Rowe Tapped As Annual Meeting’s Keynote Speaker

John W. Rowe, Chairman and CEO of Aetna Inc, has accepted GSA President Terry Fulmer’s invitation to present the keynote address this November at the 58th Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans.

Aetna is one of the nation’s leading health care and related benefits organizations. Prior to his current post, Rowe served as president and chief executive officer of Mount Sinai NYU Health, one of the nation’s largest academic health care organizations. In the past he was also a professor of medicine and the founding director of the Division of Aging at Harvard Medical School, and chief of gerontology at Boston’s Beth Israel Hospital. He has authored over 200 scientific publications, mostly on the physiology of the aging process, and a leading textbook on geriatric medicine. Perhaps his most renowned was 1998’s Successful Aging, which he co-authored with Robert Kahn.

Rowe has received many honors and awards for his research and health policy efforts regarding care of the elderly. He also served as GSA president in 1989. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the University of Connecticut. Rowe received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1970.

Online Registration Goes Live; Workshops Announced

Registration for the 2005 Annual Meeting is available online at www.agingconference.com! REGISTER TODAY!

Pre-registration for all workshops is strongly suggested. On-site registration for these sessions will be on a first come/first served basis. All pre-conference workshops are scheduled for Friday, November 18 and the fees are nonrefundable. Please refer to www.agingconference.com or the preliminary program for details regarding pricing and schedules.

2005 Pre-Conference Workshops

- Aging Research Strategies: Competencies, Mentoring, and Publishing for Students and Professionals
- Approaches for Developing/Adapting/Evaluating Health-Related Concepts and Measures in Diverse Older Populations
- How To Publish
- Improving the Quality and Credibility of Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research in Aging
- New Research on the Long-Term Care Workforce: Implication for Policy and Practice?
- Quality of Care and Quality of Life in Assisted Living: Priorities of Researchers, Providers, and Funders
- Survival Guide to Clinical Research: Highlights of GSA’s Clinical Research Guidebook
- Using the Data Warehouse on Trends in Health and Aging to Identify Research Topics and Provide Estimates to Support Research Proposals
Googling Gerontology – A Message from the AGHE President

by Betsy M. Sprouse, Ph.D., AARP Academic Affairs

“A weekday edition of The New York Times contains more information than the average person was likely to come across in a lifetime in 17th century England.”
— Information Anxiety, R.S. Wurman

One of the greatest challenges of the world we live in is managing information. The amount of data that we're exposed to on a daily basis is mind-boggling. An article by William Winkler on the computerbits.com website refers to this as “data asphyxiation” – ingesting information constantly to the point of choking on it. There's even a study at Berkeley about how much information is produced in the world each year (http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info-2003). They report that the world produces between 1 and 2 exabytes of unique information per year, which is roughly 250 megabytes for every man, woman, and child on earth. An exabyte is a billion gigabytes, or 10^18 bytes. Printed documents of all kinds comprise only .003% of the total.

Most of us rely on computer search engines to help us locate information. When we want information on an issue, such as “information overload,” we go to Google and type that in. And typically, we get back thousands of hits, of which we read the first ten or so. From those hits, we get enough information to make our point, or we learn who the major players are on an issue. This use of search engines is an efficient way to find something, however limited, about almost anything.

Google has been an interesting phenomenon to observe. In concept, it’s not all that different from its predecessors, but we have all adopted it so readily, it’s become a verb. And now there’s Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.com), a subset of Google that finds citations to scholarly articles, papers and books. “Schoogle” (as it’s nicknamed) currently taps only a narrow selection of scholarly books and is strongest in the sciences and the humanities. Another drawback is that it provides citations and abstracts rather than full articles. But for both educators and students, Schoogle can provide a more efficient (and) point you in the direction of appropriate scholarly resources. Keep an eye out also for Google’s efforts to digitize and index millions of books from top research libraries, including Harvard, Stanford, the University of Michigan, Oxford University, and the New York Public Library.

One of the most valuable resources in gerontology is not new – in fact, parts of it are over 25 years old. AgeLine (www.aarp.org/ageline) is a free, fully searchable database produced by AARP that contains original abstracts of the literature of social gerontology since 1978 (books, articles, reports, dissertations, audiovisual materials, and “gray literature”). It includes aging-related citations from psychology, sociology, social work, economics, public policy, and the health sciences, and covers issues for professionals in aging services, health, business, law, and mental health. At 80,000 records, it is the most comprehensive source of aging information available anywhere. And neither Google nor Schoogle will help you discover this “invisible web” of resources in aging.

Anyone can search the AgeLine holdings for free – no log-ins, no passwords. AARP also publishes Internet Resources on Aging (www.aarp.org/internetresources), an online directory of more than 900 websites on aging for older adults, their families, and service providers, and AgeSource Worldwide (www.links.aarp.org/asw), which provides information about and access to more than 300 significant information resources about aging from almost 30 countries. And should you be planning a visit to Washington, DC, you may want to contact the AARP Research Information Center to work with its collection of more than 20,000 aging-related books and 400 serials (email info@aarp.org).

Locating reliable, scholarly resources on aging does not require Googling in the dark. Internet and library-based services such as AgeLine have made major contributions to gerontology by organizing aging information for us into forms useful for both classroom and professional use.
Warner, Ferraro Chosen as Journal Editors
Huber Warner of the University of Minnesota (formerly of the NIA) and Kenneth Ferraro of Purdue University have been accepted as the next editors of The Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences and The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, respectively. They were selected in June by the GSA Publications Committee and unanimously approved by the Executive Council. Their four year terms will begin in January 2006. The whole of GSA welcomes these two outstanding individuals and thanks them for their participation.

Member Feedback Still Welcomed
The June issue of Gerontology News featured a new section titled “Reasons to Renew,” a small forum for members to share their thoughts on why continued involvement in GSA is valuable. The editorial staff would like to make this an ongoing feature and therefore welcomes continued submissions.

2005 Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award Winners Announced
GSA is pleased to introduce the twenty recipients of the 2005 Hartford Doctoral Fellows Pre-Dissertation Award. With funding from the John A. Hartford Foundation, the program provides this cohort with the opportunities for successful careers in gerontological social work.

The awards are administered by The Gerontological Society of America and co-sponsored by the Association for Gerontological Education and Social Work (AGE-SW). The program is overseen by National Hartford Fellows Director James Lubben of Boston College and Carmen L. Morano of the University of Maryland.

Each awardee will be given stipends to attend both GSA’s November 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans and The Society for Social Work and Research January 2006 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. There they will attend workshops designed to develop their research skills.

The recipients are listed below:
Kimberly M. Cassie
University of Tennessee
Michele L. Day
University of Missouri-Columbia
Daniel W. Durkin
University of Alabama
Kristen A. Gustavson
University of California-Berkeley
Leslie K. Hasche
Washington University-St. Louis
Anne K. Hughes
University of Maryland-Baltimore
Jessica M. Johnson
Boston College
Jin H. Kim
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Kristie G. Kimbell
University of Texas-Austin
Abbie M. Kirkendall
SUNY-Buffalo
Karen Y. Lynch
University of Georgia
Karyn Marsh
New York University
Kelly Mills-Dick
Boston University
Rajean P. Moone
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Lauren H. Nicholas
Columbia University
Kyaileen O. Conner
University of Pittsburgh
Mary L. Smith
University of Pittsburgh
Mei Kit Tang
University of Alabama
Wanda S. White
UCLA
Karen A. Zurlo
University of Pennsylvania

Colleague Connected!
Congratulations to GSA Fellow Margaret Perkinson for being the first winner in the new monthly “Colleague Connection” contest. She was awarded a $25 gift certificate to amazon.com after her name was drawn from a pool of individuals who referred a new member during the month of June. GSA also extends a warm welcome to Samantha Solimeo, whom Perkinson introduced to the Society.

For more details on this promotion, visit http://www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm.

Correction
The June 2005 issue of Gerontology News incorrectly reported that former GSA Treasurer Cynthia Stuen was a vice president at the American Society on Aging. In fact, she is the Senior Vice President for Education at Lighthouse International. The editorial staff would like to apologize for this error and congratulate Stuen once again on receiving ASA’s 2005 Leadership Award.
Care Management Papers Sought
GSA member Joan Quinn, Editorial Board Chair for Journal of Care Management and Home Care, is soliciting articles on care and case management over the next 1-2 years for consideration in the Journal. The submissions should be 12-15 pages or 3,000-4,000 words with a 200-word double-spaced abstract sent via email or computer disk, on the topic of care management targeted toward any age group, any setting or environment, and any condition. Examples might include but certainly are not limited to care management for children in rural Maine, CM for substance abuse, CM for HIV/AIDS, CM for dementia, or CM in adult day services. Please contact Joan Quinn, Executive Director, Evercare, UnitedHealth Group, CT030-03NB, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103 or call 1-860-702-8497 or cell phone 1-860-830-3898 or joan.l.quinn@uhc.com (her name is Joan L. Quinn) or write to her home at 5 Juniper Avenue, Westerly, Rhode Island 02891 with questions and to discuss potential article ideas.

HHS Launches New Consumer Tool
The Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new web site that provides consumers with information on how well hospitals care for adult patients. Hospital Compare (http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov) uses voluntary, self-reported information from hospitals on three major causes of morbidity and mortality—heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia—to show how often participating hospitals provide the recommended care for adults with one of those three conditions. Consumers can search for hospitals by state, county, city, ZIP code, or name.

Community Health Leaders Award Available
The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP) honors ten outstanding individuals each year for their work in creating or enhancing healthcare programs serving communities in which needs have been ignored and unmet. Each leader receives $120,000 to be used for personal and program enhancement over a period of up to three years. CHLP seeks out individuals who have the leadership skills to overcome complex obstacles and find creative ways to bring healthcare services to their communities. Candidates should be working at the grassroots level, have received no significant national recognition and be in mid-career, with no less than five and no more than fifteen years of community health experience. Nominations can be made by consumers, community leaders, health professionals and government officials who have been personally inspired by the nominee. Interested nominators need to complete our Letter of Intent (LOI) form. The LOI is quick to fill out and is due back to the program office no later than September 22, 2005. Nominators of selected candidates will receive full nomination packages. Completed nominations will be due in November. The program information and LOI are available online at www.communityhealthleaders.org.

AARP Releases Physical Activity Booklet
AARP’s latest publication, the “Physical Activities Workbook,” is now available to order. Based on the “Be Active for Life Handbook,” which won a 2004 Silver Award from the National Health Information Awards program, this updated and re-titled version shows how to add physical activity into a daily routine based on an individual’s unique needs and lifestyle. It also teaches the reader how to start safely, set goals, develop a support network, find motivation, and overcome barriers. Of those people who’ve already used the workbook, 82% said it encouraged them to be more active, and 72% said it helped them set goals, according to AARP! Many health and fitness professionals use the workbook in their programs and classes. Call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277) to request a free copy.

TIAA-CREF Welcomes Award Entry Submissions
Applications are now being accepted for the 2005 TIAA-CREF Paul A. Samuelson Award for outstanding scholarly writing on lifelong financial security. This prestigious award, named in honor of Paul A. Samuelson, the first American to win the Nobel Prize in economics, and a former CREF Trustee, carries with it a cash prize of $10,000. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in Boston, MA in January 2006. Submissions may be theoretical or empirical in nature, but must cover a subject directly relevant to lifelong financial security. The research can be in book or article form and should be published between January 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Submissions must be received by the TIAA-CREF Institute no later than September 9, 2005. For more information on how to send a submission, visit http://www.tiaa-crefinstitute.org/Awards/awardp1.htm.

New Medicare Chartbook Released
As part of creating powerful messages to communicate research, it’s essential to have the right frame and the right data to make the case and support your message. One excellent resource for such data is Quality of Health Care for Medicare Beneficiaries: A Chartbook published in May 2005 by The Commonwealth Fund. The Chartbook reflects a broad review of recently published studies and reports and presents a coherent picture of the quality of health care for elderly Medicare beneficiaries living in the community. It includes a wealth of evidence on a range of topics including immunizations in the elderly, colorectal cancer screening, falls & instability, hospital mortality, osteoporosis, diabetes, mental health care, patient safety, equity in care, and much more. To download the Chartbook, visit http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications.htm.

Tips for Boomers’ Participation Outlined in Survey
MetLife Foundation and Civic Ventures have released results from a survey that found that half of Americans age 50 to 70 want jobs that contribute to the greater good now and in retirement. Of the 1,000 persons age 50 to 70 surveyed, 52 percent volunteered for at least one type of organization in the preceding year. Ten percent said they had volunteered for an environmental organization, 12 percent said they had volunteered for a hospital or a health organization, and 33 percent volunteered for a program that helps the poor, elderly, or other people in need. For more information on the survey, see www.civicventures.org/survey. The MetLife Foundation and Civic Ventures also released a report “The Boomers’ Guide to Good Work,” an online pamphlet designed to help boomers find public service jobs in the second half of life. It’s available online at www.civicventures.org/guide.
AGHE Welcomes 25 New Member Institutions

We are happy to welcome the following institutions into AGHE membership for 2004-2005:

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY
American International College, Springfield, MA
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
University of California-Berkeley, CA
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT
Education Resource Centre for Continuing Care, Calgary, Alberta, CD
Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS
The Hayworth Press, Binghamton, NY
Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD
Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN
Metropolitan State College of Denver, CO
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
Nippon Life Insurance Company Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan
Portland Community College, Portland, OR
Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS
Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC

AGHE member institutions represent 46 states and 6 foreign countries (Australia, Canada, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea). Of these institutions, 16 have been members for 30 years; 58 have been members for more than 20 years; 44 have been members for more than 10 years.

Interested in Becoming an AGHE Fellow?

Individuals with well-established careers and achievements in gerontology or geriatrics education are invited to apply for Fellow status within AGHE. You are asked to document your accomplishments related to educational issues and you must be employed by an AGHE member institution. Qualifications include:

- outstanding achievement in teaching;
- influential research or publications on pedagogy or educational issues;
- influential research publications or theoretical contributions on gerontological or geriatric education/training; or
- leadership in administration and funding of gerontological or geriatric educational programs, including the development of new programs.

Fellow status is granted only to individuals demonstrating a record of excellence beyond routine teaching. Applications for the 2005-06 AGHE Fellows Program are due October 15, 2005. Forms will be sent to AGHE’s Institutional Representatives and may be obtained from the AGHE office. Please call (202) 289-9806 or e-mail dstepp@aghe.org. You may also get the application information from the AGHE website at www.aghe.org by following the “About AGHE” menu to the “Fellows” page.

Postal Mail:
AGHE Photo Contest
1030 15th Street NW, Ste. 240
Washington, DC  20005

Electronic Mail:
info@aghe.org
Subject: AGHE Photo Contest

Please include the following information with your photograph:

- the photographer’s name
- college or university (if appropriate), or town of residence
- a brief quote to accompany the picture

Deadline is September 15th.
Last month’s column discussed the elements for assembling a competitive graduate school application. While the application process is essential, it is also necessary to ensure that applicants are applying to programs that are appropriate in terms of their abilities, interests, values, and educational aspirations. It is wise to invest time in researching the various aspects of a graduate program to help determine whether or not the program corresponds with an individual’s career goals and objectives. Here are some suggestions to help applicants choose graduate programs that are right for them.

**Finding the Right Graduate Program**

The decision to go to graduate school involves a tremendous investment of time and resources. Therefore, it is wise for applicants to familiarize themselves with the different elements for choosing the right graduate program before moving forward with the application process.

Applicants should first examine each of the career objectives they hope to achieve at the completion of their graduate education. Some important questions for applicants to consider include: What type of career do I want? Does this particular program offer the education that I will need to obtain my career? Is the program heavily research oriented? What programs offer clinical routes? Does this program offer specialized training in a specific area? What theoretical orientation is this program based on? Each of these elements should be explored in depth in order to narrow down program options.

Once applicants begin narrowing down choices, they should begin researching faculty members affiliated with the programs in which they apply. If there are certain faculty members that an applicant wishes to contact, be sure to become familiar with their work and research. (This can be done by requesting reprints of articles that have been published by faculty.) This is especially important if the applicant has the opportunity to meet with a faculty member. In addition, applicants should assemble a list of questions that pertain to the faculty member’s work and research. Applicants should also be prepared to explain how their own interests and experience relate to the work and interests of the faculty. If applicants want to explore the possibility of working with a faculty member, they must find out whether or not the faculty member is accepting students at that time.

In addition to speaking with faculty members, it may also be helpful for applicants to contact students who are already admitted to the program in which they are applying. Students can offer valuable information based on their own personal experiences within the program, including experiences with research, classes, faculty, and publishing opportunities. Obtaining information from a student’s perspective may help the applicant develop a clearer view of the program.

In addition to which programs to apply, it is also important for applicants to determine how many programs they will apply to. Because of the competitive nature of graduate programs, it is wise for applicants to apply to an average of 8-12 programs. This includes the applicant’s top choices, as well as back-up programs and Master’s programs. For students applying to programs in gerontology, however, this number may not be feasible. Although the choices for gerontology are broadening with new programs being created every year, there is still a relatively small number of programs compared to other disciplines.

For whichever reason an applicant is deciding to continue with his or her education, these initial steps must be taken carefully. Once again, good luck to all applicants this year!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**INVEST IN AGING**

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND OURSELVES

2006 JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY ON AGING

MARCH 16-19, 2006 ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

www.agingconference.org
Harold R. Johnson Chair in Gerontology

The University of Michigan School of Social Work seeks to appoint a nationally/internationally recognized scholar to the Harold R. Johnson Chair in Gerontology. This endowed chair seeks to advance understanding of the needs of older adults in health care systems.

Applicants should have substantial intellectual accomplishments, including scholarship and grants in areas related to the quality of life, health outcomes, and the care of older adults and their families—especially those with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

The research, education, and service initiated by the scholar should be focused on the development and/or improvement of services in health care settings such as primary care organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, or long-term residential care settings, including the social services component in each of these settings.

Senior faculty with a proven record of research are encouraged to apply. MSW degree preferred; Ph.D. in social work-related field required.

All applicants must have a distinguished research record, a proven expertise in procuring external funding in gerontological research, and the ability to teach at the masters and doctoral levels. In addition, the candidate is expected to mentor students and junior faculty, as well as participate in service opportunities within the profession, school, and university.

NOTE: This position will begin 2006 or later. Screening of applications will begin immediately, and will continue until the position is filled.

Prospective candidates should submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and three samples of written work. Please submit applications for this position by October 1, 2005 for full consideration to:

Paula Allen-Meares
Dean and Norma Radin Collegiate Professor
of Social Work/Professor of Education
University of Michigan, School of Social Work
1080 S. University, 4720 SSWB
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.

GSA Fellowship
Are you the missing piece?

Have you been a contributor to the field of gerontology?
Have you been a member of GSA for 5 or more years?
If so, apply for Fellow status within the society!

Fellowship is a recognition by peers for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in GSA.

For more information, please contact:
Laurie Johnson, Fellowship Coordinator, GSA
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005-1503
Ph: 202-842-1275 • Email: ljohnson@geron.org

Visit the Society Website for an application and more information!! www.geron.org
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Hilton New Orleans Riverside
November 18th-22nd

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