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Engage with GSA Members in October

October is Pre-Meeting Engagement Month, providing members the opportunity to learn, network, and share. Activities include webinars, interest group meetings, the GSA memorial service, and section business meetings. Check out the full schedule of programs; advance registration is required for each.

Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA has more than 50 interest groups covering a range of topics? They are a great way for members to connect with others who share their interests. They also help members stay informed about topics outside their areas of expertise. Each GSA interest group has its own GSA Connect community to share information and resources.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

 <http://connect.geron.org>

 www.facebook.com/geronsociety

 www.twitter.com/geronsociety

Engage with GSA on social media!

16 Journalists from Across U.S. Awarded Aging-Focused Fellowships

GSA and the Journalists Network on Generations are welcoming 16 distinguished reporters for the next cohort of the [Journalists in Aging Fellows Program](#), now in its 13th year.

They represent a wide range of general audience, ethnic, and community media outlets, including local and national publications. This year's group brings the program's total number of participating reporters to 217. The new fellows were chosen — by a panel of gerontological and editorial professionals — based on their proposals for an in-depth aging-focused story or series.

These projects, to be produced in 2023, span such concerns as the cost burdens of breast cancer, the struggles of Black veterans, mental-health challenges of long COVID, issues facing LGBTQ+ older adults, the chronic lack of older adults in clinical trials, and the impact of climate change.

The program is supported by funding from The Silver Century Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, Archstone Foundation, and NIHCM Foundation, and a donation from John Migliaccio, PhD, MEd, FGSA.

The participating journalists will convene during the GSA 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting — scheduled for November 2 to 6 in Indianapolis, Indiana — where they will have access to the latest aging research and approximately 4,000 expert attendees. The fellowship will showcase research highlights from the meeting and other sources, and host discussions with veteran journalists on how to position aging stories in the current media environment.

“We congratulate the new fellows and their news outlets on demonstrating a commitment

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Gaugler Chosen to Lead *The Gerontologist*

GSA has named Joseph E. Gaugler, PhD, FGSA, of the University of Minnesota as the editor-in-chief of *The Gerontologist*, effective January 2023.



Gaugler

“*The Gerontologist* is a flagship journal not only of The Gerontological Society of America but of the discipline writ large,” Gaugler said. “Ever since I began my post-graduate career in adult development and aging scholarship in 1995, I have looked to *The Gerontologist* as the premier journal in my field. The honor of serving as editor-in-chief is of immense professional significance.”

He added that serving the Society and discipline also has important personal relevance for him — noting that a past editor-in-chief of the journal, the late long-term care research pioneer Rosalie Kane, PhD, MSW, FGSA, was a mentor and colleague of his.

“When I first met Rosalie in the late 1990s, I remember viewing the framed covers of issues of *The Gerontologist* in her office from when she served as editor-in-chief from 1989 to 1992,” Gaugler said. “During our many freewheeling conversations, Dr. Kane regularly shared how her role as editor-in-chief shaped her career and offered critical opportunities to influence the science and scholarship of gerontology. For these reasons, service as editor-in-chief of *The Gerontologist* represents an enormous opportunity to contribute to the discipline that is core to my academic and scientific persona over the past 25 years.”

The Gerontologist is published by Oxford Journals on behalf of GSA. Launched in 1961, this bimonthly, peer-reviewed publication provides a multidisciplinary perspective on human aging by publishing research and analysis on applied social issues. It informs the broad community of disciplines and professions involved in understanding the aging process and providing care to older people.

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Reflections on the Value of GSA's Interdisciplinary Connections

By Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, FGSA •
p.lichtenberg@wayne.edu

The Gerontological Society of America's interdisciplinary emphasis is one of its primary hallmarks. Collaborating with colleagues across many disciplines has been integral to my career development as both a researcher and a clinician, enriching my personal and professional life.

I attended my first GSA annual scientific meeting in 1987 in Washington, DC. I really had no idea what GSA was all about, and when I attended that meeting, I knew only one GSA member. I was immediately enthralled by the scholars from a wide range of disciplines whose work I was reading and by the depth of their knowledge. Soon thereafter I discovered a GSA journal article that discussed the creation and use of a home-based assessment to complement a more traditional neurocognitive approach. It was written by an occupational therapist.

Given that I was a clinician-researcher, the first years of my research career focused on how I could improve my clinical practice as a clinical geropsychologist using research to bolster my assessment and intervention work. My first two positions were work with an older population of persons with serious mental illness in rural Virginia, and older patients on a geriatric medical rehabilitation unit in mid-town Detroit. I worked on improving my knowledge of the older adults we worked with by regularly attending rounds with psychiatrists and physiatrists, and by spending considerable time in the physical and occupational therapy gym, as well as with the bedside nurses.

I learned about the stubborn symptoms of serious mental illness, the impact of multiple comorbidities and complicated medication regimens on issues such as delirium, adherence to therapies and ADL adaptations as well as executive dysfunction and depression and anxiety. My late wife and colleague Susan MacNeill and I studied predictors of recovery and independence, created new triaging tools, and provided new normative data for cognitive assessment tools. I also developed a growing expertise in capacity assessment.

As my skills increased, I identified the

area in which I thought I could make the greatest contributions, a person-centered approach to financial capacity and the intersection with early memory decline, financial exploitation, and the management of personal finances. I was inspired by GSA members' focus on personhood and person-centered approaches. I began to explore the possibility of creating assessment tools that analyzed the actual financial decisions and financial context older people were involved with. I was encouraged to pursue this by my geropsychology and geriatric medicine colleagues as well as by a new set of interdisciplinary colleagues; elder-law attorneys, financial planners and social service providers (e.g. Adult Protective Services).

I received particular encouragement from my anthropology and occupational therapy faculty colleagues at the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology. I turned to GSA member experts in measurement to lead me through a concept mapping process and in turn we developed a new conceptual model and new multiple choice financial decision-making assessment. I used my tools in assessment cases that led me to the courtroom as an expert witness on older adult financial capacity.

On the research side, my team worked on assessing the reliability and validity of our new instruments. We then partnered with colleagues to create our own community education and financial advocacy service provision for older adult victims of financial exploitation. In each of these areas we collected data, published papers, and asked the next set of new and broader questions: How does financial well-being in older age intersect with physical and mental health? What aspects of financial vulnerability make an older person most susceptible to financial exploitation that causes hardship? How could we best use technology and implementation science theory to see broader use of our tools and assess their impact? This work continues, as a clinician and expert in the court room, a teacher and mentor and as a clinical researcher.

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In Memoriam

Michael Richard “Rick” Levenson, PhD, passed away on July 2. A retired professor from Oregon State University, he specialized in exceptional adult development, ranging from psychopathy to wisdom.

His research interests included personality development in adulthood, the psychology of the self, transformational change in adult development, comparative study of spiritual practices, the role of religion and spirituality in life transitions, and the development of wisdom and ethics.

As a theoretical psychologist who was also trained in anthropology and sociology, he was adept at the development of psychological scales. These include the Levenson Self-Report Psychopathy Scale and the Adult Self-Transcendence Inventory, both of which are widely used and significantly influenced research in their respective areas. These were based on his study and practice of Sufism, Chan Buddhism, and esoteric Christianity.

Louis D. Burgio, PhD, FGSA, passed away on August 20. He was formerly the Harold R. Johnson Professor of Social Work and research professor at the University of Michigan and a UA Distinguished Professor at the University of Alabama.

He obtained his Ph.D. in developmental psychology and applied behavior analysis at The University of Notre Dame. While a National Institute of Mental Health postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, his focus shifted to improving the lives of older adults and their families, both in long-term care and the community.

Burgio was an accomplished geropsychologist, best known for his REACH-OUT intervention for dementia caregivers.

The University of Alabama is starting a fellowship program in his memory for applied gerontology students in nursing, social work, and psychology.

Naylor Earns National Academy of Medicine’s Lienhard Award

The National Academy of Medicine has announced Mary D. Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN, is the recipient of the 2022 Gustav O. Lienhard Award for Advancement of Health Care for improving the lives of millions of older adults living with complex health and social needs through her role as the architect of the Transitional Care Model and pioneer of the field of transitional care. The award will be presented at the National Academy of Medicine’s annual meeting on October 16. Naylor is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health at University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Wu to Be Honored by American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing will officially name Bei Wu, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, as an honorary fellow at the Academy’s Health Policy Conference, which is being held in Washington, DC, from October 27 to 29. This distinction is given to dedicated leaders who have demonstrated a firm commitment to nursing and to transforming health policy.

Wu is the Dean’s Professor of Global Health and Vice Dean for Research at New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. As an eminent international leader in aging and health, she has increased the knowledge base of the lived experience of frail older adults and their quality of life. She is widely known as the first social scientist to show the links between poor oral health and cognitive loss among older adults. Her research on the chronicity of illness, social determinants of health, and aging — particularly among older Asian Americans — has informed numerous health care professionals and researchers. Wu has embraced a cross-disciplinary partnership with nurses to inform our nursing knowledge and grow the profession’s ability to have policy impact.

Members in the News

- On July 20, Eileen Crimmins, PhD, FGSA, was quoted in a Los Angeles Times article titled [“USC researchers identify symptoms associated with increased risk for long COVID.”](#)
- Valter Longo, PhD, FGSA, was quoted in The Times on August 10 in an article titled [“Which intermittent fasting diet works best? The ultimate guide.”](#)
- Deborah Carr, PhD, FGSA, and Karen Fingerma, PhD, FGSA, were quoted in The Atlantic on September 6 in an article titled [“There Is No Road Map for the Longest Phase of Parenthood.”](#)
- On September 13, Tara McMullen, PhD, MPH, was quoted in a McKnight’s Long-Term Care News article titled [“100 long-term care experts to act on withering NASEM report.”](#)

Colleague Connection

This month’s \$25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:

Phyllis Moen, PhD, FGSA

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member [Anna Bokun](#) was randomly selected using randomizer.org.

For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Indy Brings Exciting New Round of Policy Series Offerings

Excitement is building over GSA's in-person Annual Scientific Meeting in November in Indianapolis! Historically, the Policy Series sessions have been dynamic, well-attended, full of information, and — well, let's be honest when they take place in an election year — a bit rowdy. This year, we bring together researchers with cutting edge data on pre- and post-pandemic policies, including nursing homes, housing, disaster preparedness, health equity, caregiver support, and a range of other federal programs. I look forward to seeing you in Indy!

Make a note of these offerings on your calendar and consult the meeting mobile app or program at www.gsa2022.org for any schedule updates.

Wednesday, November 2

Charting the Post-COVID-19 Course in Nursing Homes Through Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy

12:30 to 2 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Thomas V. Caprio

Discussant: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Leland Waters, Marla Berg-Weger, Sarah E. Ross, Sam Cotton

The HRSA-funded Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs) have responded to the growing need to support nursing homes in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this symposium, GWEPs from different geographic areas share their experiences in developing nursing home focused interventions, engaging feedback to refine curricula, and identify areas to advocate for future policy considerations to support and enhance nursing homes post-pandemic.

Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer (LGBTQ) Older Adults with Service Providers

2:30 to 4 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Rajean Moore

Co-Chair: Barbara Gordon

Discussant: Rajean Moore

Panelists: Noell L. Rowan, Ellesse-Roselee Akre, Sara Bybee, Krystal R. Kittle, Harry Barbee

This symposium will highlight contemporary research on the experiences and perceptions of LGBTQ older adults in relation to service providers. Topics addressed are: contextual factors that influence the healthcare utilization of LGBTQ middle-aged and older adults; older couples' experiences of minority stress with service providers and its effects on their relationships; the beliefs, experiences, and needs related to housing and housing discrimination in coastal North Carolina; the effects of access to an LGBTQ-affirming provider on health service utilization and aging outcomes; and the association between increased awareness, understanding, and belief in the Undetectable Equals Untransmittable campaign and having an LGBTQ-affirming care provider.

Recommendations to Improve Nursing Home Quality: A Discussion of the 2022 NASEM Report

4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Jasmine Travers

Panelists: Debra Saliba, Colleen Galambos, Christine A. Mueller, Jasmine Travers, Rory Meyers

Four committee members from the 2020 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) panel will present the main findings and recommendations from the highly anticipated report released in April 2022, with a particular focus on care delivery, workforce, quality assurance & policy, and equity. During this session, an emphasis will be placed on how the presented recommendations can be incorporated into policy and practice.

Thursday, November 3

Changing the Narrative on Nursing Home Care

8 to 9:30 a.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Patricia M. D'Antonio

Panelists: Moira O'Neil, Barbara J. Bowers

Redesigning our nursing home care system will require a substantial policy change, and we know that policy change needs an effective framing strategy. This panel will include speakers who have been studying public mindsets and opinions about nursing home care and its implications for advocacy communications. We will also talk about the implications of this research for the larger reframing aging initiative.

The Cannabis and Older Persons Study: Expanding Our Minds Through Interdisciplinary Research

12 to 1:30 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Brian P. Kaskie

Discussant: Benjamin H. Han

Panelists: Julie Bobitt, Divya Bhagianadh, Thorsten Rudroff, Jacobo Mintzer

The Cannabis and Older Persons Study has examined the increasing use of cannabis among Americans 60 years and older since 2016. This year's symposium presents studies that reflect how cannabis use among older persons continues to grow and diversify, and how researchers have used different approaches to advance scientific understanding of determinants and outcomes, both desirable and undesirable, associated with cannabis use among older adults.

Interdisciplinary Public Policy Discussion Session

4:30 to 6 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: George E. Taffet

Discussant: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Danielle Waldron (ESPO), Dana Bradley (AGHE), Richard Fortinsky (SRPP), Viviana Perez (BS), Shannon Jarrott (BSS), John Batis (HS)

The growing emphasis on and progress in extending biological and "healthy" aging raises several important questions for health scientists and economists alike. Is it preferable to make lives healthier by compressing morbidity, or to make lives longer by extending life? What are the gains from targeting aging itself compared with efforts to eradicate specific diseases? This interactive session, organized by the GSA Public Policy Advisory Panel, is an interdisciplinary look at the emerging field of Geroscience and the public policy impacts of delaying aging. The panelists represent the six member groups of GSA.

Friday, November 4

Healthy Aging: Policies and Resources to Support an Age-Friendly Ecosystem

8 to 9:30 a.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Patricia M. D'Antonio

Discussant: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Yen Lin, Lisa C. McGuire, Karon L. Phillips

Our public health system is advancing activities to prioritize the health and well-being of older adults and recognizes the importance of policies to support us all as we age. Faculty will discuss national efforts underway to inform and support an age-friendly ecosystem.

Congressional Update

10 to 11:30 a.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Staff of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and aging advocates

This popular annual session will provide cutting-edge information on what the 117th Congress has and has not accomplished to date, and what may be left for the lame-duck session to address. Speakers will discuss key issues such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Older Americans Act, Inflation Reduction Act, social isolation, serious illness care, and funding. Predictions for the 118th Congress will be provided.

Healthy Aging During the Pandemic and Beyond: Lessons from Five Years of the National Poll on Healthy Aging and AARP

12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Erica Solway

Co-Chair: Teresa A. Keenan

Discussant: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Erica Solway, Teresa A. Keenan, Sheria Robinson-Lane, Jessica M. Finlay

During the past five years, the University of Michigan National Poll on Healthy Aging (NPHA), co-sponsored by AARP and Michigan School of Medicine, has gathered the experiences and perspectives from nationally representative samples of U.S. adults ages 50-80 on a range of topics related to healthy aging. During the past two years, poll reports have captured how changes in lifestyle and behaviors during the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the health and well-being of older adults. The session will highlight key findings and discuss how the perspectives and experiences of older adults gathered through the NPHA and AARP polling can be used to inform policy.

Pandemic Policies Moving Forward: What Have We Learned

4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Brian W. Lindberg

Panelists: Andrew MacPherson, additional panelists TBA

Leading aging and health policy advocates will present their findings and viewpoints regarding pandemic and post-pandemic policy and programmatic changes and innovations. Issues will include elder justice, home and community-based services, Medicaid, nursing home care, and social isolation. The group will discuss what has changed and how programs and services will be different in the future.

The RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council: Strategies to Bolster Caregivers' Financial Security

4:30 to 6 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 240

Chair: Pamela Nadash

Co-Chair: Rani Snyder

Discussant: Greg Link

Panelists: Salom Teshale, Eileen Tell, Pamela Nadash, Rani Snyder

The RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council released its latest report to Congress on September 21, 2022. This symposium discusses one of the main goals which states that "Family caregivers' lifetime financial and employment security is protected and enhanced." Presenters will focus on various strategies being considered, including workplace policies and federal legislation, and the research needed to move these efforts forward.

Saturday, November 5

Housing, Aging, and Health: New Findings and Frameworks from Housing-Focused Research in the Context of COVID-19

12 to 1:30 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Nancy Berlinger

Panelists: Nancy Berlinger, Ian Johnson, Shellae Versey, Karen Zurlo, Samara Scheckler

This symposium showcases five housing-focused studies reflecting the pandemic context, including research by early-career investigators. Findings include research on middle-income and low-income community-dwelling older adults, "avoidance hotels," pandemic housing experiences of lower-income Black women, residents of HUD housing, and results of surveys of HUD services coordinators in 2020 and 2021. We will conclude with audience discussion about ways for age-focused researchers to collaborate in crafting policy solutions and effective public narratives about housing equity in America's aging society.

Reimagining Disaster and Emergency Preparedness in Long-Term Care: Examples from Florida and Texas

3:30 to 5 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Lindsay J. Peterson

Co-Chair: Ross Andel

Discussant: Sue Anne Bell

Panelists: Cassandra L. Hua, Dylan J. Jester, Sara E. Hackett, Lindsay J. Peterson, David M. Dosa

Preparing for and responding to a disaster (e.g., hurricanes, pandemics) in long-term care (LTC) requires a broad view of multiple events that can disrupt daily life and needed services for LTC residents. In this session, research from specific emergency situations are explored, including Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Winter Storm Uri in Texas, and pandemic challenges for residents with dementia in Florida. Finally, the panel will discuss the application of the 4Ms Age Friendly framework (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) to disaster preparedness in LTC as well as policy implications.

Public Health Policy: Experience of 2022 GSA Summer Policy Interns

5:30 to 7 p.m. in Indiana Convention Center Room 242

Chair: Patricia M. D'Antonio

Panelists: Hanamori Skoblow, Lilian Azer, Eileen Flores, Danielle Llana

Details TBA

new resources

New CME/CE Program: Case Concepts in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

[Case Concepts in T2DM: Caring for Older Adults Transitioning to and Living in LTC Settings](#) is a new 0.75-credit CME/CE activity for geriatricians, diabetologists, primary care practitioners, internists, physician associates, nurse practitioners, and nurses. It offers insights and information to help them recognize challenges of managing patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) who are transitioning to or living in long-term care settings and implement strategies to effectively care for these individuals through review of patient cases. Participants can answer questions about optimal management approaches for each patient and see how their answers compare with those of their peers. In addition, video clips provided by expert faculty reinforce important clinical concepts. The program was developed by Med-IQ in collaboration with GSA with support from Sanofi US and features past GSA President Barbara Resnick, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, FGSA, and Rodolfo J. Galindo, MD, FACE, as the expert faculty.

NAC Report Aims to Bolster Supports for Family Caregivers

The National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) has released "[Chronic Disease Family Caregiving Through a Public Health Lens: The](#)

[Framework for Family Caregiving and Public Health](#)," a new report developed with support from The John A. Hartford Foundation and in partnership with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. This framework outlines policy recommendations, implementation actions, and messaging content to help the public health community address the complex needs of America's 53 million family caregivers.

Included in this report:

- A foundation of the framework and background into why it's needed;
- Strategies and recommendations for viewing family caregiving through a public health lens;
- A framework comprised of public health data gathering research, education, and awareness and service coordination and delivery across sectors and siloes;
- Actions for implementing an expanded family caregiver support infrastructure via a pilot program.

Guided by the expertise of state-based chronic disease directors, NAC's report and framework recognizes the importance of caregivers as a vital part of the health care team and that supporting these family caregivers is essential for improving public health outcomes for communities and the nation.

Continued from page 2 – Reflections on the Value of GSA's Interdisciplinary Connections

Interdisciplinary perspectives on aging and the problems of older adults inspire me and push me to consider novel approaches to common problems. The generosity of GSA colleagues across a variety of disciplines enables me to become a better researcher, and to become comfortable being a life-long learner.

It is this gratitude I have towards GSA that led me to a variety of volunteer leadership positions within the organization, culminating in the extreme privilege of being the 2022 GSA president. I hope you, too, find that embracing the interdisciplinary expertise of GSA members enriches your career!

Continued from page 1 – Gaugler Chosen to Lead The Gerontologist

The journal, with an all-time high impact factor of 5.422, is currently ranked seventh in the gerontology category of the Web of Science Social Science Citation Index.

"It is with great excitement that I welcome Dr. Gaugler as the new editor-in-chief of The Gerontologist," said Elham Mahmoudi, PhD, the chair of GSA's Program, Publications, and Products Committee. "Dr. Gaugler has had an extremely productive career in aging, particularly in long-term care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. He has received numerous awards for his remarkable work in aging research. He will bring a wealth of innovation and leadership to the Journal and its readership."

At the University of Minnesota, Gaugler is a professor and the Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging in the School of Public Health; director of the Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation in the School of Public Health; director of the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving; and an emeritus Long-Term Care Professor in the School of Nursing.

His research examines the sources and effectiveness of long-term care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other chronic conditions. An applied gerontologist, Gaugler's interests

include Alzheimer's disease and long-term care, the longitudinal ramifications of family care for persons with dementia and other chronic conditions, and the effectiveness of community-based and psychosocial services for older adults with dementia and their caregiving families. Underpinning these substantive areas, Gaugler also has interests in mixed methods and implementation science.

He is a recipient of the Springer Early Career Achievement Award in Adult Development and Aging Research; the M. Powell Lawton Distinguished Contribution Award for Applied Gerontology from the American Psychological Association; the Dean's Award from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing; the Gordon Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award from the Southern Gerontological Society; an honorary professorship from the University of Queensland; and the Excellence in Post-Doctoral Advising Award from The Graduate School, University of Minnesota.

Gaugler also currently serves as senior associate editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*. In addition to being a GSA fellow, he is also a fellow of the American Psychological Association.

BSS Junior Leaders Preview Section's Upcoming Activities

By Sara E. Hackett, PhD, and Kylie Meyer, PhD, MSc

We are proud to have the opportunity to serve as your 2022 Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) junior leaders. If you are brand new to GSA or to the BSS Section: Welcome! We are happy to have you with us!

The BSS Section leadership has been very hard at work this year. Much of our efforts to this point have revolved around preparing for the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). As you may know, BSS continued to lead the way in abstract submissions, with our membership, including our student members, accounting for nearly half of all submissions! If you submitted an abstract or helped with the review process: thank you! Each one of you contributes to making GSA the premier society on aging that it is, and we are grateful for your dedication and the many talents that you share with us year-round.

Building on this sentiment, GSA is truly *our* society, and BSS leadership feels strongly about supporting our early-career members and firmly believes that each member (whether you are brand new to us or whether you have been with us for a bit) has something invaluable to offer. As such, we are constantly striving to learn from each other and to develop new and innovative ways to collaborate with and engage our rich and diverse membership. Along this line, we want to take this opportunity to share some of the exciting activities that BSS leadership has planned for members in the next few months. These opportunities will be of particular interest to our BSS/ESPO members. We hope that you will take the time to learn about these special events and maybe more importantly, that you will take advantage of them!

The first event we want to share is the virtual BSS Sneak Peek and Prep for an In-Person Annual Scientific Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, October 12 at 2 p.m. EST.

It is hard to believe, but the ASM in Indianapolis is right around the corner! We know many of us are looking forward to being back together for the first in-person ASM since 2019, but we also acknowledge that some members may be a bit nervous. Additionally, for some of you, this may be your very first in-person ASM! Given this, this pre-meeting session is designed to help orient members to GSA and to assist members with making new connections prior to the ASM.

In this pre-meeting session, participants will be joined by BSS and ESPO Presidential Symposia speakers who will: offer a sneak peek of their upcoming ASM presentations; give advice on how to get the most out of the ASM; and answer questions for those preparing for in-person conference going. This session is not to be missed as it is sure to provide a welcoming atmosphere where you can reconnect, meet new colleagues, and learn helpful strategies for navigating the upcoming ASM. Be sure to join us by [registering for this session online](#).

The second event we want to draw your attention to is all about demystifying the process of what it takes to become a leader in GSA. During this session (date to be announced), current GSA leaders will provide an overview of GSA and the many different ways that members at all career stages can volunteer and contribute their talents to our society. As part of this discussion, they will describe their respective roles and responsibilities, as well as outline the steps that are involved in being considered for a GSA leadership position. More information about this special session is forthcoming, but if you are interested in deepening your connection to GSA (and we encourage you to consider doing so!), be on the lookout for future announcements.

Again, thank you for allowing us to serve you this year. If you have ideas or feedback about events you would like to see from the BSS Section, please feel free to reach out to us on GSA Connect. Take great care and we look forward to joining you at these sessions and the ASM.

DUAL-TITLE PHD IN GERONTOLOGY

The Gerontology Program of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University

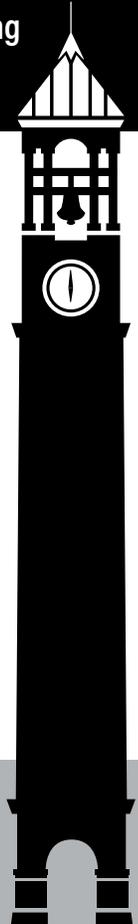
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EA/E0U



AGHE Profile: Gerontology Educator Phyllis Greenberg

By Phyllis Greenberg, PhD, MPA, St. Cloud State University (pagreenberg@stcloudstate.edu)

As with many who are at a comprehensive university, I wear many hats. I am an associate professor in the Gerontology Program, I coordinate the graduate programs in gerontology, I serve on the university wide curriculum committee, and up until last fall (when I finally took a sabbatical) I served as the faculty rep on the Americans with Disability Act committee. And of course there are sundry other things such as searches, ad hoc committees, and when I can, making some good trouble.



Greenberg

I think a key concern I keep in mind is the balance of teaching students about the older adults they are most likely to be working with, with the majority of older adults who will not need any assistance or minimal assistance at best. We want them to be prepared to work with those who may have physical and cognitive challenges while at the same time not letting that become their world view of aging and older adults. It is one reason why we want them to do service learning at places like senior centers in addition to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Equally important is for them to build empathy and understand that even if someone has a disability it does define them and does automatically diminish their quality of life, that their lives have less meaning, less joy, less value.

Over the years I think my approach has changed as our students have changed. There is greater diversity in background, race, ethnicity, identity and of course age. My teaching style has also changed and generally been enhanced by technology (except when it doesn't work) which enables the classroom to grow and enhance the experience.

As much as technology has been a great addition, we are also fighting with media portrayals of aging and older adults. This becomes problematic in combating ageism and not only affects students but practitioners and colleagues. We try to use empathy building exercises, role playing and interacting with active older adults in the community to help not only dispel what they see in the media but to broaden their perspectives on what it can mean to be an older adult and how the aging experience is not a one size fits all. The hope is that they understand that a person's age tells you how old they are, programs and services they may qualify for and perhaps some historic events they have experienced. Other than that, it tells very little about them as a unique person.

What motivates me are the students (most of the time), my colleagues (most of the time), and my own aging as well as those

around me. Gerontology is one of the few fields where you can become your own case study especially when talking, teaching, and experiencing normative changes that can occur with age.

We recently became part of the Age-Friendly University Global Network. This is exciting because we now have an additional cadre of expertise and interest (not to mention some amazing travel opportunities) to look forward to. We have already started to collect some data and will be conducting focus groups to bring the community to the campus and the campus to the community. These are the kinds of initiatives that can rekindle that spark after 20 some odd years.

What may be unique is that I have a president who has a background in gerontology. This is a great because she “gets it” but it also adds another layer of expectation because she “gets it.” In Minnesota, the county where the university is situated, as well as where I live, has the second greatest longevity for women in the U.S. Some people think that the cold weather may have something to do with it — maybe we keep better that way?

Some people think that the Benedictine nuns (much studied group of older women) are outliers and they push the age of longevity up and most people just shrug their shoulders. Whatever the reason it does give us plenty of older adults to interact with and the senior center is very active with people from age 55 to 95. This in itself provides a more accurate depiction than I can sometimes find in books, articles and other materials. I have been looking at a creative service-learning project for a long time and will finally be able to give it a try this semester. It will be a skills exchange between students and senior center participants. Students will share a skill with participants and the participants will share a skill with students. We are quite fortunate that we have amazing community partners that are happy to work with us and our students. It takes time and work on logistics but it is well worth the effort. It is definitely a win/win/win.

The advice I would give to a new gerontology educator is find your passion, make connections (AGHE is great for that), and maintain a sense of humor. My humor has seen me through some rough times (it is also essential as I teach policy classes — often times next to stats a student's least favorite topic). Take advantage of opportunities. Remember teaching is not a spectator sport. Don't rely solely on textbooks — make use of the world and community around you. Sometimes that is the best classroom.

journal news

Innovation in Aging Seeks Research on Sub-Saharan Africa

Innovation in Aging has issued a call for papers for a forthcoming special issue to be titled "[Aging in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)." This is a relatively neglected area of research despite the increasing proportion of the population aging. Currently, more than 50 million people in the region are aged 60 years or older and this region is the most rapidly aging population in the world.

The goal of this special issue is to increase the amount of quality research published on aging in sub-Saharan Africa. The journal seeks to publish a broad group of studies, including research on health and social sciences as well as research in the humanities and physical and environmental sciences. There is a particular interest in research from a wide geographic spread, with particular interest in those countries with the highest proportions of population over 60 years of age. Open Access (i.e., article processing charge) waivers will be available for articles published in this special issue. The co-editors for the issue are John Bosco Chika Chukwuorji, PhD, and Jennifer Tehan Stanley, PhD, FGSA.

Abstracts are due November 15.

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funding opportunities

Deprescribing Network Issues New Call for Grant Applications

The U.S. Deprescribing Research Network has announced [two new requests for applications](#) for pilot awards and grant planning awards. The goals of these grant programs are to support early-stage research in deprescribing that has high potential to develop into future large projects, to catalyze research in areas that are of particular importance to the field, to support junior investigator development, and to promote collaborations that will lead to future research projects.

The pilot award supports research related to deprescribing that provides key preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that offers a clear pathway to future, larger-scale studies and career development for the investigators involved. This award is geared primarily, but not exclusively, toward junior investigators. All topics related to deprescribing are welcome. Proposals should have a plan for engaging stakeholders in the research process; the network can guide interested investigators on strategies to achieve this.

Grant planning awards are intended to fund grant preparation activities that will lead to submission of large grant proposals such as multisite clinical trials. Examples of activities such awards may fund include meetings and travel for study investigators to develop the proposal under consideration or administrative costs to engage

multiple clinical sites into a multisite research trial planning process.

An [informational webinar](#) is scheduled for October 21. Letters of intent are due December 12.

Borchard Foundation Requests Proposals for Academic Research Grants

Legal, health sciences, social sciences, and gerontology scholars and professionals are invited to submit research proposals to The Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging. The objective of its Academic Research Grants Program is to further research and scholarship about new or improved public policies, laws, and/or programs that will enhance the quality of life for older adults, including those who are poor or otherwise isolated by language, culture, disability, lack of education, or other barriers.

Up to four grants of a maximum of \$20,000 each will be awarded. The center expects grantees to meet the objectives of the grant program through individual or collaborative research projects that analyze and recommend changes in one or more important existing public policies, laws, and/or programs relating to older adults; or, anticipate the need for and recommend new public policies, laws, and/or programs necessitated by changes in the number and demographics of the country's and the world's elder

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funding opportunities

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populations, by advances in science and technology, by changes in the health care system, or by other developments. It is expected that the research product will be publishable in a first-rate academic journal.

Further information about the research grant program and the

application process is [available on the center's website](#). Applications should be submitted no later than October 17. Selections will be made on or about December 15. Funded projects must begin no later than June 1, 2023 and be completed within 12 months.

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to serving their communities with fact-based, topical stories on the experiences of people as we age.” said GSA Director of Communications Todd Kluss. “We are happy to provide a unique venue where these reporters can interact with top authorities to better understand everything from scientific discoveries to social and policy debates.”

Kluss co-directs the program together with independent age-beat journalist Liz Seegert, who serves as program coordinator of the fellowship's media partner, the Journalists Network on Generations.

“After two years of successful and informative virtual fellowships, it will be nice to gather in person for our 2022 program. I'm looking forward to working with this year's outstanding group of fellows to help them pursue multiple angles on what it means to grow older in the United States,” Seegert said. “Our goal is to connect fellows with the resources and knowledge to enrich their reporting and develop more in-depth, nuanced stories about the many aspects of aging.”

Continuing fellowship grants also are being provided to allow 10 previous fellows to participate in the program and GSA's meeting. A continuously updated list of nearly 800 stories generated by the program's alumni is available at www.geron.org/coverage.

The new fellows:

Patricia Anstett (Urban Aging News, part of Michigan Solutions Journalism Network)

Project: “The Financial Burden of Breast Cancer on Aging Women,” on the financial toxicity of breast cancer with low Medicare and little private coverage.

Michelle Baruchman (The Seattle Times)

Project: The mental-health and other impacts on LGBTQ+ older adults, and how housing communities can help address their needs.

Claire Cleveland (Collective Colorado)

Project: The search for non-discriminatory assisted living that won't force LGBTQ+ older adults back “into the closet.”

Ann Hedreen, (3rd Act Magazine)

Project: How reflection and writing, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, helped older adults define meaning in their lives.

Jessie Hellmann (CQ Roll Call)

Project: Older Americans and the risk for substance abuse in the opioid epidemic.

Abriana Herron (Indianapolis Recorder)

Project: Series on the lives and struggles of Black veterans in Indianapolis, with multimedia elements accessible to the Black deaf community.

Ambika Kandasamy (San Francisco Public Press)

Project: The health risks of climate change, such as heat waves, for older adults, with a focus on model solutions developed in San Francisco's Chinatown and other U.S. cities.

Jyoti S. Madhusoodanan (Nature Magazine)

Project: The continued exclusion of older people from clinical trials for treatments often intended for them.

Nora Malacuso (PBS Next Avenue)

Project: Aging and marginalized immigrant communities, a series focusing on Philadelphia.

Barbara Mantel (CQ Researcher)

Project: A comprehensive examination of the growing mental health toll of health issues on older people, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mey Lyn Mitteen (Excelsior, Southern California News Group)

Project: A focus on Latino older adults and technology during the COVID-19 era.

Alex Rosenberg (NerdWallet)

Project: Evaluating “alternatives” to Medicare, such as Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drugs, direct primary care options, and others, to advise on consumers how to distinguish scams from effective programs.

Anita Snow (Associated Press)

Project: Climate change and older adults' increasing vulnerability to temperature extremes, focusing on public accountability and solutions.

Annmarie Timmins (New Hampshire Bulletin)

Project: State legislative controversies over long-term care policies in wake of COVID-19.

Mark Woolsey (Atlanta Senior Life)

Project: Mental Health issues for older adults with long-haul COVID-19.

Yiyang Zheng (World Journal, New York bureau)

Project: Bilingual Chinese-English investigation of how New York Chinatown families hit by COVID-19 have rebuilt and recovered, as well as their continuing difficulties.



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