

**CURRICULUM VITA  
TONI L. BISCONTI**

**Office Contact Information**

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**EDUCATION**

August, 2001	Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, University of Notre Dame
August, 1997	M.A., Developmental Psychology, University of Notre Dame
June, 1995	B. S., Psychology, summa cum laude, Youngstown State University, Ohio
1988-1991	Lowellville High School, Lowellville, Ohio

**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

2001-2006	University of New Hampshire Department of Psychology Assistant Professor
Present	University of Akron Department of Psychology Assistant Professor

**GRANTS**

Investigators: Toni L. Bisconti & Sharyn Potter, Co-PIs  
Title: The Ecology of Direct Care Workers: Risk and Protective Factors  
Funding Source: UNH President's Excellence Awards Competition  
Amount: \$80,000

Investigators: Toni L. Bisconti, faculty mentor, & Alyssa Fenton, Honor's student  
Title: Understanding Coping Processes in Older Adult Widows: The Role of Social Support and Spirituality  
Source: UNH Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Undergraduate Research Award  
Amount: \$553.50

Investigators: Toni L. Bisconti  
Title: The Psychological Predictors of Direct Caregiving Burden  
Source: UNH Carsey Institute  
Amount: \$2,000

Investigators: Toni L. Bisconti (on behalf of the UNH Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender President's Commission) and Sue Rankin (Consultant).

Title: Assessing GLBT Climate at UNH

Source: UNH Kidder Fund (Grant foundation for GLBT-related work)

Amount: \$9,200

Investigators: Cindy S. Bergeman, PI; Toni L. Bisconti, Co-Investigator; Steven Boker, Consultant

Title: Conjugal Loss in Later Life: A Dynamical Systems Approach

Funding Source: National Institute on Aging (#1 RO3 AG18570-01), 9/1/2000 – 8/31/2001

Amount: \$73,275 (with indirect costs)

Investigator: Toni L. Bisconti

Title: Emotion Regulation in Recent Older Adult Widow(er)s: A Dynamical Systems Approach

Funding Source: William Kirby Endowment for Research, 4/1/2000 – 3/31/2001

Amount: \$2,500

Investigator: Toni L. Bisconti

Title: Emotion Regulation in Recent Older Adult Widow(er)s: A Dynamical Systems Approach

Funding Source: American Psychological Association Division 20 – Retirement Research Foundation Student Awards Program of 1999

Amount: \$1,250

Investigators: Cindy S. Bergeman, PI; Toni L. Bisconti, Graduate Student

Title: Pilot Funds for Faculty-Student Teams in the Social Sciences, "Family Study of Optimal Aging"

Funding Source: Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, 1999

Amount: \$13,500

Investigator: Toni L. Bisconti

Title: Research in Coping Strategies Among Recent Widow(er)s

Funding Source: William Kirby Endowment for Research, 4/1/1999 – 3/31/2000

Amount: \$1,000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Fauteux, H. D., & Bisconti, T. L. (under review). Interventions to reduce sexual minority stigma in sororities. Submitted to *Journal of Sex Research*.

Monpetit, M. A., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (under review). The self-concept and conjugal loss: Evidence for structural change. Submitted to *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*.

Rossi, N. E., Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (in press). The role of dispositional resilience in regaining life satisfaction after the loss of a spouse. *Death Studies*.

Scott, S. B., Bergeman, C. S., Verney, A., Longenbaker, S., Markey, M. A., & Bisconti, T. L. (2007). Social support in widowhood: A mixed methods study. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research, 1* (3), 242-266.

- Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (2007). Understanding the adjustment to widowhood: Using dynamical systems to assess and predict trajectories of well-being. In A. D. Ong, & M. Dulman (Eds.), *Oxford handbook of methods in positive psychology* (pp. 395-408). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Montpetit, M. A., Bergeman, C. S., Bisconti, T., & Rausch, J. (2006). Adaptive change in self-concept and well-being during conjugal loss in later life. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 63 (3), 217-239.
- Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., Bisconti, T. L., & Wallace, K. A. (2006). The contours of resilience and the complexity of emotions in later life. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 91 (4), 730-749.
- Bisconti, T. L., Bergeman, C. S., & Boker, S. M. (2006). Social support as a predictor of variability: An examination of the adjustment trajectories of recent widows. *Psychology and Aging*, 21 (3), 590-599.
- Boker, S. M., & Bisconti, T. L. (2006). Dynamical systems modeling of data from aging research. In C. S. Bergeman & S. M. Boker (Eds.), *Quantitative methodology in aging research* (pp. 185-229). Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (2005). Unique effects of daily perceived control on anxiety symptomatology during conjugal bereavement. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 38 (5), 1057-1067.
- Bisconti, T. L., Bergeman, C. S., & Boker, S. M. (2004). Emotional well-being in recently bereaved widows: A dynamical systems approach. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 59, 158-167.
- Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (2004). The role of daily positive affect during conjugal bereavement. *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*, 59, 168-176.
- Borkowski, J. G., Bisconti, T. L., Weed, K., Willard, C., Keogh, D., A., & Whitman, T. L. (2002). The adolescent as parent: Influences on children's intellectual, academic, and socioemotional development. In J. G. Borkowski, S. Ramey, & M. Bristol-Power (Eds.), *Parenting and the child's world: Influences on intellectual, academic and social-emotional development* (pp. 161-184). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Wallace, K. A., Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (2001). The mediational effect of hardiness on social support and optimal outcomes in later life. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 23(4), 267-279.
- Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (1999). Perceived social control as mediator of the relationships among social support, psychological well-being, and perceived health. *The Gerontologist*, 39 (1), 94-103.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- Braun, M. E., Scott, S. B., Bergeman, C. S., Montpetit, M. A., & Bisconti, T. L. (November, 2007). Stress, social support, and coping effects on recent widows' mental health.

Poster accepted for presentation at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Scott, S. B., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (May, 2006). *A qualitative and longitudinal exploration of social support*. Paper presented at the Second International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Fauteux, H. (March, 2006). *Hate crime perceptions based on race and sexual orientation*. Poster presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference. St. Petersburg, FL.

Scott, S. B., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (November, 2005). *Social support in the transition to widowhood: Longitudinal and qualitative findings*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Monpetit, M. A., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (November, 2004). *Self-concept in bereavement: Evidence for structural change*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Conference. Washington: DC.

Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (July, 2004). *An intra-individual, process approach to the relationship between perceived control and anxiety during conjugal bereavement: Is acting in control as "good" as being in control*. Paper presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI.

Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (April, 2004). *The role of daily positive emotion during conjugal bereavement*. Paper presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Ong, A. D., Bergeman, C. S., Wallace, K. A., & Bisconti, T. L. (April, 2004). *The role of daily positive affect in the resilience process*. Paper presented at the Society for Research in Adult Development Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.

Montpetit, M. A., Bergeman, C. S., & Bisconti, T. L. (November, 2003). *The self as a resilience resource during the bereavement process*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.

Rossi, N. E., & Bisconti, T. L. (November, 2003). *The mediational effect of hardiness on perceived stress and life satisfaction following conjugal loss*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of American Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.

Bisconti, T. L., Bergeman, C. S., & Boker, S. M. (August, 2003). *Social support predicting intraindividual variability in the adjustment to widowhood*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference. Toronto, ON.

Bisconti, T. L., Bergeman, C. S., & Boker, S. M. (August, 2002). *Conjugal loss in later life: A dynamical systems approach*. Poster presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Boker, S. M., & Bisconti, T. L. (June, 2001). *Dynamical systems models for self-regulatory psychological processes*. Paper presented at the Psychometric Society Annual Meeting. Valley Forge, PA.

Bergeman, C. S., Bisconti, T. L., & Wallace, K. A. (November, 2000). *Emotion regulation in later life*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. Washington, DC.

Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (November, 2000). *Adjustment to widowhood: A dynamical systems approach to emotion regulation*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. Washington, DC.

Wallace, K. A., Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (November, 1999). *Spirituality in a sample of African-American elders: A life story approach*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Bisconti, T. L., Wallace, K. A., & Bergeman, C. S. (November, 1999). *The longitudinal mediation effect of psychological well-being on the control – physical health relationship*. Poster presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Bisconti, T. L., Borkowski, J. G., & Dukewich, T. L. (April, 1999). *Children of adolescent mothers: The role of social support on cognitive, behavioral, and abuse potential outcomes*. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Child Development. Albuquerque, NM.

Bisconti, T. L., Wallace, K. A., & Bergeman, C. S. (November, 1998). *Personality as a mediator of the social support – well-being relationship in older adulthood*. Paper presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Wallace, K. A., Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (April, 1998) *Hardiness as a mediator of the social support – well-being relationship*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association. Chicago, IL.

Bisconti, T. L., & Bergeman, C. S. (March, 1998). *Perceived social control as a mediator of the social support – successful aging relationship*. Poster presented at the Conference on Human Development. Mobile, AL.

Bisconti, T. L., Borkowski, J. G., & Whitman, T. L. (February, 1998). *Positive and negative effects of social support on adolescent mothers and their children*. Poster presented at The Society for Research on Adolescence Conference. San Diego, CA.

Bisconti, T. L., & Borkowski, J. G. (March, 1997). *Social support as a protective mechanism from mild mental retardation in children of adolescent mothers*. Poster presented at the Annual Gatlinburg Conference. Riverside, CA.

### **AWARDS**

Title: 2006 Outstanding Faculty Award

Source: President's Commission on Women's Issues

Title: 2005 Outstanding Faculty Award

Source: UNH Sororities and Fraternities System

Title: 2004 Kidder Fund Faculty Award (for promotion of tolerance and education towards GLBT issues)

Source: UNH Kidder Fund

Amount: \$100 Honorarium

Title: 2004 Outstanding Faculty Award

Source: UNH Sororities and Fraternities System

Title: Research Training in Aging Research

Source: National Institute of Aging and APA, Division 20, Summer, 2003

Amount: All expenses, including transportation t, room & board, and food

Title: Freshman Year Composition Teaching Fellowship

Source: University of Notre Dame, 2000-2001

Amount: \$12,000

Title: Outstanding Graduate Student

Source: Developmental Program, Department of Psychology, University of Notre Dame, 2000-2001

Title: Phillip Moore Dissertation Award

Source: University of Notre Dame, 1999-2000

Amount: \$12,000

Title: Kaneb Graduate Student Teaching Award

Source: University of Notre Dame, 1999-2000

Title: Excellence in Teaching Award

Source: Developmental Program, Department of Psychology, University of Notre Dame, 1999-2000

## **RESEARCH**

### **University of Akron**

Present Adjustment to Widowhood Project

### **University of New Hampshire**

2005-Present Formal Caregiving: Consequences for Caregivers and Recipients

2002-Present Coping with Hate Crime Victimization

2001-Present Adjustment to Widowhood Project

2003-2004 Homophobia Intervention in Sororities

2002-2004 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Climate Study

### **University of Notre Dame**

1998-Present Dissertation: Emotion regulation in recent widows: A dynamical systems approach.

Dr. Cindy S. Bergeman & Dr. Steven M. Boker

- 1998-2000            Life stories: Interviews of Elderly African-Americans.  
Dr. Cindy S. Bergeman & Dr. Kimberly A. Wallace (University of Montana)
- 1996-2000            Longitudinal Family Study of Optimal Aging  
Dr. Cindy S. Bergeman & Dr. Kimberly A. Wallace (University of Montana)
- 1995-1998            Adolescent Parenting Project: Child Assessments and Social Support  
Dr. John G. Borkowski & Dr. Thomas L. Whitman

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of Akron**

Experimental Psychology  
Developmental Psychology

#### **University of New Hampshire Undergraduate Courses**

Adult Development and Aging  
Senior Seminar: Psychology of Hate  
Social Development across the Lifespan  
Research Methods

#### **University of New Hampshire Graduate Courses**

Theories of Development

#### **University of Notre Dame Undergraduate Courses**

Research Methods  
Introductory Psychology  
Developmental Psychology  
First-Year Writing Seminar

#### **Indiana University of South Bend Undergraduate Courses**

Introductory Psychology  
Lifespan Development

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

#### **University of Akron**

Present                    Psychology Department Colloquium Committee  
Psychology Department Statistics and Computer Committee  
Fellow, Institute for Life-Span Development

#### **University of New Hampshire**

- 2003-present            UPDOC (Committee for undergraduate education in psychology)  
Department of Psychology
- 2003-present            Faculty advisor to Kappa Delta
- 2004-2005                Provost's Taskforce on Diversity
- 2003-2005                Co-Chair of the President's Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and  
Transgender Issues, President's Office

- 2003-2005 Faculty sponsor to the Alliance (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies student group)
- 2002-2005 Faculty advisor to undergraduate Psychology Club
- 2002-2003 Cognitive Neuroscience Search Committee  
Department of Psychology
- 2002-2003 GRAPDOC (Committee for graduate education in psychology)  
Department of Psychology, University of New Hampshire
- 2002-2003 Vice-Chair of the President's Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues, President's Office
- 2001-2002 UPDOC (Committee for undergraduate education in psychology)  
Department of Psychology
- 2001-2002 President's Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues, President's Office

#### **University of Notre Dame**

- 1997-1998 Graduate student representation to the Graduate Curriculum Committee,  
Department of Psychology, University of Notre Dame
- 1996-1997 Graduate student representation to the University of Notre Dame Honesty  
and Grievance Committee

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2002 Hospice Board of Ethics  
Seacoast Hospice, Exeter, NH

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2007 Reviewer: *International Journal of Aging & Human Development*
- 2006 Reviewer: *Research on Aging*
- 2004-present Reviewer: *Psychology and Aging*
- 2001-present Reviewer: *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*
- 2004 Reviewer: McGraw Hill's current edition of *Adult Development and Aging*  
by Hoyer & Roodin
- 2003 Reviewer: APA book proposal by Robert Hansson and Margaret  
Stroebe entitled *Bereavement in later life: Issues of attachment, coping,  
and transition*
- 1999 Reviewer: *The Gerontologist*

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Psychological Association, (Divisions 2, 7, 20)

American Psychological Society

The Gerontological Society of America