Statement From GSA Presidential Candidates

Michelle J. Saunders
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
For 25 years, I have viewed GSA as the preeminent organization in multi- and interdisciplinary research, education, practice and policy in gerontology and geriatrics; and it has never let me down. During my journey from trainee presenter, through active member and article reviewer, CM Fellow and Section Chair, to mentor and contributor to many GSA committees and activities, GSA has been my touchstone to the reality of what it means to be an academician in the field of aging. It has taught me that there is plenty of room to excel for individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests in aging. Through the years, GSA has fostered our careers and given us seemingly

Kenneth Shay
Department of Veterans Affairs and University of Michigan
I am deeply honored by the compliment paid by colleagues who nominated me for GSA President. In two decades as a GSA member I have watched the organization evolve and adapt to shifting social, political, and demographic landscapes even as my own career was shaped by corresponding forces. The underlying interdisciplinary spirit that characterizes GSA has been a defining principle in my professional life, and I am excited by the chance to give back to the organization that has done so much for me.

I joined GSA while participating in an innovative two-year fellowship in dental geriatrics—an interdisciplinary "poster child"

Continued on page 2

Behavioral and Social Science Section Raises Funds for Student Travel

A message from current Section Chair Peter Lichtenberg

After careful planning over the past few years by Bill Haley and Melissa Hardy, the BSS leadership created a "BSS Restricted Fund" account at GSA. As BSS Chairs, Deborah T. Gold and Peter Lichtenberg have solicited members for support. The fund, which had 17 contributors to it in 2006, will for the first time provide awards for emerging scholar travel. The awards, which will be offered to 5 randomly selected emerging scholar presenters will be for $200 each.

"We hope that these awards will be a sign to BSS emerging scholars that we value their contributions to the Annual Meeting and to the Society," said BSS program chair and chair-elect Ellen Idler. Debby Gold and Peter Lichtenberg each gave $1,000 leadership gifts to the fund in 2006. "GSA is a great organization for all disciplines in gerontology, but for those of us who are in the behavioral and social sciences, BSS is our intellectual home. We need to support our section," said Debby Gold.

The BSS Restricted Fund contributors for 2006 are listed below:

Ronald Abeles
Rebecca Allen
J. Scott Brown
David Chiriboga
Ingrid Connidis
Nicholas Danigelis
Nina Glasgow
Deborah T. Gold
Hector Gonzalez
William Haley

If you wish to contribute to the BSS Restricted Funds please send a check to:

The Gerontological Society of America
1030 15th Street NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005

Please make sure to note “BSS Restricted Funds” on the check.
Saunders Continued

endless opportunities for professional and personal growth.

As a fellowship-trained dentist geriatrician, with master's degrees in Education and in Public Health, in the Department of Medicine at an academic medical center, and as associate director for education and evaluation at the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, I have been in the unique position of being able to guide and assist in the development and expansion of aging research, education and clinical programs at both institutions. These include, among others, the South Texas Geriatric Education Center which I have directed for 21 years, the Aging Research and Education Center, now the Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, the GRECC, the NIH-funded Research Center on Oral Health in Aging which I co-directed, and a number of training programs and fellowships, many of them interdisciplinary.

I also serve on the legislated Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee to the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), the DADS Task Force on Medicaid Service Recovery Option for Home Health (a CMS demonstration project), and have consulted nationally to the Bureau of Health Professionals/HRSA, Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Surgeon General, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This broad range of experience has enabled me to bring together academic clinicians and scientists in multidisciplinary and multicultural aging research, while translating research findings for academic, community and policy-making constituencies.

GSA is the interpretive scientific voice for the complex issues facing our aging society. My vision for GSA is to further strengthen this voice, in ongoing collaboration with our membership, AGHE, the National Academy and other organizations; and to inform the professions, the public and policy makers about the importance of, need for, and funding for ongoing programs in basic and applied research, education, and quality health care and coverage. I am honored to be nominated as GSA President and look forward to our interactions as we address these challenges.

Shay Continued

there ever was one. Annual posters and presentations at GSA gave way to symposia and special interest meetings as I directed first one, and then a second fellowship of my own in collaborations with Marquette University and The Medical College of Wisconsin. My work as Director of the Midwest (later Wisconsin) Geriatric Education Center gave me the opportunity to put into play policy lessons taught by GSA as I reviewed proposals and developed guidelines in geriatric dentistry for the Bureau of Health Professions.

My peculiar blend of vocational exposures and all I had absorbed in ten year’s of participation in GSA activities was brought into play when I became in 1999 the VA’s first Geriatrics and Extended Care Service Line Director for much of Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. My appreciation for and familiarity with capitalizing on the power of interdisciplinary collaborations to address clinical, educational, administrative and policy challenges supported my efforts to empower front-line geriatric health professionals to grow a coordinated continuum of services that became a standard for comparison in VA.

Since 2004 I have had responsibility for many of the singularly visionary VA geriatrics programs originated during the watch of the late Marsha Goodwin, a woman of incomparable stature whose diverse contributions were eclipsed only by her personal qualities. It has been a great professional privilege to be entrusted with the future of the VA’s 21 Geriatric Research, and Educational Clinical Centers (GRECCs)—and as ever, I feel that I am able to bring the needed tools to work because of my career-spanning experiences in the Gerontological Society.

I have faith in the power of interdisciplinary collaboration for addressing daunting issues, and I want all GSA members to understand the singular nature of what they possess. I believe that the ability to communicate, to understand, and to be understood, that is central to any interdisciplinary pursuit, offers unparalleled efficacy for getting across key concerns. I am eager to have an expanded chance for sharing this organization’s message both within the group and with those whose decisions depend on how well we educate them.
U.C.S.F. Honors Estes for Advancing Women

Former GSA President Carroll Estes was recently recognized by the University of California, San Francisco (U.C.S.F.) with its 2007 Chancellor’s Award for the Advancement of Women. For decades, Estes has been an inspirational role model for women at U.C.S.F. and beyond, and she has played a leadership role in developing national and international policies affecting women. She is also the founder of the Institute for Health & Aging in the U.C.S.F. School of Nursing.

Cutler Named TIAA Fellow

Neal Cutler of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro has been named a Fellow of the TIAA-CREF Institute in recognition of his pioneering work to develop the field of financial gerontology. He is currently an advisor to the Aging and Business Education Initiative in AARP’s Office of Academic Affairs. Cutler and his colleagues will be developing case studies on older workers and related topics that can be adopted in the curriculum of business schools around the country.

A.G.H.E. Recognizes Binstock with Tibbitts Award

Former GSA President Robert Binstock of Case Western Reserve University was recently given the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s (A.G.H.E.) Clark Tibbitts Award. This distinction, named for an architect of the field of gerontological education, is given by A.G.H.E. each year to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of gerontology and geriatrics education. The awardee becomes an honorary Fellow of the Association and delivers a major address at its Annual Conference.

State Department Convenes Global Aging Conference

The U.S. Department of State recently welcomed GSA President Roger McCarter to its Summit on Global Aging, a one day event held in Washington, DC. The meeting featured a panel of distinguished experts from government, universities, and the private sector, including former GSA President Jack Rowe. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt also made presentations. The conference was designed to spur increased international discussion on the subject of aging. Additional information can be found in Why Population Aging Matters: A Global Perspective, a government report available at http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/81537.htm.

New Member Publications


Health Promotion and Aging: Practical Applications for Health Professionals, Fourth Edition, by David Haber. Published by Springer Publishing.

Housing for the Elderly: Policy & Practice Issues, by Philip McCallion. Published by Haworth Press.

In Memoriam

Hiram Friedsam, a long-time GSA member and Fellow, died peacefully on March 24, 2007 from complications of cancer. He served as a GSA vice president in the position of BSS Section Chair, was a former editor-in-chief of The Gerontologist, chaired the Annual Meeting Program Committee, and chaired/served on numerous other committees over the years. He also played a key role in the founding of A.G.H.E. and served as its president from 1977-78. Friedsam also had a long association with the University of North Texas (UNT, formerly North Texas State University) — as the first chair of the Center for the Studies of Aging, founding dean of the School of Community Service, and former chair of the then combined Department of Economics and Sociology. A former colleague from UNT described Hiram as the “George Washington of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service. He was not only founded the College, he personified his vision of what a college like this one could be about.” His family is planning a celebration of his life but details were unavailable at press time. Notes can be sent to his wife Reva at 2010 Golf Court, Denton, TX 76205-7446.

Members in the News

Emily Greenfield of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was featured in a UPI wire story based on a recent article in The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences. Her research showed that elderly adults who continuously participate in community groups are often spared losses in psychological well-being after experiencing physical decline.

Numerous news outlets, from The Washington Post to Canada’s CBC News, recently gave attention to Ohio State University’s Amy Bonomi for work she published in The Gerontologist. She and her colleagues discovered that intimate partner violence is not a problem only for younger women. Their research found that about one in four women older than 65 has been the victim of physical, sexual or psychological violence at the hands of a spouse or other intimate partner.

Colleague Connected!

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Peter Donahue
(He became eligible after referring new member Laura Skrupskas.)

The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org!

For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

April 2007 • gerontology news • 3
As many of us draw closer to the end of our undergraduate and graduate matriculation in aging studies our attention shifts to finding a job that will utilize our aging training. There are jobs available in a wide range of areas. Some possible places of employment include:

- Long-term Care Facilities
- Health Care Facilities
- Retirement Communities
- Research and Teaching positions at Universities
- Federal, State, and Local Government positions (i.e. Administration of Aging)
- Professional Organizations (i.e. Gerontological Society of America, American Society on Aging)
- Religious Organizations
- Advocacy Groups
- Business and Industry

The Careers in Aging website (www.careersinaging.com) is an excellent website that is maintained by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) with a focus on helping students and professionals find employment in aging. This website offers an abundance of resources to help you identify where you might be interested in working and the types of jobs available. In addition to this website, GSA maintains the AgeWork website (www.agework.com) that allows you to post your resume or CV, search for jobs, and receive emails as new positions are posted. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Careers website (http://www.hhs.gov/careers/) allows you to search for positions by the agency you wish to work for, keyword, job type, and location. Here, you can find jobs with the Administration on Aging. Lastly, the American Association for Retired Persons posts job openings on the Career Opportunities at AARP website (http://www.aarpjobs.com/jobs/). The listings on this website include opportunities from a variety of disciplines including policy and strategy, social impact, and integrated communications. There is a high demand for professionals in the field of aging so use your training and education to your advantage!

The 2007 Careers in Aging Week will take place April 8-14. If you would like your institution to participate in the events this year, contact ciaw@geron.org.

Beyond the Usual Suspects: Approaching Sleep in Elderly People Suzanne Lesage and Steven M. Scharf
Polysomnographic and Clinical Correlates of Behaviorally Observed Daytime Sleep in Nursing Home Residents Yohannes W. Endeshaw, Joseph G. Ouslander, Jack F. Schnelle, and Donald L. Bliwise
Sleep Disturbances and Falls in Older People Elizabeth Latimer Hill, Robert G. Cumming, Ray Lewis, Susan Carrington, and David G. Le Couteur
A Multicomponent Nonpharmacological Intervention Improves Activity Rhythms Among Nursing Home Residents With Disrupted Sleep/Wake Patterns Jennifer L. Martin, Matthew R. Marler, Judith O. Harker, Karen R. Josephson, and Cathy A. Alessi

Methodology, Design, and Analytic Techniques to Address Measurement of Comorbid Disease Timothy L. Lash, Vincent Mor, Darryl Wieland, Luigi Ferrucci, William Satariano, and Rebecca Silliman
Framework for Evaluating Disease Severity Measures in Older Adults With Comorbidity Cynthia M. Boyd, Carlos O. Weiss, Jeff Halter, K. Carol Han, William B. Ershler, and Linda P. Fried
Comorbidity in Older Adults: Nosology of Impairment, Diseases, and Conditions Arun Karlamangla, Mary Tinetti, Jack Guralnik, Stephanie Studenski, Terrie Welle, and David Reuben
Online Database Offers Demography Goldmine
A new website, www.diversitydata.org, allows visitors to explore how metropolitan areas throughout the US perform on a diverse range of social measures that comprise a well-rounded life experience. The data covers various racial/ethnic, income and nativity groups and the site uses multiple data sources to show data for numerous domains such as housing opportunities, economic opportunities, residential integration, and health. These data (available in the form of dynamic tables, thematic maps, and customizable reports) call attention to the equality of opportunity and diversity of experiences for different racial and ethnic groups in America.

Study Shows Long-Lived Parents Pass on Lower Risk of Cardiovascular Disease
Researchers from the long-standing Framingham Heart Study (FHS), a program of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health, have reported that people whose parents live longer were more likely to avoid developing high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other risk factors for cardiovascular disease in middle age than their peers whose parents died younger. They also found that the risk factor advantages persisted over time. Further information is available at http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/framingham/index.html.

AARP's Newsletter Features Aging Tidbits
At http://www.aarp.org/ageline, visitors will find a roundup of recent literature, research, and web resources from AARP’s AgeLine Database and related resources – all free as part of AARP’s commitment to broadening knowledge about the 50+ population.

NIH Offers Venue for Community Research Discussion
The National Institutes of Health Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) and its partners are sponsoring a Summer Research Institute to address essential conceptual, methodological and practical issues involved in planning and carrying out research that is jointly conducted by communities and researchers. The Institute will take place at the University of Chicago’s Gleacher Center in Chicago, IL from July 9 to 13, 2007. Applications are due on May 7th. For additional information, visit http://obssr.od.nih.gov/summerinstitute2007/index.html.

Experience Wave Website Launched
M+R Strategic Services, with support from The Atlantic Philanthropies, has launched a new website, www.experiencewave.org, that highlights their efforts to develop federal and state-level policy recommendations to keep older Americans engaged in the workplace and civic life beyond traditional retirement age. The site includes summaries of bills recently introduced in the New York and Maryland state legislatures.

Baby Boomers and Volunteering
A new research brief from the Corporation for National and Community Service, titled Keeping Baby Boomers Volunteering, reports that Baby Boomers today have the highest volunteer rate of any age group and volunteer at higher rates than past generations did when they were the same age. Using data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, the study examined the volunteer habits of Baby Boomers over two consecutive years. The study found that three out of every ten Boomers who volunteered one year chose not to volunteer in the following year. The report’s findings show that the type of volunteer work boomers do has a big impact on whether they continue to volunteer over time. Retention from the first year of volunteering to the second year is highest when they’re involved in professional or management activities, such as strategic planning, marketing, or volunteer coordination. Visit http://www.civicengagement.org/agingsocty/links/07_0307_boomer_report.pdf to read the full report, which includes a discussion of its implications for nonprofits that are seeking to attract and retain Baby Boomers as volunteers.

Journal Publishes Special Cash & Counseling Issue
The journal Health Services Research has devoted an entire issue to Cash & Counseling, an innovative model of self-directed personal assistance services for elderly and young people with disabilities. Visit http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/hesr/42/1p2 to view the table of contents.

Boston's CRR Issues New Reports
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has released six new working papers. They are accessible through the following links:

- Saving and Demographic Change: The Global Dimension
  By Barry Bosworth and Gabriel Chodorow-Reich
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-2.shtml

- Cross-National Comparison of Income and Wealth Status in Retirement: First Results from the Luxembourg Wealth Study (LWS)
  By Eva Sierminska, Andrea Brandolini and Timothy M. Smeeding
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-3.shtml

- Job Changes at Older Ages: Effects on Wages, Benefits, and Other Job Attributes
  By Richard W. Johnson and Janette Kawachi
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-4.shtml

- International Investment for Retirement Savers: Historical Evidence on Risk and Returns
  By Gary Burtless
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-5.shtml

- How Economic Security Changes During Retirement
  By Barbara A. Butrica
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-6.shtml

- Social Security Spouse and Survivor Benefits for the Modern Family
  By Melissa M. Favreault and C. Eugene Steuerle
  www.bc.edu/centers/crr/wp_2007-7.shtml
Announcing the 2007 AGHE Election Results

We are pleased to announce the election of the following officers to serve AGHE during the 2007-2009 term. The candidates were elected by e-mail ballots cast by AGHE’s Institutional Representatives.

President-Elect
Marilyn R. Gugliucci
University of New England

Treasurer
Margaret A. Perkinson
Saint Louis University

Members-at-Large
Janet C. Frank
University of California, Los Angeles
Nina M. Silverstein
University of Massachusetts Boston

AGHE Annual Meeting Highlights

2007 Distinguished Teacher Honorees

AGHE’s Faculty Development Committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the two 2007 Distinguished Teachers, who were featured at the AGHE conference in Portland, Oregon:

Dr. Robert Beland,
University of Florida,
Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management, spoke on “Creativity and Older Adults - Teach It!”

Dr. Darlene Yee, San Francisco State University, Gerontology Programs, College of Health and Human Services spoke on “Facilitating Student Success in Long-Term Care Administration.”

AGHE congratulates these 2007 honorees!

AGHE’s K-12 Task Force Sponsors Student Essay Contest

The K-12 Task Force of AGHE, in partnership with the Institute on Aging at Portland State University, hosted a very special event at this year’s AGHE annual meeting that recognized the selected winners of an essay contest for 4th and 5th grade students in the Portland Public Schools. Teachers were invited to participate by encouraging students to submit essays about grandparents or other older adults who have been inspirational and who have made differences in the lives of the students. A reading committee made up of K-12 Task Force members selected the final winning essays. Essay writers and their honorees were recognized at a special event during the conference. Visit the AGHE website (www.aghe.org) to view the winning essay, written by Lu Imbriano, who won first place for an essay about her 70-year-old grandmother. The other recognized essays will also be posted for review.

AGHE and GSA Staff at Registration

Exhibit Hall Prepares to Open

Essay Contest Winner
Lu Imbriano
### Special Thanks to the 2007 AGHE Annual Meeting Sponsors

We are most grateful to the organizations, businesses, and schools that contributed to AGHE’s 33rd Annual Meeting in Portland. These meeting donations made it possible for us to provide an excellent conference while keeping the registration fees modest. Thank you for your generous support!

- AARP Office of Academic Affairs
- Abbott Laboratories
- Aging Concerns
- Eisai, Inc.
- Intel Corporation, Digital Health Group
- Marylhurst Gerontology Association
- Marylhurst University, Department of Human Sciences
- Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center
- Northwest Health Foundation
- Off the Wall Media
- Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services
- Oregon Health Care Association/Oregon Health Care Foundation
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Portland State University, School of Community Health, Institute on Aging
- Sigma Phi Omega
- Terra Nova Films, Inc.
- The Haworth Press
- The Merck Manual of Health & Aging
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Erickson School of Aging Studies
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Department of Geriatric Medicine
- University of South Florida, Collaborative on Aging

---

### ASSOCIATION FOR GERONTOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS**

34th ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

“Interdisciplinary Convergence: The Nexus of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education”

February 21-24, 2008 • Renaissance Harborplace Hotel • Baltimore, Maryland

**For Information, Contact:**

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20005-1503
(202) 289-9806; Fax (202) 289-9824; meetings@aghe.org

**Program Co-Chairs for 2008:**

Douglas Reed, PhD  
University of Central Oklahoma  
100 North University Drive, Box 120  
Edmond, OK 73034  
dreed@ucok.edu

Thomas A. Teasdale, DrPH  
University of Oklahoma  
The Donald W Reynolds Dept of Geriatric Medicine  
921 NE 13th St (VAMC 11G)  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
thomas-teasdale@ouhsc.edu

**Submit Online at WWW.AGHE.ORG by June 1, 2007**
Lawmakers Weigh Budget Increases

Senators Specter and Harkin recently offered an amendment during the Senate debate on the FY 2008 budget resolution to add $2.2 billion for health related programs in budget function 550. The amendment would increase funding for Health-related programs (Function 550) by $2.2 billion above the amount provided in the underlying resolution. This $2.2 billion (together with the increase of $1.6 billion included in the underlying resolution) would be used to restore NIH to funding the fiscal year 2005 inflation-adjusted level (+$3.5 billion); provide increases at the CDC and continue facilities construction and revitalization; and restore funding for Health Professions Training Programs to their fiscal year 2005 levels. On March 23, the amendment was adopted by voice vote as part of a package of amendments. The Senate will now vote on final passage of the budget resolution. While the Specter-Harkin amendment was discussed on the Senate side, there was also a bipartisan letter circulating in the U.S. House of Representatives seeking congressional sign-ons in support of a 6.7% increase in NIH funding for each of the next three years. This letter was initiated by Reps. Markey (D-MA), Reichert (R-WA), Schakowsky (D-IL), Shays (R-CT), Smith (R-AR) and Waxman (D-CA) and is addressed to Reps. David Obey (D-WI) and Jerry Lewis (R-CA), the Chair and Ranking Member respectively of the House Appropriations Committee. GSA members were urged to contact their representatives to sign on to the letter. At press time, 100 House members had signed on.

AOA Highlights New Ad Campaign

On March 7, the Ad Council, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), began running public service advertisements as part of Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 4-10) to encourage consumers to ask questions of all their clinicians—doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and others. The campaign is called “Questions are the Answer: Get More Involved With Your Health Care.” As part of this endeavor, AHRQ also created a website that features a “Question Builder” to allow patients to select from a series of targeted questions and print out a customized list that they can bring with them to help make their medical appointments more efficient. The U.S. Administration on Aging supports AHRQ’s efforts, and encourages all to pay special attention to these ads and website to help encourage more people to become involved in their own health care. The campaign website is located at http://www.ahrq.gov/QuestionsAreTheAnswer/.

NIH New Innovator RFP Coming Soon

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is gearing up to announce the availability of a new series of NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards. This program extends the concept of the NIH Director’s Pioneer Awards (http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/) to support new investigators of exceptional creativity who propose innovative approaches that have the potential to produce an unusually high impact on significant problems in biomedical and behavioral research. The NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards will provide grant support to highly innovative new investigators who have not yet obtained a traditional R01 grant. Applicants must hold an independent research position at a domestic institution, and be within 10 years of their terminal degree (1997 or later). The proposed research may be in any scientific area relevant to the mission of NIH (biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering and mathematical sciences). The project description in the grant application will be briefer than that required for R01s and will emphasize the significance of the project, what makes the approaches exceptionally innovative, how the applicant will address risks and challenges, and the applicant’s qualifications for this award. The review criteria will emphasize the importance and potential impact of the scientific problem, the novelty and innovativeness of the approach, and evidence of the applicant’s potential for creative and innovative research. Presentation of preliminary data relevant to the project will be allowed, but is not required. Letters of reference are not required and will not be accepted. Awards will be made for up to $300K direct costs per year plus applicable facilities and administrative costs, for five years. It is anticipated that approximately 14-16 awards will be made. Inquiries can be addressed to newinnovator@nih.gov.

RWJF Seeks Partners at Local Level

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently launched Local Initiative Funding Partners (LIFP), a partnership program with local grantmakers to fund promising, original projects to significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities. Up to 14 three- and four-year grants between $200,000 and $500,000 will be available for this round of funding, which must be matched dollar-for-dollar by local grantmakers. These funders may include independent and private foundations, family and community foundations, and corporate and other philanthropies. To be eligible, a local grantmaker must propose a funding partnership with RWJF to support the project. For more information, visit http://www.lifp.org. The brief proposal deadline is July 10, 2007.

CDC Aims To Boost Public Health Force

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is currently offering funding to individuals involved in public health dissertation research. This program supports research undertaken as part of an academic program to qualify for a doctorate. The CDC dissertation award supports dissertation research costs for students in accredited research doctoral programs in the United States (including Puerto Rico, and other U.S. Territories or possessions). Grants to support dissertation research will provide no more than $35,000 in direct costs per year, and are awarded for up to one year, with the possibility of extension without additional funds for up to 12 months. Full details on this award can be found online at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/announcements/PA-07-231.html.

AHRQ’s efforts, and encourages all to pay special attention to these ads and website to help encourage more people to become involved in their own health care. The campaign website is located at http://www.ahrq.gov/QuestionsAreTheAnswer/.

NIH New Innovator RFP Coming Soon

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is gearing up to announce the availability of a new series of NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards. This program extends the concept of the NIH Director’s Pioneer Awards (http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/pioneer/) to support new investigators of exceptional creativity who propose innovative approaches that have the potential to produce an unusually high impact on significant problems in biomedical and behavioral research. The NIH Director’s New Innovator Awards will provide grant support to highly innovative new investigators who have not yet obtained a traditional R01 grant. Applicants must hold an independent research position at a domestic institution, and be within 10 years of their terminal degree (1997 or later). The proposed research may be in any scientific area relevant to the mission of NIH (biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering and mathematical sciences). The project description in the grant application will be briefer than that required for R01s and will emphasize the significance of the project, what makes the approaches exceptionally innovative, how the applicant will address risks and challenges, and the applicant’s qualifications for this award. The review criteria will emphasize the importance and potential impact of the scientific problem, the novelty and innovativeness of the approach, and evidence of the applicant’s potential for creative and innovative research. Presentation of preliminary data relevant to the project will be allowed, but is not required. Letters of reference are not required and will not be accepted. Awards will be made for up to $300K direct costs per year plus applicable facilities and administrative costs, for five years. It is anticipated that approximately 14-16 awards will be made. Inquiries can be addressed to newinnovator@nih.gov.
Whether we remember the good things or the bad things in life, memory is one of the most important gifts we possess. The act of relating events from one’s past through reminiscence and narrative provides benefits for both the storyteller and the recipients of these stories. A symposium presented at GSA’s Annual Meeting in Dallas presented four creative examples of how the products of reminiscence and narrative can benefit the recipients of these stories. The topic for the session was inspired by the theme for the meeting “Education and the Gerontological Imagination”. The session was organized by Robert Schrauf, Pennsylvania State University, and Tom Pierce, Radford University, and was sponsored by the Research, Education, and Practice Committee and the Reminiscence and Aging Interest Group.

Dena Shenk and Boyd Davis, University of North Carolina Charlotte, presented work that incorporates narrative and storytelling techniques to teach and learn about communicating with people with dementia. Their presentation described how they train students and direct care workers to collect and transcribe conversations with people with dementia and the ways they use these conversations in teaching, training, and research. They also described the use of audio and video recordings as teaching tools.

Peter Whitehouse and Danny George, Case Western Reserve University, described two projects where a person’s stories can guide life planning and are left behind for the benefit of others. The LifeBook project is designed to help an older adult to organize information relating to their lives and values that can help them in medical decision making and advance directives. Pictures, words, and audio recordings are placed in a scrapbook that concludes with a medical advance directive and other legacy documents such as a letter to a grandchild. The StoryBank is a region-wide, interdisciplinary action research program to collect and analyze stories of health and disease. The project compiles the stories of persons who have had to cope with a variety of medical conditions and it makes those stories available to scholars in the humanities and social sciences and to other people, including those who have been recently diagnosed with those conditions.

Tom Pierce, Radford University, described a project that uses PowerPoint to compile and present family photographs and digital audio recordings of reminiscences that go with each photograph. Typical presentations display several hundred photographs from every major portion of the person’s life and contain 6-8 hours of verbal recollections. The presentation also described the effects of creating and experiencing these presentations on family members and students.

Susan Perlstein, National Center for Creative Aging, described a variety of programs that emphasize creative expression as a vital component of healthy aging. One example of “best practices” in the field of creativity and aging is Elders Share the Arts, New York City. For example, in their Legacy Artworks program reminiscences are transformed into collage, life books, and memory boxes that can be shared with loved ones and exhibited. The Generating Community program partners schools and senior centers in neighborhoods to build community through living history exhibits and performances. Students and seniors share life stories on curriculum-based themes and create arts works together from their stories. In the Pearls of Wisdom program, older storytellers serve as teachers, role models, cultural representatives, givers of wisdom, and testaments to survival.

Jeffrey Webster, Langara College, well-regarded for his work in the field of reminiscence, served as the discussant for the session. He noted as sources of both strength and challenge the wide range of specialty areas represented among the presenters (medicine, creative arts, psychology, anthropology). One point in this regard is the need to develop operational clarity in terms of what it means to engage in reminiscence. A second point is that individual reminiscences are “nested” within hierarchic layers, from solitary reflection, through dyadic interactions, to “canonical” narratives at the sociocultural level. One challenge for the future will be to identify links and patterns of interaction among these layers that are associated with psychological growth and well-being.

The four speakers provided audience members with a clear sense of the value that narrative and reminiscence can create for those who hear the stories of others. The session also showed how giving older adults a prominent platform from which to tell their stories can help their voices carry further than they otherwise would.
Miami University Department of Sociology and Gerontology

Miami University’s Department of Sociology & Gerontology, in conjunction with the Scripps Gerontology Center, seeks to fill a one-year visiting appointment at the instructor or assistant professor level beginning August 2007.

We will consider candidates from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds and substantive research interests within gerontology. Teaching responsibilities are primarily undergraduate gerontology courses, including our introductory course in social gerontology. PhD preferred by start date (assistant professor appointment); ABD required (instructor appointment).

The department has offered a Master of Gerontological Studies degree since 1977 and launched a doctoral program in social gerontology in fall, 2005. The Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University provides support for the academic programs and for faculty who conduct aging-related research. For more information, please visit the departmental website at http://www.units.muohio.edu/sociology and the Scripps website at http://www.Scrippsaging.org.

Applicants should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching effectiveness and scholarship, and three letters of recommendation to:

C. Lee Harrington, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Sociology & Gerontology
Miami University • Oxford, OH 45056
Phone: 513.529.3437 • Fax: 513.529.8525
Email: harrincl@muohio.edu

Screening begins March 15, 2007 and will continue until the position is filled. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

Miami University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

---

2007 Maine Health Literacy Institutes

60% of adults age 65 and older have below basic or just basic literacy skills.1 Most seniors cannot read, understand, and use the complex health and healthcare information we give them.

Learn to create vibrant plain language information that seniors can and will use. Attend the Summer or Fall Health Literacy Institute in Maine. This is the 15th Institute year sponsored by the University of New England.


The Center on Aging at the Health Sciences Center at West Virginia University (WVU) is seeking an established investigator for the position of Associate Director for Research in the Center on Aging. The Associate Director will participate in the ongoing implementation of the Health Sciences Strategic Research Plan (SRP) which includes extensive faculty recruitment in six interdisciplinary focus areas of research. The SRP is designed to expand biomedical and clinical research, as well as graduate and postdoctoral research training, in six research areas: neuroscience, cancer cell biology, cardiovascular sciences, respiratory biology & lung diseases, immunology & microbial pathogenesis, and diabetes & obesity.

A major goal of the Associate Director will be to foster aging-related collaborative research, related to the SRP, by reaching out to other established and developing researchers across the HSC as well as across all of West Virginia University’s campuses and the State. Excellent communication and leadership skills are essential.

Candidates should have an established program with a transferable NIH or comparably funded research program with credentials for appointment as a tenured Professor or Associate Professor in a clinical or basic science department. A track record in the area of health services research related to one of the focus areas within the SRP is preferred, particularly as it relates to health issues among rural populations. Experience developing collaborative programs, and mentoring graduate students and/or fellows for academic research careers is desirable. The position includes a competitive salary, start-up package and administrative support.

West Virginia University is a land grant Carnegie-designated Doctoral Research/Extensive institution, with approximately 25,000 undergraduate and 5,500 graduate/professional students. WVU Health Sciences Center includes the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing, each with health professional and graduate programs. Two new research buildings and a new library learning center are currently under construction at Health Sciences to accommodate our research growth agenda. Patient care facilities include a 460 bed University Hospital (Ruby Memorial), an adjacent 70 bed Psychiatric Hospital (Chestnut Ridge) and a recently completed 90 bed addition to Ruby Memorial. Morgantown has 55,000 residents and is rated as one of the best small towns in the U.S., with affordable housing, excellent schools, picturesque countryside and many outdoor activities.

Qualifications: M.D., Ph.D. or combined M.D./Ph.D. with outstanding research credentials and excellent leadership skills. Submit electronically your letter of interest, curriculum vitae and three references, in confidence to: Fred R. Butcher, PhD, Senior Associate Vice President, PO Box 9001, Morgantown, WV 26506-9001 or fbutcher@hsc.wvu.edu

West Virginia University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.