

AGHEXCHANGE

AGHE | ACADEMY FOR GERONTOLOGY
IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

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Welcome from the *AGHExchange* Editor

Dear AGHE Colleagues,

I hope this issue of the *AGHExchange* finds you wrapping up your spring semesters and looking forward to a summer of renewal. In the meantime, I'd like to take a moment to let you know about our newly-formed AGHE Communications Workgroup. The group's efforts are focused on informing and educating our membership about a wide variety of issues related to gerontology education, including teaching pedagogy, educational program updates, research activities, and other news of interest to the AGHE community.



Members of the workgroup help to scout, collect, and produce content for AGHE's three communication outlets: the *AGHExchange* newsletter, the education column in *Gerontology News*, and the AGHE Community in GSA Connect. When you have information you'd like to share with your AGHE colleagues, please consider reaching out to one or more of the following AGHE Communication Workgroup members to inquire about submitting your article or announcement/update to one (or more) of these outlets. The contact information for each member is provided below, along with their outlet of focus. We are eager to hear your updates!

AGHE Communications Workgroup:

- Aaron Guest, *AGHExchange*: aaron.guest@gmail.com
- Darren Liu, AGHE education column in *Gerontology News*: liu@outlook.com
- Valery Crespo-Matos, GSA Connect (AGHE Community): valeryr@usf.edu
- Yan-Jhu Su, GSA Connect (AGHE Community): Su001@umb.edu
- Lisa Borrero, AGHE Communications Workgroup Chair, all outlets: borrerol@uindy.edu

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I hope you enjoy this issue of the *AGHExchange*. In it, we congratulate Harvey Sterns on his well-earned retirement; profile the programs at UMBC's Erickson School of Aging Studies in our new Program Spotlight column; provide information on upcoming Campus Conversations on age inclusivity, and offer a reminder about the benefits of being a member of Sigma Phi Omega, the preeminent academic honor and professional society in gerontology.

Warmly,

Lisa

Hearty Retirement Congratulations for AGHE Legend, Harvey Sterns

Lisa Hollis-Sawyer, Ph.D.
Northeastern Illinois University
l-hollissawyer@neiu.edu

It is with immense pleasure that I write a congratulatory statement on the retirement of Dr. Harvey Sterns. I could list his many publications, presentations, and offices served, but I would rather talk about Harvey's impact on the lives he has touched. Harvey has been a lifelong mentor for me since I entered The University of Akron's Industrial Gerontology program in 1990. I have been inspired by Harvey's tireless contributions to the field of aging for many decades. Harvey's work ethic has truly inspired me as a professional in the field. I have found myself often thinking, "What would Harvey do?" when faced with joining a service committee, engaging in community outreach, pursuing a research project, or mentoring undergraduate and graduate gerontology students. A testament to Harvey's impact is the many gerontology students he taught who have become well recognized and successful people in the aging field and have carried on his legacy. Harvey has been and will continue to be an exemplar role model for many generations of emerging and continuing professionals within the field of aging. *Thank you, Harvey!*

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Have You Updated Your GSA Profile Recently?

If you haven't updated the information in your GSA Member Profile recently, or don't quite remember what you included the first time around, please take a moment to revisit your profile and revise your information as needed. Your GSA Member Profile includes not only your institutional and contact information, but also your networking information, expertise, and interest group affiliations.

To view your profile information, click on the "Login" button in the upper righthand corner of the [GSA website](#). Then, go to "My Account" in the upper righthand corner, and click on "Update My Profile". It's that easy!

Join an Upcoming *Campus Conversation* on Age Inclusivity!

The options for advancing age inclusivity are endless, especially given that each institution has its own strengths and talents. A recent [GSA toolkit](#) included resources that may help your institution's approach to making the case, building relationships, addressing ageism, crafting new efforts, and conducting assessments. **The GSA Age-Inclusive Workgroup is now offering a 4-part series *Campus Conversations: Advancing Age Inclusivity in Higher Education*.** Each one-hour session will feature case studies and conversation with those who are also working on furthering age inclusive principles on their campuses.

The sessions are perfect for members looking for new ideas, feedback on plans, and networking with other institutions doing similar work. For questions about this series, please contact ageinclusive@geron.org.

Register for just one conversation or all four using the links below.

- May 13 - **Making the Case for Age Inclusivity:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudumuqzMjHdZ-QtaJMH2CxYPCcLppOTvV>
- May 27 - **Where to Start:** https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOGrqDksH9efCb_C_7XJ8Blz6Nm4Vaj-

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- June 24 - **Gaining Momentum:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsc-goqD8uGdAfFciyP5fHyq1SZ125mSil>
- September 14 - **Assessing and Tracking Success:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvcO6sqjggGtHoDlxZLahuxQNSuznv-w4l>

Hope to see you there!

An SPO Primer

Katarina Friberg Felsted, PhD
SPO President
University of Utah
katarina.felsted@nurs.utah.edu

Cynthia Hancock, PhD
SPO Emeritus Fellow
UNC Charlotte
chancock@uncc.edu

Greetings, AGHE folks! It is so good to connect. We hope you are finding ways to care for yourselves and others during a time unlike any we have lived through before. We wish you health, joy, and peace!

It is the time of year when we have commencements and convocations. If you are a graduate, please accept our heartiest congratulations! It is no small feat to earn a degree, and to do it during a world pandemic is quite something. Three cheers for all faculty who have worked long hours with intense efforts to help our gerontology students across the world successfully complete the college chapter of their lives. And deepest thanks to gerontology professionals, who supervise gerontology students and often hire them after graduation.

For those of you who may know what **SPO** stands for, but the rest feels a little fuzzy, we'd like to present a primer.

We are international! Did you know that [Sigma Phi Omega](#), THE academic honor and professional society in gerontology, is global? We would love for you to join us. We focus on



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honor, excellence, and service, and provide links between students, educators, administrators, and professionals. When you become a member, you join your local chapter (there are 55 right now). If your institution doesn't have one, you still have options. You can start a chapter with three members, you can join an adjacent chapter, or you can join the international/virtual chapter. So many ways to connect!

When you join SPO, you get to network, serve the campus and community, earn awards, graduate with honors, and wear those fabulous blue and yellow cords at convocation!

Wondering if you're eligible? Undergraduate students with a 3.3 or higher overall GPA and graduate students with a 3.5 overall GPA, who have completed at least one full term of gerontology coursework are eligible to apply. Faculty who are involved in teaching, research, or service in the field of aging in higher education also qualify for membership. Professionals with an associate's degree at minimum who work in the aging field are eligible to apply for membership. Finally, those who have retired from faculty or professional work or who have been a continuous SPO member for 15 years are eligible for Emeritus membership. And Emeritus members who are former Board members, Chapter Presidents, and Chapter advisors may qualify for Emeritus Fellow status. We hope you will [apply today!](#)

Are you already a member? Wondering if your membership has expired? Log into [your account](#), update your information if needed, and select "renewal membership". You can pay with a credit card or with PayPal, and you don't need a PayPal account to use PayPal. A check option is still available.

Want to start a chapter at your institution? We would love to welcome you, and it's easy:

- You need three founding members, including a faculty advisor.
- You choose a chapter name (the SPO Administrative Support Associate can help you select a unique chapter name)
- You create your chapter bylaws (you can download the [chapter bylaws template](#) here)
- Apply [here](#), upload your bylaws, and pay \$120 to join. This is a one-time fee, as long as your chapter stays active.
- Next, your chapter will hold your induction ceremony. We have the sample induction template on our Start a Chapter page on the website.

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Did your chapter expire? Typically, this is because the faculty advisor's membership has expired. Simply have your faculty member reactivate their membership. Chapters stay active by having the Chapter advisor keep their membership active and maintaining at least 3 paid memberships. If you are inactive for a full year, you'll need to pay the \$120 fee again to reactivate. It's never too late to rejoin!

What can a Chapter do? What can't it do! Hold meetings, do service projects, recruit at campus events, hold inductions, create speaker panels or series, or participate in local aging activities. Out of ideas? Check out our [Chapter News](#) (and [submit yours](#) to help others).

What ought Chapters do? Did you know that when you file an annual [Chapter Report](#) (these are due each year on April 30th), we send you \$5 for every active member in your chapter? These are super simple forms online, and they directly provide funding for your chapter. We celebrate your accomplishments and take your feedback to heart.

How does SPO celebrate Chapter and individual member accomplishments? Each spring we partner with a gerontology organization for our annual conference. At the SPO Business and Awards meeting, we announce the winners of our [President's Student Paper Award](#), our [Service Project Award](#), and our [Video Contest](#).

Some pro-tips:

- Request that your institution list SPO members in the graduation program; it's always worth the ask!
- Add your SPO membership, service work, and leadership to your CV or resume; and add your leadership office to your email signature.
- Wear your membership pin proudly wherever you go in your professional work
- Display your membership certificate proudly in your place of work

We hope that learning about us has inspired you to join us.

If you are already a member, we celebrate you, commend your excellence and thank you for your service!

Students who have graduated can renew their membership as a professional or a faculty member. Those in faculty and professional roles have the opportunity to mentor those more junior in experience and service. Our efforts affect others daily, and this is a chance to serve and



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mentor. Think back to the mentors you have had, for better or worse, and consider how much they have affected you.

This Denzel Washington quote comes to mind: “Show me a successful individual and I’ll show you someone who had real positive influences in his or her life. I don’t care what you do for a living—if you do it well, I’m sure there was someone cheering you on or showing the way. A mentor.”

All of us in the field of gerontology have the opportunity to provide memorable mentorship to those around us.

Do you have more questions? Feel free to check out our website at sigmaphiomega.org

Do you have insights or feedback for us? Please reach out to our Administrative Support Associate at spogerontologymembership@gmail.com who will pass these on to the SPO Board.

We wish you a fully vaccinated summer with lots of fun in the sun and time with those you love most. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Program Spotlight: University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

UMBC’s Erickson School of Aging Studies, founded in 2005, offers a wide variety of degrees, including:

- PhD (affiliated)
- MA in the Management of Aging Services
- Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in Senior Housing Administration; Management of Dementia Services; Principles of Management of Aging Services; and Global Aging (pending);
- BA Management of Aging Services;
- Minor in Management of Aging Services
- Minor in Health, Wellness and Aging

As one of three schools of aging in the United States, the Erickson School of Aging Studies combines a passion for creating leaders and scholars in the longevity economy with a genuine connection to real world applications. Our community brings together exceptionally talented



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people of different backgrounds, lived experiences, interests, and approaches practicing their passion both locally and globally. Our goal, since our founding, is to integrate the science of aging, business management and public policy. Our business orientation – applicable to nonprofit, for profit and government sectors encourages leadership and entrepreneurship across all areas of the global longevity economy.

Both our funded research and engagement work focus on smart and connected technology innovation, dementia services and supports, age friendly communities, older person's rights and integrated health.

To learn more about us, please [visit our website](#) and/or contact us at erickson@umbc.edu.