
PRESS RELEASE

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MATT KAPLAN & ALAN LAI NAMED CO-RECIPIENTS OF THE BRABAZON AWARD FOR EVALUATION RESEARCH

*Awards ceremony will take place at our upcoming conference, Intergenerational Action on a Global Scale
(July 21-24, 2015)*

(University Park, PA)–Washington, D.C.-based Generations United proudly announced today that Dr. Matt Kaplan and Dr. Alan Lai are co-recipients of the Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research.

“We are honored to present Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Lai with the Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research,” said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United. “They collaboratively developed an intergenerational English as a second language (IG-ESL) guidebook and curriculum that enlists older adult volunteers to be instructors in college-based ESL classes. The curriculum was implemented at the Institute of Active Ageing at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, taking advantage of the area’s high number of highly educated older adults and is a valuable addition to the intergenerational field.”

This award honors a significant contribution in the utilization of evaluation research in documenting the processes and outcomes of a new or existing intergenerational program.

Kaplan, who served as the program's principal consultant and international collaborator, is Professor of Intergenerational Programs and Aging at Pennsylvania State University, and Lai, director of the IG-ESL program, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology at Beijing Normal University/Hong Kong Baptist University (affiliated with United International College).

The other 2015 award recipients are: Dr. Robert Putnam, Michelle Singletary, Family Education & Support Services of Olympia, WA, 'Iolani School, Sweet Readers, The Gary and Mary West Foundation, Elouise Frank, Taylor Hamai, Sandy Kraemer and Dr. Nancy Henkin.

They will be recognized at our Awards Luncheon on Thurs., July 23, 2015 and other conference venues.

Dr. Robert Putnam is a distinguished political scientist best known for popularizing the concept of social capital – the collective value of our social networks – in his work *Bowling Alone*, which examined the decline of social capital in the United States and altered the course of much social science research in the fifteen years since its publication with its provocative insights. Earlier this year, Putnam published a book called *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* that explores issues of inequality of opportunity and the growing class gap among youth in the US.

Michelle Singletary writes the nationally-syndicated personal finance column, “The Color of Money,” which appears in *The Washington Post* on Wednesday and Sunday. Her award-winning column is syndicated by The Washington Post Writer’s Group and is carried in more than 100 newspapers nationwide. The column was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize only a year after its inception.

Operating in three counties in the western portion of Washington with the philosophy that strong families generate strong communities, **Family Education and Support Services** (FESS) provides multiple programs that strengthen families, including a variety of family enrichment activities, parent support programs, and parent trainings. FESS' mission is "to inspire healthy child development through the provision of quality family support services." This mantra extends to kinship care, also known as grandfamilies, a field that FESS is particularly active in supporting.

Intergenerational exchange is a priority for the **'Iolani School**, which offers its students multiple opportunities to learn about issues of older adults and interact with kupuna. The school's curriculum includes two classes on intergenerational issues: the One Mile Project and the hospice class. The One Mile Project educates students about issues facing the elderly in their community.

Based in New York City, **Sweet Readers** connects middle school children with older adults suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia through art, music, hands-on projects, and conversation. Its goal is to discover the person behind the disease. Sweet Readers partners with museums, schools, senior centers, and other community groups in six cities. In 2014, Sweet Readers connected 800 10 to 14 year-old students with 350 adults.

The **Gary and Mary West Foundation** was created in 2006 to make a significant impact on the quality of life in the community and in our country. Two of the foundation's central areas focus on improving the quality of life of low-income older adults and helping urban youth who are not going on to college find employment. Because of this intersection, the foundation has paid particular attention to funding a variety of intergenerational programs.

Elouise Frank, better known as Puna (short for kupuna, Hawaiian for older adult) to her foster grandchildren, has volunteered at Lanakila Head Start for the past four years as a foster grandparent. She inspires the children with arts and crafts, gardening, songs, and dances. More importantly, she provides guidance, love and a listening ear. Frank teaches the children how to make things and care for plants and passes on whatever knowledge she has to the children.

As one of Generations United's 2008 Youth Jumpstart Grantees, **Taylor Hamai**, then a student at the 'Iolani School, led a collaborative intergenerational effort with her peers in the "One Mile Project" class. Hamai's most personally rewarding intergenerational initiative was a fundraiser called "MessAGING with Love," where students interviewed local centenarians and placed their life advice and wise quotes on greeting cards.

Sandy Kraemer is a global leader in intergenerational innovation and networking, frequently requested as a speaker and consultant to local, national, and international organizations interested in intergenerational work. He also founded the Intergeneration Foundation 27 years ago. The foundation's most significant accomplishment was in creating Intergeneration Day in 2000.

Dr. Nancy Henkin is the founder and former executive director of the Intergenerational Center at Temple University. Under her leadership, the center developed a wide range of innovative cross-age programs, from older adult mentoring programs targeting a wide variety of groups including refugees, teen mothers, and oral historians to youth, ESL and respite care programs.

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About Generations United: *For nearly three decades, Generations United www.gu.org has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged.*