With Foundation Solidified, Reframing Aging Initiative Spreads Its Message

The GSA-housed Reframing Aging Initiative is now firmly established with the launch of a web presence and logo, and the selection of its Advisory Board — accompanied by several notable workshops and presentations, including a keynote address by GSA CEO James Appleby BSPharm, MPH, ScD (Hon), at the recent National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Annual Conference and Tradeshow.

The current phase of the initiative commenced at GSA in April. It is a long-term, grant-funded social change endeavor designed to improve — or “reframe” — the public’s understanding of what aging means and the many contributions older people bring to society. Ultimately, this understanding will counter ageism and guide our nation’s approach to ensuring healthy and productive aging for all people across the life course.

“With Foundation Solidified, Reframing Aging Initiative Spreads Its Message” was written by Sarah Palmieri, who serves as project director for the Reframing Aging Initiative. “The infrastructure we have built is allowing us to support national, regional, and local reframing efforts.”

Comprehensive background information as well as resources related to the initiative are available at www.reframingaging.org. These include materials developed by the nonprofit FrameWorks Institute, such as the research reports on which the initiative was founded, an educational video series, and “Gaining Momentum,” a toolkit that provides... (Continued on page 8)

Researchers Focus on Cannabis Use to Fill Emerging Policy Need

Older adults are using cannabis at an unprecedented rate, yet research that informs policymakers on the topic is scarce, according to the latest issue of the GSA journal Public Policy & Aging Report (PP&AR).

Titled “There’s Something Happening Here: Exploring the Evolving Intersection between Cannabis and Older Persons,” the journal highlights existing studies as well as recommended areas for further research.

“We largely remain in the dark regarding many important aspects about this rapidly evolving public health policy issue,” wrote PP&AR Editor-in-Chief Brian Kaskie, PhD, in his introduction. “The United States is entering a period when states continue to operate as cannabis policymaking laboratories, the cannabis economy may grow five-fold, and the older adult population is projected to double.”

Among the five articles that follow, the journal offers insights about a 2017 Academy of Medicine report on cannabis, the negative and positive outcomes experienced by older cannabis users, and the perspectives of health-care providers who increasingly encounter older patients who want to know about cannabis or may already be using it.

“There is an urgent need to provide policymakers, program administrators, and clinicians with empirically based answers to critical questions, such as: Why have some states extended cannabis program eligibility to persons with Alzheimer’s disease, given meager amounts of clinical evidence? Is increasing cannabis use among older adults contributing to increasing cannabis use disorders, co-occurring substance use disorders, or related comorbidities?” Kaskie wrote. (Continued on page 6)
From the CEO

Dementia Care Research — An Essential Companion on Race to Cure

By James Appleby, BSPharm, MPH • jappleby@geron.org

It was energizing to interact with so many members at the GSA exhibit during the recent Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Los Angeles. The research presented provided new insights which we all hope will lead to an effective intervention for this devastating disease. The race to find a cure has been an emotional roller coaster as hopes regarding promising new treatments are dashed following disappointing clinical trial results. We are inching closer to new treatments — but the timeframe is unknown.

While this important work continues, millions each year experience the traumatic diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, reminding us of the need to continue improving care for these individuals and their families now while we wait for a cure. Fortunately, many GSA members are tirelessly researching ways to improve dementia care so the affected individuals and their loved ones may experience better outcomes.

The depth of this research commitment is illustrated by looking at the most commonly used session codes for abstracts submitted for the 2019 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting coming up in Austin, Texas. The most frequently selected session code was “Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias,” followed in second and third place by “family caregiving” and “long-term care,” respectively. GSA members are advancing essential research, across disciplines.

Other major activities are underway that showcase the breadth of member expertise focused on finding new interdisciplinary solutions. For example, GSA helped elevate research and practice in the care arena through the development of its KAER toolkit — which entails a four-step process to detecting cognitive impairment and earlier diagnosis of dementia. The acronym comes from each step: Kickstart the cognition conversation; Assess for cognitive impairment; Evaluate for dementia; and Refer for community resources.

KAER was developed by a GSA workgroup and founded on a lot of research that members have conducted over the years. It has now also attracted the attention of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which earlier this year issued a notice of funding opportunity to Prevention Research Centers to conduct a Special Interest Project on evaluating the application of the KAER model in a clinical health care system.

I’m also happy to report that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is gearing up for the second National Research Summit on Dementia Care, Services, & Supports for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers, taking place March 24 and 25, 2020, at the NIH campus in Bethesda. The first such summit was held in October 2017. GSA and its members had a strong presence there and we look forward to members contributing to the upcoming program.

Similarly, the Decadal Survey of Behavioral and Social Science Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease-Related Dementias is underway under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. The first public workshop was held August 14, with many GSA members participating, and three more workshops are planned for this study. All will include a public comment period — so stay tuned to GSA communications for more details.

Effective treatments for this terrible disease will come one day, and the increase in federal funding for Alzheimer’s research we’ve seen in recent years has surely accelerated us along the path. But while we wait for a cure, I am thankful that so many GSA members are researching steps we can take in the here and now to bring comfort to the individuals and families affected.
New Books by Members

- “Health Promotion and Aging: Practical Applications for Health Professionals (Eighth Edition),” by David Haber, PhD, FGSA. Published by Springer Publishing Company, 2020.

Members in the News

- Rachel Wu, MS, PhD, was quoted in a story on the NBC News website on July 17 titled “Want to keep your brain sharp in old age? Go back to school.”
- On July 20, Allen Glicksman, PhD, FGSA, appeared in a special program titled “Mental Health in Older Jewish Americans” airing on Jewish Life TV.
- Thomas Meuser, PhD, FGSA, was quoted in a July 24 article appearing in Minneapolis’ Star-Tribune titled “Writing down a life: How to create a loved one’s memoir.”
- GSA Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Chair Eileen Crimmins, PhD, FGSA, Jennifer Ailshire, PhD, FGSA, Anthony Bardo, PhD, Laura Gillin, PhD, FGSA, and Kenneth Langa, MD, PhD, were quoted in a story on Considerable.com on July 29 titled “The chances you’ll end up getting dementia after 65 are actually falling.”
- Stephen Golant, PhD, FGSA, and Jon Pynoos, FGSA, FAGHE, were quoted in an August 20 U.S. News & World Report article titled “How to Find an Apartment as a Senior.”
- S. Jay Olshansky, PhD, FGSA, has been quoted in numerous articles on the subject of presidential candidates, including “We talked to experts on aging about the 2020 field. Here’s what they told us” on the Politico website on August 20; “Should a presidential candidate’s age matter? An aging expert says no, but he needs more information” in The Philadelphia Inquirer on July 30; and “How old is too old to be president? The answer is far more complicated than a number.” In the Chicago Tribune on August 2.

Colleague Connection

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

Sara Stemen, MGS

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Mr. Candidus Nwakasi, MPH, was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Member Spotlight

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

Justine S. Sefcik, PhD, RN

Click on the Member Spotlight slider image at the top of www.geron.org to read the interview and ask questions.

Cohen, Kolluri Speak at Tokyo Forum

University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology Dean Pinchas Cohen, MD, FGSA, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch Managing Director Suray Kolluri, MBA, were featured panelists at the G-20’s Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) Forum on Aging and Financial Inclusion on June 7 in Tokyo, Japan. This event was held in advance of this year’s G-20 Summit. The G-20, consisting of 20 countries and the European Union, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, representing more than 80 percent of the global GDP.

Crowther, McGuire Take Spots on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Council

Martha Crowther, PhD, and Lisa C. McGuire, PhD, FGSA, have been appointed by the U.S. Administration on Community Living to the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. The council was established as part of the passage of the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act. It will identify, promote, coordinate, and disseminate to the public information, resources, and the best practices available to help grandparents and other older relatives both meet the needs of the children in their care; and maintain their own physical and mental health and emotional well-being.

Caldwell, McGuire, Shillam, Stevens, Zernial Named to RAISE Advisory Council

Joe Caldwell, PhD, Lisa C. McGuire, PhD, FGSA, Casey Shillam, PhD, RN, MSN, Alan Stevens, PhD, FGSA, and Carol Zernial, MA, have been appointed as members of the RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage) Family Caregiving Advisory Council by the U.S. Administration for Community Living. Shillam and Stevens are serving as co-chairs. The RAISE Family Caregivers Act, which became law on January 22, 2018, directs the secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national family caregiving strategy. To support the development and execution of the strategy, the RAISE Act also directed the establishment of the Family Caregiving Advisory Council. The council is charged with providing recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on effective models of both family caregiving and support to family caregivers, as well as improving coordination across federal government programs. Through the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, GSA previously advocated for funding to support the council.

GSACconnect Corner

Below are highlights from recent discussions on the GSA Connect online networking platform. Join the conversation at connect.geron.org!

- Carrie L. Andreoletti, PhD: As we begin gearing up for the fall semester, August is a great time to share teaching tips or favorite activities/assignments for engaging students in your aging/gerontology classes. During the next month, we will use this space to share your best practices for engaging students with aging. We would love your contributions and questions. To add a tip or suggestion, just hit “reply” to this conversation and share (you can even reply from your email without logging in). Have questions? Take advantage of this community of experts and post them here. (Posted in the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Community)
Austin Brings Exciting New Round of Policy Series Offerings

Although Congress has been in recess, it has been a busy August nonetheless, with a highpoint being the inaugural meetings of the RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. These were established respectively by the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act and the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act. GSA is well-represented on the RAISE Family Caregiver Advisory Council and has two members serving as its co-chairs (Casey Shillam, PhD, RN, MSN, and Alan Stevens, PhD, FGSA), and we have been very involved with caregiving issues through our members’ innovative work, participation on and dissemination of the National Academies’ “Families Caring for an Aging America” report, support for RAISE, and with the advocacy of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations. We will keep you up to date on the councils’ work and recommendations.

But this article is meant as a teaser for our Policy Series sessions at the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in Austin. We will be back together to share our research, knowledge, and experiences, and talk about how our work can inspire policy change. Make a note of these offerings on your calendar, and consult the meeting mobile app or GSA website for any schedule updates.

Wednesday, November 13

Women’s Planning Decisions and Choices Affect Financial Wellness in Later Life
2:30 to 4 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 11A
Chair: Cindy Hounsell
Moderator: Brian Lindberg
Panelists: Carol Bogosian, Ted Goldman, Beth Almeida
Today’s older adults are spending more time in retirement than in the years planning for it. Panelists will present research on retirees 85 and over and how they are managing their finances, on how residents in the U.S., U.K., and Australia are (or are not) preparing for their retirement, as well as on the barriers to savings that exist for Latina workers.

Policy Update: Older Adult Nutrition and Malnutrition
4:30 to 6 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 11A
Chair: Meredith Whitmire
Co-Chair: Bob Blancato
This federal policy update will include discussion of the Older Americans Act nutrition programs and their reauthorization progress, older adult programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and advances in nutrition services being made in healthcare programs such as Medicare Advantage and managed long-term care services and supports.

Thursday, November 14

Reefer Madness, Sadness, or Gladness? The Cannabis and Older Persons Study
8 to 9:30 a.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Brian Kaskie
Discussant: Julie Bobitt
Panelists: Namkee Choi, Julie Bobitt, Sara Qualls, Freddi Segal-Gidan
This session will feature a study conducted by an interdisciplinary team that examined a range of issues including: (a) life-span attitudes toward cannabis, (b) clinical perspectives on counseling and certifying older persons for medical cannabis, (c) provider perspectives on state cannabis policy and program implementation, (d) cannabis use among dementia caregivers, and (e) outcomes experienced by older persons who use cannabis for medical or recreational purposes.

Older Americans Act: Reauthorization Process and Outcomes
12 to 1:30 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Brian Lindberg
Discussant: Patricia D’Antonio
Panelists: Bob Blancato, Grace Whiting, Andrew MacPherson, Amy Gotwals
The Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization looks like the perfect bipartisan bill supporting older adults to move forward in 2019. This session provides a DC-insiders look at the proposed revisions to the law, and the roles of the House, Senate, and the presidential administration. Key players in the process make up the panel and will share their insights and predications on the OAA’s future.

The HRSA Geriatrics Education Initiatives: A Policy and Program Update
5 to 6:30 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Catherine Carrico
Discussant: Brian Lindberg
Panelists: Catherine Carrico, Leland Waters, Marla Berg-Weger, Kathryn Hyer, Tara A. Cortes, Jennifer J. Severance, Thomas V. Caprio
This session will address the evolving work of Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEP). The return of the Geriatrics Academic Career Award program indicates the success of advocacy efforts to increase programs to support geriatric training and the development of geriatric academic professionals. Presentations will explore the policy priorities reflected in the GWEP notice of funding opportunity, including the use of technology for training and care delivery, the age-friendly healthcare and dementia-friendly community initiatives.

Friday, November 15

Interdisciplinary Public Policy Discussion Session
8 to 9:30 a.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Linda K. Harootyan
Discussant: Brian W. Lindberg
Panelists: Linda K. Harootyan, Scott Leiser, Robert Harootyan, Karl Pillemere, Stephen Kritchevsky
This interactive session is an interdisciplinary look at policy issues in aging with the speakers representing the four sections of GSA.
This session, organized by the GSA Public Policy Committee, will provide both GSA section leadership and attendees an opportunity to have an open dialogue on important public policy issues of significance in the field of aging.

Research, Policy, and Practice: Impacts of Discrimination
10 to 11:30 a.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Patricia D’Antonio
Discussant: John Feather
Panelists: Charles Emlet, Tracey Gendron, Karen Frediksen-Goldsen
Aging crosses all domestic and international borders and affects everyone regardless of religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The main purpose of The Gerontological Society of America is “to advance the scientific and scholarly study of aging and to promote human welfare by the encouragement of gerontology in all its areas.” Yet in 2019, policies remain in effect that impact individuals in a discriminatory manner. The program will highlight research in several areas that demonstrate the effects of these discriminatory practices.

Aging as Disease: Implications and Repercussions (Momentum Discussion)
3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 18C
Moderator: Linda K. Harootyan
Co-Moderator: Scott Leiser
Panelists: Peter Boling, Tara L. McMullen, Jamie N. Justice, Joan Mannick
We are on the cusp of having treatments that slow aging in multiple model systems and are nearly ready for clinical studies. This session asks the question “is aging a disease?” (or “what if aging was a disease?”) from the scientific research, policy, and clinical perspectives, and addresses the overall benefits and drawbacks of considering the leading disease-causing process as a disease itself. The session will devote a significant amount of time for questions and discussion of this thought-provoking topic.

Congressional Update
5 to 6:30 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair and Moderator: Brian Lindberg
Panelists: TBA
This popular annual session will provide cutting-edge information on what the 116th Congress has and has not accomplished to date, and what may be possible during an election year. Speakers will discuss key issues such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. Hill staffers, advocates, and lobbyists will present.

Saturday, November 16, 2019
Harnessing Social Networks to Optimize Environmental Contexts for Diverse Aging Experiences (Presidential Symposium)
8 to 9:30 a.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 19AB
Chair: Philip Rozario
Co-Chair: Emily Greenfield
Discussant: Nancy Kusmaul
Panelists: Harry O. Taylor, Caroline Gelman, Sato Ashida
The three papers in this symposium draw on the convoy model of social relations and ecological model to examine and better understand the micro, mezzo, macro contexts that shape and influence how older people engage with and benefit from their networks in three contexts: low-income senior housing communities, urban areas specifically targeting older Latinos with dementia, and disaster preparedness in micropolitan counties in eastern Iowa. These papers will consider practice, policy and research implications in strengthening social networks and engagement to optimize older adults’ well-being in various settings.

Addressing Loneliness Among Older Adults Through Research, Community Programs, and a New Federal Policy Agenda
12 to 1:30 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Erica Solway
Moderator: Brian Lindberg
Panelists: Erica Solway, Catherine Spensley, Andrew MacPherson
A growing body of research has found that chronic loneliness can impact memory, physical well-being, mental health, and life expectancy and rivals the impact on health outcomes of obesity and smoking. Presenters will highlight results from a poll conducted among a nationally representative sample of adults age 50 to 80, will describe lessons learned in developing and delivering culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services that foster social connections, and will describe stakeholder efforts to advocate for legislative and regulatory policies.

New Family Caregiving Research to Support Policy and Practice Change
3:30 to 5 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Jean Accius
Discussant: Heather Young
Panelists: Susan Reinhard, Lynn Friss Feinberg, Ari Houser
This symposium highlights new research on the increasing complexity of the challenges facing family caregivers, new data on the economic value of the unpaid contributions of family caregivers, and the growing importance of family caregiving on the public policy agenda. It will identify potential drivers for developing a better system of family support at the federal and state levels.

Elder Abuse and the Opioid Epidemic in Rural America
5:30 to 7 p.m. in Austin Convention Center Room 16A
Chair: Pamela Teaster
Discussant: Robert Blancato
Panelists: Pamela Teaster, Karen Roberto, Brian Lindberg
Older adults are generally excluded from consideration of those who are affected by the opioid epidemic. Far too frequently, older people become easy targets for abuse by persons needing resources to feed their addiction. Using Adult Protective Services case notes, the session will characterize cases of elder abuse in rural communities and share recommendations on strategies for prevention, intervention, and policy.
I’d like to applaud President Jazwinski’s decision to attend an arts and humanities session on creativity and aging. I was struck by several issues raised in his column that others may also have noticed. The first is Professor Jazwinski’s argument concerning the differences between the arts and humanities on one side and the sciences on the other. This topic has been of interest to scholars for decades, going back at least to C. P. Snow’s 1959 Rede Lecture in which, Snow — not unlike Professor Jazwinski — took the humanities to task for their ignorance of scientific matters, comparable in effect to a scientist not ever having read a Shakespeare play or, worse still, not knowing how to read. Professor Jazwinski is not as provocative, arguing only that the humanities are fine as long as they understand that they are not scientists. The reason he believes that scientists hold the humanities in low esteem (although I doubt this is true) is due to their mistake of “trying to sell to the scientists what they are doing as science, thinking it might garner acceptance more easily.” It is not clear who these poseurs are and whether their efforts to pass as scientists have ever succeeded.

The second aspect of this brief column that caught my attention is where the blame for this state of affairs is believed to lie. The fault clearly lies at the feet of the arts and humanities, since it is they who sometimes believe their work deserves the acclaim held by the more valued sciences. The fault of the sciences in this failure to achieve interdisciplinarity, on the other hand, goes without mention. Just as C.P. Snow was accused of being a public relations man for the sciences, Professor Jazwinski’s lifelong work in the sciences may have produced a certain level of ethnocentrism or, even, a touch of scientific imperialism.

Finally, as a sociologist, I was surprised — and, yes, a bit annoyed — at the absence of any mention of the social sciences in his argument. It is the social sciences, after all, that sit squarely in the crease between the sciences and the humanities. It is the social sciences, much more than either the humanities or the sciences, where the greatest hope and probability of encouraging a greater interdisciplinarity within gerontology can be found. I hope that Professor Jazwinski enjoys his time in office and that maybe at the next meeting of the GSA he finds his way into a session devoted to the social sciences.

James J. Dowd, PhD
Department of Sociology, The University of Georgia

President’s Response:

I am delighted that Professor Dowd has taken the time to respond to my brief column last month. As Todd Kluss, the editor of Gerontology News, states: “Congratulations on stimulating some interdisciplinary discussion; it’s been ages since we received an official letter to the editor.” Indeed, it was my purpose to spur such discussion.

My column focused on the arts, with only a passing reference to the humanities. It seems that Professor Dowd’s response is directed from the perspective of the latter. He betrays a sense of inferiority of the arts and humanities relative to the sciences, which is cloaked in the apparent superiority of the sciences he detects in my column. It is precisely such perceptions of inferiority that I combat in the column, likening it to a feeling of alienation.

Further to the point, I wrote: “So what unites art and science? First, they both provide legitimate means to view reality, even though those means are different… They are simply different and perfectly complementary ways of looking at things gerontological.” Artists are the ultimate systems thinkers. For them, the whole creation is most certainly greater than the sum of its parts. This is also true of the consumer whose appreciation for the contribution of the arts grows with experience and training. The artist relies on his/her work to speak for itself. The scientist feels compelled to explain.

I mention biology in my column only to reveal my credentials. There was scant room to provide a fuller exposition that would have included the social sciences. Professor Dowd will be quite pleased when he attends the opening plenary session at the meeting in Austin. He will have the opportunity to revel in the opening plenary speaker I chose who happens to be a social scientist.

S. Michal Jazwinski, PhD, FGSA
GSA President

Continued from page 1 – Researchers Focus on Cannabis Use to Fill Emerging Policy Need

The contents of the new PP&AR:
- “There’s Something Happening Here, But What It Is Ain’t Exactly Clear,” by Brian Kaskie, PhD
- “The 2017 Cannabis Report of the National Academy of Medicine: A Summary of Findings and Directions for Research Addressing Cannabis Use Among Older Persons,” by Robert B. Wallace, MD, MSc
- “Potential Harms of Marijuana Use Among Older Adults,” by Namkee G. Choi, PhD, FGSA, Diana M. DiNitto, PhD, and Stephan Arndt, PhD
- “The Role of Cannabis in Improving Pain and Symptom Management in End-of-Life Care,” by J. Alton Croker III and Sara Sanders, PhD, MSW, FGSA
- “Cannabis as an Alternative to Opioid Use by Older Adults: The Illinois Opioid Alternative Pilot Program,” by Julie Bobitt, PhD, and Conny Mueller Moody
- “Medical Cannabis Policy: Considerations for Older Patients and Their Health-Care Providers,” by Kenneth Brummel-Smith, MD, and Freddi Segal-Gidan, PhD.
Attending the Annual Scientific Meeting: Resources and Events for ESPO Members

By Jacquelyn Minahan, MA

The Annual Scientific Meeting serves as a platform for scholars, academics, and industry members to connect, network, and learn from colleagues and peers in the gerontology sector. During the meeting, ESPO offers events and activities specifically geared towards students and transitional members.

ESPO Lounge
Thursday, November 14, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Friday, November 15, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, November 16, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
The ESPO Lounge at the Annual Scientific Meeting provides a place for GSAs emerging scholars to rest from the hectic conference pace, network with fellow ESPO members, meet with colleagues, enjoy refreshments, and check e-mail on the computers provided in the lounge.

ESPO Breakfast and Community Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 7 to 8 a.m.
All ESPO members are encouraged to attend this informational breakfast meeting, which will provide an opportunity to review the year’s activities, honor ESPO volunteer leaders, recognize ESPO award winners, transition ESPO chairs, and discuss current business news for ESPO. This gathering is a great way to learn about ESPO involvement and to network with colleagues.

ESPO Wine and Cheese Networking Reception
Friday, November 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
All ESPO members are invited to meet with ESPO Presidential Symposium panelists, ESPO leaders and ESPO members, and GSA fellows at a relaxed yet engaging reception. The ESPO Wine and Cheese Reception will directly follow the ESPO Presidential Symposium. Attendance at both is encouraged but not required.

Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars
Friday, November 15, 8 to 9:30 a.m. (No fee but separate registration is required)
The mentoring consultancies bring students and junior faculty members together with senior faculty, experienced researchers, and GSA leaders to focus on methodological challenges in publication and research, share experiences, and develop problem-solving strategies that will enhance professional and career development.

Informal Chats
Informal chats will be held in the ESPO Lounge and will focus on topics of specific interest to ESPO members. Chats this year will include:
• The Inside Scoop on Writing and Publishing your Academic Work
  Thursday, November 14, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
  This informal chat will allow participants to share strategies and tips on writing and publishing their work. Topics to include: 1) Publishing your thesis or dissertation work; 2) Practical ways to organize and keep track of manuscript progress; and 3) Tips to publish when working in a large interdisciplinary team.

• Dissertation Writing Group
  Thursday, November 14, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
  This informal chat will allow ESPO members to know more about how Dissertation Writing Group is structured. Topics to include: 1) Testimonials from previous participants; 2) Discussion about writing techniques (both dissertation and non-dissertation related); 3) Tips on maintaining motivation, time management, and tracking progress.

• Policy and Gerontology Education: Adapting Policy-Focused Curriculum That Bridges Learning Gaps for the Non-Policy Focused Gerontology Student
  Friday, November 15, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
  Aims of this chat session are to engage gerontology students in policy focused coursework that deviates from the usually biopsychosocial model used in current pedagogical strategies. This will involve student-led discussion and provide resources regarding policy, educational content, and teaching strategies.

• It’s Only a Year (or so): Securing an Internship and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Following Graduate School
  Friday, November 15, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
  This informal chat will focus on securing post-graduate training positions for all disciplines. Topics will include APA-accredited internships and the match process, post-doctoral research and clinical fellowships, and various other training opportunities available to early-career ESPO members.

• ESPO International Task Force
  Saturday, November 16, 8:30 to 10 a.m.
  This informal chat will enable international early career members to exchange ideas and get to know others with similar interests. Discussion will involve challenges of conducting international research as well as funding resources, tips, and strategies.

• The Road to Independence: GSA-NIA Collaborative Chat on Strategies for Career Transition (and Butler-Williams Scholars Alumni Night)
  Saturday, November 16, 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.
  Join discussions with the National Institute on Aging (NIA), Butler-Williams Scholars, and early-career GSA/ESPO members. Topics to include: 1) NIA grant mechanisms, review, and training opportunities; 2) Career development and support through GSA and ESPO; and 3) Hot topics for transitional members: partnering independence with mentoring; job search and interviews; work-life balance.

For further information, and to confirm dates and times, visit bit.ly/2ZdhnEY.
Continued from page 1 – With Foundation Solidified, Reframing Aging Initiative Spreads Its Message

tested strategies and evidence-informed tools that have been found to reduce implicit bias against older people.

The initiative is also now guided by a 12-member Advisory Board. As part of their guidance, the members of the board will identify key organizations and decision makers who can help advance the initiative, define criteria for new Reframing Aging Facilitators (formerly called master trainers), and promote reframing principles within their own networks.

“Our momentum is accelerating and there are many demands for assistance with reframing aging and many requests for collaboration,” said D’Antonio. “We welcome the experience and insights of the advisory board to help us channel this energy into optimal outcomes.”

More recently, the message of the initiative has been spread throughout many corners of the field of gerontology. In July, Appleby presented “A Generation’s Work – Reframing Aging Together” as the keynote speaker for n4a’s 2019 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The n4a’s membership is composed of area agencies on aging and other community-based service providers. Appleby drew a contrast between this year’s 50th anniversary of the moon landing and the introduction of the term “ageism.” While the former event spurred transformative technological advancement in the intervening decades, public attitudes about aging have not evolved and ageism remains entrenched fifty years later.

“[Reframing Aging] provides a new way for all of us to talk about aging that is aligned with what the research shows to be true,” Appleby said. “This Reframing Aging Initiative takes on the ‘conventional wisdom’ on aging and provides us a pathway to changing the stereotypes that surround aging in the United States.”

He went on to compare the effects of ageism to that of second-hand smoke — “A situation where others’ behavior dramatically impacts the health of those around them,” he said. But “good science documented the dangers of second-hand smoke and society responded. I hope we can mount a similar society-wide effort to address the ill effects of ageism.”

The n4a conference also featured a workshop, “Reframing Aging for Effective Advocacy,” led by GSA Program Manager Laurie G. Lindberg, who also ran a booth in the exhibit hall to promote the initiative.

Another workshop, “The Reframing Aging Initiative: A Multi-pronged Approach to Creating Change,” is scheduled to take place in October at the Grantmakers in Aging Annual Conference in New York, New York. It will be held in partnership with Rose Community Foundation, The SCAN Foundation, and Tufts Health Plan Foundation, whose advocates will present on the ways they are using Reframing Aging Initiative recommendations to effect change in their own communications and communities.

At November’s GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in Austin, Texas, two reframing-related events are planned: a workshop titled “Reframing Aging: America Needs an Aging Attitude Adjustment” and a symposium titled “Reframing Aging: Practices and Measures to Harness the Strength of Intergenerational Network Ties.”

The Reframing Aging Initiative is presently supported by Archstone Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, The Retirement Research Foundation, and The SCAN Foundation, with additional funding from the New Hampshire Endowment for Health. The work is conducted on behalf of eight involved organizations — collectively known as the Leaders of Aging Organizations — who launched the initiative in 2014 as a way to address negative views of aging, promote more accurate perceptions of aging, and develop supportive aging policies.

**Reframing Aging Initiative Advisory Board**

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Borchard Foundation Seeks Proposals for 2020 Academic Research Grants

Legal, health sciences, social sciences, and gerontology scholars and professionals are invited to submit research proposals to The Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging. The objective of the center’s Academic Research Grants Program is to further research and scholarship about new or improved public policies, laws, and/or programs that will enhance the quality of life for older adults, including those who are poor or otherwise isolated by language, culture, disability, lack of education, or other barriers. Up to four grants of a maximum of $20,000 each will be awarded. The center expects grantees to meet the objectives of the grant program through individual or collaborative research projects that analyze and recommend changes in one or more important existing public policies, laws, and/or programs relating to older adults; or, anticipate the need for and recommend new public policies, laws, and/or programs necessitated by changes in the number and demographics of the country’s and the world’s older populations, by advances in science and technology, by changes in the health care system, or by other developments. It is expected that the research product will be publishable in a first-rate academic journal. The online application form will be available after September 15. Applications should be submitted no later than October 15. Selections will be made on or about December 15. A detailed request for proposals can be accessed at www.borchardcla.org. For more information, contact Catheryn Koss at ck@borchardcenter.org.

NIA Offers New Round of Beeson Awards

The National Institute of Aging (NIA) invites early-stage physician and other health professional investigators with a commitment to aging and/or aging-related diseases to apply for the Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award to advance their research and leadership skills in their specialty and in the broader field of aging and geriatrics research. The NIA is pursuing this initiative to recruit early-stage investigators who have begun to establish research programs and who, through this award, will be ready to assume leadership roles in their field of expertise and will be poised to change theory, practice, and health outcomes related to the health of older individuals. Full applications are due October 22. To learn more, visit bit.ly/2KYle04.

Federal Funds Slated for Research on Microbiome

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has issued a funding opportunity announcement that invites projects focused on defining the factors that influence microbiome composition and functional characteristics during aging, understanding how the aging microbiome relates to the causes and pathophysiology of age-related chronic diseases, and development and testing of targeted interventions through diet, drugs, or live organisms. The NIA will accept basic mechanistic, preclinical studies in animal models and human studies leveraging existing human longitudinal cohorts. Applications should focus on studies that characterize age-related alterations of the microbiome in various tissues, including the intestinal tract, urogenital tract, lung, oral cavity, and skin, and the influence these changes have on the initiation and progression of various age-related pathologies and conditions, with the exception of malignancies and/or neurodegenerative diseases. Consultation with NIA staff is strongly encouraged prior to the submission of an application. Applications are due October 30. Visit bit.ly/2GfJcxD for full details.

BrightFocus Issues Call for Alzheimer’s Research-Related Grant Applications

The BrightFocus Foundation provides research funds for U.S. domestic as well as international researchers pursuing pioneering research leading to greater understanding, prevention, and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. The goal is to accelerate the understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias as well as innovative approaches to better diagnose, prevent or delay the progress of the disease. Preference is made for exciting pilot projects that would not, at their present stage, be competitive for large government or industry awards. Typically, these awards are made to early stage investigators, or to more established investigators who are proposing particularly innovative research. Full proposals are due November 4. For application instructions and more information about available programs, visit www.brightfocus.org/ADRRFP.

Glaucoma Targeted by BrightFocus Call for Proposals

The BrightFocus Foundation has issued a request for proposals on glaucoma research. New grants are available for research that begins in 2020, with an application deadline of November 8. BrightFocus grants cover a wide range of investigator-initiated topics in basic, clinical and translational research. Typically these awards are made to early-stage investigators, or to more established investigators who are proposing particularly innovative research. Its glaucoma program is currently supporting 32 scientific projects worldwide. Visit www.brightfocus.org/NGR-RFP for more information about glaucoma grants.
Making Meaning: Helping Students Connect with Gerontological Concepts

By Lisa Borrero, PhD • Associate Professor, Interprofessional Health and Aging Studies • University of Indianapolis • borrerol@uindy.edu

Each semester, many of us work to develop or simply polish our course content and teaching strategies to reach students in meaningful ways. Ultimately, we all want to help students engage with course concepts beyond simply memorizing and mindlessly repeating information.

For gerontology courses in particular — where such topics as the lived experiences of older adults, the process of aging, and societal regard for older people are taught — it is helpful for students to attach personal significance to the material in order to fully absorb it.

Additionally, attaching new meanings to the process of aging, and what is perceived as “young” or “old,” may work to slowly dismantle any ingrained ageist attitudes students may hold. This approach draws upon symbolic interactionism by rejecting and “unlearning” outdated and harmful symbols of aging and, instead, adopting those that are aligned with positive, age-affirming perceptions.

To this end, what has made the most impact in my courses are activities that offer real-world applicability and/or personal connections that can tangibly illustrate a particular set of concepts. For me, these course components reliably elicit the highest-quality student work and positive student feedback.

Most of these components are experiential and, when possible, involve intergenerational conversations. Some examples include:

- Assessing a neighborhood’s built environment for fall hazards and analyzing possible solutions to reduce fall risk; learning the value of the Older Americans Acts Congregate Nutrition Program by eating lunch at a congregate meal site and interacting with the older adult participants; exploring food insecurity by developing a shopping list for an older adult on a fixed income while using the USDA’s dietary guidelines; and engaging in a semester-long collaborative research project with an older adult partner.

These kinds of projects bring the course topics front-and-center by requiring students to wrestle directly the issues at hand and, ideally, view concepts through the perspective of an older person.

Sometimes, depending on the prior experiences of the students, simply having contact with one or more older adults is a worthy assignment in and of itself. In these situations, I’ve had online students engage in a semi-structured email “pen-pal” relationship with an older adult over the course of six weeks, while students in a face-to-face class partnered with an older adult to participate in a set of reciprocal “interviews” to make personal connections over time.

These activities serve to underscore the important role hands-on engagement plays in learning gerontological concepts as well as the positive meanings we can help students assign to growing older in our society.
GSA Publications Committee Sponsors Two Symposia in Austin

There will be two sessions at the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting in Austin sponsored by the GSA Publications Committee. “How to Publish: From Start to Finish and Beyond” will be chaired by Innovation in Aging Editor-in-Chief Laura P. Sands, PhD, FGSA, and will feature presentations on choosing the right journal for manuscripts, preparing manuscripts for review, responding to requests for manuscript revision, and how to maximize the reach of published work. The editor-in-chief of the psychological sciences section of The Journals of Gerontology, Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, Derek M. Isaacowitz, PhD, FGSA, will chair the symposium “Open Science and Transparent Research Practices: Implications for Gerontology.” This session will feature presentations on open science in the field of gerontology and implications for publishing and grants, and will consider examples and challenges of applying open science principles such as preregistration in a range of types of aging research, from experimental to survey data to qualitative studies.

Innovation in Aging Seeks Papers on Race, Mental Health

Innovation in Aging is accepting abstracts for a special issue to be titled “Race and Mental Health Among Minority Older Adults.” The abstract should include the main findings that will be reported in the full manuscript while emphasizing the contribution of the study to research on the mental health of older adults in racial and ethnic minorities. Robert Joseph Taylor, MSW, PhD, of the University of Michigan will be serving as the guest editor for this special issue. Abstracts are due by October 18.

New Podcast Looks at Robotic Pets

In the fourth episode of The Gerontologist Podcast, Howard B. Degenholtz, PhD, FGSA, interviewed Wendy Moyle, PhD, at Griffith University about her research using robotic pets for people with dementia. Her paper, “She Had a Smile on Her Face as Wide as the Great Australian Bite: A Qualitative Examination of Family Perceptions of a Therapeutic Robot and a Plush Toy,” published in the 2018 special issue of The Gerontologist on technology and aging, expands this work to explore the impact of the robotic pets on family members. Previous podcasts include “Mindfulness Interventions for Dementia Caregivers,” “Use of Cannabis Among Older Adults,” and “Homeless for the First Time.” To listen to the podcast and read the articles discussed in each of the episodes, visit geron.org/podcast.
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