graduate Student Representative for curriculum design for the University of Akron's Applied Cognitive Aging Program.

AWARDS RECEIVED

June, 2001. American Psychological Assn. Science Directorate Conference Travel Award.

April, 1999. Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Student Merit/Junior Investigator Award for the 1999 RSA meeting. Awarded by the NIAAA.

March, 1998. American Psychological Society 1998 Travel Award.

1996. Member, Golden Key National Honors Society.

1993. Member, Phi Sigma Alpha: Scholastic Honorary for the College of Arts and Sciences.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Blevins, D. & Curl, R. (2001). Instructor's manual and test bank to accompany Papalia, Sterns, Camp, & Feldman (2001) Adult Development and Aging. McGraw-Hill: Boston.

Blevins, D. (in press). Computerized Test Bank CD ROM to accompany Papalia, Sterns, Camp, & Feldman (2001) Adult Development and Aging. McGraw-Hill: Boston.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Blevins, D., & Begovic-Lapic, A. (in press). Social psychology. In S.K. Whitbourne & J.C. Cavanaugh (Eds.) The aging dimension in undergraduate psychology courses: A practical guide for teaching.

Kopera-Frye, K., Werth, Jr., J., Blevins, D., & Bossick, B. (2001). Older adult representation in the counseling psychology literature: Missing in action? Manuscript submitted for publication.

Blevins, D., & Deason-Howell, L. M. (2001). Nursing home care at the end of life: Summary and recommendations. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Deason-Howell, L., & Blevins, D. (2001). Strategic planning of the Health Care Financing Administration overseeing state nursing home inspection agencies. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Blevins, D., Kaut, K., Kopera-Frye, K., & Werth, Jr., J. (2001). Adaptive cognitive functioning in end-of-life care. Manuscript in preparation.

Blevins, D. (2001). Human performance considerations in voting ballot design for older adults. Manuscript in preparation.

Blevins, D. (2002). The effect of stereotypes on the self across the life span. Manuscript in preparation.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Kaut, K., & Snell, A. (2002). The role of psychosocial distress in maladaptive coping among older adults with schizophrenia. Manuscript in preparation.

Blevins, D. (2002). End-of-life care and public policy. Invited manuscript in preparation for the American Behavioral Scientist.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Abeles, N., & Blevins, D. (2001, November). Presenting gerontological knowledge to various audiences and assuring impact. Symposium in conjunction with R. Hudson, K. Judge, B.G. Knight, K. Kopera-Frye, P.A. Lichtenberg, H.L. Sterns, & S.K. Whitbourne to be presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Chicago, IL.

Bucur, B., DeBellis, M., Blevins, D., Begovic-Lapic, A., Kopera-Frye, K., & Wiscott, R. (2001, November). Stability of the Big Five personality traits among a sample of older alcoholics in treatment. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Chicago, IL.

Blevins, D., Kaut, K., Kopera-Frye, K., & Werth, Jr., J. (2001, August). Adaptive cognitive functioning at the end of life. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Kopera-Frye, K., Blevins, D., & Wiscott, R. (2001, August). Incorporating aging into social psychology courses. Symposium in conjunction with J.C. Cavanaugh, D. Segal, A. Smith, H. L. Sterns, & S. K. Whitbourne presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Blevins, D., Kessler, L.E., Kopera-Frye, Prieto, L.R., Vaughan, M., & Wiscott, R. (2001, August). Instructional recommendation for meeting the needs of non-traditional psychology students. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Begovic, A., Bucur, B., DeBellis, M., & Blevins, D. (2001, June). Self-representation among recovering middle-aged and older adult substance abusers. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Montreal, Canada.

Werth, J.L., Kaut, K., Blevins, D., Bossick, B., Diegelman, S., Kopera-Frye, K. (2001, June). Psychosocial issues near the end of life. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Ohio Colleges of Medicine, Rootstown, OH.

Blevins, D., Kaut, K., Kopera-Frye, K., Werth, Jr., J, Bossick, B. (2001, April). Psychosocial issues at the end of life: A new model for assessment. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Network of Educational Professionals in the Field of Aging, Akron, OH.

Wiscott, R., Kopera-Frye, K., Begovic-Lapic, A, & Blevins, D. (2000, November). Quantitative versus qualitative measurement of alcohol expectancies across the lifespan. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington, D.C.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Gesen, K., Blevins, D., & Sterns, H. (2000, August). Alcohol use attitudes and self orientation style among older adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Gesen, K., & Grabbe, J. (2000, June). Identifying risk factors of psychosocial distress and maladaptive coping among schizophrenics. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, Miami, FL.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Gesen, K., & O'Conner, K. (1999, November). Coping strategy use among older adults with schizophrenia. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Blevins, D., Gesen, K., & Mersky, M. (1999, November). The role of social support and coping in predicting alcohol-related consequences. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

Mersky, M., Gesen, K., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., & Blevins, D. (1999, November). Can personality inform clinicians about alcohol-related consequences? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Francisco, CA.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Sterns, H. L. (1999, August). Moderating effects of social support to coping with life stress among schizophrenics. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Gesen, K., Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., & Wiscott, R. (1999, August). Locus of control among younger and older adults. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Mersky, M., & Bertsch, S. (1999, June). How does social support relate to stress and coping? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Santa Barbara, CA.

Wiscott, R., Kopera-Frye, K., Mersky, M., Bertsch, S., & Blevins, D. (1999, June). Psychosocial factors in middle-aged and older alcoholics: Implications for treatment. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Santa Barbara, CA.

Blevins, D. (1999, April). Religious coping among older adults. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Network of Educational Consultants in the Field of Aging, New Philadelphia, OH.

Blevins, D. (1999, April). How religion and spirituality impact intergenerational relationships. Paper presented as a part of a symposium in conjunction with K. Gesen, K. Kopera-Frye, D. Martin, M. Mersky, D. Strekal, & R. Wiscott at the annual meeting of the Ohio Network of Educational Consultants in the Field of Aging, New Philadelphia, OH.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., R. A., Blevins, D., & Gesen, K. (1998, November). How does ego relate to personality and coping in younger-aged and older adults? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Philadelphia, PA.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., & Wiscott, R. A. (1998, November). Gender differences in support networks among older adult schizophrenics. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Philadelphia, PA.

Kopera-Frye, K., Blevins, D., & Wiscott, R. (1998, August). Social support and emotional distress among young and old adults. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., & Wiscott, R. (1998, June). Referral source and experiences with alcohol among older alcoholics. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Hilton Head, SC.

Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., Gesen, K. L., Bertsch, S., & Blevins, D. (1998, June). Pictures and strategizing: Tools for indexing cognitive processes? Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Research Society on Alcoholism, Hilton Head, SC.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., Wiscott, R., & Gesen, K. (1998, May). Social support: Differences in composition among young, old, and older alcoholic adults. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, Washington, D.C.

Blevins, D., Kopera-Frye, K., & Wiscott, R. (1998, April). Comparisons of life stress among older adult alcoholics and non-alcoholics. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Ohio Network of Educational Consultants in the Field of Aging, Dayton, OH.

INVITED ADDRESSES/PAPERS

2001, April. The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Guest lecturer. *Psychology and public policy in aging.*

2001, February. *Human performance considerations in voting ballot design for older adults.*
Paper requested for Ohio's Secretary of State's Summit on Voting Ballot Design.

2000, September. The University of Akron, Akron, OH. Guest lecturer. *Psychosocial and policy issues of end-of-life care of older adults.*

2000, October. Doctor's Hospital, Canton, OH. Continuing education presentation in collaboration with Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye and Summit County's Senior Workers Action Program, entitled *Alcohol abuse among older adults.*

1999, October. Kent State University, Kent, OH. Guest lecturer. *Movement of cognitive aging psychology into applied settings.*