

2007 Duke Spirituality & Health Research Class (July)

Sunil Abraham, M.D., Vellore, India. I grew up in southern India in a family that was Orthodox Christian by culture. After my undergraduate studies at Calicut Medical College, Kerala, India, I worked in various rural mission hospitals. I had my specialty training in Family Medicine which was a rigorous 3 year program with a board exam at the end .I also have a diploma in Family Medicine from Colombo University, Sri Lanka . In June 2000 I joined the Christian Medical College, Vellore. Initially I worked in their rural hospital and from March 2001 I have been working at the urban unit for the poor, which is a 40-bedded hospital. At present. I am a senior lecturer in family medicine at that unit. I am also an associate chaplain for the institution and visit patients to minister to their spiritual needs when time permits. I am now at Tufts University School of Medicine for 7 months for training in research methodologies and involvement in projects among patients with HIV/AIDS. Contact: sunil_mary@hotmail.com.

James Patrick Daugherty, MD. Bio: Native East Tennessean. Became Christian Aug 15, 1961 (age 13). First generation high school graduate. BS from Lee University 1969. PhD, Univ TN 1975 in Biochem and Radiation Biology. Several years of research. MD, Univ AL, 1981. Completed oncology fellowship in 1987 at Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia. In private practice in Florence, AL since 1987. Will graduate from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in May with Doctor Ministry. Research has involved improving spirituality in individuals undergoing chemotherapy. Contact: baraka@comcast.net.

Ann Marie Dose, RN, PhD(c), APRN-BC. I have associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees in nursing. I am completing a nursing PhD at the University of Minnesota and am currently collecting data for my dissertation, a qualitative study on the meaning of the experience of spirituality at the end of life. I now work part-time in the Division of Nursing Research at Mayo Clinic, assisting and collaborating with various nursing research projects. I am interested particularly in spirituality at the end of life and I hope to join the palliative care team here at Mayo to conduct interdisciplinary research on the role of spirituality in palliative care. Contact: Dose.ann@mayo.edu.

Jacqueline Dyer, MSW, doctoral student. This spring I finish year 3 of doctoral studies at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, and year 1 as a CSWE MFP Fellow. My goal is to complete my candidacy project and follow up, according to the BC processes, with my dissertation proposal. I plan to explore and better understand partner violence in religious communities. Professionally, I have 13 years of community work and full SW licensure in Massachusetts between obtaining my MSW in 1991 and returning for my doctorate in 2004. This summer course and mentorship opportunity will help me to successfully pursue my research interests. Contact: unitylane1@verizon.net.

Julie Exline, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She uses techniques from clinical and social psychology to study topics such as forgiveness, humility, altruistic love, and spiritual struggles. She is committed to the cross-fertilization of basic and applied research, aiming to do work that is theoretically driven but with

clear practical implications. She has a special interest in studying challenges that people experience in their perceived relationships with God, particularly in situations involving suffering. She is also completing her training as an Ignatian spiritual director at John Carroll University. Contact: julie.exline@case.edu

O. Ray Fitzgerald, PhD. My previous training includes a PHD in Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care (Boston University) and a PHD in Counseling Psychology (American University). Currently I am Special Assistant for Diversity and Management at the NIH Clinical Center, Bethesda, MD. My research interests are in building bridges of understanding between Theology/Worldviews and Health including Spiritual Assessment to Health Outcomes. Populations I work with involve cancer, HIV, and Substance Abuse. I'm in my fifth year as Associate Investigator with a Principal Investigator, an OBGyn Physician, and others. My part of the research is to do a Needs Assessment working with Spirituality and Functional Well-being involving Women with Premature Ovarian Failure. Contact: orayfitz@aol.com.

Laura Fleck, M.D., is a board-certified neurologist who specializes in the evaluation and conservative care of all types of spine-related pain. Dr. Fleck currently serves as the Director of Rehabilitation at SpineCarolina, a single-specialty orthopedic practice in Asheville, NC. Prior to joining SpineCarolina in 2000, Dr. Fleck served as the Medical Director of the Comprehensive Spine Care Program at Henry Health System in Detroit, MI. During her two-year endowed position, Dr. Fleck obtained a grant from the Ford Foundation for the evaluation of intercessory prayer as a treatment modality for the management of low back pain. She also served as Clinical Director of a multidisciplinary spine program in Pittsburgh, PA for ten years. Dr. Fleck's program integrated traditional medical practice with alternative medicine therapies for the management of spine-related pain. Dr. Fleck has particular interest in the role that spirituality, and specifically religion, may play as a valid treatment option for assisting the management of chronic pain and total wellness. Contact: smidget77@bellsouth.net.

Kelly Forsys, PhD, received her B.A. in Psychology from Elizabethtown College in 2000. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Behavioral Medicine from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2005. Dr. Forsys completed a health psychology internship at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Dr. Forsys then worked as a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, MD. Kelly is currently a psychologist in the public health field at the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM). She is interested in mind-body medicine and the interplay between spirituality and health. Contact: Kelly.forsys@us.army.mil.

Jean Gash, PhD candidate. I am currently a doctoral student at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. I am interested in the transition process from homelessness into mainstream community living in the African American female population. Specifically, I am researching spirituality as a mediating factor in the process of successful transition back into the community. I work full time as a nurse practitioner in a very large, busy urology practice. I have brought about many changes in the practice since joining the group in 2004. In the future I would like to

combine my interests and look at particular urological problems using spirituality as a mediating factor. Contact: ac8624@wayne.edu

Sandra Gaynor, Ph.D., R.N. I have been taking care of people for 30 years. My path has been: emergency care, homecare, eldercare, caregivers, nursing development, PhD, parish nurse, and always, nursing students. I am interested in teaching people with disabilities tools to help them manage self care at home. I have studied Korean Dahn “energy training” for 3 years and believe it has helped me to be more receptive to the life energies of others. The spiritual life fuels our life energies and is very strong in the disabled people in the programs I manage. I want to research spirit/body connections. Contact: sgaynor@ric.org.

Kay Jezek, D.Min., is a 65 yo Californian, moving back to Texas –native Houstonian. Dr. Jezek is a VA Chaplain in Martinez, CA where she works in the Acute Unit and Mental Health. She teaches Ethics and Values to group of mostly Vietnam Veterans. She is also a Chaplain for the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office. Kay holds an undergraduate degree in Music from the University of Houston (1965), an MDiv from Pacific School of Religion (1997) and a DMin from San Francisco Theological Seminary (2002). She is interested in research for the aging in life expectations and Biblical support. Her dissertation is *Christology for the Senior Woman*. Contact: RevKJezek@aol.com.

Shin Ji Kang, PhD candidate. Shinji is a doctoral student in education. Before getting into the graduate program, she was a preschool teacher for 3 years. At Vanderbilt, she worked as a research assistant, curriculum consultant, teacher evaluator, classroom observer, and child achievement assessor for five years. She is currently conducting her doctoral research on public school teachers’ sense of efficacy in managing professional challenges and their personal spiritual beliefs by using survey and case study methods (mix methods). She is interested in learning how individual teacher’s religiousness is related to his or her development in the areas of confidence, persistence, commitment, stress coping, etc. Contact: sj.kang@Vanderbilt.Edu.

Margaret Ross (Marty) Koontz, MDiv. Marty has been a Chaplain at St. Mary's Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee since 1993 and is Board Certified through the Association of Professional Chaplains. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee, having majored in audiology and minored in speech pathology and psychology. Her Master of Divinity degree is from Princeton Theological Seminary, where her areas of emphasis were Old Testament and Hebrew. Her training for Chaplaincy included nine units of CPE from Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, and she is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Contact: mkoontz@stmaryshealth.com.

Julie L. Larsen, R.N., Ph.D. candidate. I have a nursing background with clinical experience in maternal-child nursing and community health nursing; experience in health care evaluation involving outcomes development and application in addition to teaching expertise with an emphasis on distance education. I am currently enrolled in the online doctoral program in nursing at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. I have focused my doctoral studies on the effects of religiosity/spirituality on health and well-being. In my leisure time I enjoy needlepoint, cooking and spending as much time as possible with my family. Contact: julie136@sbcglobal.net.

Robert Macauley, M.D. After completing a combined medical/divinity school program at Yale, I have worked as a pediatrician and Episcopal priest in Maryland, New York, and now Vermont. I currently direct the Clinical Ethics program at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, with my practice focused on pediatric palliative care. I also direct our spirituality curriculum, which is integrated throughout most of the courses of the preclinical years. My primary focus is on understanding what patients want from their physicians (vis-a-vis spirituality), and how to equip physicians-in-training to provide this for their patients. Contact: Robert.macauley@vtmednet.org.

Oliver McMahan, D.Min., is Professor of Pastoral Care/Counseling and Dean of Ministries at the Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN (1988). Completed DMin in Pastoral Care/Ministerial Ethics at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University (1984) and PhD in Counseling/Family Psychology at Georgia State University (1997). Published in the Journal for Pastoral Counseling and the Journal for Psychology and Theology; books include *The Caring Church* (2004), *Scriptural Counseling* (1995); chapters in *Distance Writing and Computer Assisted Interventions in Psychiatry and Mental Health* (2002), *Workbooks in Prevention and Psychotherapy: A Practical Guide for Clinicians* (2004), *Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls* (2004). Contact: omcmahan@aol.com.

Marianne Mellinger, D.Min. Dr. Mellinger is at the Research Institute on Aging, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. My career focus has been ministry, and I have spent most of my working years as a psychotherapist. I am a Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. In addition, I have worked as a hospital and hospice chaplain and I have worked in congregational ministry. I graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL with a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Psychotherapy. My thesis grew out of a \$10,000 grant funded project and was titled: *Anabaptist Theological Distinctives, Religious Practice, and Spiritual Maturity in Aging Mennonites: Exploring the Connections*. In 2000 I moved to Ontario. Two years ago I was invited to become the director of Spirituality and Aging, a new program in UW's Research Institute on Aging. Contact: mmelling@uwaterloo.ca.

Eunice Minford, MD. Qualified in Medicine at Aberdeen University Scotland in 1989. After basic surgical training in Aberdeen, moved to Newcastle upon Tyne and had further training in General and hepatobiliary and liver and renal transplantation. Arranged to work at Mount Sinai in New York for a year for training in live donor liver transplantation and worked at the Royal London Hospital. Returned back to Northern Ireland and have been practicing general surgery in a local district general hospital. From 2004 -2006 I trained in the Interfaith Seminary in UK to be an Interfaith Minister and was ordained in July 2006. I am currently working as fulltime surgeon and whilst there is plenty of opportunity to 'minister' in that role I have not as yet taken on the formal roles of being an Interfaith Minister. I would like to help raise awareness of spirituality in medicine and undertake research in this area particularly in the surgical arena. Contact: euni.min@btinternet.com.

Sabine Moritz, B.Sc., M.Sc. Sabine Moritz is the Director of Research at the Canadian Institute of Natural and Integrative Medicine. Ms. Moritz holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Biology from Germany, an M.Sc. in Health Care Research Methods from England and has completed the pre-candidacy requirements for a PhD in Epidemiology. Ms. Moritz' research interests are in the area of Complementary/Alternative Medicine, in particular the development and testing of spiritually based interventions in health care. Ms. Moritz has completed two randomized trials and two qualitative studies that investigated a Spirituality Teaching Program for clinical depression and general emotional distress. Ms Moritz is currently involved in the development and testing of a spiritually based intervention to treat depressed adolescents. Director of Research Canadian Institute of Natural, and Integrative Medicine (CINIM). Contact: s.moritz@cinim.org. Canadian Institute of Natural and Integrative Medicine, Suite 170, 1402 8th Ave N.W., Calgary, AB, T2N1B9, Canada 1-403-220 0022 ext. 103.

Amy L. Rich, doctoral candidate. I earned a Master of Science degree in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College in Maryland, and am currently a doctoral candidate (ABD status.) I am a licensed graduate professional counselor in Maryland, and a national certified counselor. I work as a pastoral counselor at the Heritage Pastoral Counseling Center, and also serve as agency director. My research interests include the integration of spirituality/religion and mental health. I am specifically interested in the topic of health and chronic illness, and my doctoral dissertation will focus on this topic area. Contact: Alrich61@msn.com.

Terri Richardson, M.D. I received my B.S. from Stanford University and my M.D. from Yale University School of Medicine. I completed my Internal Medicine training at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. After residency I worked at Eastside Family Health Center for 17 years. Along with clinical duties I served in several administrative positions, including medical director; precepted medical students; and was Associate Professor, UCHSC. I've worked at Kaiser Permanente, a nonprofit HMO x 2.5 years. I primarily have clinical duties, but I recently became Director of the African American(AA) Center of Excellence. This is a new center with the major goal of impacting health disparities as it relates to AA. My major interests have been geriatrics and health care issues in AA. I became interested in spirituality and health a few years ago and gave a presentation at the University. I have continued to have an interest in this area. Contact: ttr761@aol.com.

Michael Sheridan, MSW, PhD. She has been a social work educator for 18 years, teaching undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses primarily in the areas of research, diversity and social justice, transpersonal theory, and spirituality and social work. A major focus of her scholarship has been on the integration of spirituality within the social work profession, including both conceptual and empirical contributions. She also has provided numerous scholarly presentations in this area at both national and international conferences. Currently, she is working on developing grant materials for an NIH Grant focusing on the influence of religiosity and spirituality on health risk behaviors in children and adolescents. The Catholic University of America, National Catholic School of Social Service. Contact: SHERIDAM@cua.edu.

Peter Walters, Ph.D. Dr. Walters has a B.S. degree from Western Kentucky University in Religion and a M.S. and Ph.D. degree in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University.

Currently, I serve as an Associate Professor at Wheaton College in the Applied Health Science Department. A large portion of my scholarship up to this time has focused on relationships between sleep and human performance. However, during the past three years, I've labored with another colleague on a college health textbook which attempts to integrate spirituality and wellness. My desire is to expand my knowledge of the relationships between spirituality and health, especially among collegiates, and work with others who might have similar interests. Contact: Peter.H.Walters@Wheaton.edu.

Rev. William H. West, M.Div. BCC. I am an ordained, UCC clergyman who has served as a chaplain at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, CT. I have earned at M. Div. from Andover Newton Theological School and am a Board Certified Chaplain in the APC. My primary assignments in the hospital are the ED, Surgical ICU, Adult Psychiatric Unit, the Out-Patient Dialysis Unit and serve as a clinician in the out-patient Chemical Dependence Program. For the past three years I have been working with an interdisciplinary team on research that focuses on the relationship between spirituality, depression, and components of quality of life among dialysis patients. As chaplain I have also been involved in End-of-Life communication training, ethical issues and Sudden Death Notification for ED staff. Contact: wwest@srhs.org.

Lloyda Renee' Broomes Williamson, M.D. Dr. Williamson obtained her undergraduate degree from Oakwood College, medical degree from Meharry Medical College, and her Psychiatry Residency and Child Psychiatry Fellowship at Emory University. She is board certified in both of those specialties. Her medical practice has included the following: community mental health, private practice, and intensive residential treatment centers. She is currently employed by the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the University of Alabama. Her areas of interest include education of the general and medical communities regarding mental health. She has actively made presentations on mental health topics for churches and local organizations. Contact: lwilliamson@cchs.ua.edu.

James H. Wise, MDiv, is a chaplain employed by the *Hershey Medical Center* at the *Pennsylvania State University* College of Medicine. The hospital is currently ranked as having the highest "severity of illness" rating in the state – the patients who come here are gravely ill and in need of the most advanced health care available. Pastoral Services is an integral component and active participant in the provision of health care at the hospital. I am a member of the Palliative Care Service, providing emotional and spiritual care to those patients with a terminal diagnosis. Consequently, my research interests lie at the boundary of religion and health for terminally ill patients and their families. Specifically, I am interested in decision-making in matters of life support services (starting and stopping life support) and the impact of religious/spiritual belief as well as ethnic and cultural diversity issues (the triad of affect, reason and values in an atmosphere of uncertainty); resultant caregiver stress; choice or the lack thereof in the decision making process; and improving the quality of life for patients *and their families* (dying well and growth at e.o.l.). Contact: jwise1@psu.edu.