inside this issue:

- The U.N.’s Focus on Aging ............4
- Networking at the meeting ..........8
- New Social Work Scholars ..........9

September is GSA’s Membership Month!
Help us build a stronger community by recruiting new members. When you refer a colleague to join GSA during Membership Month, you’ll receive a $25 Amazon.com gift card! Visit www.geron.org/community for more details. With your assistance, we can expand the interdisciplinary network of professionals in the field and further advance innovation in aging.

Get Your Section Meeting’s Lunch Ticket Today
During the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC, network with colleagues at your Section Business Meeting and Award Presentation on Friday, November 7, and honor new awardees and learn about new developments specific to your GSA section. Act now to secure a ticket for the luncheon, which is available for a nominal fee of $15. Limited general seating will be available for those who do not wish to eat. The meeting registration form, accessible through www.geron.org/2014, includes an option to sign up for the meal. (Existing registrations also can be updated.)

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

GSA Journals Again Top List of Most-Cited Aging Publications

Impact factor metrics released in the latest issues of Journal Citation Reports show GSA’s peer-reviewed journals remain among the highest ranked in their field.

In Journal Citation Reports: Social Sciences Edition’s Gerontology category, The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences took the top spot on the list of 31 for the fourth consecutive year, and The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences and The Gerontologist took the sixth and seventh spots, respectively.

In Journal Citation Reports: Science Edition’s Gerontology and Geriatrics category, The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences ranked third and The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences ranked 17th out of 49. The Gerontologist is not ranked in this edition.

“The success of the GSA journals is a direct proof of the rising quality of the science in the field of aging and the capacity of GSA to understand and support this trend in academia as well as in all sectors of our society,” said Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, chair of GSA’s Publications Committee.

Impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which articles in a journal have been cited during the two preceding years. Journal Citation Reports, one of the most respected publication evaluation tools, is distributed by the Institute of Scientific Information, a division of Thomson Reuters.

Continued on page 11

White House Moves Forward on Aging Conference; Director Named

Plans are now underway for the 2015 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) — with Nora Super of the Department of Health and Human Services recently named as executive director — although no official date has been set. The White House has held this event each decade since the 1960s to focus on national aging policy.

“The 2015 White House Conference on Aging is an opportunity explore the issues shaping the landscape for older Americans for the next decade,” Super said. “Leading up to the conference, we are looking forward to engagement and dialogue about these important issues and the opportunity to celebrate all that older Americans contribute to our country.”

Super has more than 20 years of experience working in Washington, DC, with expertise in a wide range of aging policy issues, including health care delivery and payment reform, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, retirement income security, and other federal and state aging programs.

Prior to being named executive director of the WHCOA, Super served in a leadership role in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, where she was responsible for office’s communication and public outreach strategy regarding stakeholder engagement, public affairs...
From the Executive Director

Make the Most of Your Membership

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

Have you paid a visit to GSA Connect yet? Your GSA colleagues are waiting for you to join the conversation using GSA’s newest member benefit! Launched this summer, GSA Connect is an online networking platform that allows members to collaborate and work together more productively than ever before.

Within the first month of going live, we had in excess of 1,200 unique visitors — almost a quarter of GSA’s total membership — log in and explore our discussion communities, resource libraries, and member directory. On our busiest day so far, July 29, we had more than 500 members online.

GSA Connect is a significant addition to GSA’s ongoing efforts to maintain a healthy ecosystem within the field of gerontology and add value to your membership. In fact, these efforts are more successful than ever. The Annual Scientific Meeting, which is our signature event, continues to break records for the number of abstracts submitted. And as reported on the front page of this month’s issue, GSA’s journals are leaders among their peers.

Yet the meeting only takes place once per year and the journals don’t allow immediate interaction. GSA Connect was inspired by members to fill those gaps and add additional value. The platform’s Open Forum section is abuzz with discussions between members. If you’re not able to participate on any given day, it’s easy to keep track of what’s been said through the daily digest e-mails that GSA provides.

Members of GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, too, have been utilizing their own community on GSA Connect, where there have been productive threads about getting journal articles published and using social media for professional purposes. This is a great opportunity for the next generation of GSA leaders to connect, collaborate, and grow.

We plan to introduce more specialized forums in the near future — including one focused on the Annual Scientific Meeting, which will enhance your attendee experience and allow the conversation to continue afterward. Found someone’s poster intriguing? Send them a private message to convey your thoughts. Looking to share your experiences and update your colleagues about your continued research? Start a blog and update it monthly. There are plenty of ways to take advantage of this new tool.

It’s easy to get started, and I speak from experience, since I’m also an active participant on GSA Connect. You can log in and access the platform directly from www.geron.org. A good first step is to update your member profile by adding your job history, bio, and picture. Be sure to take advantage of the member directory to add mentors, colleagues, and classmates to your online address book.

Furthermore, GSA Connect is a terrific incentive in getting non-members to become involved with GSA. Don’t forget that September is Membership Month, where for every new member you recruit, you will be rewarded with a $25 Amazon gift card! (See www.geron.org/community for details.)

Instant online access to the network of GSA’s 5,500 members is a compelling enough reason for anyone to join, but cost saving is another benefit of which many members may not be aware. Did you know that it’s cheaper to both become a GSA member and attend the Annual Scientific Meeting at the member rate than it is just to attend the meeting as a non-member alone?

Why not make the most of your membership during Membership Month and encourage others to do the same? Whether it’s registering for the Annual Scientific Meeting, submitting an article to one of our journals, or directly engaging with your peers on GSA Connect, you have every opportunity to network and enrich the field of gerontology through your professional contributions.

James

Send news items to:
Gerontology News
The Gerontological Society of America
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20005-4018
or email: tkluss@geron.org

Send advertisements to:
Jason Hawthorne Petty
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20005-4018
or email: advertising@geron.org

Advertising policy: Gerontology News accepts ads for conferences and special events, fellowships, jobs, and degree programs relevant to the field of aging. We reserve the right to reject or discontinue any advertising. Ads do not constitute an endorsement by The Gerontological Society of America.
In Memoriam

Marjorie Adler, a long-time GSA staff member, passed away on May 25; she was 101 years old. Adler joined GSA in 1947 as an assistant to the editor of the new Journal of Gerontology. As GSA’s sole employee, she had a desk in the editor’s office and worked the first Annual Scientific Meeting. She soon became executive secretary, copyediting and overseeing journal production as well as the overall management of GSA. When GSA created an executive director position in 1965, Adler became director of publications. She stepped down in 1978, although she continued to work on manuscripts on a freelance basis. As cited in GSA’s 50th Anniversary Book, “her contributions to the Society were immeasurable … she was the historian and keeper of documents and wrote two histories of the early days of the Society.”

Members in the News

• On June 24, Tara McMullen, MPH, was quoted in a McKnight’s article titled “Long-Term Care Tech Summit Produces Calls for Better, Silo-Busting Assessment Tools.” The piece mentioned McMullen’s recent remarks at the 2014 Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Health IT Summit.

• On June 25, the Palm Beach Post published an op-ed piece by Pamela Wiener, PhD, titled “Navigating New Medicaid HMO Plans Tough for Enrollees.” Wiener was responding to an editorial on Florida Medicaid changes and discussed reimbursement and dual eligibility.

• In mid-July, numerous news outlets reported on a presentation made by Kenneth Langa, PhD, at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Copenhagen. His research found that the rate of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias is falling in the U.S. and other wealthy countries. See this month’s International News section for further details.

• Verena Menec, PhD, wrote an op-ed article on August 6 for the Winnipeg Free Press titled “Nursing Homes Becoming Outdated.” Menec focused on aging in place preferences and the need for more “home-like” nursing home settings.

GSA 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:

• Leisa Easom, PhD, looked toward the 2015 White House Conference on Aging, saying, “I am hoping that there is significant dialogue focusing on current and future evidence-based caregiver support programs.”

• Hannah Marston, PhD, talked about professionalizing social media and recommended another member “set up a page on Facebook and then you can disseminate your [research] findings that way.”

Cutler Receives Fulbright Award

Former GSA President Stephen Cutler, PhD, was granted a Fulbright Award to Estonia by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Cutler will go to the University of Tartu for the spring semester of 2014-2015. He will teach a course that focuses on population aging titled “Aging and Social Change: Policy and Ethical Issues”; it will explore the reciprocal interplay between processes of aging and social change, how the interdependent processes of aging and social change influence and are affected by public policy, and the implications for debates about ethical issues. This is Cutler’s third Fulbright Award; previously he traveled to the University of Bucharest in 2004 and 2011.

Hayflick to Receive the 2014 John Scott Award

Former GSA President Leonard Hayflick, PhD, has been chosen to receive the 2014 City of Philadelphia John Scott Award. First given in 1822, this distinction is the oldest scientific award in the U.S. and recognizes the “most deserving” men and women whose inventions have contributed in some outstanding way to the “comfort, welfare, and happiness” of mankind. Past winners include Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, Jonas Salk, Irving Langmuir, Nicola Tesla, Guglielmo Marconi, R. Buckminster Fuller, Sir Alexander Fleming, Sir Howard Florey, Edwin Land, and the Wright Brothers. Nominations are made by a committee of Philadelphians to the Board of Directors of City Trusts of the City of Philadelphia. Hayflick’s research discoveries, mostly made at the Wistar Institute, occurred in the fields of aging, cancer and microbiology; he currently is a professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco. In the early 1960s, he discovered that cultured normal human cells have a limited capacity to replicate — commonly referred to as the “The Hayflick Limit” — and overturned a dogma in which it was believed that all cultured cells are potentially immortal. Hayflick showed that only abnormal or cancer cells were immortal, which led to research on how normal mortal cells become immortal cancer cells. These discoveries had profound implications in the fields of aging and cancer biology.

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: Erin Kate Smith, PhD

Visit www.geron.org/membership to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Member Spotlight

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Rosemary Ziemba, BSN

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Cheryl Jusela, MSN was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, visit www.geron.org/connection.
United Nations Looks at Rights of Older Persons

With crises occurring around the globe — Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, West Africa, the Gaza Strip — one would not assume that delegates from a couple hundred nations and representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) would be meeting at the United Nations in New York City to discuss the need for a treaty on the rights of older persons. But, they did meet and I was honored to represent the National Guardianship Association (NGA) at what is officially known as the United Nations Fifth Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) from July 30 to August 1.

On December 21, 2010, the OEWGA was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its purpose is to strengthen the protections of the rights of older persons. Resolution 65/182 states the working group will consider the “existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them.” An outcome of OEWGA could include consideration of a new international Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

OEWGA Fifth Session:
The three-day program was packed with interactive expert panel discussions on human rights and the care of older persons (in which GSA member Isabella Aboderin, PhD, participated), violence and abuse against older persons with a focus on women and financial abuse, and planning for end-of-life care with special attention to legal and financial issues. The session concluded with a presentation by Rosita Kornfeld-Matte of Chile, who was recently appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council as Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons. Kornfeld-Matte discussed the range of challenges that older persons face and how to strengthen the rights of older persons through enhanced implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). MIPAA is an existing international framework which commits governments to integrate the rights and needs of older persons into national, international, economic and social development policies. Kornfeld-Matte also seemed open to supporting a convention as she embarks on her three-year fact finding mission.

Need for a Convention
Most of the meetings were taken up with factual discussions about the plight of older persons around the world struggling for their rights. These presentations featured research and data gathered by hundreds of gerontologists from across the globe. The point was made repeatedly that with a growing aging population, larger numbers of older adults are becoming vulnerable to neglect, abuse and violence and this will continue to be a significant policy issue, regardless of the level of development within the country. These issues, among others, hinder older adults from enjoying a dignified life, without full recognition and exercise of their rights. Therefore, many argued that a convention on the rights of older persons is needed, and that it would provide the world with an instrument to develop a systematic framework to protect and promote human rights, including prohibiting discrimination, articulating how human rights apply to older persons, and how these rights can be monitored and implemented.

However, to this day, the option of a new international convention on the human rights of older persons is not supported by a broad consensus. It should be noted that the potential benefits from a convention would vary greatly from nation to nation given the vast differences in current laws and resources available for the elderly in each nation.

Not so long ago, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) faced some of the same opposition experienced by the Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Today, 147 countries (of which the U.S. is not included) have ratified the CRPD. It stands as a landmark in promoting equal rights and protections for persons with disabilities around the world.

Member states, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, and NGOs provided statements on their best practices, policies and sentiments with respect to the promotion and protection of older persons. Here are some excerpts from what was said:

U.S.: Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee provided seven ideas to the United Nations and member states on how they could move forward immediately to strengthen the rights of older person. She referenced current documents and procedures that have not yet been fully implemented as ways to act now. She argued that we cannot wait for a new convention while elders are neglected, saying “Since the outset of the Open-Ended Working Group, some member states have supported negotiating a new international legal instrument on the rights of older persons. The United States continues to have serious concerns about this proposal. We question what a new convention would add to the protections already present in existing human rights treaties, which apply to persons of all ages, including older persons. The situations older persons find themselves in-which involve violence, abuse, neglect, economic security, health, nutrition, and independent living - need to be addressed immediately. It is critical that member states focus on practical measures which can deliver relief in concrete, timely ways.”

Canada: “Human rights belong to and are to be enjoyed by all human beings without distinction of any kind. On this front, Canada firmly believes that human rights of older persons must be ensured.” In regard to a new international convention, the Canadian delegation believes that important legal frameworks in place should be implemented, but the creation of a new convention would “provide little by way of new protections, would add to an already overburdened human rights reporting and monitoring system, and would not bring about timely change.”
Albania: “Older persons have a fundamental right to non-discrimination and the right not to be subject to torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment. Older persons have the right to participate in the society, right to work, social security, right to food, right to health and housing among other rights.”

Brazil: The government of Brazil believes the “implementation of an international binding instrument would strengthen monitoring and defense of the rights of older persons, would foster the national policies for this segment of the population and would better define the responsibilities of states.”

European Union: The delegation’s statement supported the “application of existing standards as the most effective and practical way to address the protection gaps.”

The Group of Friends: The Group of Friends is a community of countries and international organizations which actively promotes the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations’ objectives and works at the global, regional, and local levels. The Salvadorian representative for the Groups of Friends advocated for states to move forward for real and greater protections. He stated “some member states insist on the fact that the international conventions currently in place, which are general in nature, protect the rights of all persons, including the ones of older persons. The truth of the matter is however, and as has been repeatedly pointed out in reports by the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, that in practice, this does not happen, and the lack of protection is made even worse with the current normative framework.”

Partners in Population Development (PPD): PPD is an inter-governmental organization of 26 developing countries representing 58 percent of the world’s population. Within these countries, there is a lack of data on policy and program gaps on the situation of older adults. Data broken down by age groups, sex, education, economic and social welfare are inadequate. The PPD supports the need for an “internationally agreed instrument setting standards.” The instrument would serve as a guide for the member countries.

AGE Platform Europe (AGE): AGE is a self-advocacy network representing more than 40 million older people in the European Union. With regard to Europe, AGE applauded the Council of Europe’s adoption of the Recommendation on the Promotion of Human Rights of Older Persons. This document is the first European document that “proclaims that all human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to older persons on an equal basis with others.” AGE members still believe that there is a need to work at the international level to engage effectively in the challenges of an aging population.

Take Aways from the UN

Two issues with which I work closely were primary foci of the working group this year: advanced illness and elder abuse. It was rewarding to hear colleagues from all corners of the world agree on the shortcomings in addressing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and call for a unified approach to the issue. I quickly realized that in some areas the U.S. has done well for elders and in other areas we have much to learn. When Greenlee listed the passage of the Elder Justice Act as a U.S. accomplishment, I wanted to stand up and share with the world the fact that the act has not yet been funded.

In the area of advanced illness and end of life, the issue of how to ensure that each individual’s wishes are known and honored appears to be a worldwide challenge. At the UN, most were in agreement on areas for advanced care and end of life improvement, but there were factions that voiced concern that older persons will be left to die or euthanized with and without consent. (Please keep a lookout for GSA’s upcoming Public Policy & Aging Report on advanced illness.)

This was my second meeting at the United Nations as a representative of the National Guardianship Association, and there are important discussions to be had around the use of guardianship and the complicated issues around supported decision-making and substitute decision-making. These were addressed only briefly, but will most certainly be a part of any convention framework that moves forward.

In conclusion, the working group moves forward at a snail’s pace, but I have years of Hill experience to inform my understanding of what slow can be. And the process is similar in that it includes policy (substance), politics and process. The pace seems particularly slow and redundant to the civil society NGOs that attend each year to present their case. In some instances, nation delegations (just like politicians and Hill staff) change and need to be reeducated. So, persistence will win the day. The case for the convention needs to be made over and over again, keeping in mind that budget and other issues may slow the process as well.

The NGOs need a strategy to secure key support from the various regions of the world, and several key leaders to help with the effort. They need concise materials that make the case for a convention in human terms. Understanding that all the details are not needed or necessarily helpful at this stage may help to persuade some, as well. It will be critically important to include more older people in the process.

Finally, the Chicago Declaration includes an “Article 7 – Research, Statistics and Data Collection” which appropriately articulates the role the nations must take in supporting, undertaking, and disseminating research. As we know, this may be critically important in making the case for a convention, but also for the many roles that such research can play in supporting programs and the rights of older persons, and evaluating the outcomes of such programs and actions for the quality of life of older persons.

In the meantime, we should not ignore the current treaties and international law that protect the rights of older persons (per Greenlee) and we should move forward on full implementation of those. This will help make the case for the gaps that will still exist.
Program Provides Overview of Pain Management

September is Pain Awareness Month and a new public television special titled “Learning about Pain Management” has begun airing on U.S. Public Television as part of the Healthy Body, Healthy Mind series. This program, a production of the Information Television Network, is being supported in part by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, a member of GSA’s Corporate Advisory Panel. The 30-minute program takes an in-depth look at the physical experience known as pain, including how the body senses it and is affected by it, as well as the many pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies aimed at managing it. The program can be viewed online at www.itvisus.com/programs/hbhm/episode_3102.asp; the website also contains airtimes for local markets.

Post-Sandy Analysis Provides Disaster Response Guidelines

Drawing on the lessons of Superstorm Sandy, a new report from The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), “Resilient Communities: Empowering Older Adults in Disasters and Daily Life,” presents a set of recommendations to strengthen and connect formal and informal support systems to keep older adults safe during future disasters. Following the 2012 superstorm, tens of thousands of older adults were isolated in high-rise buildings and private homes, in need of food, water, heat, medical attention, and medication. This unprecedented report looks at not just the vulnerabilities of older adults, but at the role many can play in leading and supporting their communities during disasters. It presents four key findings about the experience of older adults post-Sandy: formal and informal social networks influenced older adults’ decisions and facilitated their access to information and assistance; because older people had not been engaged in emergency planning, emergency services were often inadequate, inappropriate, or inaccessible, and basic and health care needs went unmet; older adults actively supported their communities before, during, and after Superstorm Sandy; and the local neighborhood infrastructure was a critical factor in meeting the needs of older people within affected communities. The report recommends 12 action steps toward community preparedness, including establishing community planning hubs in each neighborhood, supporting landlords with large concentrations of older adults, enacting a pharmacy law for disasters, and consulting with home health care and hospice providers on emergency plans. Funded by the New York Community Trust and the Altman Foundation, the report builds on the platform of Age-friendly New York City, a public-private partnership led by NYAM to enhance city life for older adults. View the full report at bit.ly/1nEjGY4.

Continued from page 1 – GSA Journals Again Top List of Most-Cited Aging Publications

A strong impact factor indicates the research published in a journal is being widely cited elsewhere, which is often a reflection of the quality of this research. This, in turn, encourages scholars to send their best material to the journal, thereby building on its status.

“The influence and importance of the GSA’s journals continue to grow every year,” said Oxford University Press President and Academic Publisher Niko Pfund, “The current impact factors clearly reflect GSA’s vigilant work to drive high quality research in a field that becomes ever more relevant as we confront the manifold challenges of an aging population.”

The Journals of Gerontology, Series A saw the greatest improvement over the past year, with its impact factor jumping from 4.314 in 2012 to 4.984 in 2013. During the same period, The Gerontologist rose from 2.283 to 2.772. The Journals of Gerontology, Series B also increased to 2.852 from its 2011 score of 2.615; due to an error in the previous issue of Journal Citation Reports, no correct 2012 score exists.

In 2013, the most cited articles in each journal were “Searching for an Operational Definition of Frailty: A Delphi Method Based Consensus Statement. The frailty Operative Definition-Consensus Conference Project” from The Journals of Gerontology, Series A; “Insomnia Symptoms, Nightmares, and Suicidal Ideation in Older Adults” from The Journals of Gerontology, Series B; and “Self-efficacy Is Associated With Less Burden and More Gains From Behavioral Problems of Alzheimer’s Disease in Hong Kong Chinese Caregivers” from The Gerontologist.

Journal Citation Reports further included five-year impact factors for the three publications: 5.023 for The Journals of Gerontology, Series A, 3.434 for The Journals of Gerontology, Series B, and 3.279 for The Gerontologist. The five-year impact factor is the average number of times that articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in a Journal Citation Reports year (in this case, 2013). It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in a Journal Citation Reports year by the total number of articles published in the five previous years.


GSA also is holding a symposium titled “How to Publish” at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC, this November. It will provide an opportunity to meet with several editors of GSA’s journals and ask specific questions about getting published. This session will be divided between a podium presentation that will provide advice and guidance on critical components of publishing in peer-reviewed journals, and roundtables that will be organized by journal. Participants will be encouraged to visit as many roundtables as they wish during this component of the session.
Engagement of Undergraduate and Master’s Students in ESPO

Thanks are given to Amanda Leggett and Margie Schustack for their co-authorship of this column.

ESPO often focuses on issues relevant to PhD and MD scholars with a focus on pursuing an academic research track; however, undergraduate and master’s students also make up a large part of the ESPO membership. This column will highlight some of the benefits and resources of membership in GSA for an undergraduate or master’s student.

We spoke with Sara Freed and Neha Nagpal, who recently received their undergraduate degrees and attended the 2013 annual meeting. Freed, who will begin her PhD program in human development at Penn State in the fall, became interested in gerontology because of her summer job at a nursing home. Initially, she thought she would pursue a more applied job in social work or nursing home administration, but she became involved in aging research and decided to pursue a doctorate degree. Nagpal will be starting her MD at the Weill Cornell Medical College in the fall. She was first introduced to gerontology as a nursing home volunteer in high school and intends to become a healthcare professional who integrates applied research in her work.

With the global “booming” of the aging population, an increase in gerontology-related careers and degree programs are on the horizon. In 2011, there were 351 gerontology Master’s degrees awarded in the U.S. and more than half of these were from online gerontology programs. Thus, GSA and ESPO offer many ways to engage undergraduate and master’s students — even online gerontology students who may not attend an annual meeting, to prepare them for careers in gerontological research, service, or practice.

Attending GSAs annual meeting can be a very beneficial experience for undergraduate and master’s students and junior professionals. The research presentations, social and networking events, and Exhibit Hall offer opportunities to learn about current research, explore careers in aging, network with other professionals, and learn about opportunities for higher education in gerontology. Students who participate in research with their mentors and independently can submit their own research abstracts, which is a great resume booster!

Freed said, “My honors thesis advisor recommended that I attend GSA. I’m really glad he did, because I feel like it was the most important experience of my undergraduate academic career. I was still unsure whether I wanted to pursue a career in research, but I realized that gerontology research was the field for me.”

Nagpal told us that GSA was her first experience at a national research conference. “I was excited to attend in order to share my work and also learn more about the types of things people in the field were working on. I was pleasantly surprised by the interest level others showed in my own work and it was really satisfying to know that the research is needed and appreciated. I also learned a great deal about how to effectively communicate my ideas.”

At the GSA conference, students should check out the Exhibition Hall, which features university representatives and faculty who discuss their undergraduate and graduate aging studies programs. In addition, companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies are there to discuss careers and other information about their organizations. One of the most important aspects of the conference is the chance to network and meet new peers and senior faculty. Nagpal took advantage of the annual meeting to explore the work of others in the field and learn how professionals got into their line of work and how emerging professionals can continue to contribute to the field and GSA community.

Outside of the annual meeting, GSA also has much to offer undergraduate and master’s students. The ESPO resources page on the GSA website lists resources and awards available exclusively to students. A new feature of the GSA website called GSA Connect (accessible though www.geron.org) provides an online social networking platform that features discussion groups, resource libraries, an online directory, and events calendar. It also includes an exclusive ESPO members-only discussion forum, which is a great way for students, especially online students and those unable to attend the annual meeting, to connect and take advantage of the GSA community.

ESPO offers travel funding awards each year and Freed recommended that anyone interested in attending a meeting should ask their universities and other members about travel funding opportunities. ESPO offers webinars throughout the year that may be of interest to undergraduates or master’s students, including publishing and mentoring. GSA and its educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), work with institutions to host Careers in Aging Week each spring, which includes activities such as career panels, film screenings, or career fairs. The next Careers in Aging Week will take place April 5 to 11, 2015. Additionally, for undergraduates or master’s students considering a career in gerontology, AGHE’s website (aghe.org) is also a great resource!

To emerging scholars considering attendance at the annual meeting or GSA membership, Freed offers this advice: “Network! GSA gives you the opportunity to meet with research professionals who do all kinds of great research. If you’re interested in attending graduate school, these networking experiences may also lead to meeting your future faculty advisor.”

GSA and ESPO actively encourage diverse undergraduate and master’s students to engage, become leaders, and participate in the association. We hope you will look for ESPO events at the annual meeting and throughout the year, and let us know how we can help you get involved in this outstanding organization.
Meeting Agenda Features
Ample Networking Activities

Numerous sessions that demonstrate GSA’s networking potential are slated for the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC. Visit www.geron.org/2014 to view the full program schedule.

President’s Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall Opening
Wednesday, November 5 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Help kick off the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting with a stroll through GSA’s Exhibit Hall and a visit to the first poster session of the conference. Posters will be on display from 6 to 8 p.m. and presenters will be at their boards from 6 to 7 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres will be available.

Exhibit Hall
Wednesday, November 5 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 6 • 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, November 7 • 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, November 8 • 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Exhibit Hall affords participants opportunities for hands-on examination of new products, technologies, and publications; assessment of applied research; previews of multi-media programs; easy access to graphic displays and literature about programs and centers; and one-on-one consultation with the experts.

ESPO Lounge
Thursday, November 6 • 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 7 • 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 8 • 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The ESPO lounge provides a place for GSA’s emerging scholars and professionals to rest from the hectic conference pace, meet with colleagues and mentors, and learn more about ESPO. Stop by for refreshments and access to free internet!

New Member Meet and Greet
Thursday, November 6 • 7 to 8 a.m.
GSA’s leadership will be on hand at this breakfast event to discuss navigating the meeting, various networking opportunities, and how to become involved in the Society.

New Fellow Meet and Greet
Thursday, November 6 • 7 to 8 a.m.
Fellow status — representing the highest level of membership within the Society — is an acknowledgement of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. GSA staff and current fellows will be present at this breakfast event to welcome the 61 new fellows selected in 2014.

ESPO Breakfast and Community Meeting
Thursday, November 6 • 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
All ESPO members are welcome and encouraged to attend this informational breakfast meeting that provides a review of the year’s activities, honors ESPO volunteer leaders, and discusses current business news for ESPO. This is a great way to learn about opportunities to get involved in ESPO leadership, meet the executive committee members, and network with colleagues.

Committee on Minority Issues Award Presentation and Reception
Thursday, November 6 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.
All members are invited to this event, which honors the 2014 winner of the Committee on Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award.

Interest Group Meetings
Thursday, November 6 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 7 • 7 to 8 a.m., 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 8 • 7 to 8:30 p.m.
These meetings provide excellent networking opportunities and a chance to talk informally with colleagues. Interest groups are formed around a topic or issue that cuts across disciplines and sections of the Society. The Program Book will contain a full list of groups and meeting times.

GSA Fellows & International Reception
Thursday, November 6 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.
This reception is held annually to honor current and new GSA fellows, as well as international members of the Society. Open to fellows and international attendees only.

ESPO Awards Presentation and Reception
Thursday, November 6 • 7:30 to 9 p.m.
This event brings together ESPO members and GSA fellows for the presentation of the Interdisciplinary Paper Award and Poster Awards. A networking reception will follow. ESPO members and GSA fellows are invited.
Hartford/VA Geriatric Social Work Scholars Program Selects New Cohort

The prestigious Hartford/VA Scholars Program has selected three geriatric social work researchers for a two-year award that provides career development and mentorship for projects that will improve health outcomes not only for older veterans, but for all older adults.

The 2014 Hartford/VA Scholars are examining such topics as physical activity among veterans, transitions from VA nursing facilities back into the community, and post-traumatic stress disorder in older veterans. The Hartford/VA Geriatric Scholars Program provides individualized mentorship from top-tier researchers from the Hartford Centers on Geriatric Social Work Excellence who offer comprehensive feedback and guidance, and covers travel expenses and registration fees for The Gerontological Society of America's Annual Scientific Meeting and professional development institutes.

The program is funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by The Gerontological Society of America as a component of the Hartford National Center on Gerontological Social Work Excellence, which seeks to expand the translation of research within the field of geriatric social work to community-based practices in order to better the health and well-being of older people and their families. Listed below are the new scholars and their primary research topics:

Nikola R. Alenkin, PhD, LCSW
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
Aging Veterans in the Domiciliary: Their Perceptions and Realities of Military Experience and Impacts on Treatment Outcomes

Gina M. McCaskill, PhD, MSW, MPA
Birmingham VA Medical Center
A Qualitative Study on Physical Activity among Older Veterans of MOVE!

Kelsey Simons, PhD, LMSW
Canandaigua VA Medical Center
Veterans in Transition: Returning to the Community After a Nursing Home Stay
The number of Americans needing long-term care — also called long-term services and supports (LTSS) — is projected to more than double to 27 million by 2050. Approximately 70 percent of people over the age of 65 will rely on some form of LTSS for an average of three years. The latest issue of Public Policy & Aging Report (PP&AR) lays down a policy prescription for a sustainable system of LTSS in the U.S., using the Federal Commission on Long-Term Care’s 2013 final report as its foundation.

With support from The SCAN Foundation, the issue presents nine articles under the theme of “The Federal Commission on Long-Term Care: Setting an Agenda and Moving It Forward.” Among them are articles by Commission Chair Bruce Chernof, MD and Vice-Chair Mark Warshawsky, PhD, and Staff Director G. Lawrence Atkins, PhD, as well as interviews with two Commissioners, Carol Raphael, MPA, MEd, and Judith Feder, PhD.

“Addressing the financing, delivery and workforce issues around long-term services and supports is the next health policy frontier, and we cannot wait any longer for action,” said Chernof, the president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. “The bipartisan Commission laid out 28 realistic recommendations and a financing framework, providing groundwork for policymakers to build upon.”

Highlights from the issue include:

• Chernof and Warshawsky call for LTSS to be a major element of the next White House Conference on Aging, scheduled for 2015.
• Atkins addresses the Commission’s difficulty in moving beyond a financing framework toward more specific recommendations. He advocates the development of new mechanisms and incentives for individuals and families to meet and prepare for LTSS expenses.
• Joe Caldwell, PhD, and Howard Bedlin, JD, MPS, agree that financing reform must have bipartisan support, further emphasizing the need for aging and disability communities working together.
• Barbara Gage, PhD, MPA, highlights the benefit of integrated care, where traditional providers partner with others to achieve new quality mandates.
• Charissa Raynor, RN, MHSA, addresses workforce development, showcases five training efforts: training at scale, setting minimum training and certification standards, leveraging emerging learning technology, supporting immigrants in home care work, and redesigning home care jobs.
• Loren Coleman, CHNA, and LaRhae G. Knatterud, MAPA, demonstrate the effectiveness of LTSS at the state level, focusing on how Minnesota reduced its reliance on institutional care.
• Michelle Putnam, PhD, and Lex Frieden, MA, LLD, demonstrate the vital role a consumer control approach to LTSS can play in enabling individuals to engage in a full range of life’s activities, including lifelong income generation and aging in place.
• Lynn Friss Feinberg, MSW, addresses the contributions and needs of the 42 million informal LTSS workforce — i.e., family and friends — whose efforts are valued at an estimated $450 billion annually.

GSA members can access the issue by logging in at www.geron.org and clicking on the PP&AR cover.
Continued from page 1 – White House Moves Forward on Aging Conference; Director Named

and congressional relations, media relations, website, and social media. Before joining the federal service, Super was the director of federal government relations, health, and long-term care at AARP where she was responsible for managing AARP’s government relations activities regarding health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, and prescription drugs.

Additionally, GSA Fellow Kathy Sykes, MA, on a detail from the Environmental Protection Agency, is assisting the WHCOA planning team with outreach activities.

Following the news of Super’s appointment, Cecilia Munoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, hosted a roundtable discussion in Washington, DC, with leaders from across the aging community who came to together to discuss the WHCoA. Representing GSA were Executive Director and CEO James Appleby, RPh, MPH, and National Academy on an Aging Society Director Greg O’Neill, PhD.

During the meeting, Munoz discussed four priority areas that have emerged with discussions from older Americans and leaders in the field of aging: retirement security, long-term services and supports, healthy aging, and realizing the vision of the Elder Justice Act.

In a subsequent blog post, Munoz wrote that the White House intends “to use the year ahead to be as creative as possible about using new technology, agencies’ regional offices, partners, and other strategies to engage directly with older Americans and stakeholders on these issues.” To facilitate this dialogue, the White House plans to launch whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov as the official site for the conference in the near future.

GSA has played an active role in many previous conferences and the Society’s leadership currently is working to develop activities that will support the 2015 event. In an effort to help shape the agenda and theme, The Gerontologist most recently solicited papers for a special issue that outlines a vision of older adults’ economic and retirement security, health, caregiving, and social well-being for the decade ahead.

In 2005, thanks to GSA-led forums and subsequent white paper recommendations, civic engagement was included as a key theme of the WHCoA. The Winter 2006 edition of Public Policy & Aging Report, which GSA members can access online for free, provides a recap of the 2005 WHCoA and even concludes with a forecasting article titled “The White House Conference on Aging in 2015: The Shape of Things to Come.”
Preparing a New Generation of Gerontology Scholars

Doctoral Program in Gerontology
University of Maryland, Baltimore and Baltimore County

Program Concentrations:
- Epidemiology
- Policy
- Social, Cultural & Behavioral Sciences

visit us at: www.gerontologyphd.umd.edu | 410.706.4926 | 

National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence

ATTENTION SCHOOLS OF NURSING—JOIN US!
We invite Schools of Nursing to partner in our mission of enhancing and sustaining 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.

Member Benefits Include:
- Think Tank for collaborative federal grant writing
- National Pre/Post-Doctoral Training Award Program
- Nursing Education Xchange (NEXus) Program
- Two free registrations to the premier Annual Leadership Conference
- Access to NHCGNE Directors for program review, online continuing education webinars and teaching resources
- Discounts on conferences, use of organizational mailing list, job board and more

Learn more at geriatricnursing.org
Follow us on Twitter@NHCGNE
Oklahomans Offered Free Program on Healthy Aging
A free program from the University of Oklahoma’s College of Medicine is reaching out to communities in Oklahoma to educate people on healthy aging. There are 19 counties in the Northeastern Center of Healthy Aging region and the main objectives of the program are to enhance the health and quality of life for seniors by increasing access to geriatric health care, providing health education, and optimizing health and aging-related policies. The Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative is a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Oklahoma and is funded by a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

University of Cincinnati Awarded Funding to Address Health Care Gaps
The University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Nursing, along with the UC College of Medicine and partners at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and UC's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, has received almost $1 million to develop programs to grow in number and better prepare practitioners to meet the primary care and mental health care needs of the Ohio Medicaid population. The 14-month award is on behalf of the Ohio Department of Medicaid and will utilize Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP) federal financial participation funds to support UC’s participation in the MEDTAPP Healthcare Access Initiative. The team plans to use the funding to train a number of future and current health care providers to provide quality, integrated behavioral health, and primary care to underserved populations, with specific emphasis on child/adolescent and geriatric populations. This will include training of 50 fourth-year medical students, 26 family and community medicine residents, 25 advanced practice nurses enrolled in UC’s psychiatric mental health post-master’s certificate program, and one child and adolescent psychiatric resident.

Quincy College Introduces Certificate in Gerontology
Quincy College has added a new certificate program in gerontology. School officials cited the high demand for jobs in the field as the reason for the program’s creation. It is designed to prepare professionals for careers in human services with a focus on working effectively with elders. Quincy College, founded in 1958, is a two-year public school in Massachusetts.

Interdisciplinary Research in Aging.
The Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) in Aging Sciences program is supported by funding through the National Science Foundation (NSF), The Oregon State University Graduate School and the College of Public Health and Human Sciences. This program continues and ex-ands Oregon State’s vital commitment to gerontology education with a wide range of supporting scientific research. It is the first and only IGERT program in the nation with a focus on aging sciences!

The program provides a $30,000 stipend and support for tuition and research. Students are mentored by faculty in existing research cores at Oregon State’s Center for Healthy Aging Research:
1) Diet and Genetics
2) Gerontechnology
3) Population, Social and Individual Health
4) Musculoskeletal

Students from diverse disciplines including Human Development and Family Sciences, psychology, sociology, public health, nutrition, exercise sciences, engineering, computer sciences, chemistry, biology, design, and other disciplines, may apply. Dr. Karen Hooker is the program’s Principle investigator. For more information, visit: [http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/igert/](http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/igert/); or contact holly.lenz@oregonstate.edu.

Postdoctoral Position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has an immediate opening for a postdoctoral fellowship in the demography of aging and the life course, funded by the National Institute on Aging. Recent PhDs in sociology, economics, population health sciences, epidemiology and public health are invited to apply for this fellowship. The position is for one year (starting after August 31st, 2014) and renewable for one additional year.

Please send curriculum vitae, a short description of a research project to be conducted at the Center, three letters of recommendation, and copies of publications to:

Alberto Palloni, Director
Center for Demography of Health and Aging
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1180 Observatory Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1393

or inquiries by e-mail to palloni@ssc.wisc.edu

Details about this position are available at [www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/docs/Post-DocPositionCDHA10-1-2014.pdf](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdha/docs/Post-DocPositionCDHA10-1-2014.pdf).
GSA Connect, a professional networking tool, was inspired by GSA members themselves.

As gerontologists call GSA their professional home, they requested a tool that allows them to share resources, communicate easily with their networks on a small or large scale, and connect with others on a professional level. That is where GSA Connect was born — an essential tool for GSA members and a part of our ongoing efforts to better serve your needs.

GSA Connect provides you an easy way to reach out to other gerontologists; whether searching for a psychologist or an economist, GSA’s multidisciplinary membership spans disciplines as well as the globe.

Get started now! Visit www.geron.org and log in to GSA Connect to create your profile and start interacting with your network.

Join GSA Connect Today in Three Easy Steps:

1. Go to www.geron.org and click GSA Connect.

2. Click the “Log in to see members only content” on the top right side of the page. Use your GSA login credentials. You can also select Forgot My Password or email membership@geron.org if you do not know your login information.

3. Click My Profile and update your record by uploading a photo, inputting job history, and creating a short bio.

SUPPORTED BY:
GSA Innovation Fund
Elder Abuse Becomes Global Issue
Violence against older people is a global phenomenon, according to a new report from HelpAge International. A review of 18 research surveys covering 15 countries over the last seven years showed that between as much as 83 percent of older people reported being subjected to a variety of types of abuse. Men and women reported quite similar levels of violence and abuse in the four studies where the data was broken down by sex. But much more research data is needed on this issue, said HelpAge. In Mozambique, for example, a program working to reduce violence against older women reported reductions of 11.3 percent in cases of abandonment of older people by their relatives, 7.6 percent in cases of physical abuse, and a 6.9 percent in cases of verbal abuse from baseline study levels. Local radio stations were involved in broadcasting plays and discussions about violence against older people, helping to raise levels of awareness and how to deal with it.

Loneliness Among Older Brits Increases
A new Age UK survey has found that over one million people aged 65 and over in the U.K. describe themselves as always or often feeling lonely, 41 percent say that their TV or pet is now their main form of company. Nearly 30 percent of older people said they would like to go out more often. Age UK's research also revealed that one in 12 percent of those aged 65 and above are feeling cut off from society. Age UK is supporting a range of services for people who are feeling lonely or isolated; many local Age UK centers also provide other social activities such as lunch clubs and day center activities including exercise classes, coffee mornings, as well as volunteering opportunities that can play a part in preventing loneliness.

Korea Facing Economic Imbalance Between Working Population, Retirees
According to an article that was published in Business Korea, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported that the number of “economically active” Koreans supporting one older adult is expected to fall from 5.26 this year to below two by 2036. This number has been consistently declining over the years, from nearly 16 in 1950 to slightly less than 10 in 1997. Due to this decreasing number, a “production population,” as defined by this article, will need to provide more support to the older adult population. Although Korea’s number is dropping, this year’s figure is higher than the average of 34 OECD member countries at 3.74. Countries with a higher productive population supporting one older individual include Mexico at 8.49 and Chile at 5.29. Of all the OECD member countries, Japan is reported to have the lowest number of 2.19.
GSA 2014
ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETING

Note earlier dates this year!
NOVEMBER 5–9, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

Registration is now open! Visit geron.org/2014

Making Connections: From Cells to Societies