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EDUCATION

2008 PhD, Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
2004 MSW, Social Work, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
2000 BA, Psychology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)

2025 – 2026 Interim Doctor of Social Work (DSW) Program Director, School of Social Work
2022 – Pres Associate Dean of Research and Development, School of Social Work
2021 – Pres Professor, School of Social Work
2018 – 2022 Inaugural DSW Program Director, School of Social Work
2017 – Pres Associate Faculty, Alabama Research Institute on Aging (ARIA)
2016 – 2021 Associate Professor, School of Social Work

University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Heersink School of Medicine

2021 – Pres Affiliated Scientist, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC)
2018 – Pres Affiliate Associate Professor, Department of Neurology

University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland)

2024 Visiting Scholar, School of Health in Social Science

Florida International University

2015-2016 Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work
2009-2015 Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work

University of Delaware

2007-2009 Instructor, Leadership Program, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, College of Health, Education, and Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
2008 Instructor, Women’s Studies Program, College of Arts and Science, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Delaware State University

2007 Instructor, School of Social Work, Delaware State University, Dover, DE

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

2024 – Pres Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Person First Technology LLC.

POLICY LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE

2025 – Pres Community Advisory Board Member, Geriatric Emergency Care Applied Research (GEAR) Network, New York University.
2025 – Pres Chair, Alabama House Alzheimer’s Disease Task Force Sub-Committee on Research and Innovation, appointed by Rep. Ginny Shaver.
2024 – Pres Lead Evaluator, Alabama Department of Public Health’s Building Our Largest Infrastructure for Dementia (BOLD) Initiative (CDC-funded).

- 2023 – 2024 Expert witness for the U.S. Department of Justice.
- 2020 – Pres Member, Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition, appointed by Governor Kay Ivey.
- 2020 – Pres Federal Grant Review Panelist: Irish Research Council, Government of the Netherlands, Person Centered Research Outcomes Institute (PCORI), Swiss National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. National Institutes of Health, U.S. National Science Foundation
- 2018-2019 Special Government Employee, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Provide consultation and assistance to AHRQ in their work to develop and test an e-care planning health information technology platform for older adults with multiple chronic conditions.
- 2018-2019 American Political Science Association Congressional Health and Aging Policy Fellow
- 2017 – Pres Faculty mentor and workshop leader, Annual D.C. Fly-In (Experiential policy advocacy educational program in D.C.), School of Social Work, University of Alabama.
- 2010-2016 Appointed member, United Way of Miami-Dade County’s Older Adults Initiative Advisory Group.
- 2010 Grant Reviewer, Older Americans Act Community Food Insecurity Grant Programs, The Alliance for Aging (Area Agency on Aging for Dade and Monroe Counties), Miami, Florida.
- 2008 Policy Analyst, Governor’s Consortium on Hispanic Affairs, Dover, Delaware. Conducted community assessments, data analysis, and policy recommendations for Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s office initiative.
- 2008-2009 Community Development Consultant, Blueprint Communities Project, Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.
- 2005-2006 Policy Analyst and Program Developer, Delaware Coalition against Domestic Violence, Wilmington, DE. Collaborated with Sen. Joe Biden’s office on the Violence Against Women’s Act reauthorization.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2026 Temple University Gallery of Success Awardee (Alumni Award)
- 2024 Leadership Award, Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW)
- 2023 Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America
- 2021 University of Alabama President’s Faculty Research Award, Mid-Career Social and Behavioral Science
- 2018, 2020 Dean’s Faculty Award for Research, Teaching, and Service, University of Alabama,
- 2017-2018 Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) Scholar
- 2014 Selected as a TEDx speaker: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu2EdU86SMM>
- 2012 Top Scholar Award – Burgeoning Faculty with Significant Research, Florida International University
- 2011-2013 Hartford Faculty Scholar, The John A. Hartford Foundation

LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 2025-2026 Council on Research Leadership Fellow, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)
- 2023-2024 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Leadership Development Fellow
- 2023 Fundraising for Deans Workshop, Academic Impressions

- 2023 Five Paths to Leadership: Leadership and Team Development Workshop, Academic Impressions
- 2023 Leading as an Associate Dean: Online Bootcamp, Academic Impressions
- 2022 Articulating Your Value as an Associate Dean, Academic Impressions
- 2022 Strategic Financial Management for Department Chairs, Academic Impressions
- 2019 Strategies to Engage Faculty in Research Growth, Academic Impressions
- 2011-2013 Hartford Faculty Scholar Policy and Communication Training Institutes, The John A. Hartford Foundation

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dementia Care and Caregiving, Health Information Technology, Health Policy

FUNDED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- 2024 – 2029 Co-Investigator and Member of the Community Outreach, Diversity & Inclusion Core (PI: Roberson). Administrative Core for the UAB Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRD). P30AG086401. National Institute of Aging. Total costs: \$2,270,646
- 2024 – 2025 Principal Investigator, Ethical AI Use in Social Work Practice Training Development Program. Funded by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). Total costs: \$5,000.
- 2020 – 2025 Principal Investigator (Multiple PI; Lead PI: Brown), Integration of Health Information Technology and Promotion of Personhood in Family-Centered Dementia Care. R01AG068572-01. National Institute of Aging. Total costs: \$1,635,822.
- 2020 – 2023 Lead Principal Investigator, Planning Live, Sustainable Community Asset Mapping for a Dementia e-Friendly Alabama. Award Number 1951974. National Science Foundation; Total Costs: \$150,000.
- 2020 – 2021 Principal Investigator, Planning Live, Sustainable Community Asset Mapping for a Dementia e-Friendly Alabama. Funding: University of Alabama Community Engagement Graduate Fellowship (support for graduate student fellow, equivalent to \$41,100).
- 2019 – 2028 Co-Investigator & Co-Director of the Researcher Education Core (PI: Durant). Deep South Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR). P30AG031054. National Institute of Aging. Total costs: \$5,282,990.
- 2018 – 2022 Principal Investigator (Multiple PIs, Lead PI: Ruggiano), Examining the Clinical Workflow and Outcomes of Integrating Health Information Technology to Educate and Support Dementia Caregivers. Funding: Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (1R21HS026571-01); Total Costs: \$299,999.
- 2018 – 2019 Co-Principal Investigator, Promoting Advance Care Planning for Persons with Dementia (PI: Hyunjin Noh). Funding: University of Alabama Community Engagement Graduate Fellowship (support for graduate student fellow, equivalent to \$41,100).
- 2018 – 2020 Principal Investigator, Using Social Media to Increase Access to Dementia Support Groups for Caregivers in the Deep South. Funding: University of Alabama Research Grants Committee Award; \$5,985.
- 2016 Co-Director, Expansion of Health Information Technology for Hispanic Dementia Caregivers Funded: The John A. Hartford Foundation’s Change AGent Award Program; \$11,446.

- 2014 – 2015 Co-Investigator, Home Care Continuation Dashboard: A Pilot Project. (PI: Ellen Brown). Funding: Institute on Aging and Health Appropriation/Florida Department of Health; \$142,600
- 2014 – 2015 Principal Investigator, Self-direction among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions. Funding: National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program; \$7,873.
- 2012 – 2014 Principal Investigator, Self-direction among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions. Funding: National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program; \$17,500.
- 2011 – 2013 Principal Investigator, Self-Management and Decision Making among Older Adults receiving Home and Community-based Long-term Care. Funding: John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar Program; \$100,000.

GRANT PROPOSALS IN PROGRESS

- Under Review Co-Principal Investigator (Lead PI: Christidis). Collaborative Research: SCH: Empower Adults to Promote Brain Health and Detect Cognitive Decline through the Use of an AI Conversational Agent. Proposal submitted October 2025 to the National Science Foundation. Total Requested: \$997,751.
- Under Review Principal Investigator, Developing Practical Approaches to Research Security in the Academic Enterprise: Building Regional Capacity and Consistency Across Southeastern Universities. Invited proposal for submission to the National Science Foundation in 2026. Total Requested: \$180,000.

COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERED RESEARCH

- 2020 -Present Director, Alabama Caregiver Connect Initiative. School of Social Work, University of Alabama. <https://caregiverconnect.ua.edu/>
- 2019-2022 Consultant, Providing Alzheimer's n' Dementia Assistance (PANDA) Project. Grant project implemented by the Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging, Funded by the Administration for Community Living, \$1.5 million.
- 2013-2016 Principal Investigator, Looking Forward: Perceptions of Retirement among a Diverse Sample of Baby Boomers in Miami-Dade County. Research partnership with The United Way of Miami-Dade County.
- 2011-2014 Principal Investigator, United Way Advocacy Survey (UWAS): Examining Policy Advocacy among Florida Nonprofit Human Service Agencies. Research partnership with the United Way of Florida.

PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP (*Indicates Student Co-Author)

- Ruggiano, N.**, Scales, J., Noh, H., John, D., Chapman Thomas, C., King, D. M., Wilkes, S. K., & Hatcher, S. S. (under review). Developing AI Readiness Among Social Work Students: An Experiential Learning Approach.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Sahoo, S.*, Brashear, A.*, Nwatu, U.*, Brunson, A., Noh, H., Cole, H., McKinney, R., Framil Suarez, C. V., Brown, E. L., & Prevost, S. (2026). Evaluating AI-Generated Geriatric Case Studies for Interprofessional Education: A Systematic Analysis Across Five Platforms. *JMIR – Medical Education*. <https://mededu.jmir.org/2026/1/e83085>
- Childers, P.*, **Ruggiano, N.**, & Brown, E. L. (2025). Evaluation of Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Community-Dwelling Individuals with Dementia Experiencing Sleep Disturbances: An Updated Systematic Review. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, doi: 10.1177/07334648251410630.

- Wang, K., Dong, Y., Zeng, X., Johnson, C., **Ruggiano, N.**, & Clay, O. (2025). From Disparity to Opportunity: Racial Differences in Internet Access and Health App Usage Among Older Informal Caregivers. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, doi: 07334648251383631
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., Clarke, P. J., Hristidis, V., Roberts, L., Framil Suarez, C. V., ... & Geldmacher, D. S. (2024). An evidence-based IT program with chatbot to support caregiving and clinical care for people with dementia: The CareHeroes development and usability pilot. *JMIR Aging*, 7, e57308.
- Warr, R. *, **Ruggiano, N.**, Daquin, J., Anderson Herzog, M., Jiang, Z., & Gray, J. (2024). Health information seeking using tech and non-tech sources among a diverse sample of caregivers in the Deep South. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 67(5), 605-620.
- Hristidis, V., **Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., Ganta, S. R. R. *, & Stewart, S. * (2023). ChatGPT vs Google for queries related to dementia and other cognitive decline: Comparison of results. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 25, e48966. doi: [10.2196/48966](https://doi.org/10.2196/48966)
- Luo, Y. *, **Ruggiano, N.**, Bolt, D. *, Witt, J. *, Anderson, M., Jiang, Z., & Gray, J. (2022). Community asset mapping in public health: A systematic review of applications and approaches. *Social Work in Public Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19371918.2022.2114568>
- Norton, J., Ip, A. *, **Ruggiano, N.**, Abidogun, T., Camara, D., Fu, H., Hose, B. Z., Miran, S., Hsiao, C. J., Wang, J., & Bierman, A. S. (2022). Assessing Progress Towards the Vision of a Comprehensive, Shared Electronic Care Plan: Scoping Review (2022). *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 24(6):e36569. doi: 10.2196/36569. PMID: 35687382 <https://www.jmir.org/2022/6/e36569>
- Ruggiano, N.**, Washington, K. T., Luo, Y. *, Noh, H., & Brown, E. L. (2021). Feasibility of Using Secret Facebook Groups for Community-based Dementia Caregiver Support. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 17 (1), 44-55.
- Brown, E. L., **Ruggiano, N.**, Agronin, M., Clarke, P., Davis, D. L., Framil, C., Geldmacher, D., Hough, M., Muñoz, M., H., Roberts, L., & Yang, X. (2021). Integration of health information technology and promotion of personhood in family-centered dementia care: Intervention trial. *Research in Gerontological Nursing*, 14(5), 225-234. <https://doi.org/10.3928/19404921-20210825-02>
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., Roberts, L., Framil Suarez, C. V., Luo, Y. *, & Hao, Z. *, Hristidis, V. (2021). Chatbots to support people with dementia and their caregivers: Available applications, opportunities, and challenges. *Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)*, 23(6), e25006. <https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/25006>
- Hao, Z. *, Li, Q. *, **Ruggiano, N.**, Yang, B., & Pan, X. (2021) Disparities in Depression among Chinese Older Adults with Neurodegenerative Diseases. *Journal of Aging and Mental Health*, DOI: 10.1080/13607863.2021.1871879
- Hao, Z. *, Yang B., **Ruggiano, N.**, Ma Y., Guo Y. & Pan X. (2021). Depression prediction among Chinese older adults with neurodegenerative diseases: A performance comparison between decision tree model and logistic regression analysis. *British Journal of Social Work*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcaa237>
- Ruggiano, N.**, Ellis, T. *, Gibson, K., Smith, S., Turner, C., Curington, A., Phelps, C., Ferruccio, A., & Fendley, K. (2020). The Unity Wall Project: A Student-led Community Organizing Effort to Advance Public Discourse on Social Justice. *Journal of Community Practice*, 28(2), DOI: 10.1080/10705422.2020.1757007
- Guo, Y., Yang, F., Hu, F., Li, W., **Ruggiano, N.**, & Lee, H. Y. (2020). Systematic Analysis of Existing Smartphone Apps for People with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias to Support Self-Care Management. *Journal of Medical Internet Research-Aging*, 3(1) e15290.

- Hao, Z.* & Ruggiano, N. (2020). Family-Centeredness in Dementia Care: What is the Evidence? *Social Work in Health Care*, 59, 1-19.
- Shtompel, N., Ruggiano, N., Thomlison, B., & Fant, K. (2019). Dyadic, self-administered cognitive intervention for healthy older adults: Participants' perspectives. *Activities, Adaptation, and Aging*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01924788.2019.1673115>
- Brown, E., Ruggiano, N., Li, J.*, Clarke, P. J., Kay, E. S.*, & Hristidis, V. (2019). Smartphone-based health technologies for dementia care: Opportunities, challenges, and current practices. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 38, 73-91.
- Ruggiano, N., Brown, E. L., Li, J., Geldmacher, D., Clark, P., Hristidis, V., & Bertram, J.* (2019). Communicating with providers for dementia care: Perspectives from caregivers and the potential role for information technology. *The Journal of Aging and Social Change*, 9(3), doi: <https://doi.org/10.18848/2576-5310/CGP/v09i03/25-38>
- Ruggiano, N. & Perry, T. (2019). Conducting Secondary Analysis of Qualitative Data: Should We, Can We, and How? *Qualitative Social Work*, 18, 81-97. Doi <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325017700701>
- Ruggiano, N., Brown, E., Shaw, S.*, Geldmacher, D., Clarke, P., Hristidis, V., & Bertram, J.* (2019). The potential of information technology to navigate caregiving systems: Perspectives from dementia caregivers. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 64,432-450.
- Ruggiano, N., Brown, E., Li, J.*, Scaccianoce, M. (2018). Rural caregivers and technology: What is the evidence? *Research in Gerontological Nursing*, 11, 216-224.
- Ruggiano, N., Brown, E., & Fortuna, K. (2018). Adult day service providers: Untapped potential for care coordination. *Nursing & Health Sciences Research Journal*, 1, 42-48.
- Brown, E., Ruggiano, N., & Meadows, J.* (2018). The Caregiver Burden Alert (CBA): A tool for promoting dementia caregiver burden screening and referral. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, 43, 61-70.
- Ruggiano, N., Schottefer, L., O'Driscoll, J.*, & Lukic, A.* (2017). "Work is like a therapy that prevents aging": Perceptions of retirement, productivity and health among minorities and immigrants. *Ethnogerontology*. 1-11, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244016687234>.
- Ruggiano, N., Shtompel, N.*, Whiteman, K.*, & Sias, K.* (2017). The role of transportation in health self-management among older adults with chronic conditions. *Behavioral Medicine*, 43, 61-70. doi: 10.1080/08964289.2015.1065788.
- Ruggiano, N., Lukic, A.*, Blowers, A., & Doerner, J. (2016). Health self-management among older prisoners: Current understandings and directions for policy, practice, and research. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, doi:10.1080/01634372.2016.1257531
- Whiteman, K., Ruggiano, N., Thomlison, B. (2016). Transforming mental health services to address gender disparities in depression risk factors. *Journal of Women and Aging*, 28, 521-529. doi:10.1080/08952841.2015.1072027.
- Brown, E.L., Ruggiano, N., Page, T.F., Roberts, L., Hristidis, V., Whiteman, K., & Castro, J. (2016) Care Heroes web and Android apps for dementia caregivers: A feasibility study. *Research in Gerontological Nursing*, 9, 193-203.
- Ruggiano, N., Fortuna, K.*, & Shtompel, N.* (2016) "If I don't like the way I feel with a certain drug, I'll tell them." Older adults' experiences with self-determination and health self-advocacy. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, 35, 401-420. doi: 10.1177/0733464814527513.
- Ruggiano, N., Shtompel, N.*, & Edvardsson, D. (2015). Engaging in coordination of health and disability services as described by older adults: Processes and influential factors. *The Gerontologist*, 55, 1015-1025.

- Ruggiano, N., Taliaferro, J. D., Dillon, F., Granger, T., & Scher, J. (2015).** Identifying attributes of relationship management in non-profit policy advocacy, *Journal of Policy Practice*, *14*, 212-230. doi:10.1080/15588742.2014.956970.
- Shtompel, N.*, Fortuna, K.*, & **Ruggiano, N.** (2014). Negative feelings among older adults with chronic conditions. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, *57*, 810-824. doi:10.1080/01634372.2014.898008.
- Perry, T., **Ruggiano, N.**, Shtompel, N.*, & Hassevoort, L. A.* (2014). Applying Erikson's wisdom to health self-management practices of older adults: Findings from two field studies. *Research on Aging*, *37*, 253-274. doi:10.1177/0164027514527974.
- Ruggiano, N., Taliaferro, J. D., Dillon, F., Granger, T., & Scher, J. (2014).** Networking for Policy Advocacy: Identifying Predictors of Advocacy Success among Human Service Organizations. *Human Services Organizations Management, Leadership & Governance*, *38*, 89-102. doi:10.1080/03643107.2013.828005
- Ruggiano, N. & Edvardsson, D. (2013).** Person-centeredness in home- and community-based long-term care: Current challenges and new directions. *Social Work in Health Care*, *52*, 846-861. doi:10.1080/00981389.2013.827145.
- Taliaferro, J. D. & **Ruggiano, N.** (2013). The "L" word: Nonprofits, language, & lobbying. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, *40*, 151-169.
- Ruggiano, N., Brown, E., Hristidis, V., & Page, T. (2013).** Adding home health care to the discussion on health information technology policy. *Home Health Care Services Quarterly* *32*, 149-162. doi:10.1080/01621424.2013.813884.
- Ruggiano, N., Taliaferro, J. D., & Shtompel, N.* (2013).** Interorganizational partnerships as a strategy for lobbying: Nonprofit administrators' perspectives on collaborating for systems-level change. *Journal of Community Practice*, *21*, 263-281. doi:10.1080/10705422.2013.811620.
- Page, T., Hristidis, V., **Ruggiano, N.** & Brown, E. (2012). The home care dashboard: Improving care delivery using health information technology. *Annals of Long-Term Care*, *20*(12), 26-30.
- Ruggiano, N., Shtompel, N.*, Hristidis, V., Roberts, L., Grochowski, J.*, & Brown, E. (2012).** Need and potential use of information technology for case manager-physician communication in home care. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, *24*, 292-297.
- Ruggiano, N. & Taliaferro, J. D. (2012).** Explaining Nonprofit Lobbying Using Resource Dependency & Agency Theories. *Journal of Policy Practice*, *11*, 219-245.
- Ruggiano, N. (2012). Consumer direction in long-term care policy: Barriers to promoting older adults' opportunity for self-direction. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, *55*, 146-159.
- Ruggiano, N. (2012). Intergenerational shared sites: An examination of socio-physical environments and older adults' behavior. *Research on Aging*, *34*, 34-55.
- Ruggiano, N. & Welch, B. (2011).** Institutional Capacity for Volunteerism in Intergenerational Shared-Site Facilities. *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, *9*, 250-263.
- Ruggiano, N. (2010). Grant and contract management within an intergenerational shared-site organization: a case study. *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, *29*, 455-474.
- Taliaferro, J. D. & **Ruggiano, N.** (2010). "It's human beings talking to one another." The role of relationship building in nonprofit lobbying. *Prism*, *7*(2), http://praxis.massey.ac.nz/prism_on-line_journ.html

EDITED WORKS

- Ruggiano, N. (2021). Health Information Technology and Family Caregiving: Policy Initiatives. In J. Gaugler (Ed.) *Bridging the Family Care Gap* (Chapter 14).

Ruggiano, N. (2012). Home care. In A.T. Carswell (Ed.) *The Encyclopedia of Housing*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

NON-PEER REVIEWED WORKS

Ruggiano, N., & Brown, E. (2022, Fall/Winter). Promoting Older Adult Health and Well-being: What's in the Build Back Better Plan? INSWE Specialty Practice Section: Aging.

Ruggiano, N. & Williams, J. (2019). Does the DSW Practice Doctorate Provide Opportunities for Closing Gaps in Gerontology? Letter to the editor published in the *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 62(6), 605-612.

Ruggiano, N. (2009). Seen but Not Heard, Strengthening Nonprofit Advocacy,” by Bass, Arons, Guinane, Carter & Rese. (Book Review). *Journal of Policy Practice*. 8(2), 179-183.

Ruggiano, N. (2008). Tools of the Trade: Useful Management Resources for Workplace Accountability. (Book Review), *Public Performance and Management Review*, 30(4), pp. 630-637.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Ruggiano, N., Brunson, A., Hossain, M. D. S.*, & Sahoo, S.* (2024, December). Alabama BOLD Needs Assessment Report. Final Report for the Alabama Department of Public Health. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama School of Social Work.

Ruggiano, N., Brown, E.L., Clarke, P.J., Roberts, L., Daquin, J., Agronin, M., & Geldmacher, D.S. (2023, March). Examining the Clinical Workflow and Outcomes of Integrating Health IT to Educate and Support Dementia Caregivers. Final report for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Rockville, MD.

Brown, E.L, Page, T.F, Roberts, L., **Ruggiano, N.**, Hristidis, V., & Whiteman, K. (August, 2015). *Homecare Continuation Dashboard (now known as CARE HEROES) Web and Android Application: A Pilot Study*. Final Report for State of Florida. Miami, FL: Florida International University.

Ruggiano, N. Schotthoefer, L., O’Driscoll, J., & Lukic, A., (2015, July). *Looking Forward: Perspectives of Retirement among Baby Boomers in Miami-Dade County*. Miami, FL: Florida International University.

Ruggiano, N. & Taliaferro, J.D. (2013, February). *The United Way Advocacy Survey: Report on Human Service Organization’s Experiences with Policy Advocacy and Communication*. Miami, FL: Florida International University.

Ruggiano, N. (2008, November). *An Assessment of the Hispanic Community in Delaware: Supplemental Report Presented to the Governor’s Consortium on Hispanic Affairs*. Newark, DE: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.

Salt, J., Cooksy, L., Dunson, M., **Ruggiano, N.**, Haberkorn, J. & Uribe-Zarain, X. (2005, August). *Families & Communities Together: Key Findings and Recommendations from the Evaluation of Delaware’s Child Mental Health Grant Initiative*. Newark, DE: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.

Ackerman, C., Dunson, M., Salt, J. **Ruggiano, N.** & Uribe-Zarain, X. (2005, August). Progress and Outcomes among Children Served by the F.A.C.T. Project,” *An Evaluation of Delaware’s Child Mental Health Grant Initiative: Compendium of Final Technical Reports*. Newark, DE: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.

Ruggiano, N., Dunson, M & Salt, J. (2005, August). *Satisfaction with Planning and Services in the F.A.C.T. Project. An Evaluation of Delaware's Child Mental Health Grant Initiative: Compendium of Final Technical Reports.* Newark, DE: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.

Cooksy, L., Salt, J., Parker, K. Dunson, M. & **Ruggiano, N.** (2004, August). *Key Findings and Recommendations from the Evaluation of Delaware's Child Mental Health Grant Initiative.* Newark, DE: Center for Community Research and Service, University of Delaware.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

Ruggiano, N., & Hatcher, S. S. (2026, January). Our Grandest Challenge Yet: Mobilizing Social Work Researchers and Policy Practice for Science Advocacy and Strengthening Social Impact. Presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.

Ruggiano, N. (Chair), Himle, J., O'Donnell, L., Panisch, L. S., & Smith, M. (2026, January). Could Research Commercialization Help Social Work Weather Turbulent Funding Landscapes? A Case for Commercializing Our Science. Roundtable presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.

Wang, K., Dong, Y., Xiao, C., **Ruggiano, N.,** & Clay, O. (2026, January). Older Black Caregivers in the South: Uncovering the Health-Related Digital Divide. Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.

Sarafat, H., Sahoo, S., **Ruggiano, N.,** & Brunson, A. (2025, November). Community Perceptions on Dementia-Friendly Infrastructure Needs: A Mixed-Method Study. Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA.

Muñoz, M. T. H., Okine, J.*, Brown, E. L. **Ruggiano, N.** (2025, November). Conducting an Interprofessional Systematic Review of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Apps for Dementia Person-Centered Care. Presentation at the annual meeting of ASHA: The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Washington D.C.

Brunson, A., **Ruggiano, N.,** Eldridge-Auffant, L., Dunklin, T. (2025, April). Building a Dementia-Capable Alabama: Key Findings from a Statewide Assessment of Cognitive Health Needs. Presentation given at the 46th Annual Meeting & Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society, Birmingham, AL.

Wang, K., Dong, Y., Zeng, X., Clay, O., & **Ruggiano, N.** (2025, April). Black-White Disparities in Internet Access but Not Usage Among Older Informal Caregivers. Poster presentation given at the 46th Annual Meeting & Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society, Birmingham, AL.

Wang, K., Dong, Y., Clay, O., & **Ruggiano, N.** (2025, April). Digital Disparities: Internet Access and Health-Related Internet Use Among Older Black Caregivers in the South. Poster presentation given at the 46th Annual Meeting & Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society, Birmingham, AL.

Brashear, A.*, **Ruggiano, N.,** Brunson, A., Cole, H., McKinney, R., Noh, H., Nwatu, U. *, Prevost, S., & Sahoo, S.* (2025, April). Evaluating AI-Generated Geriatric Case Studies for Interprofessional Education: A Comparison Across Five Platforms. Poster presentation

- given at the 46th Annual Meeting & Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society, Birmingham, AL.
- Okine, J.*, Muñoz, M. T. H., Brown, E. L. **Ruggiano, N.** (2025, April). Navigating Silence: Evaluating Mobile Apps for People with Dementia. Poster presentation given at the 46th Annual Meeting & Conference of the Southern Gerontological Society, Birmingham, AL.
- Okine, J.*, Cheatham, L., & Ruggiano, N. (2025, January). Exploring the Relationship between Caregivers' Perception of Stress, Living Arrangement, and Respite Care Utilization: Insights from the 2017 Poll on Healthy Aging (NPHA). Presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Society of Social Work and Welfare, Seattle, WA.
- Muñoz, M. T., Okine, J.*, Brown, E. L., Ruggiano, N. (2024, July). The State of the Arts in Mobile Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices for People with Dementia: Evaluation of Features and Functions. Presentation at the International Alzheimer's Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Herzog, M., Jiang, Z., Brown, E.L., Hristidis, V., & Daquin, J. (2024, November). Going BOLDer: Promoting Dementia Infrastructure Through Interactive and AI Web-Based Tools. Presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA.
- Giorgio Cosenzo, L., de Luz Scherf, E.*,& **Ruggiano, N.** (2024, November). Unveiling the Association between Social Isolation and Sleep Disturbance among Latinx Older Women and Men. Poster presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA.
- Okine, J.* & **Ruggiano, N.** (2024, November). Burden among Informal Caregivers of Older Adults in Shana: a Scoping Review. Poster presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Seattle, WA.
- Washington, T., **Ruggiano, N.**, Gaugler, J. (2023, November). Emerging Technology-Based Interventions to Support Family Caregivers. Symposium presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (Co-chair), Tampa, FL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Winton, R.*, Daquin, J., Jiang, Z., Herzog Anderson, M., & Gray, J. (2023, November). The Potential of Crowdsourced Asset Mapping Technologies for Supporting Dementia Caregivers. Presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL.
- Brown, E. L., **Ruggiano, N.**, Clarke, P. J., Alalla, S. C.*, Prieto, Puche, G.*, Framil, C. V., Muñe, M., Hough, M. (November, 2023). Developing a Touchscreen Communication Device to Empower People with Dementia and their Caregivers. Presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Tampa, FL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Winton, R.*, Daquin, J., Anderson Herzog, M., Jiang, Z., Gray, J. (2023, July). Information Seeking and Technology Use Among Dementia Caregivers: Findings from a Statewide Survey of Diverse Caregivers in the U.S. South. Poster presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., Clarke, P., Roberts, L., Framil, C. V., Chevez, H., Hurley, S.*, Kopcsik, C., Allala, S. C.*, Hristidis, V., Agronin, M., & Geldmacher, D. S. (2023, July). Applying Implementation Frameworks to Health IT Development in Dementia Care:

Lessons from the CareHeroes Project. Poster presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., Framil, C. V., Hurley, S.*, Roberts, L., Clarke, P., Allala, S. C.*, & Daquin, J. (2022, November). Supporting Dementia Caregivers During COVID-19 with CareHeroes IT: Usage Patterns and Outcomes. Poster presentation given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN.
- Browning, W. R., Clay, O. J., Bowen, P. G., Crowe, M. G., Dreer, L., **Ruggiano, N.**, & Atkins, G. (2022, November). Adverse Social Experiences, Social Support, and Health Outcomes Among Black and White Caregivers. Poster presentation to be given at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Indianapolis, IN.
- Brown, E. L., Ruggiano, N., Muñoz, M. T., H., Roberts, L., Framil, C. V., Arroyo, B., & Bourgeois, M. (2021, November). Touchscreen Technology to Improve Dementia Care Management for Older Adults Living in the Community. Poster presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Phoenix, AZ.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Luo, Y.*, Hurd, A.*, Lawlor, K.*, Anderson, M., Jiang, Z., & Gray, J. (2021, November). Developing Information Technologies to Promote Dementia e-Friendly Communities for COVID-19 and Beyond. Poster presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America meeting, Phoenix, AZ.
- Bolt, D.*, **Ruggiano, N.** (2021, October). Integrating Mental Health into the Workplace: Best Practices for COVID-19 and Beyond. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Council for Social Work Education, Orlando, FL.
- Guo, Y., Yang, F., Lee, H., & **Ruggiano, N.** (2020, January). A Systematic Analysis of Mobile Apps for Patients with Dementia and Alzheimer's Diseases. Presentation given at the annual conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, Washington D.C.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Bangerter, L., O'Malley, K., Luetke-Stahlman, H., Gruber, M. M., & Wolff, J. (2019, November). Strengthening Dementia Caregiving Networks with Technologies: Intersections of Policy, Research, and Practice. Poster presentation given at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E. L., & Clarke, P. (2019, November). Integrating Health IT into Clinical Workflow for Dementia Care: Provider and Caregiver Perspectives. Poster presentation given at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Bangerter, L., O'Malley, K., & **Ruggiano, N.** (2019, November). Federal Policy Efforts to Support Family Caregivers: Past, Present, and Future. Poster presentation given at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Hao, Z.*, Li, Q.*, **Ruggiano, N.** (2019, November). Disparities in Depression Among Chinese Older Adults with Neurodegenerative Diseases. Poster presentation given at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.
- Hao, Z.*, Li, Q.*, **Ruggiano, N.** (2019, November). Disparities in Depression Among Chinese Older Adults. Poster presentation given at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.

- Ellis, T.,* **Ruggiano, N.**, Currington, A., Gibson, K., Turner, C., Smith, S., Phelps, C. (May 2019). Giving Students the Opportunity to Engage in Activism and Discourse through the Unity Wall Project. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Ellis, T.,* Currington, A., Gibson, K., Turner, C., Smith, S., Phelps, C. (November 2018). Promoting Interprofessional Education through Social Work Student-Led Responses to Social Injustice. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Social Work Education, Orlando, Florida.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E., Clarke, Li, J., P., Roberts, L., & Hristidis, V. (September 2018). Integrating Communication and Information Technology into Dementia Caregiving: The Movement towards e-Caregiving. Paper presented at the 8th Aging & Society Interdisciplinary Meeting, Tokyo, Japan.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E., Clarke, P., Roberts, L., & Hristidis, V. (July 2017). Health Information Technology for Rural Caregivers: Intersecting Science, Policy and Practice. Poster presented at the 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, CA.
- Li, J., Brown, E., **Ruggiano, N.**, & Olenick, M. (2017, May). Smart phone technologies for dementia care: A systematic review. Poster presented at the Evidence Based Practice Nursing Research Council (EBPNRC) Nurses Week. Miami VA Healthcare System, Miami, FL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Cheatham, L., & Simon, C. (April 2017). Finding Our Voice: Empowering Effective Social Justice Advocacy in Social Work. Presentation at the annual conference of the National Association of Social Workers, Alabama Chapter, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Ruggiano, N.** & Perry, T. (January 2017). Sharing, combining, and archiving qualitative data: The current state of science and questions about ethics, feasibility, and analysis strategies. Poster presentation for the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N. (January 2017). Coexisting in Intergenerational Shared Site Environments: Behaviors, Attitudes and Lessons Learned. Paper presentation for the annual conference of the Society for Social Work Research, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Brown, E., Hristitis, V., & Clarke, P. (November 2016). Expanding Health Information Technology to Support Hispanic Caregivers and Improve Dementia Care. Paper presentation for the Gerontological Society of America's 69th Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Schottefer, L., O'Driscoll, J.*, & Lukic, A.* (November 2016). "Work As Long As You Can": Perceptions of Disability and Retirement among Minority Baby Boomers. Paper presentation for the Gerontological Society of America's 69th Annual Scientific Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Doerner, J., Blowers, A., **Ruggiano, N.**, & Lukic, A. (November 2016). Older Prisoners and Health Self-Management: Policy, Practice, and Legal Issues. Paper presentation proposal for the 72nd meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Fujimoto, K., & Shtompel, N.* (November 2015). Attributes and Role of Social Networks in Facilitating Older Adults' Health Literacy and Decisions. Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.

- Shtompel, N.*, Thomlison, B., & **Ruggiano, N.** (November 2015). Older Adults Training One Another: A Novel Approach to Cognitive Training. Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.
- Lukic, A.*, & **Ruggiano, N.** (November 2015). Advancing our Understanding of Aging Prisoners: Intersections of Policy, Practice, and Research. Poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Orlando, FL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Chirito, F., O'Driscoll, J.*, Lukic, A.*, & Sias, K.* (April 2015). *Growing Older in Miami: Perspectives and Concerns from a Diverse Sample of Urban Baby Boomers*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Miami, FL.
- Spadola, C.*, Wagner, E., **Ruggiano, N.**, Vidot, D., de la Cruz-Monoz, & Messiah, S. (April 2015). *Urban, Young Adult Bariatric Surgery Patients: Post-Operative Alcohol Use, Depression and Anxiety*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association (Special Track on Urban Health), Miami, FL.
- Sias, K.*, & **Ruggiano, N.** (April 2015). *Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Urban Environments: A New Paradigm*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Miami, FL.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Perry, T., Shtompel, N.*, & Hassevoort, L. A.* (November 2014). *Using Erikson's theory to understand health self-management: Findings from two field studies*. Paper presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Washington DC.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Sias, K.*, & Fortuna, K.*, & Shtompel, N.* (March 2014). The Role of Transportation in Health Self-Management among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions Living in South Florida. Paper presented at the annual program meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Ruggiano, N.**, Shtompel, N.*, & Edvardsson, D. (2013, November). *More than self-management: Older Adults as co-facilitators of care coordination of health and disability services*. Paper presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N. (November 2012). Integrating person-centeredness into home care: Conceptual, practical, and methodological issues. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, San Diego, CA.
- Taliaferro, J. D. & **Ruggiano, N.** (2011, March). Nonprofit lobbying and resource dependency theory. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Ruggiano, N. (2009, November). *Older Adults as Organizational Resources: A Case Study in Intergenerational Volunteerism*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Action, Cleveland, OH.
- Ruggiano, N. (2008, March). *Integrating youth and older adult services in the nonprofit sector: A case study of an intergenerational human service organization*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Chicago.

Ruggiano, N. (2008, August). *Finding Out What Students Already Know and What They Bring to the Course*. Presentation given at the Annual Conference for Teaching Assistants, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Ruggiano, N. (2008, April). *Using Intergenerational Solutions to Meet the Social Service Demands in Aging Urban Communities: The Philadelphia Experience*. Paper presented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Baltimore, MD.

Ruggiano, N. (2007, November). *Intergenerational Human Service Organizations in the Formal Care Sector: A Case Study*. Presentation given at the Annual Research Symposium of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Ruggiano, N. (2007, November). *Migration, Elderly Concentration, and Old Age Support*. Paper presented at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Seattle, Washington.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Ruggiano, N. (2025). Talking Tech: Supports and Resources for People with Dementia and their Care Partners. Assisted Living Association of Alabama Fall Conference. Montgomery, AL.

Ruggiano, N. (2025, September). Dealing with Care Resistant Behaviors Associated with Dementia. Keynote presentation for the Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging Caregiver College. Decatur, AL.

Ruggiano, N. (2025, July). From Living Rooms to Care Facilities: Adapting My PATI Across Contexts. Guest speaker for the Alzheimer's Association International Conference Technology and Dementia Pre-Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Ruggiano, N., Anderson Herzog, M., Jiang, Zhe. (2024, March). Using Crowdsourcing to Support Dementia Caregivers: Opportunities for Public Health. Invited presentation for the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence, University of Minnesota.

Ruggiano, N. (2023, November). Talking Tech: Supports and Resources for People with Dementia and their Care Partners. Keynote address for the annual Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments Caregiver College, Huntsville, AL.

Ruggiano, N. (2021, November). Advancing Evidence-based Technologies to Support Dementia Care and Caregiving: Challenges, Opportunities, and Directions Forward. Invited keynote address for the Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR) Conference, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Ruggiano, N. (2021, August). Caregivers' Perspectives on Navigating Service Systems and Shared Decision-Making for Dementia Care. Invited Presentation to the annual caregiver summit for the VA of Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Ruggiano, N. (2021, August). Using Technology to Navigate Caregiving Systems: Current Trends and Caregiver Perspectives. Invited Presentation for the 19th Annual Caddell Alzheimer's Conference hosted by the Mental Health Association of Morgan County, Decatur, AL.

Ruggiano, N., LaSala, M., Mars Fuchsel, C. (2021, May). Recruitment, Admission, and Retention in DSW Education: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities. Workshop presented to the Group to Advance Doctoral Education in Social Work (GADE) annual conference. Chicago, IL (hosted by the University of Chicago, but held virtually).

Ruggiano, N. (August, 2020). COVID-19 and Dementia: Challenges and Strategies for Family Caregivers. Webinar presented for Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, Birmingham, AL.

- Ruggiano, N. (June, 2020). Caregiving During Changing Landscapes: Coping with Caregiving During COVID-19. Invited virtual presentation for the Alabama Lifespan Respite Institute, Huntsville, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (April, 2020). Lessons Learned about Congress: One Year in Washington DC. Invited virtual presentation for the University of Alabama School of Social Work Own Your Vote Speaker Series, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (January, 2020). Smart and Connected Communities: A Dementia e-Friendly Alabama. Invited presentation for the Alabama Department of Senior Services Caregiver Coordinator Training, Montgomery, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2019). Developing Health Information Technologies for Older Adults with Chronic Conditions: Research and Policy Agendas. Invited presentation for the Bi-annual Meeting of the RCMAR of the Deep South, Opelika, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2019). Memory Loss and Dementia. Invited presentation for the Tuskegee Department of Senior Services, Tuskegee, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2019). Dementia, Caregiving and Public Policy: What Are Legislators Doing for You? Presentation given at the annual caregiver conference for Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, Birmingham, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2018). Using Technology to Navigate Caregiving Systems: Current Trends and Caregiver Perspectives. Annual caregiver conference for Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, Birmingham, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2018). Dementia care: The Caregiver Experience. Annual meeting of the Case Management Society of America – Birmingham Chapter, Birmingham, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (2018 March). Tips for Addressing Care Resistant Behaviors. Courageous Caregivers Conference, Sponsored by the City of Tuskegee and the South Central Alabama Development Commission, Tuskegee, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (February 2018). Supporting Dementia Caregivers through Health Information Technology. University of Alabama at Birmingham Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics & Palliative Care Grand Rounds, Birmingham, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (2017, March). Supporting and Educating Dementia Caregivers through Culturally Sensitive Information Technology (IT): The Care Heroes Web and Android Health IT App. Alabama Research Institute on Aging (ARIA) Seminar Series.
- Ruggiano, N. (October 2016). Health Care Services for Spanish-speaking Populations: Language and Cultural Considerations. University of Alabama School of Medicine, Effective Cross-cultural Communications in Clinical Settings Training.
- Ruggiano, N. (September 2016). Using Health Information Technology to Support Dementia Caregivers and Improve Dementia Care in Rural Areas: Care Heroes Web and Android App. University of Alabama's Project Sharing Opinions and Advice about Research (SOAR) in the Deep South, Meeting of the Sumter County Patient Advisory Board, Hill Hospital, York, AL.
- Ruggiano, N. (September 2016). Using Health Information Technology to Support Dementia Caregivers and Improve Dementia Care: Care Heroes Web and Android App. Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychology Educational Conference, UAB Department of Neurology,

Division of Memory Disorders and Behavioral Neurology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL.

Ruggiano, N. (February 2016). Intersections of Transportation and Health among Older Adults with Chronic Conditions. Miami-Dade County Mayor's Initiative on Aging and the United Way of Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL.

Ruggiano, N., Lehning, A., & Greenfield, E. (October 2014): *Aging your way: Advancing social work education and practice*. Invited panelist for the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Gero-Ed Kickoff Event, Annual Meeting of the CSWE, Tampa, FL.

Holstein, M., Knobel, P., Horwitz, M., & **Ruggiano, N.** (2014 May). *Society, aging and our responsibility: Ethical decision making*. Panelist for the 19th Annual Ministering to the Elderly Conference, Miami, FL.

Ruggiano, N. (September 2015). *Older Adults' Experiences with Chronic Health Self-management. Intersections of Research, Policy and Practice*. Continuing education workshop provided through the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Miami, FL.

Ruggiano, N. (2013, November). *Advocacy and opportunities for older adults: The Affordable Care Act*. Presentation for Jewish Community Services, Miami, FL.

Ruggiano, N. Brown, E., Page, T., & Hristidis, V. (2013, October). *Using health information technology in the home care setting: Intersections of practice and policy*. National Aging Services Risk Management Conference, Chicago, IL.

Ruggiano, N. (2013, February). The United Way Advocacy Survey. Presentation for the United Way of Florida's Governing Board, Orlando, FL.

Ruggiano, N. & Saltman, D. (2010, April). *The status of older adults in Miami-Dade County: Current trends and available home and community-based services*. Presentation for the United Way of Miami-Dade County.

Ruggiano, N. (2010, February). *Consumer directed home and community-based services for older adults. Current issues and future directions*. Presentation for the Alliance for Aging, Miami.

CREATIVE WORKS

Dementia Caregiver Educational Videos (Produced with Ellen Brown)

1. *Preparing for a Medical Visit with Someone Who Has Dementia*-(English version)
2. *Preparandoes para la cita con el medico* - (Spanish version)
3. *Caring for the Caregiver* – (English version)
4. *Cuidando al que Cuida* – (Spanish version)

TEACHING AND DOCTORAL STUDENT SUPERVISION

Courses Taught at the Doctoral Level

- Advanced Advocacy and Policy Practice (DSW)
- Introduction to Capstone Project (DSW)
- Research in Clinical and Community Practice II (DSW)
- Social Welfare Policy and Services (PhD)
- Research, Theory, and Practice with Communities and Organizations (PhD)
- Social Welfare Research Methodology (Qualitative Research; PhD)
- Special Topic: Health, Technology, and Society (PhD)

Courses Taught at the Master's Level

- Advanced Social Welfare Policy Analysis
- Social Work in Health Care
- Social Service Program and Agency Administration
- Social Welfare Policy and Services
- Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations

Courses Taught at the Undergraduate Level

- Social Welfare Policy and Services (Upper-level and Introductory, online and in-person)
- Social Work Practice with Communities and Organizations
- Social Work Research Methods
- Leadership: Gender and Policy Studies
- Introductory to Leadership in Communities and Organizations
- Introduction to Women's Studies

DSW Capstone Committee Chair

- Ken Ford, *Mindfulness-based Interventions with Underrepresented College Students: A Scoping Review*, University of Alabama.
- Max Sleep-Frankel, *TBD*, University of Alabama
- Zachary Purslane, *TBD*, University of Alabama.
- Scott McRae, *Lethal Means Safety: How Project Safeguard Offers a New Direction in Reducing Suicides in the Military Community*, Expected graduation December 2025.
- Maria Mores, *A Proposed Mental Health Intervention for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing School-age Children with History of Trauma*, University of Alabama.
- Rebecca McMahan, *Executive Authority and Civil Liberties: A Legal Analysis of Identity-based Protections in Federal Policy*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Patton Childers, *Community-Based Approaches to Sleep Disturbances in Dementia: An Updated Review of Non-Pharmacological Interventions*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Jaime Barzana, *Working with At-Risk Populations at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Recommendations to Consider other than Hetero-Normative Approaches*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- John-Paul Witt, *Swipe Left on Poverty: Assessing Personal Finance Mobile Apps for Social Work Practice*, University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Barbara Lester, *Combatting Ageism: Evaluating the Impact of an Age-Positive Training In Healthcare*, University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Chad Parker, *Supporting a Successful Transition to Independence for Youth in Residential Care Programs*, Graduated.
- Frank Ferrigno, *The VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (Mission) Act: Progress, Problems and the Path Forward*, Graduated.
- David Bolt, *Assessing Employee Perceptions of Organizational Support for Mental Health In The Workplace Via Survey*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Stephanie Jaime, *Evaluating Engagement in the University of Alabama's Distance Learning BSW Program*, University of Alabama, Graduated.

- Cayce Watson, *Prevention-based Wellness Among BSW Field Students: A Feasibility Study of Self-care Practices and Self-compassion*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Chandler Caldwell, *Honoring the Whole Family: Examining the Impact of the DAWN Method on Dementia Caregivers*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Sean Creech, *Assessment of Integration of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work Field Education among Students and Field Instructors*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Miranda Goodwin, *The Impact of Religious Trauma on the LGBTQ+ Community: A Scoping Review*, University of Alabama, Graduated.

DSW Capstone Committee Member

- Michael Kunhavijit, *Behavioral Health Needs and Barriers to Care Among Soldiers Who Report Past Year Sexual Harassment and/or Sexual Assault*. Graduated.
- Cara Creger, *Virtual Education Opportunities: A Study in the Accessibility of Public Education for Homeless Youth*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Conor Manning, *Can a Schoolwide Advisory Program Reduce School Discipline Referrals and Boost School Connectedness?*, University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Brittney Gainey, *Exploring Virtual Calming Rooms as an Intervention to Address Mental Health Needs of Students*, University of Alabama, Graduated.

Dissertation Committee Chair

- Sudikshya Sahoo. *TBD*. University of Alabama.
- Joana Okine. *Mental Health of Ghanaian Caregivers of People with Dementia*. University of Alabama.
- Yan Luo. *Assessing the Readiness of Telehealth's Implementation for Improving Dementia Caregiving*. University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Zhichao Hao. *A Longitudinal Analysis of Disparities of Depression and Anxiety across Chronic Conditions among U.S. Older Adults within Different Age Groups*. University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Amary Alcide. *Psychosocial Problems: Hospice Home Care for Adults in the United States*. Graduated.

Dissertation Committee Member

- MD Sarafat Hossain/ *TBD*. University of Alabama
- Uche Nwatu, *Exploring The Impact of Extreme Heat on Mental Health and Coping Strategies Among Older Adults In Rural Alabama: A Storytelling and Photovoice Approach*, University of Alabama.
- Denise Kan, *Sign or Sigh? A Collaborative Inquiry into Culturally Affirmative Healthcare Training for Deaf Inclusive Practice*. University of Alabama.
- Karl Singh Grewal, *Integrating Cognitive Rehabilitation and Technology for Individuals with Memory Concerns*, University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Graduated.
- James Meadows, *Attorney Interpretations Of Law And Policy Regarding Military Families With Dependents Experiencing Disabilities*, University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Kun Wang, *Dimensions of Information and Communication Technology Use Among Older Adults: An Investigation of Underlying Mechanisms of Connections to Cognitive Function*, University of Alabama, Graduated.

- Wesley Browning, *Examining Interpersonal Differences Among Caregivers In Health Outcomes Using A Stress Process Model: The Influence Of Adverse Social Experiences And Social Support*. University of Alabama at Birmingham, Lifespan Developmental Psychology. Graduated.
- Shanae Shaw. *The Preservation of Spousal and Partner Relationships Among Nursing Home Residents*. University of Alabama. Graduated.
- Billie (Michelle) Brazeal. *Integrated Health and The Social Worker's Role in Chronic Disease Management*. University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Sharon Arron. *Male Batterers' Self-Reported Risk Factors and Relationship to a Mandated Model*. University of Alabama, Graduated.
- Karen Whiteman. *Influence of Gender and Life Stressors on Longitudinal Depression Treatment Outcomes among Older Principal Care Patients*. Florida International University, Graduated.
- Christine Spadola. *A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Alcohol Use Patterns among Young Adult, Ethnically Diverse Bariatric Surgery Patients*. Florida International University, Graduated.
- Maya Boustani. *Sexual Health Programming for Youth in or at Risk for Foster Care*. Florida International University, Graduated.
- Natalia Shtompel. *Home-Based Dyadic Cognitive Training for Healthy Older Couples: A Randomized Controlled Trial*. Florida International University, Graduated.

Experiential Learning

- Faculty Field Placement Liaison, BSW Students, 2017-2018
- Faculty Field Placement Liaison, MSW Students, 2017-2018
- Experiential Learning Practicum Instructor, MSW Students, 2025-2026

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Randall Scholar (Undergraduate Research Scholars) Advisor

- Ava Brashear, 2024-2025
- Audrey Kim, 2022-2023

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Ad-hoc Journal Reviewer: *Administration and Policy in Mental Health & Mental Health Policy Research; Geriatrics and Gerontology International; Home Health Care Management & Practice; Human Service Organizations. Management, Leadership & Governance* (formerly *Administration in Social Work*); *Family & Consumer Sciences Research; International Journal of Medical Informatics; International Journal of Social Work; International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine; Journal of Applied Gerontology; Journal of Policy Practice; Journal of Gerontological Social Work; Journal of Medical Internet Research; Journal of Rural Health; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; Plos One; Social Work in Health Care*.
- AGE-SW, Co-Leader for the Dementia Networking Group, 2016 - 2018
- Deep South Resource Center for Minority Research on Aging Center (RCMAR)
 - Co-Director of the Research Education Core, 2023-Pres
 - Appointed Member, Investigator Development Core, 2022-Pres
 - Appointed Member, Scholar Scientist Advisory Group, 2019
- Editorial Board Member

- *Journal of Medical Internet Research – Aging*, 2023
- *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*, 2020 - Present
- *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, 2015 - 2022
- Gerontological Society of America
 - Abstract Reviewer for Annual Scientific Program Meeting
 - Application Reviewer for the Careers in Aging Week Award, 2013
- John A. Hartford Foundation Alumni Network, Liaison for the Disability and Aging Group, 2012-2016
- NASW and the John A. Hartford Foundation: Workshop facilitator for the Supervisory Leaders in Aging Program, 2016-Pres
- Urban Affairs Association
 - Chair of the Local Host Committee for their 2015 Annual Program Meeting in Miami
 - Led local fundraising efforts to raise more than \$25,000 in sponsorships.
 - Organizer for Special Track on Urban Health for the 2015 APM
- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)
 - Co-chair for Innovation Incubator Program, 2023 – Present

SERVICE TO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND UNIVERSITY

University of Alabama

- Member, Institutional Neutrality Faculty Communications Working Group, 2025
- Member, Vice President of Research’s Institutional Advisory Board, 2024 - 2025
- University Graduate Council, 2020 - 2022
- Representative, Non-medical IRB, 2016-2021
- Alternate Representative, Faculty Senate, 2016-2020

University of Alabama School of Social Work

- Practicum Supervisor (Supervised 2 MSW Interns), 2025-2026
- Chair, Research Committee, 2022-Pres
- Chair, DSW Program Committee, 2018-2022, 2025-Pres
- Member, Ad Hoc Culture of Research Advisory Committee
- Member, MSW Program Committee 2016-2018
- Member, SSW Field Program Committee, 2018

NEWS OUTLETS AND OTHER MEDIA

Media Featuring My Research

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