Non-Academic Careers in Aging

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Mindy Baker, PhD

Director of Education
George G. Glenner Alzheimer’s Family Centers, Inc.
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Background

• Passion for older adults and dementia care

• Education
  – PhD in applied cognitive aging
  – Certificate of Gerontology; University of Akron

• Employment
  – Creative Action, Inc.
  – Ohio Wesleyan University; Project Manager for NIA grant
  – Adult day programs and assisted living
George G. Glenner
Alzheimer’s Family Centers, Inc.

Adult day programs for people with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia

Director of Education
- E-Learning
- Training Team
- Professional Training
- Symposia
- Community Partners
Enjoy the Journey

• Know yourself
  – What are your strengths?
  – What are you passionate about?
  – What is your ideal lifestyle?

• Be open to indirect paths

• Don’t try to fit in someone else’s box
Benefits of My Non-Academic Career

- Bridge the gap between academics and applied setting
- Direct impact on people with dementia and families
- Having a different perspective to offer
- Time for other priorities
Sonya Barsness, MS

Sonya Barsness Consulting
Email: sonya@sbcgerontology.com
Sonya Barsness Consulting begins with the perspective of people growing older and growing with dementia so that education, research, policy, and practice truly reflect what is important to them.
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www.sbcgerontology.com
Cynthia Dougherty, PhD, MSW

Director of the Office of Geriatrics
And Interprofessional Aging Studies
The Ohio State University College of Medicine
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My Winding Road…

• Before I was a Buckeye, I was a Bobcat
  – Not a direct path, but not surprising either

• MSW, PhD
  – Connectedness
  – Relationship building
  – Open mind
  – Personal experiences
As You Prepare

• Be willing to take risks
• Learn from those who are different from you (coursework, disciplines, experiences)
• Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities
• Work to make opportunities when you don’t find them readily available
• Think broadly
• Work to develop transferable skills
• Network, network, network!
• Straddling the line between academic and non-academic
• Aging happens all around us!
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*Our Stories*

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Questions?

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- Translate and disseminate research findings
- Promote/advocate for education/awareness on aging across disciplines
- Foster application of research into policy development

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Email espo@geron.org for additional questions