

## 2014 Duke Spirituality & Health Research Class

Cindy Au, BCC, DMin student. I'm a chaplain at Arcadia Retirement Residence in Hawaii - a four levels of care senior living with approximately 550 seniors. I graduated from the San Francisco Theological Seminary and currently in the third year of D. Min Program in Pastoral Care and Counseling. I have finished 5 units of CPE and am a Board Certified Chaplain. I've been visiting patients since 1992 and have witnessed the power of spiritual care in pastoral ministry. I understand that to promote spiritual care through story telling is not enough in the modern world. That's why I need to learn how to do research and statistic in order to promote healing and wholeness. E-mail: [cindy.au@arcadia-hi.org](mailto:cindy.au@arcadia-hi.org).

Sylvia Avula, M.D. I completed my doctor of medicine degree in June 2011. My own experiences and witness of patients developed my passion for awareness, consciousness, mindfulness and spirituality in healing versus conventional medicine. I am now working on obtaining my master's in public health with an emphasis on epidemiology. My capstone project will research the role of spirituality in the process of healing. After graduating with my MPH in May, I will begin graduate studies at Georgia State University to obtain a PhD in September 2014, in the translational areas of neuroscience and spirituality. I consider this process a privilege and an honor to educate my patients and others in integrative medicine for those in need of strength, confidence and empowerment for optimal health. E-mail: [ssavula@gmail.com](mailto:ssavula@gmail.com).

Rev. Chris Barrett. Rev Barrett is pastor at St. James United Methodist in Spartanburg, SC. He is a graduate of Wofford College with a BA in Spanish, and a 2001 graduate of Duke Divinity School. His interest in the intersection between spirituality and healing is personal as well as professional. In his 40 years, he has had 3 bouts with cancer, a full-blown case of abdominal tuberculosis, and an allogeneic bone marrow transplant. He has explored these themes in his blog [marrowchristianity.com](http://marrowchristianity.com), and is currently working on a manuscript of a longer work about his own bone marrow transplant. He is here to learn more about the current scholarship in this area. E-mail: [pastor.chrisbarrett@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.chrisbarrett@gmail.com).

Linda Cabage, APRN. Linda is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and doctoral student in nursing at The University of Tennessee. After working at a community health clinic, Linda now owns a private practice where she performs psychiatric assessments and provides outpatient care. As a registered nurse, she worked in oncology, occupational health, geriatrics, and emotional health. Her research interests include the role played by churches in the delivery of mental health care in communities. Linda graduated with a master's degree in nursing from The University of Tennessee, where she also holds a master's degree in communications. Prior to becoming a nurse practitioner, Linda worked in corporate communications for 20 years. E-mail: [lcabage@vols.utk.edu](mailto:lcabage@vols.utk.edu).

Ryan Campbell MTh, BCC. Ryan received a B.A. in Philosophy from Austin College in Sherman, Texas and a Master of Theological Studies from the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education training at Children's Medical Center and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, both in Dallas, Texas. He has been board certified by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. He has completed a graduate certificate in the

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Gerard F. Clark. I am a Pastoral Care Minister for the Friends of St. Bridget's, Inc. We are not directly affiliated with the Catholic Diocese, but we have been a recipient of a Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) grant. I'm close to completing my MDiv degree at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, and am in the first year of the noviate in the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF). My project is to identify the prevalence of C-PTSD among the urban poor and marginalized; to identify aspects of existing spirituality within this population; to look at applications of 21st century contextual spiritualities of cosmo-theologians and eco-theologians and the emerging North American inclusive liberation spiritualities as healing tools for this target population; and promote the applications of this holistic approach through existing agencies and organizations serving this population. E-mail: [gerryclarkfriends@hotmail.com](mailto:gerryclarkfriends@hotmail.com).

Kelsey E. Clemson, BS. Kelsey currently attends the Institute for the Psychological Science, where she is working towards a doctorate (Psy.D.) in clinical psychology. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in psychology and minors in theology and education. While there Kelsey wrote a thesis on the understanding of religious growth and conversion. After graduation she spent a year as an Americorps volunteer at a residential home for youth in Chicago. Her research interests concern the significance of religion and spirituality during aging and the end of life. E-mail: [k.e.clemson@gmail.com](mailto:k.e.clemson@gmail.com).

Casey A. Cook. Casey is a Master of Divinity student at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, graduating in May 2015. She is interested in how religious people make health decisions regarding diet, disease management, and palliative care based on their understanding of "God's will." Casey received a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from Miami University (Ohio) in 2010 and has since worked as a clinical research assistant in the Division of Gastroenterology at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Casey is an active member of her home church, Pool of Bethesda Church of the Living God International. E-mail: [ccook@mtso.edu](mailto:ccook@mtso.edu).

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Jo-Andrew D'Alessandro Accary, MDiv. I am a member of National Association of Catholic Chaplains, as well as a third year student at SUNY (State University of New York) Old Westbury, working towards a BS in Community and Human Services majoring in Health Care Administration. I have also taken two units of Clinical Pastoral Education and will begin my third unit in the fall. Once I receive my BS I plan to apply to a dual Masters program in Theology and Public Health and or Health Care. Prior to working at Catholic Health Services, I lived and worked in Europe and Japan for over twenty-five years in International Business Affairs. I moved back to the United States in 2007 to be with my father in his final illness. Taking care of my father during the last five years of his life was my greatest accomplishment, one I hold dear in my heart, and the reason why I decided to concentrate my efforts in health care. E-mail: [Jo-Andrew.D'AlessandroAccary@chsl.org](mailto:Jo-Andrew.D'AlessandroAccary@chsl.org).

David Dawes B. Theol., F.A.S.P.E.A. (Hon). Since being Ordained as a Uniting Church Minister in 1984 I have been a Parish minister in both rural and suburban parishes, Chaplain to a rural psychiatric centre, industrial chaplain and hospital chaplain. Since August 1999 I have been the head of the Pastoral Care Department of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. From 2009 to 2012 I was the Chairperson of the Health Care Chaplaincy Council of Victoria and am the immediate past president of the Association for Supervised Pastoral Education in Australia. A significant component of my role at Peter Mac is the training and development of pastoral care practitioners. My interests in research are developing an understanding of spiritual distress and how this can be addressed and reduced by pastoral care. I am also interested in studying our meditation programme. E-mail: [David.Dawes@petermac.org](mailto:David.Dawes@petermac.org).

Benjamin R. Doolittle, M.D., M.Div. Benjamin is a physician-pastor, and is Associate Professor of Internal Medicine & Pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine. He is the Residency Program Director for the Yale Combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program and the Medical Director of the Med-Peds Clinic. As a primary care physician, his practice focuses on HIV, Hepatitis C, and opioid addiction. As a pastor, he has served various urban congregations since 1991. On the research front, he is interested in the intersection of spirituality, burnout, and coping, with a special emphasis on physicians and vulnerable patients. E-mail: [benjamin.doolittle@yale.edu](mailto:benjamin.doolittle@yale.edu).

Jang Dove, PhD student (United Kingdom). Being a pastor for more than 20 years, I have fully participated in human suffering and brokenness. My theological reflection upon these experiences has developed into a keen eagerness to learn more about the ways to healing and transformation. My research interests are to figure out in what ways Christian faith and practices can facilitate healing and transformation for mentally ill patients. This leads to my PhD study in Durham University in Durham, England, focusing on the dialogue between patristic traditions and contemporary psychiatry. I hope by engaging in both theological and scientific reasoning better understanding of healing and transformation will be fostered. E-mail: [j.l.jang@durham.ac.uk](mailto:j.l.jang@durham.ac.uk).

Madeline Duntley, Ph.D. My Ph.D. is in Religious Studies (North American Religions), and I serve as Associate Professor of Sociology at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio teaching sociology of religion and cultural anthropology. My project is on Baby Boomer religion

and spirituality (New Age/non-dual) and alternative spiritual healing. This project is a field study involving two tourist towns: Ashland, Oregon and Mt. Shasta, CA. I have a fully funded research leave in Spring 2015. My goal is to establish a research specialty in spirituality, aging and health, with a focus on alternative spiritualities and modalities of healing. E-mail: [dmadeli@bgsu.edu](mailto:dmadeli@bgsu.edu).

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Roy W. Geib, Ph.D. Dr. Geib is Alvin S. Levine Professor of Microbiology & Immunology at Indiana University School of Medicine. His research interests are in the area of modulation of inflammatory mechanisms. In the area of religion and health, he is involved in a project exploring the effects of Ramadan fasting on health. E-mail: [rgeib@iupui.edu](mailto:rgeib@iupui.edu).

Sharon L. Haas, MSN,RN,CDN. I graduated from Cardinal Stritch University in May 1994 with an associate degree in nursing, ultimately joining Milwaukee Nephrology group focusing on acute and chronic hemodialysis for the next seventeen years. I am a Certified Dialysis Nurse and maintain professional affiliations with the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) and the National League of Nurses. I subsequently returned to Marian University, earning a baccalaureate degree in 2010, a master's degree in Nurse Education in 2012, and am currently full time faculty at Cardinal Stritch University, teaching Medical/Surgical nursing. I am interested in exploring how a religion/spirituality intervention by nurses may affect the ability of chronic hemodialysis patients to change lifestyle choices and health behavior. E-mail: [slhaas1@stritch.edu](mailto:slhaas1@stritch.edu).

Jason Hobbs, LCSW, MDiv. Jason B. Hobbs, LCSW, holds a Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. He is currently a clinician in private practice in Warner Robins, Georgia. Prior to private practice he served a small United Methodist congregation, worked in homeless services and in hospice care. His interests include the education of mental health practitioners concerning the role of religion/spirituality and the role of meaning systems in health/healing. He hopes to gain tools at this conference to move toward expanding his career to include teaching, research, and writing. E-mail: [jasonhobbs@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonhobbs@hotmail.com).

Baher Iskander. Baher is a junior at Yale College where he majors in religious studies. Faith, elders, religion and medicine, conversations, and Middle East politics are just some of Baher's passions. At Yale, Baher leads a Bible study for freshmen through Yale Students for Christ, a Christian fellowship on campus. Outside of Yale, Baher interns for Elder Horizons, a delirium

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Laura Land, B.A. Laura works at the Behavioral Research Institute specializing in child and adolescent therapy for youth victimized by physical and sexual abuse. Mentored by Dr. Tom Biller, she's been part of his nationally acclaimed child abuse prevention program. Working as a graduate and teaching assistant afforded her the opportunity to be a part of a research project for the book *Counseling Client* where she ran the statistical analysis. Graduating in December 2014 with her M.A. in Clinical Mental Health, she continues to focus her research on the therapeutic value of sacred text. Laura's research trajectory will focus on implementing spiritual archetypes in child therapy integrating JAPT and APT. E-mail: [LauraRLand10@yahoo.com](mailto:LauraRLand10@yahoo.com).

Jian H. Liu, RN, PhD student. I was born and raised in People's Republic of China I was a registered nurse for seven years in Beijing, before I immigrated to United States in 1989. I have worked as a nurse for over 28 years in variety settings including six years U.S Navy reserve as a staff nurse and seven years active duty naval officer as a family nurse practitioner. I have medically retired out of the active duty Naval Service in September 2013. I have been a full time Ph. D nursing student at University of San Diego since spring, 2014. My research interest is patient-centered culturally sensitive health promotion research project. My specific research question is: "what is the relationship between religion/spiritual involvement, depression, anxiety, anger, fear, (level of) social support and (sense of) self-efficacy among veterans with HTN in medical clinics in San Diego?" E-mail: [JianHuaLiu@aol.com](mailto:JianHuaLiu@aol.com).

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Marianne ("M") Mullan, BS. "M" has a BS in Mental Health and Human Services from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, OH, and is expected to receive her BA in Theology and MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in May 2015. She is an intern at UPMC's Center for Overcoming Problem Eating, provides the eating disorder programming for her university's counseling center, and manages a gym and works as a personal fitness trainer in her spare time. She is interested in whether spirituality has an efficacious place in eating disorder treatment or for simply motivating good health behaviors, and is conducting research in this area. E-mail: [mmmullan@gmail.com](mailto:mmmullan@gmail.com).

Mercy N. Ntwiga, R.N. My training includes a BSc Psychology, BSc Nursing and Masters in community and social psychology. I currently work as a Care Coordinator in a hospital setting with a focus in Palliative care, in Ontario Canada. My research interests have developed over varied experiences in community based health, hospital and outreach work and in 3 different countries. My research interests include community based health, palliative care, outreach initiatives that result in appropriate and relevant health outcomes and reducing health disparities. In my work and interests, I pursue these continually: wisdom, resourcefulness and advocacy. E-mail: [marcy.jheri@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.jheri@gmail.com).

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Michael Roberts. I am a graduate of Cornell University. I attended law school for a year before getting married in 1980. I've been a labor leader, a teacher, an entrepreneur and a real estate developer among other things. I am currently President/Chief Technology Officer for a software corporation, LaborWorks. I am interested in enhancing my own ability to articulate and advance the notion that spirit and health, both physical and psychological are inextricably tied together. I would like to attend your workshop so that I might develop an ability to validate and substantiate some of my ideas as they relate to the spirit and validate the notion that the power of Love is not only redemptive but it can be the salve that heals the conditions that make our bodies susceptible to psychiatric and physical illnesses. E-mail: [mroberts@uisonline.net](mailto:mroberts@uisonline.net).

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Salil Saxena, BS. I'm a current part-time research coordinator and data technician at the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center, and I am applying to medical school this fall. I am conducting research on the correlations between religiosity and telomere length in female caregivers, a study being directed by Dr. Harold Koenig. I have a

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Robert Shirinov, M.D. I have completed Medical School in Baku, Azerbaijan, former Soviet Union Republic in 2000, and after clinical internship I immigrated to the US in 2001. Here I studied at the Unification Theological Seminary, 2002-2005. In 2006-2007 I worked as volunteer/research assistant in surgery, then in 2008-2010 did two years of gen. surgery residency, 2010-2012 pediatric surgery research fellowship and in 2013- to 2014 another year of surgical residency. Currently I work as a houses staff physician at Montefiore in New Rochelle, as well as practicing phlebology at Vein clinic. I maintain my interested in religion/spirituality, and would like to bring these so different areas of knowledge together. I would like to conduct research at my work places. I am not sure yet how my employees with accept idea of having research in religion/spirituality and surgery, since no similar research was done yet. E-mail: [robert\\_shirinov@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_shirinov@yahoo.com).

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Charles Slosek. I am a ministerial counselor. My ministry is centered in Western Massachusetts, where I work, primarily, with persons exhibiting symptoms of what are commonly described as being mental illnesses, among which, schizophrenia. The community whom I endeavor to serve is comprised of individuals who, historically, have not found themselves being significantly benefited by their exposures to conventional therapeutic approaches. A recognition of the centrality of faith, of the necessity of the restoration of the spiritual self, guides me in my efforts. The Faith based, Hope based, Love based reconstitution of my own life, thirty years ago, became the inspiration for my ministry. My profound hope is that I shall have something vital to contribute to the ongoing dialogue concerning what may be regarded as being the spiritual roots of mental and physical illness. E-mail: [wayfarer1621@gmail.com](mailto:wayfarer1621@gmail.com).

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Sarah Spivey. Sarah is a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is majoring in mathematics and religious studies. She is particularly interested in how theology, both at the official and personal level, participates in the philosophy of medical care and research, and influences personal approaches to medicine and health. She is also interested in the personal stories behind individual spirituality, and how broad religious groupings approach healthcare decisions and medical ethics. In addition to academic work, Sarah harbors a deep affinity for printmaking, good books, and cheese. E-mail: [svspivey@live.unc.edu](mailto:svspivey@live.unc.edu).

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Kristen Stewart, JD, PhD. Kristen is pursuing innovative research drawing from theories and methods in the social and behavioral sciences to understand and further explore relationships between spirituality and human health. After graduating from Loyola Law School in 1994, Kris practiced as a trial attorney in Pensacola, Florida. Returning to graduate school in 2000, Kris was trained in the use of rigorous quantitative methods during her Master's work in political science. Thereafter, she expanded her research skills to include qualitative investigations in geographies of care, social theory, and practical ethics. Today, Kris maintains a part-time law practice. She is an author, an independent scholar and a private consultant. To better understand spirituality and healthcare, Kris is also enrolled in a program of ACPE clinical pastoral education. E-mail: [kristinlstewart@gmail.com](mailto:kristinlstewart@gmail.com).

Robin L. Treptow, Ph.D. The Catechism of the Catholic Church's premise that "faith and reason do not conflict" guides my scientific pursuits. In 1999 I earned my doctorate in clinical psychology (child and family emphasis) from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. My health research interests lie in unraveling (and dismantling) the pervasive human belief that "death is inevitable" [even for persons who live well (virtuously)]. I now seek to flesh out with research-based scientific data aspects of my transactional model of health: built on a premise that death can best be understood as "self-fulfilling prophecy" and "universal learned helpless." E-mail: [robinlynn1407@mac.com](mailto:robinlynn1407@mac.com).

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Nancy Wagner M.Div., BBC. I am a second career Chaplain; my first career was one as a registered nurse. Initially, I worked in the Labor and Delivery Unit as well as teaching Childbirth and Parenting Classes and lastly, as Coordinator of a Parish Nurse Program. I felt called into ministry as a Chaplain and completed my training in 2010. As a Chaplain, I have worked with nursing students, hospice and currently, I am working in a children's hospital. My research interest stems from the passion for parents to be heard and understood especially in the difficult issues such as "When is Enough, Enough?" speaking of treatment issues and when to quit and stop. E-mail: [njwagner@cmh.edu](mailto:njwagner@cmh.edu).

Zhizhong Wang, Ph.D. Dr. Wang is Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Ningxia Medical University in Yinchuan, China. He is currently on a 1-year visiting professor scholarship at Duke University's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, and is working with Dr. Koenig on research related to religion and health in China, with a particular emphasis on religion and mental health in Muslims in western China. He received his doctorate in Epidemiology and Statistics from Fourth Military Medical University in China, and has been a visiting scholar at the Institute of Mental Health, Peking University in Beijing. Dr. Wang will be in charge of analyzing the data collected on religion and mental health during the Chinese National Mental Health Survey 2013-2014. He is leading the development of the first Center for Muslim Mental Health in China. E-mail: [wzhzh\\_lion@126.com](mailto:wzhzh_lion@126.com).

Cilas Wilders, Ph.D., B.Jur. Dr. Wilders is a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, and is Head of the Institute for Biokinetics at the University. His doctoral thesis title was: The relationship of physical activity with lifestyle, health and spiritual well-being among women. My field of interest and specialization is Biokinetics (Life through movement) where human movement and physiology serve as primary modality of studying the human being and their behaviour patterns. Total wellbeing and health promotion in especially the corporate sector serve. Dr. Wilders notes that holistic health and preventive medicine is the focus and future of our profession, Biokinetics. E-mail: [Cilas.Wilders@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Cilas.Wilders@nwu.ac.za).

Philip H. Yawman MSW. As a clinical social worker with mental health experience in private and public sectors, as well as inpatient and outpatient treatment settings, it was probably connecting with Alcoholics Anonymous that validated my interest in the clinical use of spirituality. As a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church for the past 13 years, my hope was that the ministry might provide a platform to use spirituality in counseling.

Spirituality has become an integral element of my clinical practice. My research interest is in enabling clients to have a transcendent experience as a way to treat anxiety and depression. E-mail: [phyawman@frontiernet.net](mailto:phyawman@frontiernet.net).

Timothy J. Yoder, Ph.D. I am currently a Chaplain Resident at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. I received my B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies from Bethel University, my M.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies from Wheaton College, and my Ph.D. in Theology from Loyola University Chicago. My Ph.D. dissertation studied the theme of kenosis in the theology of Hans Urs von Balthasar and the resulting implications for human agency and flourishing. I am currently a co-investigator working with Katherine Piderman at Mayo Clinic on a research project entitled “Hear My Voice: A Chaplain-Led Qualitative Intervention Pilot Study with Patients with Progressive Neurologic Conditions.” I hope to develop a similar project to use with patients with chronic renal disease. E-mail; [Yoder.Timothy@mayo.edu](mailto:Yoder.Timothy@mayo.edu).

Bailu Yu, B.S. I am a graduate student at Ningxia Medical University in China in the School of Public Health there. Professor Wang has been my tutor for the past three years. I have published three articles, and recently received a prize for my article on “The predictors of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in those of Hui ethnicity.” Because Dr. Wang’s research direction is the mental health area, I became interested in mental health and social factors, as well as in comorbidity between mental disorders and physical health. I am very eager to learn more about the study of mental health and social culture (religion is an important cultural phenomenon in China). E-mail: [memory\\_11@163.com](mailto:memory_11@163.com).

Note:

2 participants in this class asked that their contact information and biosketches not be listed