

## 2012 Duke Spirituality & Health Research Class (July)

Juglans Alvarez, M.D. Dr. Alvarez is a cardiovascular surgeon on the surgical staff of a university hospital cardiovascular team in Brazil since 2001 (Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul - Brazil). He is also a participant of a multidisciplinary team focused on spirituality and health at his hospital. Dr. Alvarez is also a masters' degree student with a grant approved for a project on spirituality and health, and will be discussing this during the time at the workshop. E-mail: [juglanspoa@gmail.com](mailto:juglanspoa@gmail.com).

Gloria Awosika MA, MSc. I have worked extensively within community care services for fifteen years. As a care manager, my responsibilities include managing caseloads; supervising and training staff, and maintaining quality standard. My educational training includes, BA(Hons) Education; BA(Hons) Social Work, MA in Community Care Management and MSc in Trans Cultural Mental Health Care, and currently studying PhD (Psychology) at Roehampton University, London. My research interest is Spirituality, Religion and Mental Health Care and my PhD programme involves two separate but relevant studies. Study 1, examines the correlation between Spirituality and Depression in a non-clinical group; study 2 with a clinical group examines the association when spirituality is integrated in a CBT framework for the treatment of depression. E-mail: [gloria@omegacommunityliving.org.uk](mailto:gloria@omegacommunityliving.org.uk).

Al Bacchus, Ph.D. Dr. Bacchus came from the Caribbean Island of St. Vincent to the USA in 1967 to attend college. He earned a BS in Medical Technology from Andrews University, and worked in hospital laboratories while earning a Masters in Biology from Andrews University and a PhD in Human Physiology from Michigan State University. After a 3-yr post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia, he taught college biology, worked for a group of cardiac surgeons, and attempted to start his own business. In 2003, he returned to college teaching in biology and health. His current passion is to apply physiologic principles to the spiritual truths of Christianity. E-mail: [albanbacchus@yahoo.com](mailto:albanbacchus@yahoo.com).

Suzette Brémault-Phillips, Ph.D. Dr. Brémault-Phillips, an Occupational Therapist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta, is an experienced clinician and educator who holds a PhD in Theology (Eastern Christian Studies). She has worked in a variety of settings offering therapeutic intervention, education, and support to individuals across the lifespan. Her research interests are in the areas of mental health, spirituality and health, geriatrics, community health service delivery (including the use of ICT), and inter-disciplinary studies. Theological anthropology and personhood as it relates to the caregiver and recipient are particular interests. E-mail: [suzette.bremault-phillips@ualberta.ca](mailto:suzette.bremault-phillips@ualberta.ca).

Margaret Brommelsiek, Ph.D., R.N. Margaret is an Instructor in the School of Nursing and Director of Interprofessional Education charged with developing a humanities-based IPE program for the health sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). She has over twenty years developing interdisciplinary programs and curriculum between the fine arts and the sciences. Brommelsiek has a Ph.D. in Arts Administration with a focus on aesthetics/criticism and an MS in Marketing Communication from Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from Eckerd College. Her research and artistic projects have

received state and national funding. Current research interests are the intersection of the human body with advanced technologies and the impact on human relationships, and exploring the nonverbal or 'silent voice' in works of arts, the spiritual, and in health provider/patient interactions through developing a model for improving health communication and ultimately health outcomes. E-mail: [brommelsiekm@umkc.edu](mailto:brommelsiekm@umkc.edu).

Victor R. Chatham, M.Div. I am a native of south Mississippi. I was educated at the University of Southern Mississippi (BS & M Ed) and obtained my M.Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary and completed seven units of CPE at Baptist Hospital, New Orleans. I am currently enrolled in the faith and health track of the D Min program at Memphis Theological Seminary. I am an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. I am a retired hospital and military chaplain (Viet Nam & Iraq) and I currently serve the Leakesville United Methodist Church. My area of interest is the church's role in healing and the effect of volunteering on depression in the elderly population. E-mail: [vronaldc@cableone.net](mailto:vronaldc@cableone.net).

Ryon J. Cobb, M.S. is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at Florida State University. His research agenda links racial and ethnic stratification processes to indicators of religious life, health-related outcomes, and the formation of social attitudes. His dissertation project focuses on the link between religious involvement and disability in the elderly Mexican Americans population. E-mail: [ryon.cobb@gmail.com](mailto:ryon.cobb@gmail.com).

Karen Colorafi, RN, MBA, CPHIT, CPEHR. Karen works as an Arizona-based consultant on various EHR vendor selection, implementation, and optimization projects. Karen is a full time doctoral student at ASU's College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation. She is pursuing a research trajectory that focuses on the electronic plan of care, including the concepts of patient engagement, patient preferences (values, meaning, and beliefs), and care coordination. Karen received her undergraduate degrees in Canada (health psychology and nursing), and a MBA in the US where she has lived since 2002. E-mail: [Karen.Colorafi@asu.edu](mailto:Karen.Colorafi@asu.edu).

April Crommett, Ph.D., is a tenured professor in the Exercise Science program at Cedarville University in Dayton, Ohio. Cedarville University is a faith-based teaching institution of approximately 3,000 undergraduate students. She did her undergraduate education at Mississippi State University (1991) in Fitness Management, got her Master's degree at Memphis State University (1993) in Fitness and Wellness, and earned her doctorate at The University of Mississippi (2000). Her interest area is in bariatrics and the role of spirituality in weight loss programs. April is certified as a personal trainer and group exercise instructor. Future research projects include correlational studies of general college fitness levels and spiritual beliefs and practices. E-mail: [adcrommett@cedarville.edu](mailto:adcrommett@cedarville.edu).

Terry Ruth Culbertson, MDIV, BCC, CT. An ordained minister in the Church of God (Anderson, In) has devoted the last thirty years to developing chaplaincy programs in hospice, acute care, corrections and long term care in NY, NJ, and MD. Currently an ACPE Supervisor and manager of the Department of Spiritual Care at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, she has engaged in research projects related to the education of first year medical students on spirituality, the study of fitness as a component of clinical pastoral training, and quality initiatives such as expanding the department's referral-based care. E-mail: [culbertt@upstate.edu](mailto:culbertt@upstate.edu).

Ruth Dankanich Daumer, Ph.D., R.N. Dr. Ruth is an associate professor and chairperson of the department of nursing at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. She frequently lectures and consults on faith-based health care and her current research project focuses on the experience of clergy health. She coordinates a parish nurse ministry at several area congregations and she is a Health Advocate (Promoting wholistic health for professional church workers and their families for her denomination in western Iowa). She has published her recent clergy health research as well as several other resources for Parish Nurses. She is licensed as an advanced practice nurse/clinical specialist in community health nursing. E-mail: [rdaumer@nwciova.edu](mailto:rdaumer@nwciova.edu).

Helena Fontes, M.Div, APC. Helena is a 2011 graduate from Palmer Theological Seminary, where she earned her Master's degree of Divinity. Helena is currently a Chaplain Resident at Christiana Healthcare System in Delaware, where she is working towards becoming board certified. To date she has 3 units of CPE, and is a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains. In addition, Helena is a licensed minister, who oversees the women's ministry in her church, and counsels victims of domestic violence. Further, she looks to pursue her D. Min. in Leadership and Renewal at Regent School of Divinity beginning in August 20, 2012. E-mail: [Helena5225@aol.com](mailto:Helena5225@aol.com).

Leah Danielle Fryml, B.S. Completed her undergraduate degree at Bob Jones University (Greenville, SC), where she majored in Cell Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Religious Studies. She is currently in her third year of medical school at Medical University of South Carolina (Charleston, SC). Residency plans include Psychiatry or Neurology-Psychiatry combined programs, with the goal of a career in academic Psychiatry. Research interests include faith communities in psychiatry, applications of Integral Theory to mental healthcare and medical education, and brain stimulation technology for treatment of psychiatric illnesses. E-mail: [fryml@musc.edu](mailto:fryml@musc.edu).

Patricia Gammon, Ph.D. E-mail: [patricia.gammon@dm.duke.edu](mailto:patricia.gammon@dm.duke.edu)

Rachel Woodson Goode, LCSW, is a clinical social worker and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with her MSW in 2006. She also holds a B. A. from Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois) in Psychology and Communication. She has previous clinical experience as an intake coordinator and counselor at the University of Pittsburgh Counseling Center, and has served as a therapist with the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. She also has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, with responsibilities as an instructor and field supervisor for MSW students. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Her research interests are in obesity interventions with African-American women, spirituality and clinical social work practice, and social work education. E-mail: [rlw22@pitt.edu](mailto:rlw22@pitt.edu).

Kimberly Green, M.S. I presently serve as a research associate with the Traumatic Stress and Health Research Laboratory at Duke University Medical Center/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Prior to this position, I served as the multi-site research study associate for the VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC). I recently completed a NIH research diversity supplement award focused on resilience factors (e.g. spirituality,

hardiness) in the context of cardiovascular and metabolic disease risk. My academic background includes a B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Health Science. Moreover, my research interests are within the scope of prevention/health promotion as it relates to traumatic stress, psychological resiliency (e.g. religiosity) substance use disorders, and epigenetics. E-mail: [kimberly.green@dm.duke.edu](mailto:kimberly.green@dm.duke.edu).

Jian Hu, M.D. I graduated from Nanjing Medical School, China in 1984, and graduated from Psychiatry Clinical and Research Training Program, which was equivalent to psychiatry residency, from Beijing Medical University in 1988. I came to USA in 1990 and had some research experience in neuroimaging, including structural MRI, PET and MRS in adult and geriatric patient population of depression, anxiety, and substance related disorders. I am currently a PGY-4 psychiatry resident at University of Miami. My interests in research for publications related to this seminar include: the effect of meditation, qigong, spiritual and religious practice on mental and physical health, as well as the biological basis and phenomenon of human spirituality. I am also interested in history study of meditation in Chinese medicine and martial arts. E-mail: [JHu2@med.miami.edu](mailto:JHu2@med.miami.edu).

Carole Johanssen, MDiv, BCC. The Rev. Johanssen is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of New York, and a board certified healthcare chaplain, working as Coordinator of Pastoral Care at Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow, NY. A graduate of Yale Divinity School, she is now a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary, focusing on spirituality and aging. As a demonstration project, she worked with two groups of 70-90 year-old men and women in a heuristic process to understand the spiritual needs of elderly people. Present research includes examining biblical, scholarly and cultural sources for insights into issues such as legacy, forgiveness and the importance of narrative to elders. While post-doctoral work is unfocused right now, she hopes to continue research in this field beyond the writing of her thesis. E-mail: [carolejo@optimum.net](mailto:carolejo@optimum.net).

Branden King, B.S. Branden received his B.S. in Physics from the University of Dayton in 2011, and is still currently enrolled there and is seeking an M.S. in Biology. He has conducted research for the Air Force Research Laboratory, the University of North Carolina College of Medicine, and the University of Dayton Research Institute in fields that range from Electro-Optics to Immunology to Chemical Engineering. His current direction of research is in biosensor design and he aspires to be a physician-scientist. Branden is a former Catholic, turned agnostic-atheist, and seeks to deepen his understanding of faith and religiosity through this program. E-mail: [brandenking87@gmail.com](mailto:brandenking87@gmail.com).

Julian Melgosa, Ph.D. Dr. Melgosa is a native of Madrid, Spain, trained as a teacher and a psychologist at the University of Madrid, Spain and worked as a school psychologist, counselor, psychology faculty as well as in teacher preparation programs in Spain, UK, Philippines and the USA. His doctoral degree is from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI, with dissertation in the area of ego identity in adolescence. He is currently dean at the School of Education and Psychology at Walla Walla University, College Place, Washington. His research interests include religion and mental health connections, and factors in successful aging. E-mail: [Julian.Melgosa@wallawalla.edu](mailto:Julian.Melgosa@wallawalla.edu).

Mary E. Minton, Ph.D., R.N. Mary holds a BA in Nursing from Augustana College, an MS in Nursing from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a PhD in Nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing. Her 30 year career includes the nursing practice areas of medical surgical, oncology, home health, parish nursing and nursing education. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing at South Dakota State University College of Nursing. Her research interests include spousal bereavement stress, coping and well-being, nursing student attitudes toward end of life care, and nurses' comfort with prayer. E-mail: [Mary.Minton@sdstate.edu](mailto:Mary.Minton@sdstate.edu).

Shenandoah Nieuwsma, M.A. Shenandoah holds a B.A. in Philosophy and an M.A. in American Studies. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studies the recent inclusion of "spirituality" as a component of fitness in the modern military. Her research interests include non-religious spirituality, modern secular hermeneutics, and the contemporary rapprochement of medicine and spirituality. E-mail: [nieuwsma@email.unc.edu](mailto:nieuwsma@email.unc.edu).

Lori H. Niles, M.A., Ed.D. Lori is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. She has been a pastor specializing in children's and family ministry, theological educator, and writer/editor. She holds a B.A. in education from MidAmerica Nazarene University, an M.A. in ministry from George Fox Evangelical Seminary, and an Ed.D. with emphasis in spiritual formation from George Fox University. She is currently a board certified eligible chaplain resident for HCA Midwest. Her research interests include Pastoral care/ethics in the healthcare system, life-cycle spiritual formation, esp. childhood and end-of-life, psychology of religion, esp. attachment theory, neuroscience implications for education and spirituality and use of narrative in healthcare. E-mail: [lorihaynesniles@gmail.com](mailto:lorihaynesniles@gmail.com).

Audrey Powell, BSN, MNA. My 38-year career has three distinct phases: Critical Care RN (CCRN); Nurse Administration (CNO); Executive Director of Community Service and faith community nurse. My education includes: ASN (1974); BSN (1984); MSN-Adults with Biodissonance (1993); post masters – Nursing Administration (2000). My master's research project was stress and coping in critical care nurses. For five years I have conducted health screenings for modifiable CV risk factors in twelve different denominations in a six county region. There is a difference in coping effectiveness in people of faith compared to our secular population and CV risks between membership of African American and Caucasian churches. E-mail: [alpowell70@gmail.com](mailto:alpowell70@gmail.com).

Tracy A. Prout, Ph.D. Dr. Prout is Assistant Professor of Psychology at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx, NY. She also has a private practice in Manhattan where she sees psychotherapy patients. She trained in clinical psychology at Fordham University and Jacobi Medical Center. Her dissertation was on object representations of God among individuals with schizophrenia and their relevance to recovery status. She has a master's degree in counseling from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary and attended Wellesley College for undergraduate studies. She has completed a two-year post-graduate program in psychodynamic psychotherapy at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Education affiliated with NYU School of Medicine and psychoanalytic research training at Yale University and the Anna Freud Centre in London. Her current research interests are faculty spirituality and its impact on pedagogy and the role of

religion and spirituality among individuals with co-morbid substance use disorders and PTSD. E-mail: [tracy.prout@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:tracy.prout@mountsaintvincent.edu).

Henry J. Rodgers, M.Div. Rev. Rodgers has a background that includes twenty-five years of pastoral experience, and is currently the pastor of Bethlehem Disciples of Christ Church, Clinton, North Carolina. He serves as Councilman and Elder in the Western Assembly Disciples of Christ Churches, founder of “Faith in Operation,” an outreach ministry. He obtained Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees at Mount Olive College and Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University. Additional training: Level I ACPE-CPE - Duke University Hospital with the goal to receive a Doctorate Degree in Divinity in the area of pastoral care. Research interest is in holistic treatment (combination of spiritual and medical skills). E-mail: [hrodgers@bellsouth.net](mailto:hrodgers@bellsouth.net).

Jacek Soroka, M.Th., BCC. Jacek is a hospice chaplain at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minnesota. He is a doctoral student at the School of Health and Medicine, Division of Health Research, Lancaster University, UK. Jacek graduated with a Master's Degree in Theology from the Pontifical College of St. Bonaventure, Rome, Italy. He continued postgraduate studies in spirituality at Antonianum University, Rome, Italy. Prior to his studies of theology and spirituality, he studied philosophy in Poland. Jacek is a board certified chaplain of the APC and a member of the NCHPP. His research interests include death awareness, spiritual phenomena of the dying process and fear of death. E-mail: [Soroka.Jacek@mayo.edu](mailto:Soroka.Jacek@mayo.edu).

Pam Stephenson, PhD, RN. Pam is an Assistant Professor at Wright State University's College of Nursing and Health in Dayton, Ohio. She completed a doctoral degree in Nursing from Kent State University. Her clinical experience is in oncology and palliative care nursing. She is particularly interested in the psychosocial aspects of living with chronic and terminal illnesses. Her program of research focuses on spirituality at the end of life. Currently, she is exploring the relationship between spirituality and uncertainty as applied to the end of life. E-mail: [plstephen@aol.com](mailto:plstephen@aol.com).

Bonnie Tejada, MA. Bonnie is the Director for Mission and Spirituality at Covenant Health System in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Canada's largest Catholic Health Care provider. She received her training first in Social Work and was then certified as a hospital Chaplain. Bonnie has a BA in Psychology and Masters of Christian Studies from Regent College. Her Masters studies included a broad exploration of health as wholeness. She has provided Spiritual Care in Acute Care hospitals exploring themes of attachment, loss and grief during the illness and dying journey. Bonnie's interest in the research course at this time stems from her mandate to develop a strategy to advance Spirituality and Health research within Covenant Health. E-mail: [Bonnie.Tejada@covenanthealth.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Tejada@covenanthealth.ca).

Wanza “Tina” Trice-Culpepper, M.Div. I have a BS in Organizational Management and Leadership, a Master of Divinity and a current student attending Walden University for a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology. I am employed with Visiting Nurse Health Systems of Atlanta as a Business Development Manager. Visiting Nurse is a non-profit home health care provider in Atlanta. My

position with Visiting Nurse has been very instrumental in developing my interest in disease and faith as a large portion of my time is spent in hospital rooms, rehabs and doctor's offices interviewing potential patients for our services. My research interest is Faith, Diet and Diabetes in Southern African American Women between the ages of 18-40. I am hoping to find how faith and faith practices affect health and health care decisions and how disease affects faith and faith practices. E-mail: [tinaculpepper59@aol.com](mailto:tinaculpepper59@aol.com).

Anna Venter. Ann has been not only caregiver to her husband, Gerhard, who has chronic back pain, but she was also the researcher for his book *Through Pain to Victory – A Christian Guide through Chronic Pain*. As someone with fibromyalgia herself, she is continuously developing combinations of holistic treatments that work to relieve pain, such as aromatherapy and music therapy. Anna is an expert chef who combines traditional South African cuisine with American flavors and tastes. Together, Anna and Gerhard live out of their Christian faith one day at a time. E-mail: [annetje@gmail.com](mailto:annetje@gmail.com).

Gerhard Venter, MTS. Gerhard was born in Pretoria, South Africa, and came to the United States with his family in 1996. His long career in IT ended in 2010 due to chronic back pain, but he had already seen the writing on the wall and enrolled in seminary at Emory University. He graduated with a master's in theological studies (MTS) in 2011, and is currently enrolled in a D.Ed in pastoral counseling at Argosy University. Gerhard has just completed a book titled *Through Pain to Victory* and is planning a dissertation on *The text of the Psalms and religious coping with chronic pain*. E-mail: [gventer@gmail.com](mailto:gventer@gmail.com).

Peggy P. Whiting, Ed.D. Dr. Whiting is a Professor of Counseling at North Carolina Central University, former faculty at Winthrop and Vanderbilt Universities. Her doctorate degree is from Vanderbilt University in Human Development Counseling. Dr. Whiting focuses her research around issues of grief, trauma, and resilience. She has been in private practice for over 25 years. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and a Certified Thanatologist with the Association for Death Education & Counseling where she serves in the international credentialing of grief counselors and educators. Dr. Whiting is interested in how spirituality contributes to resilience in grief and in how clinicians might be taught to include a spiritual history in assessing risks for complicated bereavement. E-mail: [pwhiting@nccu.edu](mailto:pwhiting@nccu.edu).