Key Moment in History
1961: The first issue of The Gerontologist is published. To honor the legacy of GSA’s peer-reviewed publications, Oxford Journals has created a free website that compiles the anniversary-related articles appearing throughout 2010 in The Gerontologist, the Journals of Gerontology Series A, and the Journals of Gerontology Series B. Visit www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/gsa_anniv.html to read them.

Older Americans Month Theme Announced
May is Older Americans Month and the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) recently named “Age Strong! Live Strong!” as the 2010 theme. This topic recognizes the diversity and vitality of today’s older Americans who span three generations. For more information, visit www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/PressRoom/Observances/oam/oam.aspx.

GSA Presidential Candidates Issue Statements

Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD
University of Connecticut

It is an honor and privilege to address the GSA membership as a president-elect nominee. I have been an active GSA member since joining in 1982 during graduate school. I achieved fellow status in 1993, chaired the Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Fellowship Committee, chaired the SRPP section, chaired the GSA Public Policy Committee, served as co-chair of the 2007 GSA annual meeting, and served on the GSA Executive Director Search Committee in 2008. My experiences in these roles have exposed me to the inner workings of GSA and the challenges facing GSA as it endeavors to respond to the professional needs of its diverse membership.

My professional career has mirrored GSA’s interdisciplinary mission. Trained in medical sociology, my entire research career has been Continued on page 10

Nancy A. Whitelaw, PhD
National Council on Aging

I am honored to be a candidate for president of The Gerontological Society of America. This is an important time for GSA — the challenges and opportunities of an aging society are gaining widespread attention, often without informed understanding.

GSA has been my primary professional society for over three decades. It has been a privilege to serve on the Executive Committee of the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section; as a member and chair of GSA’s Research, Education, and Practice Committee; as program chair in both 1992 and 2004; and on other committees and task forces. Through these varied experiences, I have collaborated with members from all sections and ESPO, and learned about the remarkable breadth of activities — Continued on page 10

MetLife Awards Recognize Alzheimer's Discoveries

The MetLife Foundation has given its Award for Medical Research in Alzheimer's Disease to four scientists who focus on preventive treatments for the illness.

This year’s recipients are Edward Koo, MD, of the University of California, San Diego; Todd Golde, MD, PhD, of the University of Florida; and Eva-Maria Mandelkow, MD, PhD, and Eckhard Mandelkow, PhD, of the Max Planck Institute for Structural Molecular Biology in Hamburg, Germany.

“Alzheimer’s disease research is crucial to saving an aging population from its devastating effects,” said GSA Fellow Robert Butler, MD, who moderated a discussion among the winners at an event in their honor in late February.

“Through these awards, the MetLife Foundation has demonstrated support for scientists working to unravel the mystery of Alzheimer’s by providing leading scientists with the funds to freely pursue their life-saving ideas.”

Golde’s and Koo’s laboratories have found that modulators of the enzyme gamma-secretase may be able to provide the same preventive benefits that statin drugs provide for patients with cholesterol trouble.

“I will place a bet with a high degree of confidence,” Golde said, “that we will have preventive therapy for AD before we have stem cell or another type of therapy that truly and completely reverses clinical dementia.”

Continued on page 7
From the Executive Director

Gerontology Experience Required

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

Every April, GSA and its educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), sponsor Careers in Aging Week. This year, dozens of colleges and universities across the country are participating by sponsoring events at their schools or in their communities. The activities are designed to bring greater awareness of the many job opportunities that gerontology offers.

When thinking about the promotion of careers in aging, it’s important to envision as wide a range of jobs as possible. We already recognize the need for more researchers, caregivers, social workers, and policy experts who work to address the needs of our aging population. Yet there are numerous other businesses and professional fields that need to prepare for the fact that the number of Americans age 65 and over will double in the next 40 years.

At AGHE’s recent annual meeting in Reno, I had a terrific conversation with Diane Patterson, co-founder of the Let’s Age Well Alliance. She and her organization, based in southern California, focus on finding work for experts on aging. Their philosophy is that every company in America needs a gerontologist on staff or on retainer. This intriguing concept is one that could allow us to expand the scope of our own Society.

The aforementioned growth of this country’s older population is reason enough to understand why widespread placement of gerontologists makes economic sense. Companies must be aware of the needs of the senior demographic — a group that also has a great deal of spending power. This knowledge was the impetus for GSA’s first Aging Means Business Forum, which took place during last November’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta. This event brought leading authorities on gerontology and consumer behavior together with industry leaders interested in understanding and capitalizing on an expanding senior market. AGHE’s Task Force on Business and Aging also contributed to the Atlanta meeting program with a symposium titled, “The Intersection of Business & Aging: The Role of Gerontological Education in Business Schools.”

Companies looking to maximize their productivity additionally will require guidance on how to accommodate the needs of the modern workforce. According to the 2009 “Caregiving in the U.S.” report issued by the National Alliance for Caregiving, there are at least 43.5 million adults in this country who provide unpaid care to a family member or friend who is age 50 or older. Among these caregivers, 64 percent have had to make workplace accommodations — such as taking time off or altering arrival and departure schedules — as a result. Career adjustments are also common for those whose loved ones are in the hands of paid caregivers.

Fully expanding the private sector’s awareness of our new aging society will require a lot of effort. Plans are already underway for another Aging Means Business forum at this year’s GSA meeting in New Orleans. I also welcome feedback on ways that the Society can further support Careers in Aging Week activities at your institution. If we are successful, April soon could become known as Careers in Aging Month. Imagine how rewarding it will be to browse job listings and commonly see the phrase, “gerontology experience required.”

James
Dilworth-Anderson Receives Top Alzheimer’s Honor

GSA President Peggye Dilworth-Anderson, PhD, received the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute on Alzheimer’s Disease Award on March 9 during the seventh Annual National Alzheimer’s Gala in Washington, DC. This honor is reserved for those who make significant advancements in Alzheimer’s research. Dilworth-Anderson is a professor of health policy and management and the interim co-director of Institute on Aging at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her current research focuses on developing interventions and educational programs about dementia and access to care. These programs help educate elders and their caregivers in medically underserved communities. Her leadership at the Institute on Aging aims to promote collaborative gerontological research, develop innovative and interdisciplinary programs of gerontological education and practice, and provide state-of-the-art information to policymakers, program managers, service providers, and the general public.

NASW Recognizes MacFarland’s Work

On March 12, Nicole S. MacFarland, LCSW-R, CASAC, was named Social Worker of the Year for New York State at the annual National Association of Social Workers (NASW) conference in Albany, NY. This award recognizes the commitment and achievements of an outstanding member of the social work profession, distinguishing individuals who demonstrate exceptional professional qualities that surpass job expectations. In addition to being a member in good standing of NASW and a representative of the professional ethics of social work as defined by the NASW code of ethics, the recipient of this award effectively integrates experiences with education in an outstanding effort to help people; shows a willingness to take risks for improved social services; enlists public support for improved social services; and contributes to the public’s knowledge of social work.

Van Nostrand Earns APHA Distinction

GSA Fellow Joan F. Van Nostrand, DPA, has received the Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Gerontological Health Section (GHS) of the American Public Health Association (APHA). She received the award at APHA’s annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The award recognized her health policy research in aging and disability of older persons in rural areas. Van Nostrand was a founding member of the GHS and previously received its Phillip G. Weiller Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health.
Unemployed Older Koreans on the Rise
The research agency Statistics Korea has found that the number of economically inactive senior citizens in that country has exceeded five million for the first time in history, with many elderly giving up searching for jobs amid the tight labor market, according to an article in The Korea Times. A person is considered economically active if he or she is employed or currently seeking employment. Korea’s rapid aging population has pushed to a record high the number of individuals over age 60 who do not engage in economic activity. The economically inactive Korean population over 60 years old totaled 5.01 million in December 2009, up 309,000 from the same month a year earlier. The figure was the highest on record, totaling 1.7 million more than the 3.3 million in December 1999. The number of older people who weren’t economically active accounted for 30.8 percent of the nation’s total of 16.25 million, up from 23.3 percent 10 years ago. Similarly, economically active older Koreans totaled 2.45 million, down 32,000 from the previous year.

Elderly Suffer in Brazilian Heat Wave
In the city of Santos, Brazil, all 32 victims of a recent heat wave were between the ages of 60 and 90, according to the Associated Press. Representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Health said those who perished suffered from pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or hypertension. The first deaths occurred when the temperature in Santos reached 102 degrees Fahrenheit.

Cuban Artists Soon May Enjoy Retirement Benefits
According to the Associated Press, Cuba soon will begin offering pensions to self-employed artists and performers, calculating benefits based on the taxable income they declare. The new law is seen as an attempt to encourage workers to report their full incomes — part of increasing efforts to better account for all Cuban employees and the money they make. Previously, independent artists were required to pay at least seven percent tax on all income, then file a yearly tax return with additional payments, but they were not eligible for retirement benefits. The new measure, detailed in state-run newspapers, allows self-employed musicians, writers, movie and television performers, sculptors, and painters, among others, to receive a monthly government pension worth 60 percent of their reported income. To qualify, artists must have worked for 30 years and reported taxes for at least the last five. Like all Cubans, their benefits kick in at age 65 for men and age 60 for women.

Overweight Middle-Aged Adults at Greater Risk for Cognitive Decline in Later Life
The adverse affects of being overweight are not limited to physical function but also extend to neurological function, according to research in a recent issue of the *Journals of Gerontology Series A: Biological and Medical Sciences* (Volume 65A, Number 1).

The publication presents a collection of ten articles highlighting new findings related to obesity in older persons.

“One of the unanticipated consequences of improved medical management of cardiovascular disease is that many obese individuals reach old age,” said *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* Editor Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, of the National Institute on Aging. “We need a better understanding of the causes and consequences of obesity in older individuals — especially when obesity is associated with sarcopenia.”

A study headed by Anna Dahl, MS, of Sweden’s Jönköping University, found that individuals with higher midlife body mass index (BMI) scores had significantly lower general cognitive ability and significantly steeper decline than their thinner counterparts over time. These statistics were compiled from a study of Swedish twins that took place over the course of nearly 40 years, from 1963 to 2002; the results were the same for both men and women.

Other studies reported in the journal show that obesity appears particularly threatening in the presence of other health problems, such as poor muscle strength and depression.

Similarly, changes in weight also signify declines in overall health. A team of researchers led by Alice M. Arnold, PhD, of the University of Washington, Seattle, found that such fluctuations are significant indicators of future physical limitations and mortality in the elderly. Arnold and her colleagues used data from the Cardiovascular Health Study, which included information from over 3,000 individuals aged 65 and older from 1992 to 1999. They discovered that a history of cyclically losing and gaining weight increased a person’s chance of having difficulty with activities of daily living — bathing, dressing, eating, etc. — by 28 percent.

Subscribers to the *Journals of Gerontology Series A* can access the articles by visiting www.geron.org/Publications. For authentication purposes, users need to enter through the GSA website by logging in with their user ID and password there. Non-subscribers are presented with pay-per-view options.
Washington Considers Elders’ Needs While Reform Moves Forward

On Sunday, March 21, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), which was then signed by President Barack Obama on Tuesday, March 23. This comprehensive health care reform legislation contains a number of provisions that affect older adults, a summary of which can be found at www.geron.org/HCRprovisions.pdf. I will provide further analysis in future columns. In the mean time, there are several other issues of note making their way through the halls of Congress.

The Older Americans Act
Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) is coming up in 2011, and Administration on Aging (AoA) Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee has begun discussions and forums focused on its future. AoA has conducted three listening sessions (in Dallas, TX, Alexandria, VA, and San Francisco, CA), which convened stakeholders in the field of aging, including older adults, policy makers, researchers, and service providers. Additional reauthorization events scheduled throughout the country are listed by state on the AoA website (www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx). You also may send comments and suggestions directly to AoA through its website or by mail. The recommendations must go through a review process before being submitted to the authorizing committees in Congress, so get involved now if you want to influence AoA’s position. Keep in mind that Congress will do much of its work on reauthorization next year.

Social Security
On March 1, an expansion in Social Security benefits took effect; the compassionate allowances were expanded to cover people with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease as well as 37 other medical conditions. The compassionate allowances allow people with certain disabilities to qualify for Social Security disability benefits automatically. There are an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 people who might be able to benefit from this expansion.

President Barack Obama would like to extend the economic recovery to Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, railroad retirement and disability beneficiaries, as well as to veterans’ benefits recipients. He has proposed a second payment of $250 to the more than 57 million Americans who fall into these categories. The proposal would cost $13 billion, although Congress has not acted on it yet.

In addition, the president’s budget proposal targets the processing backlog of the Social Security Administration (SSA) with an eight percent funding increase for staffing. The SSA disability claims and appeals and initial retirement processing times need to be improved, especially since SSA recently reported that the number of disability hearings is at its lowest level since June 2005.

Fiscal / Debt Commissions and Boards
A total of three commissions were proposed to address the nation’s fiscal problems. The only one to have been approved so far is the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which the president established by executive order. This group is tasked with suggesting medium- and long-term solutions to the fiscal problems facing the country and coming up with ways to balance the budget by 2015, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security financing issues. Its report is due on December 1. The president appointed former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Senate Republican Whip Alan Simpson as commission co-chairs.

A second commission was proposed in legislation by Senators Judd Gregg (R-NH) and Kent Conrad (D-ND), titled the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act of 2009. The bill was defeated as an amendment to the debt limit bill.

In addition, the Senate-passed health care reform bill contains an Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). The purpose of this board would be to reduce the per capita rate of growth in Medicare spending. The board members would be appointed by the president. It is not known how the IPAB will fare in the final reconciliation package. Aging advocates are concerned that the IPAB would have too much authority over the Medicare program, usurping congressional authority and blurring the lines of accountability.

The Elder Justice Act
After more than seven years of hard work and perseverance, elder abuse victims and their advocates celebrated the passage of the Elder Justice Act (EJA) and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act, which were included in H.R. 3590. The Elder Justice Act’s champions in the Senate are Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Herb Kohl (D-WI), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and in the House are Pete King (R-NY), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). The main provisions of the Elder Justice Act include funding for Adult Protective Services, grants to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and the establishment of an Elder Justice Coordinating Council. The Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act requires criminal background checks for persons seeking employment in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. The Justice Department-related provisions of the Elder Justice Act (H.R. 448), introduced by Representative Joe Sestak (D-PA), were not included in H.R. 3590. H.R. 448 was passed by the House on February 11, 2009, and awaits Senate action. This bill would support state prosecutors and courts who handle elder justice related matters, provide training, and study the needs of elder abuse victims.
AGHE Meeting Honors Distinguished Individuals

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) recognized its newest officers, fellows, and award winners at its recent Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference in Reno, NV. The four-day event, which took place March 4 to 7, provided a forum for professionals in the field of aging to present their work and share ideas about gerontological and geriatric education and training. The theme was “Mining Silver: Optimizing Aging and its Workforce through Education.”

Officers
These individuals are responsible for matters of governance and strategic planning for the organization.

AGHE Secretary-Elect
Judith A. Sugar, PhD, University of Nevada Reno

AGHE Members-at-Large-Elect
Pamela S. Mayberry, MGS, Ithaca College Gerontology Institute
Kelly Niles-Yokum, PhD, York College of Pennsylvania
Leland Hubert “Bert” Waters III, MS, Virginia Center on Aging, Virginia Commonwealth University

Fellows
AGHE confers fellow status to individuals to recognize outstanding leadership in gerontological/geriatric education by established scholars and educators at AGHE member institutions. The 2010 fellows are: Betty D. Dudson, PhD, University of Nevada, Reno
Michael Faber, MA, LBSW, Grand Rapids Community College
Barbara Hawkins, ReD, Indiana University
Cullen T. Hayashida, PhD, Kapi‘olani Community College
Jon Pynnoo, PhD, University of Southern California
Kathleen H. Wilber, PhD, University of Southern California

Awardees
Clark Tibbitts Award
Presented to Frank J. Whittington, PhD, George Mason University. This award was established in 1980 to recognize individuals who and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the advancement gerontology as a field of study in institutions of higher education.

Hiram J. Friedsam Mentorship Award
Presented to David A. Chiriboga, PhD, University of South Florida. This award, named for an outstanding mentor in gerontology, is given to an individual who has contributed to gerontological education through excellence in mentorship to students, faculty, and administrators.

Distinguished Faculty Award
Presented to Karen A. Hooker, PhD, Oregon State University, and Rona J. Karasik, PhD, Saint Cloud State University. This award recognizes persons whose teaching stands out as exemplary, innovative, of impact, or any combination thereof.

Mildred M. Seltzer Distinguished Service Recognition
Presented to C. Joanne Grabinski, PhD, Eastern Michigan University, and Mary Alice Wolf, PhD, Saint Joseph University. This award honors colleagues who are near retirement or recently retired. Recipients are individuals who have been actively involved in AGHE through service on committees, as elected officers, and/or have provided leadership in one of AGHE's grant-funded projects.

Administrative Leadership Award
Presented to Tammy M. Bray, PhD, Oregon State University
This award honors administrators on AGHE member campuses who have made exceptional efforts in support of gerontology or geriatrics education.

David A. Peterson Gerontology & Geriatrics Education Best Paper of the Volume Award
Presented to Nina M. Silverstein, PhD, University of Massachusetts Boston; Elizabeth Johns, MS, University of Massachusetts Boston; and Judith A. Griffin, MA, MS, University of Massachusetts Boston, for the article “Students Explore Livable Communities.” Honorable mention is given to Emily J. Robbins, MS, Miami University; Jennifer M. Kinney, PhD, Miami University; and Cary S. Kart, PhD, Miami University, for the article “Promoting Active Engagement in Health Research: Lessons Learned from an Undergraduate Gerontology Capstone Course.”

The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in scholarship in academic gerontology in AGHE's official journal, Gerontology & Geriatrics Education.

Graduate Student Paper Award
Presented to Deborah Gray, MBA, University of Massachusetts Boston, for the paper “Weight and Wealth: The Relationship between Obesity and Net Worth for Pre-Retirement Age Men and Women.” This award acknowledges excellence in scholarly work conducted by an AGHE Annual Meeting student attendee.

Book Award for Best Children's Literature on Aging
Presented to Caitlin Dale Nicholson and Leona Morinn-Nelson for “Niwechihaw/I help” in the primary reader (pre-K to 2nd grade) category, and Ann Grifalconi and Jerry Pickney for “Ain’t Nobody A Stranger to Me” in the elementary reader (3rd to 5th grade) category. This award recognizes portrayals of meaningful aging in children’s literature.

Student Writing Contest
Five sixth graders in the Reno area were selected as the winners of a writing contest honoring older adults who have inspired them and made a difference in their lives. The competition was sponsored by AGHE’s K–12 Task Force in partnership with York College of Pennsylvania, the Copper Ridge Institute, and the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University of Ohio. The winners were: First place: Conor Drewes for the essay “My Grandfather” Second place: Hadyne Schult for the essay “My Nana” Second place: Emily Sewell for the poem “My Grammy” Third place: Alondra Corral for the essay “My Grandpa” Third place: Samantha Lamp for the poem “My Grandmother” All five are students in James Vaughan's class at Incline Middle School.

The 2011 Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference will take place in Cincinnati, OH, from March 17 to 20. The designated theme is “Living the Old Age We Imagine: Higher Education in an Aging Society.”
Interdisciplinary Work: Opportunities and Constraints

The annual GSA conference is an excellent illustration of the vast array of disciplines dedicated to understanding aging individuals, families, and communities. These gerontological disciplines include, but are not limited to, biology, economics, medicine, neuroscience, psychology, public policy, and the social sciences. Each discipline produces pertinent knowledge concerning our national and international aging populations. Thus, the field of gerontology is certainly multidisciplinary, but is it interdisciplinary? The purpose of this column is to define interdisciplinary work and to explore the opportunities and constraints associated with this type of work for emerging scholars and professionals in the field of gerontology.

According to Merriam-Webster, interdisciplinary work involves the integration of two or more academic disciplines. Interdisciplinary work occurs when professionals from various fields come together to find solutions to issues of common interest. Whereas multidisciplinary work is achieved while keeping clear boundaries between disciplines and their respective theories, methods, and applications, interdisciplinary work involves the mixture of disciplines so that theories, methods, and applications are integrated to provide hybrid solutions. Professionals from various disciplines work together to solve problems and arrive at more optimal solutions. In the field of gerontology, as in any field, this work can be viewed as having both opportunities and constraints.

Opportunities

As suggested by Gestalt psychology, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.” Similarly, it may be helpful to think of the field of gerontology as greater than the sum of its disciplines. Collaboration through interdisciplinary work can help scholars and professionals expand the way aging is conceptualized in both theory and practice. Aging is a complex process that creates complex challenges for individuals and families in everyday life.

Integrating the lenses of multiple disciplines as well as contributions of these disciplines may achieve unique solutions to these challenges. Emerging scholars and professionals may find it helpful to ask: how can my work be improved upon or expanded through interdisciplinary approaches? It is possible for interdisciplinary collaboration to connect emerging scholars and professionals from various disciplines to work together towards a common goal and advance the field of gerontology in ways not yet imagined.

Constraints

Constraints found with interdisciplinary work are generally external factors that impinge on the ability to conduct this type of work. External constraints often include rigid epistemological beliefs and a lack of systemic support. Interdisciplinary work can be difficult to conduct because it takes time to build relationships and understand the different theories, methodologies, and practices characteristic of each discipline. Mutual respect, open-mindedness, and recognition of the strengths of each discipline are often needed to overcome the clear differences that exist.

Interdisciplinary work is also constrained by a lack of systemic support. For example, emerging scholars and professionals are often encouraged to address gaps in knowledge within their disciplines and from their disciplines’ perspectives. Resources to approach problems from interdisciplinary perspectives are on the rise with universities and other funding sources increasingly offering interdisciplinary dissertation fellowships to encourage interdisciplinary research ideas among doctoral students.

Overall, interdisciplinary work is something that emerging scholars and professionals should consider as they embark upon their professional careers. It is a skill set that could certainly assist with one’s professional growth and development as well as one’s ability to contribute to gerontological issues, problems, and challenges worldwide.

MetLife - Continued from page 1

The Mandelkows, a husband and wife team, focus their work on addressing the pathological folding of tau protein, which is a component of the neurofibrillary tangles that are a symptom of Alzheimer’s. They have searched a library of over 200,000 compounds and found several inhibitors that can prevent tau aggregation.

Since 1986, the MetLife Foundation has granted major awards to scientists who have demonstrated significant contributions to the understanding of Alzheimer’s disease. The program’s goal is to recognize the importance of basic research with an emphasis on providing scientists the opportunity to pursue ideas. Each winner received a $100,000 research grant and personal prize of $25,000.

In the past 24 years, over $12 million has been issued through these awards.

Alzheimer’s is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S., according to the Alzheimer’s Association. At the end of 2009, it was estimated that 5.3 million Americans were living with the disease. From 2000 to 2006, deaths from Alzheimer’s increased by 47.1 percent. By comparison, death from heart disease decreased by 11.5 percent and stroke deaths decreased by 18.1 percent.

“Millions around the world look to science to find hope for the families affected by Alzheimer’s, and the scientists we have honored — today and in years past — truly represent the best of what the scientific world has to offer,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of the MetLife Foundation. “These awards are an investment in the future and we thank our awardees for their vital contributions.”
Controller Jilan Chen, a native of Shanghai, China, has been on the GSA staff for 13 years. She holds a Master of Arts degree in administrative management with a concentration in accounting.

Her current job requires her to oversee the daily operations of GSA’s Finance Department. In this position, she supervises the accounting staff and ensures that financial procedures are strictly followed or, when necessary, updated.

She maintains the expense scheduling required by auditors and assists them as needed; assists the office manager with health insurance and other benefit forms; oversees GSA’s grant management through record keeping and report preparation; reconciles bank and investment accounts; and closes and posts accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll to the general ledger.
EPA Awards Foster Community-Based Approach
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Aging Initiative has released a call for applications for the 2010 Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Awards, which recognize excellence in communities that embrace smart growth and active aging principles that lead both to healthier environments and communities. Applicants must be public-sector entities in the U.S. that coordinate with their local Area Agency on Aging. Applications are due July 17, 2010. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/index.htm.

NIMH Developing Centers for Intervention, Services Research
The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) invites research grant applications related to the missions of its Division of Services and Intervention Research and its Geriatrics Research Branch. The purpose of the grant is to provide infrastructure support for groups of investigators that will allow expansion of their intervention and/or services research. The deadline to apply is June 24. For complete details, visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-087.html.

RWJF Program Aimed at Vulnerable Community Dwellers
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships (LFP) program forges relationships between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and local grantmakers to fund promising, original projects that can significantly improve the health of vulnerable people in their communities. The LFP Annual Grantmaking Program awards grants of between $200,000 and $500,000 per project, which must be matched dollar for dollar by local grantmakers such as community foundations, family foundations, corporate grantmakers, and others. Please note that any nonprofit agency seeking an LFP matching grant should first discuss its proposal with a local funder, who may then choose to nominate the project. For information on the many types of eligible nominating funders, the wide variety of eligible topics, a list of current projects, and the proposal deadline, visit the program’s website at www.localfundingpartnerships.org. The deadline for the receipt of brief proposals is June 30.

NIH Grants Seek to Boost Research Workforce Diversity
Using funds provided by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites applications for the NIH Director’s ARRA Pathfinder Award to Promote Diversity in the Scientific Workforce. The NIH recognizes a need to promote diversity in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical, and social sciences research workforces. The Pathfinder Award encourages exceptionally creative individual scientists to develop highly innovative and possibly transforming approaches for promoting diversity within the biomedical research workforce. For more information, visit grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-10-013.html. The deadline to apply is May 4. The NIH expects to grant five awards totaling no more than $2,000,000 over three years.

Looming Unemployment Harms Older Workers’ Health
Downsizing and demotions at the workplace can be a health hazard for people over age 50, according to research reported in a recent issue of the Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological and Social Sciences (Volume 65B, Number 1).
A team of researchers found that job insecurity increased the chance of harmful effects for a sample of older workers in Cook County, IL. Over time, men reacted with greater physical symptoms, while changes in psychological health were more prominent in women.
“Older adults in the United States are living longer and working harder,” said lead author Ariel Kalil, PhD, a professor at the University of Chicago. “Increased exposure to the labor market brings increased exposure to employment challenges.”
The new findings are based on a study of approximately 200 residents of Cook County aged 50 to 67. The participants were considered to have experienced job insecurity if they reported that they were disciplined or demoted at work or if their employer downsized or reorganized.
Job insecurity was not associated with health outcomes for all individuals uniformly. After a period of two years, the men who had faced job insecurity were more likely to experience poorer self-rated health, higher blood pressure, and higher levels of epinephrine (a stress-induced hormone). When faced with the same workplace conditions, women showed higher levels of hostility, loneliness, and depressive symptoms.
The researchers chose to focus on older workers for several reasons. People aged 55 and older have experienced strong growth in the labor market over the past 20 years — a trend expected to continue in the decade ahead. Additionally, a 2007 AARP study found that a full 70 percent of working adults between 45 and 74 years old planned to work during retirement or to never retire at all.
Subscribers to The Journals of Gerontology Series B can access the articles by visiting www.geron.org/Publications. For authentication purposes, users need to enter through the GSA website by logging in with their user ID and password there. Non-subscribers are presented with pay-per-view options.
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marked by collaboration with colleagues in numerous health, social, and behavioral science disciplines. My appreciation of the value of interdisciplinary research teams grew from years of attending GSA annual meetings and learning how research problems can be better addressed when multiple disciplines cooperate in designing, executing, and reporting results of research. I have applied this principle to my work in dementia care, home health care, fall prevention, and other areas of gerontology.

Today, GSA is a vibrant organization that has embraced information technology to communicate extensively with its members and external audiences in aging services and policy arenas. As president-elect, I would help build on three promising and growing areas of emphasis in GSA: mentorship, interdisciplinary interest groups, and cross-national research. Mentorship will only grow in importance as emerging scholars and professionals are drawn to positions associated with workforce needs for an aging population. It will be important to maximize coordination between GSA-wide mentorship efforts assumed by the Task Force on Mentorship, and numerous ongoing in- section mentoring initiatives. The rapid growth of special interest groups demonstrates the value GSA members place on interdisciplinary discussions about more focused aging-related topics, which often lead to innovative research collaborations. This interdisciplinary spirit should be encouraged to flourish. Growth of cross-national research on all aspects of the aging experience for individuals, populations, and societies should be supported, building on the selection of GSA as the host organization for the 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics meeting in San Francisco. Our international colleagues continue to find value in joining GSA, and this value could be greatly enhanced by increased emphasis on cross-national research.

I am deeply honored by this nomination and would look forward with great humility and excitement to serving as GSA president.

Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD (Brown University), is a professor at the Center on Aging within the University of Connecticut Health Center, where he holds the Physicians Health Services Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology. He holds a secondary appointment in the University of Connecticut School of Nursing.

Whitelaw, continued from page 1

memberhip, journals, conferences, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), the National Academy on an Aging Society, and numerous special projects — that defines GSA.

My career has focused on understanding the concepts of health and function, designing and testing interventions to improve health outcomes, and bringing greater alignment between evidence-based practice and organizational systems. Participation in research and training programs at Portland State University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Michigan strengthened my commitment to interdisciplinary approaches. At Henry Ford Health System’s Center for Health System Studies, I worked with other leading health centers to design and test models of team care, and develop minority aging research programs. Under my direction, Henry Ford participated in a national geriatric interdisciplinary team training initiative for students, residents, and established clinicians. Currently, I co-direct the Practice Change Fellows program to build leadership skills and geriatric expertise among gerontological professionals.

Presently, my work focuses on a national movement to bring evidence-based health programming to diverse community organizations nationwide. What began as a pilot project is now a significant public-private collaboration, with investments exceeding $80 million, involving leaders in aging and health from research, policy, education, and practice at national, state, and local levels. In 2008 I was honored with GSA’s Maxwell A. Pollock Award for Productive Aging for distinction in bridging research and practice.

In my vision, going forward GSA will leverage its unique capacity to foster interdisciplinary knowledge to help our members expand their influence on research, education, policy, and practice. Securing additional aging-related research and training funds is essential. In the U.S. and internationally, there is growing attention to research translation and the training/workforce needs of an aging society. We can build off the successes of the Academy, AGHE, and grants to GSA to secure additional resources for our agenda. We can foster more engagement from our members, finding better ways to work together to achieve impact. If elected president, I look forward to working with you on the fundamental issues facing an aging society.

Nancy A. Whitelaw, PhD (University of Michigan), is the senior vice president and director of the Center for Healthy Aging at the National Council on Aging in Washington, DC.
Université McGill University
Faculty of Medicine/Faculté de médecine

Dr. Joseph Kaufmann Chair in Geriatric Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, one of the oldest and most respected in North America, is inviting applications as part of an international search for the position of Chair in Geriatric Medicine.

This will be a faculty tenure-stream position at the Associate or Full Professor level in the Department of Medicine. The aim of the endowed chair is to advance research and knowledge in aging and age-related disorders. The successful candidate will be an expert clinician who will conduct clinical and/or translational research in this area. We are seeking someone who will work across traditional departmental boundaries to establish interdisciplinary research programs and who will develop evidence-based approaches to introduce and evaluate new practices that will enhance the diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for people with aging and related disorders as well as evaluation of health care services in Quebec and beyond. In addition to reporting important findings to the academic community, the chair-holder should work with community organizations to disseminate information to the general public. He or she will also take part in the training of students and other professionals in the field and serve as an advocate for those who are suffering from frailty and other aging-related diseases.

The Faculty of Medicine at McGill has a long tradition of excellence in research and teaching. The Department of Medicine offers a dynamic research environment with extensive inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary research collaborations. McGill University has unique research capacity in geriatrics through Solidage, the McGill University – Université de Montréal Research Group on Frailty and Aging which is devoted to research, policy studies and practice development and training in the organization, management and care of the older population. It facilitates collaboration of researchers on integrated services for the frail elderly and is based at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research at the Jewish General Hospital, as well as other research ventures in the areas of frailty, cognitive decline and evaluation of health care services. Opportunities exist to develop existing areas and build new areas of strength through recruitment. The Department participates in teaching at all levels including undergraduate, graduate and medical students, medical residents and postdoctoral and clinical fellows. Further details can be found at: http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/geriatrics.

Applicants should have senior academic experience with proven teaching skills. A commitment to research with an international reputation will be an important consideration. The selected candidate must hold a M.D. and be licensed, or eligible for licensure, in the Province of Quebec.

Interested applicants should email their curriculum vitae, including a list of publications and a statement of interest, along with the names, addresses and email addresses of three references to ernesto.schiffrin@mcgill.ca within 60 days of the publication date of this posting. Please indicate ‘Dr. Joseph Kaufmann Chair in Geriatric Medicine’ in the subject line. All applications should be addressed to:

Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin
Chair, Search & Selection Committee
Physician-in-Chief, Department of Medicine, Jewish General Hospital
Professor and Vice-Chair (Research), Department of Medicine
McGill University
3755 Côte-Ste-Catherine Rd., Room B-127
Montreal, PQ, Canada H3T 1E2
Email: ernesto.schiffrin@mcgill.ca

Candidates would benefit from a working knowledge of both official languages. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. McGill University is committed to equity in employment.
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TRANSITIONS OF CARE
ACROSS THE AGING CONTINUUM

This Continuing Educational activity is joint-sponsored by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, Office of Continuing Education and The Gerontological Society of America.