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Special Issue to Emphasize Personal Experience
The Gerontologist is planning a special issue titled "Aging — It's Personal." The editorial board is encouraging gerontologists to connect the gerontological knowledge base and their personal experience with the goal of developing wisdom that will guide theory and practice. Visit gerontologist.oxfordjournals.org for full details; abstracts are due June 1.

Enroll to Become a GSA Ambassador
The GSA Ambassador Program is accepting applications for the spring cohort. The program serves as a networking tool linking individuals who have an interest in gerontology with the GSA community. As an ambassador, you have the opportunity to benefit from mentoring, networking, advocating, and participating in leadership opportunities with peers, mentors, colleagues, and leaders in the field of aging. Enrollment forms for the spring cohort are being accepted until January 31. For more information, visit www.geron.org/ambassador.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
C connect.geron.org
facebook.com/geronsociety
twitter.com/geronsociety
Engage with GSA on social media!

Change AGEnts Meet for Inaugural Conference
The first annual Hartford Change AGEnts Conference welcomed more than 160 individual Change AGEnts — current and past fellows, scholars, alumni, mentors, and advisors from the John A. Hartford Foundation's programs in medicine, nursing, and social work — to help them apply new knowledge and skills to emerging and existing practice and policy change efforts designed to improve the care of older adults, their families, and communities.

The Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative, which launched in 2013, is headquartered at GSA with support from the Hartford Foundation. It is a multi-year project designed to accelerate sustained change in the practice environment.

The conference, held in Philadelphia in early December, featured national leaders and a variety of interactive sessions. The communications firm SCP spearheaded the planning and development of the program, working with a conference advisory group and the Change AGEnts.

GSA Takes Leading Role in Pain Management Coalition
GSA has joined 22 other organizations in forming the Alliance for Balanced Pain Management (AfBPM), a new collective of health care advocacy groups, professional membership societies, patient organizations, industry representatives, and other stakeholders whose purpose is to support appropriate access to integrated pain management and responsible use of prescription pain medicines with an aim to reduce abuse. The AfBPM will work collaboratively to educate, support, and advocate on behalf of people affected by pain, both acute and chronic.

GSA is also part of the AfBPM’s six-member Steering Committee, joining the Alliance for Patient Access, the American Cancer Society, the American Chronic Pain Association, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, and the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids. Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals is the founding sponsor.

Executive Director and CEO James Appleby, RPh, MPH, is GSA’s representative to the AfBPM. He also served as moderator for the alliance’s inaugural summit, which took place in mid-November in Washington, DC.

“The complexity of assessing and treating pain in the aging population requires a multidisciplinary approach,” Appleby said. “At times, drug therapy may be necessary to control pain among older adults, but is not without its risks, such as drug interactions and the potential for abuse. GSA is pleased to be part of the AfBPM to bring greater attention to pain management among the aging.

Continued on page 6

Continued on page 10
Happy 2015! The arrival of a new year is always a good time to take stock and plan for the future. As I reflect on the Society’s recent accomplishments, I am pleased that we have been able to consistently increase the value of GSA membership over the past few years — through the addition of an enhanced website, the GSA Connect online networking platform, new publications, online access to every GSA journal article ever published, and many other programs, products, and services.

Despite the cost of adding these benefits, GSA has not implemented a membership dues increase for five years. But to keep the Society on the strongest possible footing and remain competitive moving forward, GSA will be implementing a small increase in dues, effective January 5.

While many professional membership organizations increase dues at a steady pace, GSA adjusts them only occasionally, after exhausting other revenue-enhancing (and cost-reducing) options first. In fact, membership dues account for just eight percent of GSA’s annual operating budget. This means that we have taken great strides to bolster other income-generating initiatives to grow the Society without passing costs on to members. This also translates to GSA members getting much more than their money’s worth when paying their dues.

No member will see his or her dues go up by more than $20 annually, and we will offer up to a 10 percent discount for multi-year renewals. Moving forward, the one-year rate for a regular member will be $180, while the three-year rate will be $486. (Choosing the three-year option is both an economical and practical choice, as this makes it easier for journal and newsletter subscriptions to continue uninterrupted.)

Even with the new rates, GSA’s dues still remain comparable with or even below that of other similar membership organizations — both nationally and internationally. I hope you will agree that the increase in dues is a worthy price to pay for an investment in your professional society and the benefits you receive.

Furthermore, the benefits we offer are more popular and more diverse than ever before. GSA Connect has had more than 55,000 page views since it was launched in June. Our Annual Scientific Meeting community on GSA Connect engaged attendees and non-attendees alike to interact and share presentations and photos. (In fact, we still encourage members to upload their files to the community’s resource library.)

Our journal impact factors continue to grow, and we are publishing an increasing number of articles to keep up with the increasing number of submissions. Last year, we began offering members free online access to GSA’s Public Policy and Aging Report alongside access to the full catalog of our other journals from 1946 to the present. These publications also offer reviewer-in-training programs to foster the growth of newcomers to the field.

We’ve worked very hard to support the members of GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO), too. On GSA Connect, we have created a dedicated space for ESPO members to collaborate and share within their own community. We have also established a growing professional development webinar series and recorded webinar bank that members can access at their convenience. Looking ahead, members will have access to a new mentor match module currently in development.

As we continue to work to improve and enhance your experience within the Society, I sincerely hope you continue to value your membership. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting GSA’s mission and to advancing the field of aging in 2015.

James Appleby, RPh, MPH
jappleby@geron.org
Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on:

Denise Park, PhD
Visit www.geron.org/membership to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

New Books by Members


Members in the News

- Sheila Malkind, MPH, MS, was interviewed on KALW in a segment titled “Your Call: What Does It Mean to Be an Elder Today?” Malkind discussed the Legacy Film Festival on Aging, which took place in September.
- On November 4, Marcie Pitt-Catsouphes, PhD, wrote an article for The Fiscal Times titled “Aging Americans Push for More Flex Time.” The piece highlighted ways to allow older workers to remain in the workforce longer.
- Numerous articles quoted GSA members based on their involvement in GSA’s 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting. Keep up with the coverage at www.geron.org/press.

Colleague Connection

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Josie Rader, BA

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Marie Bunch, MS, was randomly selected using randomizer.org.

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

Krause Earns APA’s Bier Award

GSA Fellow Neal Krause, PhD, of the University of Michigan has been awarded the 2015 William C. Bier Award from Division 36 of the American Psychological Association (APA). The Bier Award is offered annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution through publication and professional activity to the dissemination of findings on religious and allied issues, or who has made a notable contribution to the integration of these findings with those of other disciplines, notably philosophy, sociology, and anthropology. Krause’s work focuses on stress and the resources people use, such as social relationships and religion, to cope with these stressors.

Ouslander Appointed as Chair at Florida Atlantic University

GSA Fellow Joseph Ouslander, MD, was recently appointed as chair of the integrated medical science department in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University. The department is composed of eight clinical divisions: family medicine, medicine, medical education, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and neurology, surgery, and hospital-based specialties, with 40 university-based faculty, and more than 1,000 affiliated clinical faculty.

Thorpe Appointed to Federal Committee

GSA Fellow Roland Thorpe, PhD, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and director of the Program for Research on Men’s Health at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee on Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ferraro Receives American Sociological Association’s Riley award

GSA Fellow Kenneth Ferraro, PhD, was named the 2014 winner of the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award given by the American Sociological Association. The annual award honors a scholar in the field of aging and the life course who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, or policy analysis to advance knowledge of aging and the life course. Ferraro is a distinguished professor of sociology and the director of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University.

GSACo-up Connect Corner

Below are highlights from recent discussions on the GSA Connect online networking platform. Join the conversation at connect.geron.org! Here’s what members have been talking about:

- Mark Brennan-Ing, PhD: “At present, over one-in-ten new HIV infections occur over the age of 50. It is imperative that gerontologists become more involved in addressing the prevention, treatment, and care needs of this aging population that experiences greater burdens of disease compared to non-HIV infected individuals and often lack the social care resources available to meet the challenges of aging.”
- Jordan Lewis, MSW, PhD: “I agree with the others that spirituality is definitely a protective factor for these elders and it may enable them to stay focused on the positive, but I feel their cultural background, values, traditions, and subsistence practices enable them to stay optimistic and these are skills they pass on to the youth.”
The 113th Congress has concluded, but before news of what many have labeled one of the least productive Congresses in history, let me share a story that left even me — an experienced but not yet hardened cynic — inspired.

Many of us from the aging community gathered at the Frederick Douglass Museum on Capitol Hill for the first of many celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The host was the National Association for Home Care & Hospice, which owns and maintains the lovely row house and former home of Frederick Douglass. The guest of honor was Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), who will serve as the chair of the Senate Special Committee on Aging in the 114th Congress.

Collins has for many years been a moderate voice in Congress. As the current ranking member of the committee, she has worked collaboratively with the current chair, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL). Collins has been a steadfast advocate for older adults and the core set of programs on which many depend. She has a history of working on behalf of caregivers, home care, and Alzheimer’s disease and diabetes research. Her work has also focused on geriatric mental health issues and veterans concerns.

At the reception, Collins was an eloquent spokesperson for the critical need to preserve and improve the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security programs. She spoke of the importance of reminding everyone about these programs and the Older Americans Act and their role in keeping older adults healthier and more financially secure. As a former professional staff member of another Republican chair of the committee, John Heinz, I was inspired and impressed with her remarks as she (without notes) clearly outlined her top priorities using data, research findings, and stories of older persons grappling with the ravages of old age and disease. She spoke of her priorities in candid terms, but also as member of a political party that has been accused of forsaking some of these programs.

She does not seem to mind taking on the duties of the conscience of her colleagues when it comes to protecting the elderly. Collins stated that her number one priority in the coming Congress will be to push for significant increases in the funding levels of biomedical research. Her focus will be on several areas, including Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, diabetes, and other areas where the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging can make headway on prevention and treatment that will save our nation billions of dollars and spare millions of older adults the devastation of disease. She specifically spoke of increasing funding levels for dementia research to at least $5 billion over the next five years.

The senator’s second priority will be addressing elder fraud and abuse. This is driven by her strong belief that this growing tragedy is robbing from millions of older persons the ability to live their final years with the necessary resources to live quality, independent lives. She has been a strong supporter of elder justice issues in the past and she appears to be committed to helping to expand the federal government’s role in protecting vulnerable seniors.

Her third priority is income security. In fact, she made the argument to the receptive but surprised gathering that the minimum Social Security benefits need to be increased in order to enable the one in three beneficiaries who live solely on Social Security to live above the poverty line. Collins spoke passionately of her own constituents who simply can’t make ends meet with current monthly payments.

(As an aside, you may recall from a previous column that I reported on GSA’s involvement in a hearing on senior entrepreneurship — which led to positive interaction with Collins regarding her legislation that would require, among other things, a report to Congress on unique barriers and obstacles faced by encore entrepreneurs.)

Clearly, Collins is going to use her new role of chair as both a bully pulpit for improving the lives of older Americans, and as a place where facts, data, and research will matter in the development of public policies to address the challenges of the aging population. For an organization like GSA, this is a positive signal that the committee will continue in its bipartisan fashion as an advocate within Congress, and that the work of GSA members will be relevant and respected as the committee and its chair make judgments about how to affect change.

Some of What Did and Didn’t Happen This Year

Although the 113th Congress turned out to be the least productive in decades, here are some accomplishments that should be noted: the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, the Reverse Mortgage Stabilization Act, Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, the Work Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, the Transportation Funding Act, and the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act.

Appropriations

The House and Senate have passed an omnibus spending bill, H.R. 83, so named the “cromnibus” because it also contains a continuing resolution (aka a “CR”). It funds 11 of the 12 annual appropriations through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2015. President Barack Obama weighed in before House action saying he would sign the legislation.

Republicans were unhappy that the bill did not “stick it” to the president for his executive order on immigration, and Democrats were angry that it relaxed restrictions on campaign contributions by individuals to the political parties and weakened some of the Dodd-Frank regulations of the banking industry.

The National Institutes of Health received a slight increase of 150 million dollars to a total of $30.1 billion. The National Institute on
Aging received an increase of more than 8 percent to $1.199 million. The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences received a slight increase from last year's level to $635 million. Unfortunately, these slight increases do not make up for years of flat funding and sequestration cuts. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) fared better than many in this year’s appropriations process. The geriatric programs line item went up by 2.7 percent to $34.237 million. Comprehensive geriatric education went up 3.2 percent to $4.5 million. Several other HRSA programs received increases. All in all, it was a good year for health professional programs.

There has been a good deal of excitement at the Elder Justice Coalition since it received word that $4 million in first-time funding was awarded to the Elder Justice Initiative. As those of you who read my column know, the Elder Justice Act was passed in 2010 but has not yet received direct funding, until now! Older Americans Act (OAA) programs generally received the same funding levels as last year (FY 2014). The Social Security Administration received an increase of $199 million over 2014 funding levels to a total of $1.4 billion.

**Hospice Legislation**

As mentioned above, Congress passed and the president signed H.R. 4994, the IMPACT Act. Post-acute care can be provided by skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals, and home health agencies. This bill directs providers to submit standardized data which will help enable comparisons across various provider settings. Data will be used to modify the payment system, better coordinate care, and improve outcomes in the future. The bill increases the scrutiny on hospice providers, as well.

**OAA**

In spite of grassroots and DC-based efforts by the aging network and the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations for more than four years, the OAA was not reauthorized again this Congress. In the end, it was disagreements regarding state funding allocations for the OAA that kept it from coming to the senate floor. Next year, there may be different players leading the effort to reauthorize the OAA that kept it from coming to the senate floor. Next year, there may be different players leading the effort to reauthorize the law, and at this point it is not known whether they will start from scratch or use the work that was done this past Congress.

**Elder Justice**

On September 17, Representative Peter King (R-NY) introduced H.R. 5515, the Elder Justice Reauthorization Act. The Act is a simple reauthorization of the current law (Elder Justice Act) through the end of FY 2019. There was no action on the bill and a Senate companion bill was not introduced. However, it is very likely that Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) will introduce the bill in the 114th Congress and they will be a very powerful advocacy duo.

**ABLE Act**

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2011 was introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3423) by Anders Crenshaw (R-FL) and in the Senate (S. 1872) by Robert P. Casey (D-PA). By the end of the Congressional session, it had 380 co-sponsors in the House and 78 co-sponsors in the Senate. The ABLE Act would permit individuals with disabilities and their families to establish savings accounts and to use the funds in those accounts for specific disability related purposes. An individual who acquires a disability before the age of 26 could have an ABLE account and those assets would not disqualify that disabled person from government benefits such as Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid. Contributions to the savings account are capped at no more than $14,000 per year and accrue up to $100,000.

This new program has been one of the top priorities for disability advocacy groups for more than eight years, and although its benefits were reduced during negotiations, many consider its passage a major accomplishment. It was included in the tax extenders bill which passed just before Congress left town.

**NDAA**

The National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 3979), which has a provision to allow veterans to leave their pensions to a Special Needs Trust for a disabled child, was also passed in the last days of the session.

**Leadership Update**

Democratic Senate committee assignments have been released and a few changes are worth noting. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) will serve as the ranking member of the Special Committee on Aging, which is only the second time that the Senate has had a committee with women serving as both the chair (Collins) and the ranking member. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) will become ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) will become ranking member of Veterans’ Affairs.

**In Closing**

As I write this conclusion at the close of 2014, I am listening to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) speaking on the Senate floor about his decades in Congress, his life, and his retirement. He describes leaving now as “hard and wrenching and emotional” and he uses sign language to tell his colleagues “I love you.” Admittedly, all senators are not equal in my eyes, although they are equal under the rules of the Senate, because some, like Harkin, have led courageous battles for the most vulnerable in our nation. But all these public servants have stories and many are inspiring. So, as I started, I will also end on a positive note. The fact is that these farewells and the tributes that follow on the Senate and House floors are bipartisan, and someone listening would think that members on both sides of the aisle were close friends and able to work together easily. There is hope.

Because Congress talks on and is not likely to finish before my deadline, the article reflects facts as I know them at press time.

Happy New Year!
Elder Abuse Expected To Increase Worldwide

A new fact sheet from the World Health Organization (www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs357/en) reports that millions of older adults across the globe report significant abuse each month, “an important public health problem” expected to increase in many countries as the number of people aged 60 and older is forecasted to reach about 1.2 billion by the year 2025. Likewise, the World Health Organization’s new “Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014” (www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/status_report/2014/en), assessed national efforts to confront interpersonal violence, including elder abuse, and noted that less than half of the 133 surveyed countries reported plans to address the topic.

New Zealand Retirement Savings Differ by Gender

As reported in The New Zealand Herald, female residents of New Zealand are less confident about retirement savings than their male counterparts. This information comes from a recent survey conducted by ANZ New Zealand, which is New Zealand’s largest financial services group. Conducted in October, the survey of 700 people found that only 34 percent of women were confident they would reach their retirement savings goals, compared with 55 percent of men. The survey also found that the average retirement savings balance for women aged between 25 and 40 was 23 percent lower than that of men in the same age bracket.

Continued from page 1 – Change AGEnts Meet for Inaugural Conference

A popular feature of the conference was the consultancy sessions, which were small group interactive problem-solving sessions in a setting that encouraged networking, providing feedback and suggestions.

“I received many pearls of wisdom in the sessions about building the right team, making change happen, and the effective use of social networking,” said conference attendee Jan Dougherty, MS, RN, FAAN, from the Banner Alzheimer’s Institute in Phoenix, AZ. “However, the ability to connect with colleagues in the field and then problem solve through the consultancy groups was simply stellar. I am taking these lessons back to my workplace to infuse our defined change project.”

Attendees also were asked to participate in a collaborative project during the conference, which involved helping to paint a mural designed by mural artist Phillip Adams. It consists of two panels and depicts themes and attributes related to the Change AGEnts Initiative. The completed mural was unveiled at the end of the conference and will now travel to eight to 10 sites over the course of the next year. The first two locations are the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Aging Institute and the University of California, San Francisco.

Jackie Eaton, PhD, an attendee from the University of Utah College of Nursing, said she enjoyed learning from a group of individuals dedicated to making change through interdisciplinary collaboration.

“Interacting within such a setting was wonderful,” Eaton said. “I found the opportunity to share ideas helped refine my objectives and reignite motivation to move forward.”
Congratulations on a Successful 2014 for GSA’s Emerging Scholars!

Thank you to all of our members for contributing to another successful year for GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO). Your executive board, council and committee leaders, and task force members have accomplished so much this year and we want to highlight some of these achievements. As always, you can reach ESPO throughout the next year at espo@geron.org or find ESPO on Facebook, Linked In, Twitter, and GSA Connect. We hope you take advantage of the many opportunities in store for 2015.

ESPO Initiated New Webinar Series
The newly organized ESPO Webinar Task Force was successful in coordinating new webinars, specifically for ESPO members. The first session in February discussed strategies for publishing manuscripts, led by Dr. Merrill Silverstein. And in September, the ESPO webinar addressed the mentor-mentee relationship, led by Dr. Deborah T. Gold and Dr. Keith Whitfield. Additionally, a special webinar on grant writing was jointly sponsored by NIA and ESPO in May, as well as one on non-academic careers in December. The past sessions are archived online at www.geron.org/webinar.

Fundraising for the Mentoring Effect
GSA launched The Mentoring Effect at the end of 2013, with the goal of raising funds to support mentoring-related activities for members. In a very successful campaign, ESPO met their goal to raise $1000 for the initiative, which was matched by a generous donor. Thank you to all who donated and we hope to promote exciting new mentoring activities in the upcoming year.

Annual Scientific Meeting Travel Awards
This was the first year that the Health Sciences (HS) Section offered a travel award for ESPO members. Five HS ESPO members earned the award and were able to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting. Further, ESPO awarded five members the Carol A. Schutz Travel award, which provides $400 for student ESPO members in order to attend the meeting. Schutz was a former GSA executive director and the award was founded to honor her 40 years of service after retiring in 2007.

Peer-to-Peer Abstract Review for International ESPO Members
ESPO piloted the first peer-to-peer abstract review for non-native English-speaking members. A double-blind review by ESPO council volunteers reviewed the submitted abstracts for grammar, spelling, and clarifications, prior to the GSA abstract submission deadline. Abstracts came from our members in China, Japan, and Turkey. If you are a non-native English speaker and planning to submit an abstract to GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting, we will once again be offering the program. E-mail espo@geron.org for more information.

Membership Spotlight
We highlighted several exceptional ESPO members this year as part of the monthly Member Spotlight posted online. Thank you to Han-Jung Ko, Erin Smith, Tyesha Burks, and Nancy Knechel for your participation and involvement in GSA! Please e-mail us to nominate a peer for this year’s spotlights.

GSA Connect and Social Media
GSA recently launched a redesigned website — including the new GSA Connect online networking platform, which offers community discussion forums, resource libraries, and an online contact book. With GSA Connect, ESPO members can sign in and have access to the ESPO Community forum to find out more information about activities and discuss important topics with peers. Currently we have over 1,700 members who have joined the community and ESPO and GSA produced a fantastic YouTube video, describing the purpose and benefits of ESPO for emerging scholars. Please check it out under Resources of the ESPO section of www.geron.org. Former ESPO Communications Chair Shannon Mejia has done an exceptional job to rejuvenate and maintain an active ESPO presence on various social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Membership Spotlight
We highlighted several exceptional ESPO members this year as part of the monthly Member Spotlight posted online. Thank you to Han-Jung Ko, Erin Smith, Tyesha Burks, and Nancy Knechel for your participation and involvement in GSA! Please e-mail us to nominate a peer for this year’s spotlights.

ESPO News
The 2014 Newsletter Task Force had a great year. Thank you to the following members for contributing to the newsletter column: Brenna Renn, Becky Laster, Kristina Childers, Christina Horsford, Tara McMullen, Tiffany Washington, Melinda Heinz, Amanda Leggett, Margie Schustack, and Jo-Ana Dolojan. If you missed any of this past year’s columns, Gerontology News is archived at www.geron.org/publications/gerontology-news.
Call for Award Submissions

The Gerontological Society of America recognizes outstanding individuals through a variety of awards. For a full description of nomination requirements and the list of past awardees, visit www.geron.org/membership/awards or e-mail awards@geron.org.

CAREER AWARDS

Nominations for these awards must be submitted by the first Monday in May. Self-nominations are not accepted.

SOCIETY-WIDE

Donald P. Kent Award
This award is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.

Robert W. Kleemeier Award
This award is given annually to a GSA member in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology.

M. Powell Lawton Award
This $2,500 award honors contributions from applied gerontological research that have benefited older people and their care.

Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging
This $8,000 award recognizes instances of practice informed by research and analysis, research that directly improved policy or practice, and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice.

Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award
This $1,000 award acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology.

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award
This $300 award is presented to a GSA member who has a record of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research.

Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee Outstanding Mentorship Award
This award recognizes outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging.

Gene Cohen Creativity and Aging Research Award
This award, given in association with the National Center on Creative Aging, recognizes a professional whose research clearly shows that creative activities, particularly arts programs, can maintain and even improve the physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being of older adults.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (BSS) SECTION

Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award
This award recognizes career contributions that have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature.

Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award
This award is given to an individual who has fostered excellence in, and had a major impact on, the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues.

Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award
This award recognizes insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences in two categories: (1) The Book Category, which provides a $250 award; and (2) The Article Category, which provides a $250 award.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (BS) SECTION

Nathan Shock New Investigator Award
This $1,500 award recognizes innovative and influential publications. It acknowledges outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research.

HEALTH SCIENCES (HS) SECTION

Joseph T. Freeman Award
This $250 award is given for lectureship in geriatrics to a prominent physician in the field of aging, both in research and practice.

Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award
This $250 award is designed to acknowledge outstanding contributions in the field of rehabilitation of aging persons.
PAPER & POSTER AWARDS

Applicants for these awards also must submit an abstract for GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting. The deadline is March 5; visit www.geron.org/abstracts for details.

**SOCIETY-WIDE**

Senior Service America Awards for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults

These awards, sponsored by Senior Service America, Inc., acknowledge outstanding applied research that advances understanding of disadvantaged older adults. There are two levels: (1) The Senior Scholar Level, which provides a $1,000 award given to a GSA member at least with five years after receiving a terminal graduate degree; and (2) The Junior Scholar Level, which provides a $500 award given to a GSA member within five years of receiving a terminal graduate degree.

**BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (BSS) SECTION**

Student Research Awards

These awards are given for completed empirical studies dealing with a topic of relevance to GSA’s BSS Section. There are two levels: (1) The Dissertation Level, which provides a $1,000 award for an exemplary paper by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Pre-Dissertation Level, which provides a $500 award for an exemplary paper by a student member who has yet to attain a doctoral degree.

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (BS) SECTION**

The Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award

This $400 award is designed to encourage research and to foster interest among students in the BS Section to play an active role in the Annual Scientific Meeting.

George Sacher Student Award

This $500 award is given to the best student presentation by a GSA member from the BS Section at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**HEALTH SCIENCES (HS) SECTION**

Research Award

This $1,000 award is given to a new investigator in the HS Section. It is designed to encourage postdoctoral research and encourage participation in the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Person-in-Training Award

This $500 award is given for an exemplary paper written by a student member of the HS Section.

**SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE (SRPP) SECTION**

Student Research Awards

These manuscripts must address a significant research, policy, or practice topic; be research-based, conceptual, or analytical; and contribute to the body of knowledge. There are two levels: (1) The Carroll Estes Senior Scholar, which provides $500 award for an exemplary paper by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Elaine Brody Junior Scholar, which provides a $300 award for an exemplary paper by a student member who has yet to attain their doctoral degree.

Outstanding Student Poster Award

This $300 award is given for an exemplary poster by a student member (graduate or undergraduate) for excellence in research as reflected in an outstanding poster presentation.

**EMERGING SCHOLAR AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION (ESPO)**

Interdisciplinary Paper Award

This $250 award is given for the best interdisciplinary empirical or theoretical research paper on an aging-related topic.

Poster Award

ESPO offers five awards for exemplary posters.

Douglas Holmes Award for Quality of Life/Quality of Care

This $500 award solicits original papers that exhibit outstanding research in improving social services for the elderly in long-term care.

Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee Student Poster Award

This poster award recognizes minority ESPO members of GSA for innovative and demonstrated research focusing on issues surrounding diverse racial and ethnic population groups (Blacks, Hispanic/Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native Americans).
NIH Offers Funding for MOOC Development
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking applications for the development of a massive open online course (MOOC) that covers a comprehensive set of topics related to the management of biomedical big data that can be used by librarians, faculty, students, and others to learn concepts, approaches, and best practices in the area of data management, and also used in conjunction with local training activities about the management of biomedical big data. The primary audience for this course is librarians and information specialists who could use these materials as the basis of training and services to graduate students, faculty, research staff, and administrators at their organizations. However, the resource should also be usable by any of these audiences for self-instruction. Letters of intent are due by February 17 and the application deadline is March 17. Further details can be viewed at 1.usa.gov/1ye2Pvl.

ADSP Yields New Alzheimer’s-Focused NIA Grants
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has issued a funding opportunity announcement in response to the Presidential Initiative on Alzheimer’s Disease and its Alzheimer’s Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP). The overarching goals of the ADSP are to identify new genes involved in Alzheimer’s; identify gene alleles contributing to increased risk for or protection against the disease; provide insight as to why individuals with known risk factor genes escape from developing Alzheimer’s; and identify potential avenues for therapeutic approaches and prevention of the disease. The funding announcement invites applications specific to targeted sequencing, genotyping, and data analysis in the replication phase of the ADSP. Letters of intent are due May 3 and applications are due June 3. Additional information can be obtained at 1.usa.gov/1uPoQ1A.

Multiple Agencies Partner for Grants on Basic Neuroscience
The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health have released a funding opportunity announcement to stimulate research addressing fundamental questions in basic neuroscience. Proposed projects can address any area of neuroscience within the missions of the participating institutes and should focus on understanding the structure and/or function of the normal nervous system. While fundamental basic research often generates insights relevant to disorders of the nervous system, this announcement is not intended to stimulate research that is explicitly disease-related. The next due date for applications is February 5. Visit 1.usa.gov/1wWCiYA for additional information.

Federal Funds Slated for Disparities Research
More than one dozen agencies within the National Institutes of Health have issued a joint funding opportunity announcement to encourage behavioral and social science research on the causes and solutions to health and disabilities disparities in the U.S. population. Emphasis is placed on research in and among three broad areas of action: public policy, health care, and disease/disability prevention. Particular attention is given to reducing health gaps among groups. The next application due date is February 5. The announcement expires September 8, 2016. See 1.usa.gov/1ljrwXo for further details.

Continued from page 1 – GSA Takes Leading Role in Pain Management Coalition
population, ensure aging Americans have access to appropriate care and that they are aware of and take action to help mitigate potential abuse.”

Chronic pain affects an estimated 100 million Americans, and an untold number of people are affected by acute pain. Despite attention being given to the rise in abuse, misuse, and diversion of prescription pain medications, many people still receive inadequate pain assessment and treatment.

According to a recent report issued by the National Institutes of Health, 40 to 70 percent of people with chronic pain are not receiving proper medical treatment. Proper medical treatment can include physical therapy and rehabilitation, psychological counseling, social support, medication, and other complementary approaches.

The AFIPM defines balanced pain management as a comprehensive approach to diagnosing, treating, and controlling pain. This approach uses a multi-pronged and individualized treatment plan to coordinate safe and effective options that can address the physical, emotional, social, and psychological aspects of pain. In a balanced approach to pain management, people with pain, along with family members and caregivers, learn to manage their pain in safe, effective, responsible and healthy ways to improve or maintain their overall well-being.

Components of balanced pain management may include physical therapy and rehabilitation, medication, psychological counseling and social support. When medications are necessary, the AFIPM indicates there must be full recognition of potential side effects and appropriate management of the medications; there must also be a commitment to safely use, store, and dispose of such medications (if prescribed) as part of the pain management plan.

Appleby said the AFIPM is unique for several reasons. “There is such a diverse group of organizations represented around the table, and by bringing those many different perspectives, the alliance can come up with much more impactful solutions to the challenge of insuring a balanced pain management approach,” he said. “It also is wonderful to see an alliance that is focusing in on societal solutions, either through practice change with clinicians or through educational messages for consumers and for individuals who may be experiencing pain.”

To learn more about the AFIPM, visit www.alliancebpm.org.
INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAM IN AGING STUDIES

- Featuring an interdisciplinary curriculum with training and research opportunities that integrate novel aspects of both biomedical and psychosocial domains

- Preparing a new generation of leaders in gerontology who will assume key positions in academia and in the public and private sectors

- Broad faculty participation from the School of Medicine, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, School of Science and Engineering, School of Liberal Arts, School of Business, School of Social Work, School of Architecture, and School of Law

- Full tuition and stipend support provided

- Emphasis on aging from biological models and cells to higher level cognitive function and common disorders of aging; from the impact of aging on individuals and their interactions to societal perceptions of aging; and the influence of social structures and end of life issues on an aging population

Now accepting applications for Fall 2015!

For more information contact:
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http://tulane.edu/som/aging/aging-studies/index.cfm
RAND is pleased to announce the 22nd annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 6-9, 2015. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 6-7) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics, Psychology and Epidemiology of Aging (July 8-9). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2015 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: http://www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/.

For additional information, please contact Cary Greif (cary.greif@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health. RAND is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Boston College’s Connell School Joins NHCGNE
The Boston College Connell School of Nursing (CSON) has been named a member institution of the National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE), which is headquartered at GSA. This designation recognizes the CSON’s commitment to gerontological nursing. Funded primarily by the John A. Hartford Foundation, NHCGNE’s mission is to enhance and sustain the capacity and competency of nurses to provide quality care to older adults through faculty development, advancing gerontological nursing science, facilitating adoption of best practices, fostering leadership, and designing and shaping policy. NHCGNE membership provides the CSON faculty with the potential to collaborate and consult with other educators on research and curricula as well as with linkages to international and interprofessional partners in the field in order to strengthen and deepen the CSON’s strong base in gerontological nursing.

University of Washington Revamps Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Track
Thanks in part to a new three-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the University of Washington School of Nursing has revised the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner track of its Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program (previously adult acute care). The new curriculum focuses on the complex nature of caring for a growing number of older patients in acute and critical care settings, particularly those patients with multiple chronic conditions. The program is also engaging interprofessional (social work, pharmacy, medicine, physical, and occupational therapy) students and faculty in order to produce practitioners who are able to work collaboratively to provide high quality care to adults and older adults.

Miami’s Scripps Center Partners with Retirement Village for Art Program
The Scripps Gerontology Center of Miami University has partnered with Mount Pleasant Retirement Village through the school’s Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program. OMA is an intergenerational art program for people with dementia. There is a growing body of empirical evidence that creative expression improves their physical and psychological well-being. The mission of OMA is to build bridges across age and cognitive barriers through art. Each week, more than a dozen residents have the opportunity to participate in the program with the assistance of our nursing staff and other volunteers. OMA annually serves 200 pairs of elders and volunteers. In 2011, OMA received the Best Practice Award from LeadingAge Ohio.
SciCast Welcomes Input for Science Predictions

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is inviting GSA members to participate in SciCast, a research project run by George Mason University and funded by the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity to develop a crowdsourced prediction platform for science and technology. The purpose of this project is to determine whether crowdsourcing can be used to accurately predict the future of science and technology. Questions vary by discipline and focus area, and range from the more applied science and engineering advancements to the highly technical, basic science achievements. Visitors to the scicast.org site can explore SciCast, register, answer questions, and join the SciCast community. Approximately 7,000 people have already signed up and are answering questions. For more information about the project or to join the select pool of experts who submit questions and review unpublished questions, contact scicast@aaas.org.

Two MFP-Focused Mathematica Reports Posted Online

Mathematica Policy Research has released two new reports related to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative. The first report, “Money Follows the Person Demonstration: Overview of State Grantee Progress, July to December 2013,” summarizes progress between July and December 2013 by the 42 MFP grantees states (including the District of Columbia) that are actively transitioning MFP participants. MFP grants support state efforts to help individuals living in institutions move to home and community-based settings if that is where they wish to receive long-term services and supports. During the second half of 2013, 42 MFP grantee states transitioned 5,485 new enrollees, bringing the total number of people that had ever transitioned to the community through MFP to 40,693 at the close of 2013. This report is available for download from bit.ly/1wYXn1i. The second report, “Innovations in Home- and Community-Based Services: Highlights from a Review of Services Available to Money Follows the Person Participants,” features select qualified, demonstration, and supplemental services that seem particularly innovating and promising. The MFP grant program allows states to test and implement innovative services without the restrictions of a waiver. This report provides illustrative examples of how states are taking advantage of this flexibility, particularly in the areas of pre-transition and short-term services. This report is available for download at bit.ly/1uldUih.
Do you know someone who…

Has provided outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology?

Work can include but is not limited to:

- Academic
- Administration
- Clinical or Other Practice
- Public Service
- Public Policy

Nominate your peers to become a GSA fellow, the highest class of membership within the Society.

Nominations accepted until February 15. Visit www.geron.org/fellows for details.

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New NCHS Data Briefs Examine Adult Day Services Centers

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released two data briefs that focus on the adult day component of the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers: “Differences in Adult Day Services Center Participant Characteristics by Center Ownership: United States, 2012” and “Differences in Adult Day Services Center Characteristics by Center Ownership: United States, 2012.” These data briefs look at selected characteristics of adult day services centers and their participants in 2012 and compare them by type of center ownership, using data from the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers.

The 4,800 adult day services centers nationwide provide a variety of services to their 273,200 participants, the majority of whom are older adults and women. Unlike other long-term care providers, such as nursing homes, home health agencies, hospices, and residential care communities, the majority of adult day services centers are nonprofit. However, for-profit ownership of adult day services centers appears to be increasing, from 27 percent in 2010 to 40 percent in 2012. State-level estimates for characteristics presented in the data briefs are available from www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsltcp/nsltcp_products.htm. These national and state estimates establish a baseline for monitoring trends in the adult day services industry.

Department of Justice Develops Online Curriculum for Elder Abuse Education

The Elder Justice Roadmap, recently published, reflects the knowledge and perspectives of experts in the field and will be considered by the Elder Justice Coordinating Council and others in developing their own strategic plans to prevent and combat elder abuse. Supported by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Health and Human Services, the Elder Justice Roadmap was developed by harnessing the expertise of hundreds of public and private stakeholders from across the country and by gathering their input. The goal of these expert summits was to identify the most critical priorities and concrete opportunities for greater public and private investment and engagement in elder abuse issues. To support the mission of elder abuse prevention and prosecution, DOJ has developed an interactive, online curriculum to teach legal aid and other civil attorneys to identify and respond to elder abuse. The first three modules of the training cover what lawyers should know about elder abuse; practical and ethical strategies to use when facing challenges in this area; and a primer on domestic violence and sexual assault. This training will expand to include six one-hour modules covering issues relevant to attorneys who may encounter elder abuse victims in the course of their practice. To learn more, visit http://ncea.acl.gov.

QUESTIONS?
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GSA 2015
Aging as a Lifelong Process
Annual Scientific Meeting • Nov. 18-22, 2015 • Orlando, FL

As gerontologists, what we study is actually the cumulative outcome of lifelong events that culminate during old age. These effects, which can begin at the earliest stage of fetal development, encompass biology, social interactions, historical events, psychological experiences, and public policy.

The 2015 theme challenges researchers to highlight possible consequences of early life effects on aging, be it through biomedical events, nutrition, socioeconomic status, educational opportunities, stressful life experiences, or social relationships. Through the interdisciplinary research of our attendees and the expansion of our view of aging as a lifelong process, we have the potential to truly enhance the prospect of healthy aging.

Abstracts are due March 5, 2015. Visit www.geron.org/abstracts for details.