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Colleague Connection Continues
GSA’s Colleague Connection program, which rewards members for referring new people to the Society, is now in its third year. In March 2008, 21 people participated. Each referral also earns an entry into a monthly drawing for a $25 amazon.com certificate, as well as a chance to win free lodging at the Annual Scientific Meeting. See www.geron.org/Colleague Connection.htm for complete details! This month’s winner can be found on page 3.

Correction
In last month’s issue of Gerontology News, Amy Eisenstein’s name was misspelled as the author of the article on the Campus Ambassadors Program. The editorial staff apologizes for this error and would like to thank her and Anthony Kupferschmidt for their contribution to this publication.

Statement From GSA Presidential Candidates

Peggye Dilworth-Anderson
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This nomination is indeed an honor. GSA has been the core of my professional and intellectual development for 30 years and a place where I have developed life-long colleagues and friends. During my membership in the GSA, I was made Fellow in 1995, served on Council, chaired the Behavioral Social Sciences Section, Fellowship Committee, and Membership Committee, served as co-chair of the annual meeting in 2001, and served on the editorial board of Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences for four years. These experiences and roles have provided me the opportunity to

Continued on page 5

Linda S. Noelker
Benjamin Rose Institute

I am proud to be a member of GSA, which has served as the leading scientific research organization in the field of aging since 1945. It is my major source for state-of-the-art knowledge, networking with new colleagues, nurturing professional relationships, and helping to advance the field for more than 30 years. I joined as a graduate student and benefited from mentoring so generously given by GSA’s leaders. Currently, students comprise about 20% of the membership and are the lifeblood of GSA’s future. They add to our diversity, expand the richness of perspectives on aging, and offer new insights as to how GSA can be a stronger organization.

Continued on page 5

New Publisher To Maximize Journals’ Potential

GSA has signed a contract that will transfer oversight of its journals to commercial publisher Oxford University Press starting in 2009. The company will assume responsibility for The Gerontologist and The Journals of Gerontology (Series A and B), subscriptions for which account for more than 40 percent of the Society’s revenue stream.

This partnership has been in the planning stages since 2004, when Council charged David Ekerdt, then chair of the Task Force on Publications, to explore ways in which the journals could take advantage of emerging technologies and marketing strategies, increase the dissemination of the research on a global scale, and secure GSA’s financial future.

“The partnership with Oxford promises our continued participation in the technological innovations that are sweeping scholarly publishing, as well as global marketing for our journals,” Ekerdt said.

Oxford will also create a digital archive of the publications, allowing GSA members to access the complete back catalog of their subscribed journals. Currently, only articles published since 2000 are available online.

Steven Zarit, the Task Force’s current chair, said the collaboration will open new possibilities for the Society.

“We will have the benefit of the resources of a large publisher of scientific journals, who will help us get our journals into more libraries and will provide the latest technology for the editors and authors,” he said. “At the same time, Oxford shares with us the academic goals of high quality scholarship. All decisions about content will be, as in the past, the responsibility of editors appointed by GSA. This partnership assures the continued success of our journals in a competitive marketplace.”
From The Executive Director

By Interim Executive Director Linda Harootyan

As I write this column, it is St. Patrick’s Day and with a bit of luck, Irish or otherwise, the U.S. House of Representatives will in short order pass the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act (GIVE Act, HR 2857). This bill would reauthorize the national and community service programs, including the Senior Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The House has come close to passing the bill twice in the past two weeks, but partisan posturing has delayed the process.

In addition, both House and Senate staffers recently participated in an educational briefing with former Senator Harris Wofford addressing civic engagement, older worker opportunities, and lifelong learning proposals. These activities along with hearings, articles in the press, a committee mark-up, and hundreds of hours of staff time examining service opportunities for older (and younger) adults across the nation, have reenergized those who do research and policy work in this area.

If the connection between the GIVE Act, Hill briefings and GSA is not obvious, let me use this opportunity to remind you of the invaluable role that GSA’s National Academy on an Aging Society, directed by Greg O’Neill, has played as a resource in inspiring and supporting this progress and increasing awareness of civic engagement issues.

Funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies for the past three years has supported the Academy’s Civic Engagement in an Older America Project, which has helped to build a solid research and policy foundation for public policy development and related advocacy.

You may recall the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) civic engagement policy forums and numerous focus groups conducted by Greg, Brian Lindberg (GSA’s Public Policy Consultant), and Doris Reeves-Lipscomb. This was the beginning of the Project’s work, which contributed to the 2005 WHCoA calling for new and more meaningful volunteer opportunities for older Americans. The Project has become an important resource for many through its website, www.civicengagement.org, and its bimonthly Civic Engagement E-Newsletter which informs readers about efforts to advance research, programs, and policy that support older adults as a civic resource.

The Academy has also supported research and policy in the area of civic engagement by sponsoring sessions on civic engagement at GSA’s Annual Meeting, convening stakeholders from government agencies and academia to improve data collection on older adult Civic Engagement, and serving as a resource to both Hill staff and fellow Atlantic grantees, such as Experience Wave—an active player in the GIVE Act legislative process.

Greg has done more under this grant than I can describe in this column. But I do want you to have a sense of the work of the Academy, its great potential, and our expanding public policy role in Washington, DC. In the future, we will be calling on you at times to step up and help to bring some of our policy work to fruition.

Linda
Members in the News

• The Wall Street Journal ran an article recently on “12 people who are changing your retirement.” Among them were GSA members Joseph Coughlin, Katherine Freund (winner of GSA’s 2006 Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging), and John Rother. The online version also included a link to a podcast (http://podcast.mktw.net/wsj/audio/20080213/pod-wsjgreen/pod-wsjgreen.mp3) where author Kelly Greene spoke with Freud on transportation options for people who can’t drive, Coughlin on products that can help people stay independent, and Rother on what goes into “livable communities.”

• Gregg Warshaw was quoted in a March 11 Washington Post article that addressed the issue of geriatrician shortage in an aging population. He spoke of care he had provided for an elderly patient with pneumonia.

Colleague Connected!

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Teresa Cooney
She became eligible after referring new member Jacquelyn Benson.
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

New Publication by Members

In Memoriam
Paul Panek, a GSA Fellow and Ohio State University professor, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 28, 2007. He specialized in adulthood, aging and developmental disabilities. He was the author of a college textbook on adulthood development and aging, in its fourth edition, and a manual on the use of a projective technique, the Hand Test. He received the Outstanding Faculty Award from Eastern Illinois University, the Distinguished Alumnus in Gerontology Award from the University of Akron, and the Barnes Award for Exemplary Teaching from Ohio State University.

Nancy Persily, a GSA member since 1980, passed away on March 12 at the age of 64. She was a pioneer in the area of public health education. Throughout her career, she was actively involved with the planning and development of schools of public health, academic medical centers, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, and home health agencies. She retired from the State University of New York at Albany in 2006, where she served as associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Public Health and assistant provost for health affairs.

Article Details China’s Coming Pension Problems
China’s pension system is presently confronted with the double problem of repaying the large legacy pension debt caused by the rapid aging of its population and investing its pension fund in the currently volatile global capital markets, according to a recent article published on chinastakes.com. China’s social security system is also confronted with severe problems including the urban-rural development gap, low rates of coverage, inadequate overall planning and a flawed operation system. China’s social security fund has enjoyed an average 11 percent annual rate of return in the last seven years. Last year, stock investment accounted for 30 percent of its portfolio achieving a 40 percent rate of return. This year, however, with global financial markets in difficulty, it has suddenly become much harder to manage the social security fund’s investments. The full story is available at www.chinastakes.com/story.aspx?id=228.

Israel Dealing with Aging Holocaust Survivors
A guide aimed at making doctors, psychologists, and other professionals more attuned to the needs of Holocaust survivors has now been published in Hebrew. Only about 250,000 Israeli Holocaust survivors are still alive. ESHEL, a voluntary organization owned by the Joint Distribution Committee and dedicated to improving the lives of the elderly in Israel, launched the 256-page guide called “Hatipul Benitzolei Shoah Mizdaknim” (“Treatment of Aging Holocaust Survivors”). The original volume, issued a few years ago by the Baycrest Hospital in Toronto (www.baycrest.com), was prepared by a team of experts led by hospital social worker Paula David. See www.ipost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1203019397407&pagename=JPos t/JPArticle/ShowFull for full details.

Survey Compares Retirees Across Nations
AXA has issued its latest Retirement Scope survey, which explores attitudes towards retirement, compares perceptions and the reality of retirement, and provides international comparisons on these issues. The survey involved over 18,000 people in 26 nations and covered a wide range of areas, including retirement age, economic security, happiness in retirement, and global warming. One finding is that most working people reported 57 as the ideal retirement age, but that they expected to work until age 61. Respondents in the U.S. and Germany reported the highest average age of expected retirement at age 64. Another question involved if people hold or plan to hold a job in retirement, with the Philippines reporting the highest percent, 83%, of working individuals responding ‘yes’ while France had the lowest percent at 31%. Only 50% of working people and 48% of retirees believe their retirement income will be sufficient, although workers and retirees in China topped the list at 80% and 66% respectively. The happiest retirees can be found in India, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Lastly, the top three nations in which people want to live 20 years from now are Australia, Switzerland, and the USA. The report can be found at www.retirement-scope.axa.com/en/.
GSA Members To Advance Public Policy Initiative

Or

Change is in the Air for GSA, Too

Whether you are from Iowa, New Hampshire, Texas or Pennsylvania, or whether you just watch the nightly news, you know that everyone is talking about “change,” “solutions,” and “straight talk.” The Gerontological Society of America is no exception. You may have heard about the change we are making to expand GSA’s public policy efforts in new and exciting ways. We believe this is one of the solutions to the problem of declining resources for NIA and NIH. The straight talk is simple: GSA cannot succeed in this effort without the involvement of GSA members.

The change came when the GSA Council approved a plan in the 2008 budget to quickly move GSA into a bigger role in the peculiar, sometimes frustrating, but necessary world of public policy in our nation’s capital. In this, my second article of the year, I want to introduce you to some of our public policy plans and to remind you of the potential power you have to influence the public policy arena.

Our solutions to the complex challenges and opportunities of an aging society and dwindling resources for the necessary research are based on who we are and what we know best. I have worked closely with Greg O’Neill, Director of the GSA’s National Academy on an Aging Society, on the civic engagement initiative and with Linda Harootyan on the Hartford Scholars Policy Leadership Institute each year. We have consistently found Hill staff to appreciate the knowledge and perspective of GSA members on a variety of substantive issues. GSA has well-respected members from well-respected institutions throughout the nation; their credibility will be helpful in any policy work we do on the Hill or with the Administration. Straight talk: We must develop relationships and a stronger voice when it comes to policy making that is of importance to gerontology.

We are now in the process of developing an overarching strategy for involvement in public policy, positions on key issues, and strategies and tactics for influencing policies regarding these issues. This work will be done in conjunction with GSA leadership and the GSA Public Policy Committee. And we will be calling on members with particular expertise to assist. We are also working closely with AGHE’s director, Derek Stepp, and its members. We will call on both GSA and AGHE members to play important roles with grassroots and grasstops efforts as needed.

Our initial efforts have focused on taking advantage of our Capitol area 2008 annual meeting to highlight policy issues and utilize local talent. The annual meeting Program Committee and leadership have approved our request to have special public policy committee sponsored sessions, including a general session that will be moderated by John Rother of AARP and will feature a nationally recognized pollster, as well as policy experts and political pundits. We are also sponsoring a Capitol Hill briefing that will include congressional staff.

You will see a steady flow of articles on public policy as we move forward. We hope to couple my articles with articles from fellow GSA members who are already active in policy work or advocacy efforts so that you may be informed and inspired by their good work. I know from working with GSA members across the nation that we not only have many leaders in the aging field, but we also have active participants in policy development and advocacy. For example, GSA member Lynn Friss Feinberg is currently a John Heinz Senate Fellow in Aging in the office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. We have members capable of presenting testimony on behalf of GSA in Washington, DC and in state legislatures. GSA has members with the expertise to assist Congress with drafting legislation on aging, long-term care, health care, housing, civic engagement, and other aging-related policy. And our members have the knowledge and commitment necessary to persuade policy makers to do more in research and programs for the elderly.

As I mentioned, there are roles for GSA members in all aspects of this public policy initiative. In addition to input in identifying the top legislative and regulatory goals for the next two years, we will need members to step forward to assist in grassroots campaigns – writing letters, making calls. We’ll also need to create an inventory of GSA members who have first or second hand relationships with policy makers in Washington, DC. We will identify key congressional members and committees, work with coalitions, and with GSA members in key states and districts to help influence policy making. If you are interested in being a part of this, please let us know!

Just as we need GSA members to help put knowledge and clout behind our efforts, we need other like-minded organizations and coalitions to amplify our message further. My approach to legislative and regulatory policy work has been to build on a foundation of education and constituent contact, coalition building, and then playing a role at key points in the legislative process. So participation in existing coalitions or building coalitions will also be an integral part of the expansion of GSA’s public policy involvement.

We have also begun to do an inventory of what GSA and AGHE currently do in the public policy arena, including the people and committees who are involved, the “products” (e.g., policy briefs and reports) and the GSA “vehicles” (e.g., annual meetings and websites) that are or could be used to move the public policy agenda forward.

This effort comes at a time of increasingly sophisticated public policy and lobbying efforts by all manner of interest groups, organizations, and businesses. Clearly, we consider this an ambitious agenda that will take some time to implement, but we think it is the right time and direction for GSA. Change, solutions, and straight talk are not just political speak. They are tools that GSA will use to move our public policy agenda forward. I look forward to working with you toward these goals.
understand both small and large issues that affect the success of the GSA and its members.

I am currently Professor of Health Policy & Administration and Associate Director, Institute on Aging at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. During my 32 years as professor, researcher, and mentor in different universities, I have contributed to the gerontological literature on racial/ethnic issues and aging, caregiving in later life, and theoretical perspectives to expand conceptual views on family, aging and diversity.

I have served on state committees on aging in Illinois and North Carolina, and currently serve on national committees such as “Council” for the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and on the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer’s Association and its Medical and Scientific Affairs Council.

My vision for GSA is to help create stronger and different supportive venues and opportunities to develop and support the next generation of aging researchers, professors, practitioners, and policy-makers. My vision arises from my experiences at GSA. In 1984, I was the recipient of a GSA post-doctoral fellowship that provided mentoring in aging research and teaching, and in 2006 my membership in GSA came full circle when I received GSA’s Minority Task Force Outstanding Mentorship Award. Although GSA provides excellent venues for nurturing, educating, and mentoring its members, we can do even better. I applaud our past efforts, many of which I have been a part, such as pre-conference mentor workshops, the Task Force on Minority Aging activities, sessions and activities supported by NIA, and the Technical Assistance Workshops. I want to help build on and expand these types of activities to foster more expertise in the field of aging. With my vision and GSA’s momentum, we can help prepare the next generation of aging professionals and experts to address the growing diverse aging population in this country and internationally.

Again, I am honored to be one of this year’s GSA Presidential nominees and if elected I look forward to serving and working with you, the membership, as we prepare to further understand and meet challenges of the growing aging population in this country and internationally.

For these reasons, I was especially pleased when GSA and AGHE joined forces 10 years ago to strengthen the tie between gerontological education and aging research, practice, and policy. The merger has worked out well for both by stimulating closer collaboration and achieving organizational efficiencies. I was pleased to support AGHE’s acquisition of its new journal and hope to collaborate on ways in which GSA and AGHE can further streamline operations and expand members’ benefits.

My career commitment to the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) evidences the value I place on the linkage between aging research and practice, which is integral to GSA. Under my leadership, BRI conducted some of the initial investigations of family caregiving with AoA and NIMH support. More recently, my research has focused on the long-term-care workforce for the purpose of improving work settings for frontline workers as an avenue to better quality of care. In 2007, BRI’s programmatic scope expanded to include aging policy with the establishment of the Katz Policy Institute, which I direct. Our goals are to develop the evidence base for aging policy and establish new educational opportunities that bridge applied research and aging services and policy.

As beneficiaries of GSA’s programs and services, I believe we should contribute our time and talent so GSA continues to flourish. After serving as BSS member-at-large and then section chair, I chaired GSA’s Technical Assistance Program and strategic planning efforts, was editor of The Gerontologist, and serve on GSA’s editorial boards and awards committees. The spirit of volunteerism is essential to sustain the organization. Thanks to the leadership of Council and staff, we have a balanced budget, a respectable reserve fund, and a growing membership. Yet, there is more to be done. GSA’s communication technology needs to be upgraded, its website redesigned, and a new marketing and membership campaign launched. The needs of GSA members from other nations deserve greater attention and advocacy efforts for aging research should be increased. I pledge to move these important activities forward if given the privilege of serving as GSA’s President.

Special Journal Section Explores Geriatric Assessment

The latest issue of The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences (Vol. 63, No. 3) features a special section devoted to the phenomenon of multidimensional geriatric assessment—an interdisciplinary diagnostic process to determine the medical, psychological, and functional status of at-risk and frail elderly patients in order to develop a coordinated, integrated plan for treatment and long-term follow-up.

The publication was guest edited by Darryl Wieland, PhD, MPH, of Palmetto Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, SC. Eight articles are presented in total under the banner of “Multidimensional Geriatric Assessment: Back to the Future.” This method of evaluation and care became the centerpiece of geriatric practice in academic and VA medical centers in the early 1980s, picking up from pioneers who had developed it in the British National Health Service. It emphasizes patient function, quality-of-life, and other treatment goals, entailing a workup of more depth and breadth than usually encountered.

The subtitle “Back to the Future” refers to the fact that this model has been difficult to maintain due to forces in modern healthcare. The articles examine new research on the subject and make recommendations for its future viability.

Visit GSA’s online store to order a copy of the special section at www.geron.org.
AGHE Annual Meeting Highlights

Leonard Poon, Sally Newman, & James Peacock

Lynne Hodgson & Tom Pierce

Bradley Fisher & Betsy Sprouse

Tree of Knowledge

Special Thanks to the 2008 AGHE Annual Meeting Sponsors

We are most grateful to the organizations, businesses, and schools that contributed to AGHE’s 34th Annual Meeting in Baltimore. 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
Johns Hopkins University, Geriatric Education Center Consortium
Maryland Consortium for Gerontology in Higher Education
Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center
PhD in Gerontology at UMB/UMBC
Salisbury University, Department of Sociology
Sigma Phi Omega
Terra Nova Films, Inc.
The Erickson Foundation

The Haworth Press
Towson University, Department of Health Science
University of Maryland Baltimore, GGEAR Program
University of Maryland Baltimore County, Erickson School of Aging Studies
University of Maryland Baltimore County, Office of Graduate School Dean
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Medicine
Announcing the 2008 AGHE Election Results

We are pleased to announce the election of the following officers to serve AGHE during the 2008-2010 term. The candidates were elected by e-mail ballots cast by AGHE’s Institutional Representatives.

Secretary
Donna L. Wagner, Towson University

Members-at-Large
Judith L. Howe, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Doug Reed, University of Central Oklahoma
Bei Wu, West Virginia University

2008 Distinguished Teacher Honorees

AGHE’s Faculty Development Committee would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the two 2008 Distinguished Teachers, who were featured at the AGHE conference in Portland, Oregon:

Dr. Dana Burr Bradley, Clifford Todd Distinguished Professor at Western Kentucky University, spoke on “GEROTOOBE: Discovering the Aging Human Within.”

Dr. E. Ayn Welleford, Chair & Associate Professor in the Department of Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University, spoke on “Improving Eldercare One New Gerontologist at a Time: What’s in Your Toolkit?”

AGHE congratulates these 2008 honorees!

New Book Available for Free Download

Title: Intergenerational programmes: Towards a Society for All Ages. Authors: Mariano Sánchez (director), Donna M. Butts, Alan Hatton-Yeo, Nancy A. Henkin, Shannon E. Jarrott, Matthew S. Kaplan, Antonio Martínez, Sally Newman, Sacramento Pinazo, Juan Sáez and Aaron P.C. Weintraub. Publisher: Fundacion “la Caixa”, Barcelona.

Intergenerational programs provide opportunities for the older and younger generations to relate to each other. In keeping with the United Nations international call for building a society for all ages, this study by “la Caixa” Community Programmes looks at the characteristics such programs should embody. It also examines the intergenerational policies that aspire to make our society a place (1) where people are not discriminated against because they belong to one age group or another and (2) where aging is not considered a threat but rather a process that contributes to well-being and socio-economic development.

The complete PDF version of this book is available at: http://obrasocial.lacaixa.es/estudiossociales/vol23_es.html. (English version available.)
Developing a Professional ‘Self’: The Role of Generosity

At the annual ESPO Business Meeting in November, 2007 you were asked to discuss your expectations of ESPO in order to guide the 2008 ESPO Planning Task Force. This column focuses on mentoring, one of the key themes that emerged from these discussions. From the perspective of this column, mentoring captures this month’s theme: generosity and its role in developing a professional ‘self’. Generosity of spirit and in-kind is a requisite condition of the mentoring relationship. In seeking this relationship the individual is asking for the mentor to give time, share knowledge, offer suggestions and make a personal investment in and commitment to her development as a scholar and professional.

Relationship-building skills are essential to developing this special and sought-after relationship. For the person seeking a mentor, this relationship represents an opportunity for personal and professional development. Because the most valuable mentoring involves risk, entering into a mentoring relationship requires courage. Mentoring challenges individuals to think outside of their usual parameters, to leave what is comfortable and to take on new roles in order to move forward as scholars and professionals.

Mentoring implies reliance on the generosity of the mentor. Generosity however, is an essential attribute of all successful relationships. Generosity in professional relationships means freely giving time, and sharing knowledge and experience, from the belief that giving does not diminish or erode one’s own opportunities.

Approaching professional relationships with a spirit of generosity conveys a sense of self-worth, self-confidence and authenticity. This spirit is synergistic. Giving and receiving are reciprocal attitudes that fuel each other. Generosity expressed through willingness to share yourself, your abilities and your initiative indicates to others that you are a good colleague and peer; someone worth knowing and supporting.

The focus on mentoring underscores the importance you, ESPO’s members, place on relationship-building and on your concerns about how this happens. You are looking to ESPO to provide mentoring opportunities as well as to offer help with the interpersonal skills required to develop mentoring relationships. Interestingly and importantly, you expressed an interest in peer mentoring as well as mentoring from more senior gerontologists.

Next month’s essay-ette will continue to focus on ‘self’ reflection as the foundation for developing a professional ‘self’. Becoming successful scholars and professionals involves being generous to ourselves through owning our abilities, evaluating our capacities and maximizing our potential. I welcome responses to this column. Perhaps we can have some dialogues that will emerge as a pivotal point that must be shared with all our readers. Toward that end, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT mariemccormick@consultant.com. We are dependent on one another to develop and grow as scholars and professionals who will make significant contributions to the field of gerontology.

Creating a new understanding of the aging process...

Recent JAHA articles include:
• Growing Old in Utopia, Robert Kastenbaum
• Sterling Green, Jeffrey M. Levine
• “When I Wake Up in the Morning: All Depends on What I Want to Do”: An Ethnography of Leisure in the Lives of Elderly Women, Beth Counihan
• Hospice: A Volunteer’s Response, Sandra S. Durfee MLA
• A Slice of Fruitcake: An Autoethnographic Reflection, Karen V. Lee
• Together, Debra M. Sellers
• Transcending the Reification of “Old Women’s” Bodies: Some Sociological Theorist’s Views, Joyce Well
• The Stone Angel Speaks: Older Women’s Voices in Prose and Poetry, Ellen S. Jaffe and Ellen Bouchard Ryan
• Narratives of Life: Storytelling in the Perspective of Happiness and Disaster, Geneviève Grimm and Brigitte Boothe
• From Psychology to Poetics: Aging as a Literary Process, A. Elizabeth McKim; William L. Randall

GSA members receive a special rate of $20 (4 issues.)

Order your JAHA subscription by adding it to your membership renewal or go to GSA’s Online Store at www.geron.org.
Avoiding Restraints in Patients with Dementia
Lois K. Evans, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Valerie T. Cotter, MSN, CRNP, FAANP

Older adults with dementia are at higher risk than other patients for being placed in restraints, despite numerous negative physical and psychological outcomes associated with their use. Many nurses continue to believe that restraints are necessary to control behavioral symptoms and prevent falls or the disruption of life-sustaining therapies in patients with dementia. Reducing the use of restraints depends on interpreting patient behavior to identify unmet needs; regular assessment for changes in mental or physical status; individualized care focused on communication, consistency, surveillance, and appropriate environments; and a flexible team approach based on dialogue among staff members and respect for patients’ needs and rights. For a free online video demonstrating the use of the practice guide, go to http://links.lww.com/A231. Observe nursing staff and the interdisciplinary team work to revise and individualize care in order to remove wrist restraints for a patient—an older adult with dementia—who has pulled out his urinary catheter, and removed his IV several times, during the night shift.

Communication Difficulties in Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia
By Carol A. Miller, MSN, RN-BC, AHN-BC

Dementia adversely affects patients’ receptive and expressive communication abilities, making it more difficult for nurses to assess their needs and provide essential care. Communication Difficulties: Assessment and Interventions in Hospitalized Older Adults with Dementia outlines questions nurses can use to assess the nature and severity of language deficits, which vary greatly from patient to patient and over the course of the disease. Best practice techniques for tailoring communication to each patient’s abilities are also discussed. For a free online video demonstrating the use of these assessment and communication approaches, go to http://links.lww.com/A236 This video offers viewers and opportunity to observe an interdisciplinary team plan for discharge by organizing communication strategies for a patient with dementia, diabetes, and a stroke, who has lost the ability to tell others when he experiences hypoglycemia – a safety priority that is overwhelming for his caregiver.

New Alzheimer’s Society Seeks Members
Alzheimer’s researchers have been working diligently to bring us closer to better treatments, early detection, and a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. However, until now there has not been a collaborative society that actively engages researchers from all areas of Alzheimer’s disease investigation. To address this issue, the Alzheimer’s Association has just launched the International Society to Advance Alzheimer Research and Treatment (ISTAART). ISTAART is a professional membership society for scientists, clinicians, students and all other professionals who are involved in researching and treating Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. ISTAART is also the first collegial group that represents all areas of Alzheimer’s disease investigation. According to Bill Thies, PhD, of the Alzheimer’s Association, “Through ISTAART, we hope to increase the rate of progress of Alzheimer and dementia research by bringing together scientists from all areas of Alzheimer’s disease investigation who are excited about sharing their ideas and eager to work together to make new discoveries.” Membership benefits include a one-year subscription to Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association, reduced registration rates at Alzheimer’s Association-sponsored conferences, and free online access to Neurobiology of Aging.

Report Outlines Retirement’s Health Care Costs
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has released a new Issue in Brief: “Health Care Costs Drive Up the National Retirement Risk Index,” by Alicia H. Munnell, Mauricio Soto, Anthony Webb, Francesca Golub-Sass, and Dan Muldoon. The Brief’s key findings are: A typical couple needs about $200,000 to cover health costs in retirement, a figure that will more than double by 2040; Explicitly including health care in our National Retirement Risk Index drives up the share of working-age households “at risk” from 44 percent to 61 percent; Despite the dire outlook, a little more work, a little more saving, and a little more exercise could go a long way toward improving the picture. The full text of the Brief is available at http://crr.bc.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=521&Itemid=3.

AARP Takes to the Airwaves
AARP, the largest membership organization for people over 50, has announced the launch of AARP TV, a franchise that will create original lifestyle and news content catering to the boomer and 50+ demographic. AARP TV’s first two syndicated television shows – “Inside E Street” and “My Generation” – debuted on March 10 and 11, 2008, respectively, and are distributed through and air on Retirement Living Television (RLTV), which reaches more than 29 million households nationwide. These two weekly half-hour shows extend from AARP’s lifestyle and news platforms as well as select single-topic specials. The network launched its slate of programming in September 2006 with content designed to inform, involve, and inspire seniors by offering information on finances, health and fitness, politics, and social issues as well as entertainment based shows.
AAGE Reopens Student Award Nominations

The Association for Anthropology and Gerontology (AAGE) is now accepting applications for the 16th annual Margaret Clark Award. This distinction, which offers a prize of $500 for graduate and $250 for undergraduate students is given to an outstanding paper in anthropology and gerontology. An extended summary of the winning manuscript will be published in the AAGE Newsletter. The jurors may select papers for Honorable Mention with a free AAGE year membership. The competition aims to support the continued pursuit of the insights and practice ideals demonstrated by Margaret Clark, a pioneer in the multidisciplinary study of socio-cultural gerontology and medical anthropology, and a scholar committed to mentoring younger colleagues. Contributions are invited from students of all disciplines and methods. Non-members and members are invited to apply. We welcome submissions that are research, analytic, or literary in nature, and academic, applied or practice oriented. The relation to lifespan and aging issues must be discussed. Decisions will be made solely by reference to the caliber of the manuscript. Proof of student status is required. All submissions must be original and not previously published. The length should approximate that of a journal article. Submissions must include: (a) the application form, (b) a statement of student status signed by an institutional representative, (c) one hard copy of the manuscript, and (d) a brief abstract. Text should be typed double-spaced on one side of the paper. Any standard bibliographic format may be used (e.g. American Anthropologist, American Psychological Association). Materials must be postmarked by June 2, 2008. Only complete submissions will be considered. For questions, application materials, and a list of past awardees, please visit: www.iog.wayne.edu/margaretclark.php or e-mail Christine Green at ab8592@wayne.edu.

NIA Offers Support to Alzheimer’s Research Facilities

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is now inviting applications from qualified institutions for support of Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers (ADRCs). These are designed to support and conduct research on Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and to serve as shared research resources that will facilitate research in AD and related disorders, distinguish them from the process of normal brain aging and mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and lead to better diagnostic, prevention and treatment strategies. The AD Centers provide a platform for training as well as the stimulation of research related to clinical-pathological correlations in normal aging and neurodegenerative diseases. By providing an interdisciplinary infrastructure, they also support the development of novel techniques and methodologies that specifically address some of the challenges that characterize AD research. Application are due by May 5, 2008. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-09-001.html for further details.

IOM Funds To Target Health Care Improvement

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is now accepting nominations for the 23rd annual Gustav O. Lienhard Award. The award — a medal and $25,000 — recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in improving health care services in the United States. Support for the award is provided by an endowment established by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Gustav O. Lienhard Award honors individuals whose creative or pioneering efforts have appreciably improved personal health services rather than on contributions to the science base of health care. To encourage consideration of the widest possible range of candidates, no eligibility limits are placed on the education and profession of individuals who may be nominated; however, their achievements should be national in scope. To submit a nomination, please use the online nominations form. Online nominations will be accepted through May 5, 2008. The award will be presented at the IOM’s Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on October 13, 2008. To learn more about the Gustav O. Lienhard Award, please visit www.iom.edu/Lienhard. If you have any questions about the award or nomination process, contact Lienhard@nas.edu or (202) 334-2177.

FCA Monies To Be Awarded for Alzheimer’s Caregiving

Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has announced that its National Center on Caregiving has been awarded a grant from The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation to oversee an awards program to recognize innovation in programs benefiting caregivers. The grant was created specifically to reward organizations that are initiating unique programs that address the needs of Alzheimer’s caregivers. Under The Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer Disease Caregiver Legacy Award, Family Caregiver Alliance will oversee an awards program in three categories: Policy and advocacy for change, creative spirit, and Honoring multicultural communities. The award recipients in each category will receive a cash prize of up to $20,000 and their programs will be recognized at an awards reception. Information about the programs will be widely disseminated through FCA’s web, print and media communication channels. The selection criteria and application process will be announced by June 1, 2008. (No submissions will be accepted prior to that date.) Submissions will be made through the FCA website, www.caregiver.org.

Awards Slated for Patient Safety Improvement

The Joint Commission and the National Quality Forum are now accepting nominations for the 2008 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards, which recognize individuals and health care organizations that are making significant contributions to improving health care quality and patient safety. The deadline for nominations is April 14, 2008. Nomination forms for the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Awards are available on the Joint Commission website at www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/EisenbergAward/ and the National Quality Forum website at www.qualityforum.org/awards/eisenberg.asp.

Prize To Boost Intergenerational Programs

Generations United is offering the Isabel Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research for the second time in the summer of 2009. The award is worth up to $5,000 for the winning submission(s) and seeks to encourage existing inter-generational programs to document their impact on participants. Evaluation studies submitted may be published on the Generations United web site and in peer reviewed journals. Criteria for the award are available at www.gu.org and the due date for submissions is May 30, 2009.
POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR AT UC DAVIS • Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the UC Davis Medical Center. Initial appointment is for one year in this position which is renewable for up to 3 years. The Postdoctoral Scholar will participate in a research team conducting qualitative and quantitative research on late life depression in older Latinos and Anglo European-American men. The interdisciplinary research team includes a medical anthropologist, clinical psychologist, health services researcher, and a geriatric psychiatrist. The research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and focuses on reducing health disparities and barriers to care and improving access for vulnerable populations. The successful applicant, working directly under the supervision of the Principal Investigator, will primarily function in a project coordinator role overseeing and conducting day-to-day research activity, data collection, including considerable in-depth qualitative interviewing. The successful applicant will also be expected to undertake data analysis and participate in manuscript preparation and presentations at national meetings. Completed doctoral-level training in the social sciences, at least two years prior experience with qualitative (ethnographic) research and fluency in both Spanish and English are required. Prior experience with quantitative research approaches and working with a team are desirable. This is a full-time position with a negotiable starting date in summer 2008. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send CV and names of three references to Ladson Hinton M.D., Department of Psychiatry, 2230 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95817, ladson.hinton@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.
"Taking the Next Step: Technical Assistance Workshop" is a 2-day interactive forum for pre and post-doctoral students and recent recipients of Ph.D., M.D. or related doctoral degrees who are members of groups under-represented in aging research. During the workshop, NIA staff and associated faculty members will present information and provide technical assistance on applying for NIA grants. Participants in the workshop, depending on career stage, will have an opportunity to make podium presentations of current or planned research projects, receiving feedback from peers and NIA staff. The Technical Assistance Workshop will be held immediately prior to the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, in Washington, DC on November 20th and 21st. Participation is by competitive application.

**Applicants:** Applicants may be new to the NIH application process or embarking on an independent program of research. Investigators who demonstrate a commitment to research careers related to minority aging issues are encouraged to apply. Transportation and lodging expenses will be provided for all selected applicants. First-time applicants will be given priority and a modest payment for preparation and participation. Applications must be completed and submitted by July 18, 2008 (postmarked). A recent C.V. must accompany all applications. Individuals who have conducted funded research for more than 5 years, are considered established investigators and/or are former Summer Institute participants are ineligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. To request an application or additional information, please contact Ms. Jamie Gulin at 301-496-0765 or by e-mail at gulinj@nia.nih.gov.