



# MCUAAAR Mondays

August 3, 2020

To reduce the number of messages sent out to the MCUAAAR 5 Listserv, if you send me the kind of information found below, I will compile it and send it out on “MCUAAAR Mondays”

## NEWS

### **Access and Gatekeeping in the Academy**

*Introduction by series curator, **Dr. Annmarie Caño**, (2002 MCUAAAR Scientist) and currently Dean of College of Arts & Sciences at Gonzaga University*

“Recent U.S. Supreme court rulings and the 2019 “Operation Varsity Blues College Admissions Scandal” have resulted in intense discussions about who has the right or opportunity to pursue a college degree. Operation Varsity Blues, in particular, made it very clear that the admissions processes at some universities reproduce long-standing racist, classist, and ableist inequities in larger society. For instance, so-called “merit-based” admissions processes, including the overreliance on standardized test scores and financial aid to affluent families, result in race and wealth gaps at institutions of higher education. . . . . Gatekeeping is a vexing problem that demands attention if educators wish to create a more equitable society. These essays show a way forward to address individual and systemic forces that reify inequities in access and promotion. The COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement will continue to highlight disparities in access, including admissions, admissions testing, access to technology required for remote learning and assessment, as well as elucidate opportunities for change. Time will tell whether the momentum that has been building will lead to sustained energy among faculty, staff, and administrators to create more equitable and just educational environments and models for the future.”

**Link to the full intro by Dr. Caño and blog series can be found at <https://medium.com/national-center-for-institutional-diversity/access-and-gatekeeping-in-the-academy-37a05632654b>**

### **How to Define Your Purpose in One Epic Afternoon**

It's the 80/20 of happiness and longevity.

By Michael Touchton

<https://medium.com/mind-cafe/how-to-define-your-purpose-in-one-epic-afternoon-1764e549b97c>

[A team at the University of Michigan](#) “analyzed data from the 27-year-old [Health and Retirement Study](#) (a U.S.-based, nationally representative well-being study) and found that **one thing** led to people living longer.” That **one thing** was a **WHY** — the people who lived the longest worked and lived with a sense of purpose and meaning. The UM study, [Association Between Life Purpose and Mortality Among US Adults Older Than 50 Years](#), was published in JAMA Network Open in May 2019.



- [Summit Virtual Meeting Series: 2020 National Research Summit on Care, Services, and Supports for Persons with Dementia and Their Caregivers](#) — Presentations and moderated discussions will identify evidence-based programs, strategies, approaches, and research that can help advance dementia care. **Register for the final portion of this series on August 13 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. EDT.**
- [Lower wealth linked with faster physical and mental aging](#) — People with lower household wealth have a higher risk of many diseases and have a shorter lifespan. Some lifestyle factors like chronic stress, reduced access to resources, and higher rates of smoking may play a role.
- [Visual impairment in older women linked to increased risk of dementia](#) — A recent study found that visual impairment may increase a person's risk for dementia or mild cognitive impairment.

Read more of [the latest NIA research news](#) at the NIA newsroom.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Impact of COVID-19 on Underrepresented Early Career Scientists Study**

With the goal of preventing the broadening of existing disparities in the scientific workforce during the COVID-19 era, Drs. Marquine and Moore from the University of California San Diego (UCSD) are conducting a research study with the support of RCMAR leadership. The study aims to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the well-being and scholarly productivity of underrepresented early career scientists. We would like to invite currently funded RCMAR scientists and early career RCMAR alumni to participate. Participants will be asked to complete an online survey that will take approximately 45 minutes. Participation is optional and personal information will be kept confidential. Participants will be compensated \$25 for their time.

To learn more & participate, please follow this link: <https://my.ctri.ucsd.edu/surveys/?s=3R34FFR8L4>  
For questions, please contact the project coordinator Lesley Guareña: [lguarena@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:lguarena@health.ucsd.edu) or 858-215-2260 or Dr. Marquine: [mmarquine@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:mmarquine@health.ucsd.edu)

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

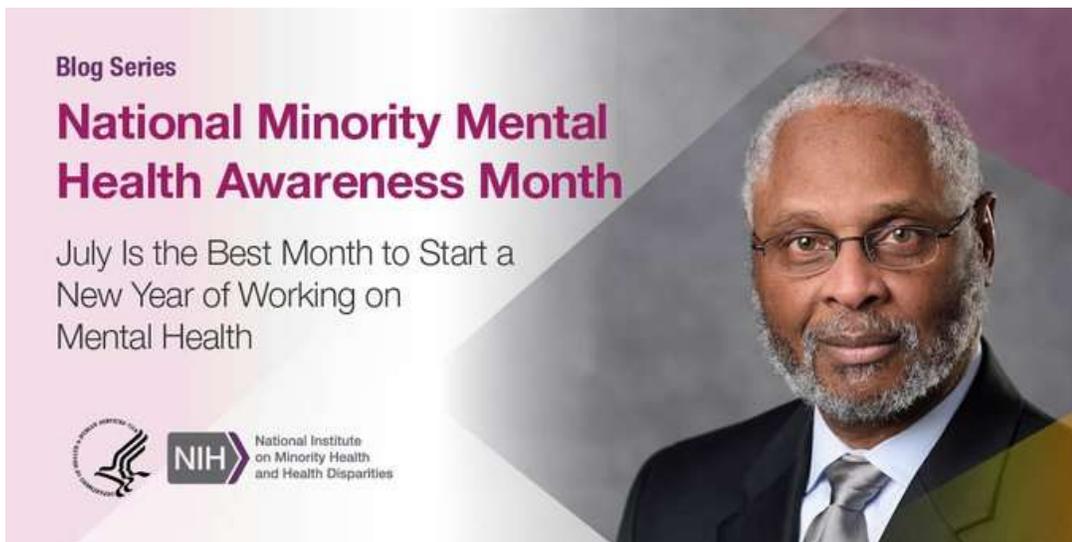
### **Vanessa and Tam's Letter to the Editor in *Journal of Gerontological Social Work* Published!**

Vanessa Rorai (Research Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist, HBEC) and Dr. Tam Perry (2013 MCUAAAR Scientist and Associate Professor, School of Social Work, WSU) had their letter to the Editor entitled, An Innovative Telephone Outreach Program to Seniors in Detroit, a City Facing Dire Consequences of COVID-19, published. Congratulations!!! The full citation and link are below.

Vanessa Rorai & Tam E. Perry (2020): An Innovative Telephone Outreach Program to Seniors in Detroit, a City Facing Dire Consequences of COVID-19, *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, DOI: 10.1080/01634372.2020.1793254

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2020.1793254>

### **Dr. Neighbors Accepts New Position with NIH in His "Retirement"!**



Harold W. Neighbors, PhD (former MCUAAAR faculty) discusses the importance of people of color sharing their stories and seeking help for mental health concerns in a [blog post](#) that was published July 31, 2020 on the NIMHD Blog Series. His new position is with the Division of Intramural Research, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.