Veteran Administrator Chosen as AGHE's Director

GSA is pleased to welcome M. Angela Baker, MA, as the new director of its educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). She brings over 20 years’ management experience in the non-profit sector — primarily with health, aging, and educational associations.

“This is a great opportunity for me and I’m excited about joining the GSA/AGHE family,” said Baker.

She has previously worked for the AARP Foundation (where she oversaw a grant to assist victims of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina) and the American Public Health Association.

Baker was selected after a comprehensive search by a hiring committee consisting of AGHE President Marilyn Gugliucci, PhD; former AGHE President Betsy Sprouse, PhD; GSA Interim Executive Director Linda Harootyan, MSW; GSA Finance Director Christopher Yoder; and GSA Office Manager Kevin Brown.

“Her attention to detail and the people skills she presented makes me fully confident she will serve AGHE and its membership well,” said Gugliucci. “AGHE is more than a business; it is an organization with heart. We had to be sure the person we hired would continue advancing the business of AGHE with personality and commitment. Her prior employment … makes Angela no stranger to the field of aging or to member organizations focused on a vision and mission. I look forward to working with her.”

Baker holds a master’s degree in general administration (health administration track) from the University of Maryland and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from West Chester University.

GSA Revisits Program To Connect Employers, Job Seekers

The successful JobFind program launched at last year’s Annual Scientific Meeting has been added to the agenda for the 2008 conference in National Harbor, MD.

This component of the AgeWork website will again link potential employers with anyone seeking gerontology-related positions.

“We were very impressed with the quality of the candidates we met through JobFind. We will use it again when we have an opportunity to fill a faculty position,” said Lyn Holley, PhD, of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Individuals who post a resume at agework.com can now indicate that they will be available for interviews at this year’s conference, which will take place November 21-25. Hiring parties can also advertise their presence – and GSA is offering a special incentive to do so. For the next three months, anyone who places a job listing on the site will be allotted three complimentary two-hour time blocks in a private office to meet candidates during the meeting.

The available space (at the Gaylord National Resort Hotel & Convention Center) is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. This is the perfect networking venue to either scout a position or find a qualified professional in the field of aging.
This month’s column discusses some funding matters that have received a lot of attention at the office recently — particularly at the recent mid-year meeting of GSA’s Executive Committee, which took place at our Washington, DC, headquarters in late July.

For the first time in my tenure with the Society, we welcomed the sitting director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) — Richard Hodes, MD — as our invited guest speaker. This was an important opportunity to hear more about NIA’s priorities and directions, as well as the serious budget situation facing the Institute and other federally-funded research and training programs.

The outlook for aging research and education in the years ahead is clearly grim and reinforces the need for action on the part of GSA and its members. We will be looking for your help in the coming months in creating a unified voice to Congress on the importance of aging research and training.

One of our first steps in this process was to send a letter to both Republican and Democratic National Platform Committees explaining the importance of proper funding for NIA programs — as well as those of the entire National Institutes of Health family. Additionally, we are urging them again to pay close attention to this year’s report from the Institute of Medicine, “Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Healthcare Workforce.”

We also spent time at the meeting discussing the recently established Carol A. Schutz ESPO Fund. As outlined in the January issue of Gerontology News, this fund — named after the former GSA executive director — was established to help members of our Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) attend and present at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Plans are currently underway to put this money to use for this year’s conference in National Harbor, MD. As always, you can make a contribution to the Carol A. Schutz ESPO Fund online at www.geron.org.

I am also proud to be involved with another endeavor designed to foster involvement in the policy process. For several months now, I have had the privilege of serving on the selection committee of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program — a new initiative funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and administered by Harold Pincus, MD, at Columbia University. This program is the first of its kind in aging, with the exception of the John Heinz Fellow Program, which only funds one fellow per year.

This venture will provide an opportunity for gerontologists and geriatricians to learn more about the policy world. At the same time, it will also serve to educate Congress and other policy makers about the importance of issues surrounding an aging America — and help bridge the worlds of research, policy, and practice. Such a program has been long needed and wanted, as indicated by the large number of applications the program received for its first round. We will announce the selected fellows in next month’s newsletter and include information on how to apply for the next round. The program has components designed for residents (those living in or relocating to Washington, DC) and non-residents (those based in their home region). I encourage everyone to take a look at this unique opportunity.

From The Executive Director
Young Appointed UC Davis Nursing Chancellor

The University of California Board of Regents has approved the appointment of Heather Young, PhD, FAAN, GNP, as associate vice chancellor for nursing at the University of California, Davis. She is a nationally recognized expert in gerontological nursing and rural health. Young’s extensive research has focused on environments that promote healthy aging, with a particular focus on the interface between family and formal health-care systems for older adults. In addition, she has been a co-investigator on several longitudinal studies of family care giving, one of which explored long-term care decision-making and care giving among Japanese-American families.

Cohen Gives Kentucky Keynote

Gene Cohen, MD, of The George Washington University, gave the keynote address at the recent 25th Annual Summer Series on Aging held by the University of Kentucky. His speech, titled “Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life,” focused on the often untapped creative potential of older adults.

AGS Recognizes Halter

Jeffrey B. Halter, MD, director of the University of Michigan Geriatrics Center and Institute of Gerontology, was named the 2008 Nascher/Manning Award recipient of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). He won the award for lifelong achievement in clinical geriatrics. Halter was cited by the AGS board of directors and the awards committee for his significant contributions as a leader in the field of geriatrics, an educator and an author, and for possessing the outstanding qualities and skills the society wishes to honor. Halter also established the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center of the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in 1989, where he served as director until 1998.

Campbell Receives Hartford Grant

Grace Campbell, BSN, MSW, CRRN, CBIS, a pre-doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, is among 15 candidates in the United States to receive a prestigious Hartford Grant for studies in academic geriatric nursing. Campbell was selected for her doctoral research project, “Predicting Fall Risk in Older Adults in Post-Stroke Rehabilitation.” She will receive $45,000 per year for two years in support of her geriatric research.

In Memoriam

Former GSA President Harold Brody, MD, PhD, passed away on June 13, 2008. He was a past winner of the Society’s Robert W. Kleemeier Award and had also served as editor of The Journals of Gerontology. Brody was a professor of anatomy at the SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine for over 40 years. His research in neuroscience and gerontology is credited with fostering a better understanding of the normal and pathological aging processes of the human brain. In addition to being a GSA fellow, Brody was a member of the American Association of Anatomists, a fellow of the American Geriatrics Society, and a past president of the Buffalo Neuropsychiatric Society and the Roswell Park Medical Club. He was also an ad hoc adviser to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

Sandra Schinfeld, MPH, who was about to earn a PhD in public health at the age of 58, died in Philadelphia, PA, on April 27, 2008. She was seeking her doctorate at Temple University while also working at the Jefferson Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health at Thomas Jefferson University. Schinfeld’s scholarly interests spanned family caregiving, adaptation to physical disability, and quality of life in older adults. She was a co-author with other on numerous scientific publications and a presenter at many national gerontological conferences.

New Publications by Members

Project Renewment: The First Retirement Model for Career Women, by Bernice Bratter and Helen Dennis. Published by Scribner.

Seven Strategies for Positive Aging, by Robert D. Hill. Published by W.W. Norton and Company.


Members in the News

- Sara Honn Qualls, PhD, was quoted in the June edition of The Colorado Springs Business Journal. The article addressed new trends in retirement among Baby Boomers.
- Quotes from Janice Wassel, PhD, appeared in a June 21, 2008, story on newsday.com. She commented on generational issues and terms used to describe older people.
- On July 8, 2008, foxnews.com, yahoo.com, and msnbc.com carried a Live Science wire story that featured quotes from Christy Carter, PhD. She discussed caloric restriction as it relates to anti-aging.

Colleague Connected!

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: 

Stacey Kolomer

She became eligible after referring new member Kimberly Clay.

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
Gift To Fund Center on Aging
A $5 million gift from philanthropist Lois McClure will establish a new Center on Aging at the University of Vermont (UVM). The state has contributed an additional $100,000 to the center, which will conduct research into healthy aging in the face of a demographic shift sweeping across Vermont and the country. Vermont has the second-oldest median age in the country. By 2030, one in three Vermonters is expected to be older than 65.

Retirement Community Teams with BU
In an effort to advance medical research, clinical care, education, and progressive options for treating individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, Carleton-Willard Village (a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community) has announced a formal affiliation with Boston University’s (BU) Alzheimer’s Disease Center (ADC). The joint announcement coincides with BU’s initiative to expand its cooperative outreach to providers of aging services and elder care in eastern Massachusetts. The ADC is one of 31 designated National Centers of Excellence in Alzheimer’s disease research funded by the National Institute on Aging. The ADC is a leader in Alzheimer’s research and clinical care in the greater Boston community.

Duke Announces Mini-Fellowship in Geriatrics
Duke University’s Mini-fellowship in Medical Student Education in Geriatrics provides a unique opportunity for non-geriatrician physician faculty at U.S. academic medical centers to attend an innovative five-day program designed to help clinician-educators enhance their skills in curriculum design and development with a specific content emphasis on geriatrics education for medical students. Key features of the mini-fellowship include: small group workshops on curriculum development, teaching strategies, learner and program evaluation, and educational scholarship; development of a teaching plan for your home institution; individual mentoring sessions with Duke’s geriatrics faculty discussing issues specific to teaching medical students; and observation of teachers in action during Duke’s annual Medical Student “Aging Symposium.” The mini-fellowship will be held from October 12-16, 2008, at Duke University in Durham, NC. Tuition, room and board will be covered for qualifying accepted scholars through Duke University’s Donald W. Reynolds Program for Faculty Development to Advance Geriatrics Education. The application deadline is September 1, 2008. For more information, please visit http://careinaging.duke.edu/facultydevelopment.

Donation To Support Michigan Program
The University of Michigan (UM) Geriatrics Center has received a $1 million gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation to support a community program for older adults. The gift will establish an endowment to sustain the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM, which offers a variety of educational opportunities for area residents in or near retirement. The endowment gift follows two years of annual $100,000 grants from the Osher Foundation to expand programming, staff, equipment, and membership of the institute. Established in 1987 by a small group of Geriatrics Center social workers and volunteers, the program now has more than 1,000 members. Volunteers make up the institute’s 17-member board of directors and 30-member curriculum committee, who work closely with Geriatrics Center staff. Last semester, more than 100 mini-courses, study groups and lectures were offered, including the popular Distinguished Lecture Series. An expanding Midwest travel program and occasional special events round out the curriculum. The Osher Foundation sponsors lifelong learning institutes at 119 colleges and universities from Maine to Hawaii. Created in 1977 by businessman Bernard Osher, the foundation seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts.

OSU Receives Donation for Aging Research
Oklahoma State University (OSU) has received a $250,000 gift from Bryan Close of Tulsa to create an endowed professorship in adulthood and aging. Once fully matched dollar-for-dollar by T. Boone Pickens’ $100 million chair match commitment, as well as the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the gift will provide $1 million of impact in endowed funds. Close, the president of CloseBend Inc., a welding fitting manufacturing company, received his hotel and restaurant administration degree from OSU in 1966.

His gift will provide funding to conduct applied, interdisciplinary research to address the relationship and well-being of an aging society. The gift will create the Bryan Close Professorship in Adulthood and Aging located within the College of Human Environmental Sciences. The professorship holder will lead in the development, dissemination and evaluation of research, as well as outreach efforts, that would be relevant for Oklahoma and the nation. The position will also provide significant opportunities in partnering with international scholars engaged in aging-related work.

Latest PPAR Links Gray and Green

Be sure to check out the latest Public Policy & Aging Report, "Gray and Green Together"

Articles:
• Taking Action: Environmental Volunteerism and Civic Engagement by Older People
• Environmentalism as an Aging Issue
• From “Green Old Age” to “Green Seniors”: A Synoptic History of Elders and Environmentalism
• To Endow Every Child
• Gray + Green = Win/Win for Local Communities

Authors:
The Medicare Bill: Effective Advocacy at Work

Since last month, a number of bills with significant implications for older adults and aging professionals progressed or became law. Below is an update on the bills and how advocacy organizations effectively weighed in on the outcome.

Medicare

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331) passed the U.S. Senate amid fanfare on July 8. The main purpose of the bill is to prevent a 10.6 percent cut in Medicare physician payment rates that was scheduled to take effect July 1. Highlights of the bill include improvements in low-income and consumer protections, access to preventive services, and phased-in mental health parity. For details on the other provisions please visit www.medicareadvocacy.org/Reform_08_07.10.HR6331.htm.

H.R. 6331 passed the House of Representatives on June 24 by a surprising veto-proof margin (355-59). Passage of the bill by such an overwhelming margin changed the dynamics of the legislative discussions and laid the groundwork for a successful vote on the legislation in the Senate (S. 3101) two weeks later — although it took two attempts. On June 26, it failed to proceed by one vote. The second vote, on July 8, was dramatic, with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) returning to the Senate for the first time since brain surgery in June. Kennedy tipped the balance to give the bill the 60 votes necessary to return to the Senate overrode the veto the same day.

The main point of contention between Senate Democrats and Republicans was whether to cut the Medicare Advantage plan payments to pay for the bill to offset the cost of preventing the physician payment cuts. After passage of the H.R. 6331 in the Senate, the White House vetoed the measure, but the House and Senate overrode the veto the same day.

The dramatic path followed by H.R. 6331 was influenced by the advocacy of dozens of organizations representing millions of constituents and Medicare beneficiaries. Groups promoting passage of H.R. 6331 include the American Medical Association (AMA), AARP, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), the National Council on Aging (NCOA), and the Medicare Rights Center. Allied in opposition to this bill were America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).

The advocacy described below serves as inspiration for future campaigns on behalf of older Americans.

Meetings with Senate staff to express constituent views and impact: The LCAO, of which GSA is a member, sent coalition letters to senators and representatives in favor of H.R. 6331 and S. 3101 and conducted visits with key Senate offices to discuss the importance of the bill’s provisions for older Americans. The strength of this communication came from the depth and breadth of LCAO’s 53 member organizations, which together represent over 50 million Medicare beneficiaries.

Constituent communications: Several organizations, including the Center for Medicare Advocacy, the Medicare Rights Center, the Alliance for Retired Americans, and AARP, sent alerts to encourage their members from across the nation to write to their senators. Constituents responded with e-mails and faxes to Senate offices in order to generate immediate impact.

Reference to impartial data and recommendations: The non-partisan MedPAC and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued reports that showed that Medicare Advantage plans are overpaid compared to traditional Medicare and recommended bringing those payments in line with traditional Medicare. This strengthened the arguments made by advocates and legitimized the cuts needed to pay for the bill.

Targeted, strategic use of the media to educate and mobilize affected constituents: The AMA, on behalf of physicians who stood to have their fees reduced, successfully used the media and constituents to push for passage. When the senators returned to their home states for the Independence Day recess, the AMA aired TV ads targeting 10 Senate Republicans who voted against the bill. The ads exhorted the senators to change their votes. The Texas chapter of the AMA exerted further pressure by withdrawing its endorsement of Senator John Cornyn (R-TX). These Republicans were targeted because their votes were decisive and several are vulnerable in this election year. Five senators changed their votes.

Elder Justice Act Update

You may recall that the Elder Justice Act (H.R. 1783) and the Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008 (H.R. 5352) were approved by the House Judiciary Committee on June 11, 2008. Now, progress is being made on the Senate side as well. The Elder Justice Act (S. 1070) is scheduled for a mark-up in the Senate Finance Committee on July 30. The Elder Justice Coalition is probably most responsible for securing this mark-up.

Medicaid Regulations (Cuts) Update

You may recall from my previous column that the Senate included the one-year moratorium on the Medicaid regulations in the war supplemental bill, which passed the Senate by a veto-proof margin (75-22) on May 22. House Democratic leaders and White House officials then worked to resolve differences that would ensure passage of a war supplemental in the House (H.R. 2642).

The Senate passed the House version on June 26. The final bill was signed by the President and became law. In this case, the power of governors and advocates for the poor and elderly helped make the difference in defeating the “cuts” that CMS had proposed.

Conclusion

As you can see, action is taking place on many issues of importance to the aging network. Without question, advocacy has played a role in creating this action. In next month’s column, I’ll be advocating for … advocacy. I’ll encourage you to engage in advocacy and suggest some of the tools you can use to do it.
Developing a Professional ‘Self’ on Vacation

August is the ultimate vacation month — which is odd because with each passing week September comes closer and with it the beginning of a new year. Whether we are in academia or in agencies and organizations, August marks the ending of those freer more casual days and holds an undercurrent of anticipation and/or anxiety. With an appreciation of the dualities of August, this essay-ette offers some suggestions for transitioning back into the full-court-press of September while savoring those final sweet summer days.

• Have lunch with someone to whom you have said “we should get together when we have ‘more time.’”

• Do something in your environment to make it more comfortable for you — clean-off a bookcase, throw-out that stack of papers, re-arrange furniture, buy some fresh flowers, frame and hang a favorite photo.

• Take a long weekend somewhere, even if you’ve already taken an "official" vacation.

• Read those articles you came across when you were researching something else and thought how interesting they looked and how much you would like to read them when you had “more time.”

• Sort, thematize and file all those articles that you have collected for research on papers, manuscripts or proposals that you ‘put aside’ to be dealt with when you had “more time.”

• If you have EndNote, Citation, or a similar software program, enter those articles into them.

• Think about September — post-Labor Day — just think ...

• Make sure you have something planned for Labor Day weekend that will be completely pleasurable.

• Do a total mind-body “scan.” Ask yourself what you need to feel satisfied, successful, healthy and confident.

• Finally, for every dimension of your “self” — emotional, physical, cognitive, spiritual — think about how to nourish yourself now and in the months ahead.

China’s Elderly Population Reaches Unprecedented Proportions

According to www.xinhua.net, China’s aging population will reach 248 million by 2020, making up 17.17 percent of the entire population. By 2050, the aging population will increase to 400 million, more than 30 percent of the total population. China had a noticeably aging society beginning in 1999, and this grew to 153 million people above 60 in 2007, making up 11.8 percent of the country’s population. Statistics show that there are more than 130,000 centenarians in the world.

Record Number of Japanese Elderly Kill Themselves

According to the Associated Press, The number of elderly Japanese killing themselves surged 9 percent to a record high last year, fueled by mounting health and economic worries among seniors in a rapidly aging society. The rash of elderly deaths helped push the country’s overall number of suicides to 33,093 in 2007, a 2.9 percent increase and the second-highest annual tally on record, the National Police Agency said in a yearly report. Japanese aged 60 and over were the fastest growing age group among suicide cases, jumping by 987 last year to 12,107 deaths, an increase of 8.9 percent from 2006. The age group made up 36.6 percent of all suicides in Japan in 2007. The number of elderly suicides eclipsed the previous record high of 11,529 in 2003.

Cuba Will Have More Elders than Children by 2020

Cuba, with one of the more aged populations in Latin America, will have more older citizens than young people within 12 years, according to the National Office of Statistics and the Latin American Center for the Third Age. In 1985, 11.3 percent of the population was over the age of 60, and by 2007 that figure reached 16.6 percent. According to the projections, Cuba, with 11.2 million inhabitants, will become the Latin American country with the oldest population within two or three decades.

Namibia To Offer Free Health Care for Elderly

According to www.allafrica.com, Namibian recipients of state social grants and allowances will be exempted from paying fees for medical services, in a government move to bring more relief to the disadvantaged groups. The Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services announced the exemption recently.

Majority of Canadian Boomers Have Memory Loss

Reuters recently reported that six in 10 Canadian baby boomers have experienced a mild form of memory decline in the past year. The data was gathered from a survey in which 58 percent of the respondents, who have not been diagnosed with any form of dementia, reported symptoms of a disorder called Age Associated Memory Impairment — a common condition characterized by short-term memory problems usually over the age of 50. It is believed to result from biological and chemical changes in the aging brain as well as a general shrinkage of brain volume.

Australian Elderly Offered Daily Phone Calls

Australia’s ABC News reports that elderly Australians living in social housing in New South Wales can now receive a daily call from a Red Cross volunteer. Under the Tenant Connect project, residents aged over 80 and living alone can choose to receive a call from a volunteer checking on their welfare. If there is no answer, a neighbor or family member will be contacted. The service is expected to help about 1,500 people.
GSA Gears Up for Gaylord’s November Welcome

On Monday, June 30, 2008, the GSA office staff visited the site of this year’s Annual Scientific Meeting: the Gaylord National Resort Hotel & Convention Center. This is the anchor property of the new National Harbor, MD, waterfront development, which is located on the shores of the Potomac River across from Washington, DC. The staff learned the various travel routes to the Gaylord to make the experience easier for members visiting in November.

National Harbor is spread across 300 acres and numerous shops, restaurants, nightspots, and entertainment venues. The Gaylord itself contains many of these. GSA has negotiated an excellent hotel rate that includes free wireless Internet access and health club privileges. With 470,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, the Gaylord is now the largest combined hotel and convention center on the East Coast. As always, the most current information on the meeting, which will take place November 21-25, can be found at www.agingconference.com.

Getting to the Gaylord

The closest airport to the Gaylord is Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA), which is about seven miles away. The region’s other two airports, Washington Dulles International (IAD) and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI), are both approximately 35 miles away. Train passengers may arrive at Washington’s Union Station, which provides easy access to ground and public transportation. Both Washington National Airport and Union Station have stops on the DC area’s Metro subway system.

Ground Transportation

The quickest way to get to the Gaylord from Washington National Airport is by taxi cab. A one-way taxi ride from National Airport costs $20-$25 for a single passenger and takes approximately 20 minutes. Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com) is recommended for those using Dulles or Baltimore/Washington Airports, which costs approximately $45 for a single passenger each way. Both Super Shuttle and taxi cabs will give discounts for multiple passengers traveling together.

Water Taxi

A fleet of water taxis connects the Gaylord with the Old Town section of nearby Alexandria, VA. They run every thirty minutes and the fare is $7 for a one way ticket or $14 round trip. A $1 bus runs between the launch docks in Old Town and Metro’s King Street Station. A trip from Washington National Airport to the Gaylord using this route combination would take approximately 40 minutes and cost $10.

Public Transportation

A bus, which runs every thirty minutes, connects the Gaylord to the Southern Avenue Station of the Metro system. A one-way trip from Washington National Airport costs approximately $4, but could take up to 90 minutes. This also provides an affordable way to visit downtown Washington (including Union Station).

Parking

Parking is available at the Gaylord for $19 per day and at several nearby garages for $10 per day.

The Gaylord, on the shores of the Potomac River, is the anchor property of the new National Harbor, MD, waterfront development. (Please note this location is not to be confused with the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, MD.)

Fully enclosed and heated water taxis ferry passengers between the Gaylord and nearby Alexandria, VA.

Indoor trees and foliage line the walkways between shops and restaurants inside the Gaylord.
Funds Slated for Clinically Trained Researchers
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), working in part with funds contributed by the John A. Hartford Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Starr Foundation, and The American Federation for Aging Research, are pursuing an initiative to sustain and promote the research careers of clinically trained individuals who are pursuing research careers in aging. The program is named after Paul B. Beeson who profoundly influenced the career paths of many physicians, including several who now form the core leadership in geriatric medicine. The National Institute on Aging and ODS, intend to commit (in combination) approximately $1.8 million in FY 2009 to the initiative. Full details are available online at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-09-012.html. Letters of intent are due by October 3, 2008.

Hartford Foundation Teams with AAN for Nursing Awards
The American Academy of Nursing, with support from the John A. Hartford Foundation of New York City and the Atlantic Philanthropies, seeks applicants for three scholarship and fellowship programs. The Predoctoral Scholarship Program is designed to support two years of doctoral work for nurses committed to careers in academic geriatric nursing. The program awards a total of $100,000 ($50,000 per annum) to each selected Predoctoral Scholar candidate. The Claire M. Fagin Fellowship provides $120,000 for the two-year fellowship ($60,000 per annum) for advanced research training and mentorship designed to assist doctorally-prepared nurses committed to faculty careers in geriatric nursing. The Mayday Fund provides an additional $5,000 award to selected scholar and fellow candidates whose research includes the study of pain in the elderly. Details about the programs and application materials can be found online at www.geriatricnursing.org/applications. Applications for the 2009-2011 cohort are due January 14, 2009. Please feel free to contact Pamela Dudzik at (202) 777-1171 if additional information is needed.

NIA Grants Seek to Tackle Cognitive Decline
The National Institute on Aging (NIA), working in part with funds contributed by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (www.tmbrf.org) in conjunction with the Foundation for NIH (www.fnih.org), invites applications to develop new interventions to prevent or remediate age-related cognitive decline. Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. Although the financial plans of the NIA provide support for this program, awards pursuant to this funding opportunity are contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Direct costs are limited to $525,000 over a three-year period, with no more than $175,000 in direct costs allowed in any single year. Applicants may request direct costs in $25,000 modules, up to the total direct costs limitation of $525,000 for the combined three-year award period. The NIA anticipates awarding up to $785,000 in FY 2009 to fund three or four applications. Complete details are available online at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-09-009.html. Letters of intent are due by October 3, 2008.
The Department of Sociology invites applications for two positions, effective August 2009, at the rank of Assistant Professor. One hire will be in the area of aging/gerontology — positions that they began later in life that resulted. This video organizes information in chaptered formats for viewers interested in specific aspects of the program.

Pain is often undertreated and underdiagnosed in older adults. Regular use of short, simple, reliable pain-rating scales provides nurses and physicians with measurable information to establish and modify a pain management plan. This article describes the use of three widely used pain-rating scales: the numeric rating scale, the verbal descriptor scale, and the Faces Pain Scale—Revised. For a free online video demonstrating the use of these scales in older adults, go to http://links.lww.com/A251. This video includes demonstrations of how to assess for pain in any older adult, and to reassess to determine the effectiveness of interventions, using four distinct tools: the Faces Pain Scale, the Verbal Descriptor Scale, the Numeric Rating Scale, and the Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale. In this program, interdisciplinary team members also develop a care plan to address chronic pain in a patient with severe arthritis and a history of joint replacement, and family members who have discouraged use of medication for fear addiction might result. This video organizes information in chaptered formats for viewers interested in specific aspects of the program.

Between 5.3 and 8.4 million Americans aged 44-70 have launched “encore careers” — positions that they began later in life that combine income and personal meaning with social impact, according to a new survey by MetLife Foundation and Civic Ventures. Even among those not in an encore career — particularly among baby boomers — half of those surveyed said they are interested in finding positions in education, healthcare, and the nonprofit sector. The report also includes recommendations on changes in workplace practices and public policies that could increase the number of people able to pursue and obtain encore careers. Visit www.civicventures.org/publications/surveys/encore-career-survey.cfm for complete details.

A special issue of The Corporate Philanthropist explores the role of corporate philanthropy as it relates to aging and the longevity revolution. Key articles from Robert N. Butler (ILC-USA), Marc Freedman (Civic Ventures), Sibyl Jacobsen (MetLife Foundation), Carol Farquhar (Grantmakers in Aging), Robin Talbert (AARP Foundation), and Aaron Hurst (Taproot Foundation) highlight the extraordinary opportunity for corporations to improve the lives of older Americans through a deeper commitment to aging issues — including civic engagement — as a philanthropic cause. The special issue is available online at www.corporatephilanthropy.org/ncp/index.html.

**New Resources**

**AJN Releases Latest in ‘Try This’ Series**
The *American Journal of Nursing* (AJN) has announced the newest entry in its “How To Try This” series. To read or view the article and video featured this month, go to www.NursingCenter.com/AJNOlderadults. “How to Try This” is a collaborative project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU’s College of Nursing and the *American Journal of Nursing*. Topics from the series will be made available each month through December 2008 in free web-based resources, including demonstration videos and companion articles in the AJN.

**Using Pain-Rating Scales with Older Adults**
By Ellen Flaherty PhD, GNP-BC
Pain is often undertreated and underdiagnosed in older adults. Regular use of short, simple, reliable pain-rating scales provides nurses and physicians with measurable information to establish and modify a pain management plan. This article describes the use of three widely used pain-rating scales: the numeric rating scale, the verbal descriptor scale, and the Faces Pain Scale—Revised. For a free online video demonstrating the use of these scales in older adults, go to http://links.lww.com/A251. This video includes demonstrations of how to assess for pain in any older adult, and to reassess to determine the effectiveness of interventions, using four distinct tools: the Faces Pain Scale, the Verbal Descriptor Scale, the Numeric Rating Scale, and the Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia Scale. In this program, interdisciplinary team members also develop a care plan to address chronic pain in a patient with severe arthritis and a history of joint replacement, and family members who have discouraged use of medication for fear addiction might result. This video organizes information in chaptered formats for viewers interested in specific aspects of the program.

**Report Shows Growth in ‘Encore Careers’**
Between 5.3 and 8.4 million Americans aged 44-70 have launched “encore careers” — positions that they began later in life that combine income and personal meaning with social impact, according to a new survey by MetLife Foundation and Civic Ventures. Even among those not in an encore career — particularly among baby boomers — half of those surveyed said they are interested in finding positions in education, healthcare, and the nonprofit sector. The report also includes recommendations on changes in workplace practices and public policies that could increase the number of people able to pursue and obtain encore careers. Visit www.civicventures.org/publications/surveys/encore-career-survey.cfm for complete details.

**Tax Changes Threaten Retirement Income**
A new paper from the Urban Institute examines how potential changes in the tax treatment of retirement saving, Social Security benefits, and income from assets outside retirement accounts may affect Baby Boomers’ retirement incomes. Changes in the income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits have the largest impact on middle-income boomers, while changes in contribution limits for retirement saving plans and tax rates on capital gains and dividends have the largest impact on the highest-income boomers. The full text of this report is available at www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411629_retirement_income.pdf.

**Brief Addresses LTC Reform**
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has issued a brief, which reviews several options for reforming the system for financing and delivering long-term care in the United States. These options include enhancing private long-term care insurance, replacing the current welfare-based system with a public social insurance program, and introducing a hybrid public-private system. The full text of the brief is available online at http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/ib_8-8.pdf.

**Senior Services May Suffer from Rising Costs**
A new survey released by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) concludes that if aging programs continue to face escalating costs while funding remains static, millions of older adults will suffer serious consequences in 2009. “Seniors Stranded: Escalating Costs Leave Aging Services Programs Struggling” is the first survey on the impact of rising fuel, food, and other costs on the area agencies on aging and Title VI Native American aging programs. The full report on the survey is available online at www.n4a.org/econsurvey.pdf.

**Publication Connects Philanthropy, Longevity**
A special issue of *The Corporate Philanthropist* explores the role of corporate philanthropy as it relates to aging and the longevity revolution. Key articles from Robert N. Butler (ILC-USA), Marc Freedman (Civic Ventures), Sibyl Jacobsen (MetLife Foundation), Carol Farquhar (Grantmakers in Aging), Robin Talbert (AARP Foundation), and Aaron Hurst (Taproot Foundation) highlight the extraordinary opportunity for corporations to improve the lives of older Americans through a deeper commitment to aging issues — including civic engagement — as a philanthropic cause. The special issue is available online at www.corporatephilanthropy.org/ncp/index.html.

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**Job Opening • Florida State University**
The Department of Sociology invites applications for two positions, effective August 2009, at the rank of Assistant Professor. One hire will be in the area of aging/gerontology to build upon our existing Health and Aging area. The second area is open, although candidates should fit within one of our areas of concentration: Stratification and Social Justice (including gender, race/ethnicity, social movements, political economy), Demography, and Social Psychology. An ability to teach Classical or Contemporary Theory is desirable. Applications should include a personal letter, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a writing sample. Screening will begin October 1 and continue until the positions are filled. All application materials should be sent electronically to Irene Padavic, Chair, Department of Sociology, using this address: sociology@fsu.edu. Please indicate on the subject line which job you are applying for (aging or open). For more information, visit our webpage at www.sociology.fsu.edu. Florida State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and race/ethnic minority applicants are particularly invited.
CORE INVESTIGATOR
ASSISTANT, ASSOCIATE, OR FULL PROFESSOR

Department of Veterans Affairs
Puget Sound Healthcare System and University of Washington

Northwest Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence, Department of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Healthcare System and the Department of Health Services, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington are jointly recruiting one or more Core Investigators/Assistant, Associate, or Full Professors (regular or research) to pursue health services research. All positions are without tenure by reason of funding.

Successful applicants will contribute to health services research as part of a Center of Excellence with 25 MD and PhD investigators and over $8 million in VA and non-VA funding. Center goals are to perform state-of-the-art research, generate new knowledge and research methods, provide high caliber training in health services research, and assist VA policy makers in a rapidly changing health care environment. The Center’s research objectives are to provide information to improve the delivery of health services to veterans and to contribute to scientific progress in the field of health services research in three emphasis areas: management of chronic disease in primary and specialty care, preservation of independence in older adults, and evaluation of alternative delivery systems.

Applicants must hold a PhD in health services research, social sciences, or related field. Applicants should (1) have training and experience in health services research, (2) exhibit potential for a distinguished record of scholarship, and (3) demonstrate the ability to work in collaborative, interdisciplinary teams. A research focus on one of three areas is preferred: 1) care coordination, i.e., organization and management of patient care activities among participants (including the patient) to facilitate the appropriate delivery of health care services, 2) development and evaluation of approaches to the care of chronically ill elderly including long term care, or 3) psychometric methodology for scale development/validation and survey design/implementation. Successful applicants will be core investigators at the Northwest Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence and eligible to apply for research funding from the extensive VA HSR&D research program as well as other funding sources.

Successful applicants may be jointly appointed to the regular or research faculty of the Department of Health Services with opportunities to work with faculty and graduate students at the University of Washington. University of Washington faculty engage in teaching, research, and service. These positions are for a 12-month service period, full-time indefinite term appointments at the VA and are non-tenure track positions at the University of Washington due to source of funding. U.S. citizenship required. Review of applications will continue until the positions are filled.

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to:
Susan Hedrick, PhD • Research Career Scientist • Health Services R&D Center of Excellence
1100 Olive Way • Suite 1400 • Seattle WA 98101

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the University of Washington are affirmative action, equal opportunity employers who are building a culturally diverse faculty and staff and strongly encourage applications from women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and covered veterans.
Endowed Chair in Healthy Aging

The Sealy Center on Aging of the University of Texas Medical Branch seeks outstanding external candidates for the newly endowed **Lloyd and Sue Ann Hill Chair in Healthy Aging** in the general academic area of translational and/or clinical aging research, including, but not limited to, one or more of the following areas of interest: muscle biology, muscle function, exercise, nutrition, metabolism, rehabilitation, integrative physiology, biomechanics, obesity, cardiovascular health.

The successful candidate must have a relevant doctoral degree, and a nationally-recognized scholarly publication record and extramural funding. Applicants must have a history of successful pre- and post-doctoral mentoring and be willing to significantly contribute to the vibrant interdisciplinary research and research training activities of the Sealy Center on Aging.

The Sealy Center on Aging of the University of Texas Medical Branch provides significant infrastructural support, including a manuscript office, and has a long history of successes in interdisciplinary research and research training on aging, including the award of prestigious ongoing Federal grants such as the UTMB Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. The University of Texas Medical Branch has also one of the largest Acute Care for Elders Units, which has been recently designated as an inpatient research unit for clinical and translational studies on hospitalized older patients.

The tenured academic appointment will be made at the associate or full professor level, and will include a highly competitive start-up package. The University of Texas Medical Branch is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from women and individuals from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged. Nominations and letters of intent, including curriculum vitae, can be submitted in confidence to the attention of:

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