Aging Arrives in Science Classrooms

Thanks to the work of several prominent GSA members, this year’s Annual Scientific Meeting is playing a major role in a new fellowship program designed to bring knowledge about minority aging and health disparities to classrooms in the greater metropolitan Detroit, MI, area.

The one-year program — the African American Aging Summer Immersion for Science Teachers (AASIST) — provides middle school, high school, and community college teachers with an opportunity to learn about the field of minority aging, and to enrich their social science and science curricula with this new knowledge.

“A cadre of science educators who recognize the centrality of minority aging to high quality science is both novel and essential,” said Carmen R. Green, MD, of who sits on the AASIST steering committee. “AASIST has significant policy and practice implications by creating additional pipelines for disseminating minority aging information to students, science educators, and the community.”

Green is joined on the steering committee by fellow University of Michigan faculty and GSA members Jacqui Smith, PhD, Letha Chadiha, PhD, and former GSA President Toni Antonucci, PhD. AASIST is funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and the

Continued on page 6

Geriatrician Takes Top Spot at Senior Corps

GSAn member Erwin Tan, MD, has been named as the newest director of Senior Corps, the premiere U.S. government program that provides older Americans with meaningful service opportunities.

Senior Corps is a component of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), an independent federal agency created to provide Americans with the chance to give back to their communities and nation. Tan, who was appointed by CEO Patrick Corvington, will also serve as strategic advisor for veterans and military families for the CNCS.

“I was so delighted to learn that Erwin had taken the directorship of Senior Corps. His training and experience make him eminently qualified for the job,” said Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, chair of GSA’s Social Research, Practice, and Policy Section. “But more than that, his enthusiasm and vision make him an outstanding leader for this organization. Under his guidance, Senior Corps will more fully realize the power of older adults to transform their communities.”

Tan’s commitments prevented him from providing comment for this article prior to press time.

Senior Corps currently links approximately 500,000 older Americans to service opportunities. In his role as director, Tan will oversee the program’s day-to-day operation and develop a strategic plan to engage more Americans in service.

Within the organization are three separate initiatives designed to meet specific needs for

Continued on page 11
A Nation’s Treasure Is in Its Scholars

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

If the Chinese proverb in the headline above is true, China is indeed a wealthy nation, and GSA will benefit from the addition of many new Chinese members. At the start of 2010, GSA had only two members from that country’s mainland. As of the end of July, however, we now have 35 — with more certainly to come. This remarkable surge is indicative of a growing interest in gerontology across China itself.

In July, I was invited to travel there and witness first-hand how the world’s most populous nation is learning to cope with the growth of its senior component. The Chinese government is taking steps to address aging issues, while aging-focused organizations look to adopt interdisciplinary approaches to ensure the well-being of older people. It’s expected that approximately 350 to 400 million people in China will be age 65 or older by 2050, representing one-quarter of its projected population.

My recent trip centered around a special conference in Beijing, the theme of which was “Collaboration to Advance Chinese Gerontological Studies: Dialogue between Chinese and Oversea Researchers.” It was organized by three leading members of GSA’s Chinese Gerontology Studies Interest Group — Iris Chi, DSW, Terry Lum, PhD, and Bei Wu, PhD — together with Peng Du, PhD, the director of the Gerontology Institute and the Center for Population Studies at Renmin University of China.

GSA Controller Jilan Chen (a Shanghai native) and I attended as GSA’s invited delegates. I had the opportunity to address about 90 researchers and used this occasion to discuss the value of GSA membership and the Annual Scientific Meeting. Building international ties in this manner is especially important for the Society as we prepare to host the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco in 2017.

The visit also provided us with the chance to meet with representatives from numerous aging-focused Chinese organizations. These included the Gerontological Society of China, the Chinese Geriatrics Society, the China Medical Tribune, the Chinese subsidiary of the Society for Human Resource Management, the Gerontological Society of Shanghai, the Chinese Nursing Association, and the Peking University School of Nursing. Each of these groups expressed an interest in developing a relationship with GSA. Given the current and expected growth patterns of the Chinese market, the Society is well-positioned to have more members from China join our ranks.

The results so far are encouraging. Over the last several months, Jilan has recruited at least 15 new members by reaching out to prominent Chinese gerontologists. As a result of our July visit, at least another 20 have joined in just a few short weeks. We can certainly expect more as the Annual Scientific Meeting approaches. The Chinese Geriatric Society already has indicated that they will send a contingent to New Orleans this November. Our conference regularly features content with an international focus. In fact, 20 percent of abstract submissions for the New Orleans meeting came from overseas researchers. This year the schedule includes numerous sessions that discuss Chinese issues. One of the most prominent symposia, “200 Million and Counting: Eldercare Issues in China,” will be led by Guifang Guo, PhD, dean of the Peking University School of Nursing.

Much like GSA’s own founders, our Chinese colleagues are pioneers in their country. While our respective aging issues are different, the need to identify some sound research-based solutions is the same. We have much to learn from one another. All eyes certainly will be on China as it faces a senior population the size of which the world has never seen.

Sincerely,

James
In Memoriam

GSA Fellow Robert N. Butler, MD, passed away on July 4 at age 83. At the time of his death, he was president and CEO of the International Longevity Center-USA. He previously served as the founding director of the National Institute on Aging and founded America’s first department of geriatrics (at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine). In 1968, he coined the term “ageism” to describe what he felt was bias against the elderly. Butler was the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, “Why Survive? Being Old in America,” and later co-wrote the best-selling book, “Sex After 60,” with his late wife Myrna Lewis. Butler received his bachelor’s degree in 1949 and his medical degree in 1953, both from Columbia University.

New Publications by Members

• “Taking Charge of Your Health,” by John R. Burton and William J. Hall. Published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.
• “Ageism, Aging and Abuse: Moving from Awareness to Action,” edited by Gloria M. Gutman and Charmaine Spencer. Published by Elsevier Insights.
• The New York Times’ “The New Old Age” blog recently focused one of its entries on the work of GSA Fellow Jeffrey Levine, MD. He is a geriatrician and a photographer whose pictures typically portray older people. He regularly contributes cover images for The Gerontologist.

Members in the News

• Dale Yeatts, PhD, a professor of sociology at the University of North Texas, recently received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in China related to social services for the elderly. He will be located at Tsinghua University in Beijing during the spring semester of 2011. Yeatts’ primary goals include visiting multiple Chinese counties in rural settings to identify best practices for serving the rural elderly, and working with faculty and graduate students at Tsinghua University’s gerontology center to analyze existing survey data. He invites anyone interested in China or doing work in China to contact him to share information and discuss areas for potential collaboration.

Monthly Poll Results

What kind of non-periodical products do you like to buy?

- Textbooks: 50%
- Handbooks: 21.4%
- References: 14.3%
- Monographs: 10.7%
- Annual Updates: 3.6%

Member Spotlight

GSAs website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members.

March’s spotlight shines on:

Gretchen E. Alkema, PhD

Visit www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Colleague Connection

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

Gayle Doll

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Kim Evans, 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

Mouton Moves to Meharry as Medical School Dean

Meharry Medical College has named Charles P. Mouton, MD, as the new dean of its School of Medicine and the senior vice president for health affairs, effective July 1. He was formerly the chairman of the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Howard University. Mouton is board certified in family medicine and geriatrics and has researched violence and mistreatment against elderly women, wellness and disease prevention among elderly minorities, the role of ethnicity in aging, and the quality of health care for minorities.

Yeatts Heading to China on Fulbright Scholarship

Dale Yeatts, PhD, a professor of sociology at the University of North Texas, recently received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in China related to social services for the elderly. He will be located at Tsinghua University in Beijing during the spring semester of 2011. Yeatts’ primary goals include visiting multiple Chinese counties in rural settings to identify best practices for serving the rural elderly, and working with faculty and graduate students at Tsinghua University’s gerontology center to analyze existing survey data. He invites anyone interested in China or doing work in China to contact him to share information and discuss areas for potential collaboration.

Wilby To Head Goodwill Initiatives

Frances Wilby, LCSW, PhD, has been promoted to the position of executive director of the W.D. Goodwill Initiatives on Aging at the University of Utah’s College of Social Work. Frances is a former John A. Hartford Doctoral Fellow. The W.D. Goodwill Initiatives on Aging is involved in promoting activities that increase awareness of societal aging issues, provide services to seniors in the community, educate students, and collaborate with community partners.

Naylor Earns Spot on MedPAC Roster

Mary Naylor, PhD, RN, FAAN, has been appointed to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC). Congress established MedPAC to analyze access to care, cost and quality of care, and other key issues affecting Medicare. MedPAC advises Congress on payments to health plans participating in the Medicare Advantage program and providers in Medicare’s traditional fee-for-service programs. Naylor is the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology and director of the NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Aging at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is also the national program director for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative.
Age4Action Heats Up!

As the average temperatures across the country increased this summer, so did the activities of the new Age4Action Network — as indicated by the unveiling of two major initiatives that promote the engagement of adults age 50 and over to “work, serve, learn, and lead.” While GSA helped launched the Research and Policy Action Center (RPAC) online resource, the policy and advocacy arm of the Age4Action Network conducted Older Americans Act (OAA) idea forums across the country.

Background

The Age4Action Network (www.age4action.org) is a national movement to mobilize people age 50 and older to be dynamic advocates, valued workers, committed volunteers, and lifelong learners in today's society. The Age4Action Network links organizations focused on workforce, civic engagement, lifelong learning, and advocacy to share common resources, knowledge, and tools so they can best leverage the talents of people 50 and older.

The Age4Action Network's members are connected with like-minded leaders informed about best practices in civic engagement and together have a greater reach and influence than they would have alone on critical legislation and funding opportunities for initiatives targeting older adults.

The Age4Action Network believes that people 50 and older will strengthen society and improve communities through their active engagement and valuable contributions as dynamic advocates, valued workers, committed volunteers, and lifelong learners.

RPAC

The Age4Action Network is committed to providing the most up-to-date resources for individuals, organizations, and communities interested in promoting positive action for people as they age. The RPAC, located at www.age4action.com, is an online resource meeting this goal. The Age4Action Network recently updated its resource collection to include a wide variety of materials on the topics of work, service, lifelong learning, and leadership; each category contains articles, reports, fact sheets, press releases, and congressional records in order to provide a varied and holistic view. The resources for each topic compile the best research in the area, and are accompanied by a brief summary to give the reader an overview of the resource. As policies and practices change rapidly, the resource section of the website will be updated continuously with the latest changes.

Resources under the Work section contain information about retirement and recruiting boomers for encore careers in non-profits, health care, the green economy, and government. The Serve section resources focus on trends in civic engagement and the benefits of volunteering both for older adults themselves, and the country as a whole. The Learn section describes best practices and innovations in recruiting older adults to complete higher education courses and develop workforce training skills. Resources in the Lead section reveal how to maximize the potential of older Americans and encourage civic engagement at any age. To view these resources, visit www.age4action.org/resources.html.

Idea Forums

The Age4Action Network — in addition to its work to secure funding for the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, Senior Corps, and the OAA service- and work-related programs — has moved full throttle into the OAA reauthorization process.

The Age4Action Network hosted idea forums throughout June and July in anticipation of the 2011 reauthorization of the OAA. At the forums, community members and leaders in civic engagement offered suggestions for improving the law and expanding opportunities for older Americans to engage in work, service, lifelong learning, and leadership. The information gleaned from the testimony, discussion groups, and surveys resulting from the idea forums will take the form of a white paper that will be disseminated broadly to colleagues, coalitions, and members of Congress and the administration.

In addition, the information from the forums will be used by the Age4Action Network to develop recommendations for the OAA reauthorization. The network will build coalitions around issues and influence the legislative process so that the new OAA will reflect the needs of the over-50 population across the nation.

The strength of these forums was their grassroots, bottom-up approach to advocacy. The forums involved experts, volunteers, and program directors. These are the people involved on a daily basis with many of the OAA’s programs on employment, service, nutrition, and caregiving. In developing the forums, the Age4Action Network focused on outreach to low-income and minority groups.

The Age4Action Network developed a survey that all attendees at the forums were asked to complete. The survey elicited feedback on the topics covered as well as additional thoughts or ideas for the OAA or the Age4Action Network. I offer special thanks to our colleagues at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis for their assistance in developing the survey.

The first idea forum was held on June 3 in Las Vegas, NV. Its theme was “Nutrition Programs, Older Workers, and Volunteers.” This event piggy-backed on the national conference of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, which enabled participants of many OAA programs to attend. More than 150 nutrition providers and other OAA collaborators took part in the forum, which featured witnesses with firsthand knowledge of how valuable volunteers and Title V older worker participants are to ensuring nutritious meals for millions of older adults.

On June 22, a forum in Philadelphia, PA, took place at Temple
University with a theme of “Building Strong Transitions to Service, Work, and Learning.” It featured former Senator Harris Wofford (D-PA), an Age4Action spokesperson, who said, “We are working to retire the traditional concept of retirement . . . for our own good and for the common good.” Other speakers included the CEO of Experience Corps, Lester Strong, and the vice president of the Council of Adult and Experiential Learning, Phyllis Snyder. Experience Corps tutors and instructors also participated. Participants led the audience into a fruitful discussion of lifelong learning opportunities and the difference between programs that lead to second careers or retooling for the changing marketplace versus programs that are more directed toward self-improvement.

On July 12, a forum with the theme of “Furthering Civic Engagement for People 50+” was held in St. Paul, MN. Governor Tim Pawlenty spoke at the event. This forum featured a section called “Telling Our Stories,” where Candy Pettiford, a Courage Center client and volunteer tour guide, and Mar Kuha, who works for the Lutheran Social Service Senior Companions Program, addressed the attendees. All of the attendees then broke into small groups by topic and contributed their own stories and ideas to the discussion.

With no formal presentations, a forum in Denver, CO, on July 20 brought together community leaders for a brainstorming session related to challenging the status quo to focus more on the important transitions that the older population faces with employment and service.

The St. Louis, MO, forum on July 22 brought together aging network leaders, academic experts from the Washington University in St. Louis, and the former U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO). Public service was a major theme of the forum, with Gephardt offering insights from his own life and experience in this area.

The forum in Los Angeles, CA, on July 27 again featured Wofford. He was joined by Gerald Davison, dean of the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California; Patrick Cullinane, director of the University of California, Berkeley Retirement Center; and Jonathan Tran, California policy advocate for the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. One of the topics addressed in Los Angeles was the unique challenges minority older adults face in securing meaningful volunteer/service and employments opportunities. This was a topic that we attempted to examine in all of the forums. Robert Blancato, the executive director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, focused on the role the over-50 population has and can play as leaders helping to address society’s biggest challenges.

Among the recurring themes from the forums were the challenges of recruiting and matching older volunteers with opportunities that suit their individual interests and abilities. Strong, personalized matching can help ensure higher retention rates for older volunteers. Other ideas have included engaging older adults in elder justice work and increasing funding to train those staff who work with part-time older workers and volunteers.

I would like to acknowledge the many individuals who were integral in the execution of these idea forums — specifically, Greg O’Neill, Dani Kaiserman, Sarah Frey, Libby Stegger, and others working in the host cities.

A report on the forums will be available in the fall. For more information on the report, the forums, and the work of the Age4Action Network, visit www.agingexchange.org.
Hartford Releases Social Work-Focused Annual Report

In its 2009 annual report, the John A. Hartford Foundation celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Geriatric Social Work Initiative (GSWI). GSA administers two GSWI components – the Hartford Doctoral Fellows Program and the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program. The report, which can be viewed at www.jhartfound.org/ar2009html, honors the dedicated grantees, deans, faculty, students, and social work practitioners who for ten years have integrated geriatric principles throughout social work education and practice, thus transforming the field.

Social Work Evidence Database Launches

The Social Work Leadership Institute of the New York Academy of Medicine has launched a new free database to assist in efforts to translate social work practice into social work policy. The Evidence Database on Aging Care (EDAC) presents a comprehensive index of articles, all of which examine the impact of social work intervention and/or care coordination for older adults. Articles included were published in professional journals from the U.S. and abroad, and represent the latest in social work innovation. EDAC assists with reviewing current empirical studies so that policymakers can translate the data from clinical practice to functioning policy. The database can be accessed at www.searchedac.org/search.php.

Federal Sites Track Grant Disbursement

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released an interactive map showing how much funding each state receives from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This resource can be found at report.nih.gov/award/trends/State_Congressional/StateOverview.cfm. As the main source of grants for aging research, NIH funding has important implications for research on topics like Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and osteoporosis. In addition to an overview on state funding, the map also breaks down the data by organization, amount of funding, and congressional district. The NIH also hosts an interactive website that provides information about projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, located at projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm.

Continued from page 1 - Aging Arrives In Science Classrooms

National Institute on Aging. The fellowship was organized by the Michigan Center for Urban African American Research (MCUAAAR), a collaborative program directed by GSA members James S. Jackson, PhD, of the University of Michigan and Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, of Wayne State University. MCUAAAR is one of six national resource centers for minority aging research focusing on investigating and reducing disparities between minority and non-minority older adults.

The AASIST fellows are Jermaine Evans, MSE, EDS, an eighth grade science teacher for Inkster Public Schools; Martha Wells, MBA, a ninth grade science teacher for Oak Park Public Schools; Michelle Morden, MAT, a fifth and sixth grade science teacher for Detroit Public Schools; and Lawrence Turner, MEd, a fifth and sixth grade social science teacher for Detroit Public Schools.

These four, who were chosen through a competitive selection process, represent schools in areas with at-risk youth, high unemployment, or vulnerable populations.

A trip to GSA’s 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting was one of the first activities undertaken by the inaugural cohort of fellows. Since then, they have received extensive mentoring and instruction.

This summer, they participated in an eight-week training module where they learned about special topics in aging from expert presenters — many of whom are GSA members — and designed a curriculum module on minority aging for their students.

A report on the fellows’ work will be featured at this year’s meeting in New Orleans, LA, during a poster presentation organized by Green. The fellows also are scheduled to participate in a pre-conference workshop, “Making Your Research Count: Strategies for Informing Minority Aging Policy: An NIA Translational Conference to Promote the National Research Council’s Recommendations for Minority Aging Research,” which was organized by the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research.

“The AASIST fellowship compliments MCUAAAR’s goals to contribute to the community, enhance the investigator pipeline, and to translate the importance of minority aging research to broader audiences. Thus, the AASIST fellows are the newest ambassadors for minority aging and health disparities research,” said Green.

For more information about the AASIST fellowships or MCUAAAR, visit mcuaar.iog.wayne.edu.
GSA Honors Outstanding Individuals

Please join us in congratulating our awardees and fellows at the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans!

GSA salutes outstanding research, recognizes distinguished leadership in teaching and service, and fosters new ideas through a host of awards. The winners’ achievements serve as milestones in the history and development of gerontology.

Society-Wide Awards

- **M. Powell Lawton Award**
  - Presented to Karl A. Pillemer, PhD
  - Cornell University
  - Lecture by Hans-Werner Wahl, PhD
  - Columbia University
  - “Old and New Person-Environment Resources for Aging Well”
  - Monday, November 22, 3:30 p.m.

- **Margret M. & Paul Baltes Award**
  - Presented to Helene Fung, PhD
  - The Chinese University of Hong Kong
  - Lecture by Derek M. Isaacowitz, PhD
  - Brandeis University
  - “Predicting Real-time Mood Regulation: The Interplay of Age and Attention”
  - Monday, November 22, 8 a.m.

- **Donald P. Kent Award**
  - Presented to Mathy Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN
  - Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing
  - Lecture by Barbara Berkman DSW/PhD
  - Columbia University
  - “Changing Landscape in Health and Aging: Seizing the Opportunity”
  - Sunday, November 21, 10 a.m.

- **Robert W. Kleemeier Award**
  - Presented to Yung-Ping Chen, PhD
  - University of Massachusetts Boston
  - Lecture by Gerald McClearn, PhD
  - Pennsylvania State University
  - “Nature, Nurture, and Networks”
  - Sunday, November 21, 10 a.m.

- **Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging**
  - Presented to Mary E. Tinetti, MD
  - Yale University
  - Lecture by Eric A. Coleman, MD, MPH
  - University of Colorado, Denver
  - “Infusing True Patient Centered Care into Improving Care Transitions”
  - Sunday, November 21, 3:30 p.m.

- **Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award**
  - Presented to Mathy Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN
  - Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing
  - Lecture by Barbara Berkman DSW/PhD
  - Columbia University
  - “Changing Landscape in Health and Aging: Seizing the Opportunity”
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  - Monday, November 22, 8 a.m.

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Behavioral and Social Sciences Section

**Nathan Shock New Investigator Award**
Presented to and lecture by Pankaj Kapahi, PhD
Buck Institute for Age Research
“The role of TOR pathway in aging”
Presented at the BS Section Luncheon
Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

**Joseph T. Freeman Award**
Presented to Lewis Lipsitz, MD
Hebrew Senior Life, Harvard Medical School
Lecture by Stephanie Studenski, MD, MPH
University of Pittsburgh
“The Future of Geriatrics”
Monday, November 22, 12:30 p.m.

**Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award**
Presented to Linda K. George, PhD
Duke University
Presented at the BSS Section Luncheon
Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

**Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award**
Presented to Keith Whitfield, PhD
Duke University
Presented at the BSS Section Luncheon
Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

**Richard M. Kalish Innovative Publication Award**
Presented to Neal Krause, PhD
University of Michigan
For the book, “Aging in the Church”
Presented at the BSS Section Luncheon
Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

Health Sciences Section

**Mental Health Sciences Section**

**Richard M. Kalish Innovative Publication Award**
Presented to Neal Krause, PhD
University of Michigan
For the book, “Aging in the Church”
Presented at the BSS Section Luncheon
Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

**Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award**
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Sunday, November 21, 12 p.m.

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Distinguished Members Granted Fellow Status

GSA’s Executive Committee has approved the following individuals for fellow status within the Society. In addition to being honored at the Fellows/International Reception (Saturday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.) during the Annual Scientific Meeting, they will be presented with fellowship certificates and pins at their respective section luncheons.

Fellowship is peer recognition for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership. This distinction comes at varying points in a person’s career and is given for diverse activities that include research, teaching, administration, public services, practice, and notable participation in the Society.

**Biological Sciences Section**
- Arnold Mitnitski, PhD, Dalhousie University
- Rafael de Cabo, PhD, National Institute on Aging
- John A. Schinka, PhD, University of South Florida
- Avron Spiro III, PhD, VA Boston/Boston University

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**
- Ross Andel, PhD, University of South Florida
- Monika Ardelt, PhD, University of Florida
- Tamara A. Baker, PhD, University of South Florida
- Marion Becker, PhD, University of South Florida
- Linda Clare, PhD, Bangor University
- Philippa Clarke, PhD, University of Michigan
- Teresa M. Cooney, PhD, University of Missouri
- Joseph Coughlin, PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Pearl A. Dykstra, PhD, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Susanne Iwarsson, PhD, Lund University
- Suzanne Iwarsson, PhD, Lund University
- Suzanne R. Kunkel, PhD, Miami University
- Barbara McIntosh, PhD, SPHR, University of Vermont
- Karen S. Rook, PhD, University of California, Irvine
- Carmen Renee’ Green, MD, University of Michigan
- Merrie J. Kaas, DNSc, RN, CNS-BC, University of Minnesota
- Graham J. McDougall Jr., PhD, RN, FAAN, University of Texas at Austin
- Kristine Williams, RN, PhD, University of Kansas

**Health Sciences Section**
- Carmen L. Morano, PhD, LCSW, Hunter College
- Donald L. Redfoot, PhD, AARP

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section**
- Iris Chi, DSW, University of Southern California
- Zvi D. Gellis, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
- James Lubben, DSW, MPH, Boston College
- Carmen L. Morano, PhD, LCSW, Hunter College
- Donald L. Redfoot, PhD, AARP
- Steven R. Sabat, PhD, Georgetown University
- Kathy Sykes, MA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Steven P. Wallace, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
Additional Awards

The following will be given at the Annual Scientific Meeting:

**Society-Wide**
- Gene D. Cohen Research Award in Creativity and Aging
- Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology Award
- Senior Service America Senior Scholar Award for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults
- Senior Service America Junior Scholar Award for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults

**Health Sciences Section**
- Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award
- Person-In-Training Award
- Research Award

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section**
- Carroll L. Estes Senior Scholar Award
- Elaine M. Brody Junior Scholar Award

**Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization**
- Interdisciplinary Paper Award
- Poster Award

**Biological Sciences Section**
- Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award
- George Sacher Student Award

**Behavioral & Social Sciences Section**
- Student Research Award: Dissertation Level
- Student Research Award: Pre-Dissertation Level

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**Sponsors**

GSA thanks the following award sponsors:

- New York Community Trust (Pollack Award)
- Polisher Research Institute of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life (Lawton Award)
- Margret M. & Paul B. Baltes Foundation (Baltes Award)
- Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing/New York University (Schwartz Award)
- Baywood Publishing (Kalish Award)
- American University (GSA Social Gerontology Award)
- National Center for Creative Aging (Gene D. Cohen Award)
- Senior Service America, Inc. (Senior and Junior Scholar Awards)

*Please check the final program for all dates, times, and room location assignments for award events.*

If you are interested in learning more about GSA’s awards program, please visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards.
Funding for NIH Pioneer Awards, New Innovator Awards Now Available

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) currently welcomes proposals for the 2011 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and New Innovator Awards. Both programs are part of the NIH Common Fund and support exceptionally creative scientists who take highly innovative, potentially high-impact approaches to major challenges in biomedical or behavioral research. Pioneer Awards provide up to $2.5 million in direct costs over 5 years and are open to scientists at any career stage. New Innovator Awards provide up to $1.5 million in direct costs over the same period and are for early stage investigators, defined as those who have not received an NIH R01 or similar grant and are within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree or medical residency. The NIH expects to make at least 7 Pioneer Awards and at least 33 New Innovator Awards in summer 2011. To continue its record of diversity in these programs, the NIH especially encourages women and members of groups that are underrepresented in NIH research to apply. The deadline for submitting Pioneer Award applications is September 13. Further details can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-10-008.html. The deadline for submitting New Innovator Award applications is September 20. More information is available at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-10-009.html.

NIH Invites Research on Diet, Economics

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is soliciting projects that will enhance the state-of-the-science on the causes of obesity and associated chronic diseases. Research proposals that involve collaborations are strongly encouraged such as those that include the disciplines of health economics, health services, and econometric modeling; or collaborations between researchers trained in economics and specialists in public health, cancer or cardiovascular disease. The deadline for the next round of funding for this grant opportunity is October 5. See grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-078.html for further details.

Cell Lineage Research Monies Offered Through NIA

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is seeking grant applications from organizations that propose to track cell lineages and to determine cell life spans in normal tissue homeostasis and in response to injury or disease in the elderly. This funding opportunity announcement will support basic and applied research projects for the determination of cell life spans and cell fates in various tissues of aged mammals, specifically in humans or in model organisms (e.g., rodents, dogs, or nonhuman primates). Applications should address the quantitative analysis of cell turnover rates and cell lineage tracing in one or more cell types. Such systems should be applicable to determine the age-dependent changes in cellular turnover and fates in tissues that lose function with advanced age. Thus, applications should propose to study cell lineages and turnover in healthy aging, and may also propose to study these processes in response to acute injury or other perturbations (e.g., chronic illness). The application deadline is October 7. See grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-11-001.html for more information.

Continued from page 1 - Geriatrician Takes Top Spot at Senior Corps

older adults. The Foster Grandparent Program connects volunteers age 55 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs. Volunteers mentor, support, and help some of the most vulnerable children in the U.S. The Senior Companion Program brings together volunteers age 55 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living. Companions help out on a personal level by assisting with shopping and light chores, interacting with doctors, or just making a friendly visit. RSVP connects volunteers age 55 and over with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. From building houses to immunizing children, from enhancing the capacity of non-profit organizations to improving and protecting the environment, RSVP volunteers put their unique talents to work to make a difference.

Tan is a board certified internist and geriatrician. Prior to his new appointment at the CNCS, he served as an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he was an attending physician in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. He also worked as a researcher at the Johns Hopkins Center on Aging and Health, where he was a co-investigator on the Baltimore Experience Corps Trial, a five-year study of the health effects of an older adult volunteer program in the Baltimore Public School System.

Tan reported on his Experience Corps research in a 2009 issue of the Journal of Gerontology Series B: Psychological and Social Sciences.

From 2003 to 2004, Tan was a selected participant in the White House Fellowship Program, where he served as a special assistant to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Before joining the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University, he was an assistant clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where he received a Geriatric Academic Career Award.

“Erwin's appointment is a wise choice for Senior Corps,” said GSA Fellow Linda P. Fried. “His extensive knowledge — and experience as a leader in the evaluation and evolution of Experience Corps — makes him the perfect person to translate research into practice and policy in such a key position.”
Germans Granted Right To End Life

According to a news report from Reuters Health, Germany's highest civil court has ruled that terminally ill patients on life support should have the right to die if they want to. After years of debate in Germany over euthanasia, the Federal Court of Justice upheld an appeal by a lawyer, Wolfgang Putz, who was convicted last year of attempted manslaughter for advising a woman to help her mother die. The court ruled that those caring for the patient should cut off life support if the patient willed it. Euthanasia is a particularly sensitive subject in Germany because of mass killings of the physically and mentally handicapped carried out during the rule of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. Assisted suicide has been allowed in Switzerland since the 1940s if performed by a non-physician who has no vested interest in the death. Euthanasia is legal only in the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the U.S. state of Oregon.

British Workers Accept Later Retirement

The U.K. Press Association has reported on a new study that found a majority of Britons' estimates of their retirement age has changed over the past five years. In 2005, 82 percent of people planned to retire before the state pension age, with men expecting to stop work at an average age of 60, while women thought they would retire when they were 59, according to research conducted by insurance company Aviva. A follow-up study, however, found that 68 percent of people now plan to work past the state pension age, while one in 10 people think they will never retire. Only a third of people thought they would stop work when they were aged between 61 and 65, with 29 percent expecting to retire between the ages of 66 and 70.

China’s Aging Population Growth Continues

The Xinhuanet news agency has reported that China saw the largest annual increase in its aged population in 2009, with the number of people aged 60 growing by 7.25 million to 167.14 million, representing 12.5 percent of China's total population. The Office of China National Committee on Aging issued a report that stated the number of people in their 80s or older approached 19 million last year, and will rise by 1 million annually, noting the average life expectancy currently is over 73 years old. The statistics revealed that the number of urban residents participating in the basic old-age pension program hit 235 million in 2009, 7.3 percent higher than in 2008.

Dani Kaiserman

Dani Kaiserman is the program assistant for the National Academy on an Aging Society, GSA's public policy branch. She joined the staff in December 2009 and is a native of Santa Monica, CA.

Kaiserman received a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis with a double major in political science and psychology. While completing her studies, she was a research assistant at the school’s Clinical Geropsychology Lab. She also previously worked in Los Angeles, CA, as an assistant activity director for the Nazareth House senior living facility and an intern for the Olympia Medical Center's Center for Geriatric Health.

Immediately prior to joining GSA, Kaiserman participated in the Running Start Star Fellowship program, which provides young women with leadership experience through staff positions with female members of Congress. She worked in the office of Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) for four months.

At GSA, Kaiserman's work largely focuses on the Society's leadership position in the Age4Action Network, a grant-funded initiative that “links organizations focused on workforce, civic engagement, lifelong learning, and advocacy to share common resources, knowledge, and tools so they can best leverage the talent of people 50+.”

This summer, she played an integral role in the organization of the Age4Action Network's Idea Forums held in cities across the country. This month's Policy News (see page 4) reports on the success of these events. Kaiserman worked with local partners in planning each forum, and developed collateral materials such as fact sheets, press releases, and a comprehensive survey.

She also is responsible for developing the Age4Action Network's online Research and Policy Action Center, and oversees its ongoing development by researching and identifying new resources.

Additionally, Kaiserman compiles the Public Policy & Aging E-Newsletter, administers the National Academy on an Aging Society's Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/aging_society), and serves as the staff liaison to GSA's Task Force on Women.
Grant Enables Study of Elderly Drivers

The University of Virginia and INOVA Fairfax Hospital have received a $2.5 million grant from the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration to establish a joint Engineering Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network (CIREN) Center. A major initiative for this new facility will be studying elderly drivers and passengers. The center will expand upon an 11-year partnership between the university and INOVA. The center will provide engineering and medical expertise in test subject enrollment, crash investigation, analysis of automobile crash data, impact biomechanics and research, and community outreach.

Federal Funds Further Vascular Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a total $26 million to five academic medical institutions, led by the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), toward a large-scale study designed to examine the role that vascular risk factors experienced during middle age — such as hypertension, diabetes, and lifestyle — play into Alzheimer’s disease and related forms of cognitive decline. The study will employ brain imaging and new genetic technologies to gather information from thousands of patients — in addition to data collected through the past two decades by the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study into the risk factors associated with heart disease and stroke. UMMC will receive the largest portion of the grant, $9 million. Among the other four, Johns Hopkins University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will receive about $4.6 million each; the University of Minnesota, about $4.3 million; and Wake Forest University, about $3.6 million.

Schools Team Up for Online Dementia Resource

The University of Virginia School of Medicine is launching Memory Commons (www.memorycommons.org), an interactive, educational website for physicians and healthcare professionals that focuses specifically on Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia. Memory Commons employs multiple educational formats to encourage learning and advances in dementia and Alzheimer’s disease care, as well as improve quality of care and access to the latest treatment guidelines. Learning methods include tutorials, interactive case discussions, open case consults, blogs, and an innovative interactive simulation of outpatient clinic encounters using a computer-gaming platform. The University of Virginia School of Medicine is collaborating with the University of Virginia Institute for Aging, the University of Virginia School of Nursing, the Alzheimer’s Association, the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology to develop this program.

Pruchno Selected as New Editor

GSA has named Rachel Pruchno, PhD, of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) as the next editor of The Gerontologist, effective January 2011.

“We are extremely pleased to have someone with Dr. Pruchno’s stature in the field of gerontology assume stewardship of this journal,” said Thomas Hess, PhD, chair of GSA’s Publications Committee. “She is a leading researcher in the field of long-term care, and she brings with her an appreciation for the diverse perspectives and methodologies that necessarily characterize the multidisciplinary nature of gerontological research.”

The Gerontologist, published by Oxford Journals on behalf of GSA, contains peer-reviewed articles that provide a multidisciplinary perspective on human aging through research and analysis in gerontology, including social policy, program development, and service delivery.

“I’m delighted to have the opportunity to serve as the next editor of The Gerontologist,” Pruchno said. “The journal is one of the premier outlets for multidisciplinary studies in the field of aging. I look forward to building on its strengths and advancing it to the next level.”

Pruchno is the University Professor and Endowed Professor of Gerontology and the director of research for the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging at the UMDNJ School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Pruchno has been the principal investigator on National Institutes of Health-funded grants totaling close to $7 million and foundation grants of more than $3 million. She has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles (11 in The Gerontologist) and 10 book chapters. She is a co-editor of the book, “Challenges of an Aging Society: Ethical Dilemmas, Political Issues.” Pruchno has been actively involved on the institutional review boards of UMDNJ and Boston College. She served on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Aging & Human Development and the Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences.

Pruchno earned a doctorate in human development and family studies at Penn State University in 1982; a master’s degree from Oakland University in 1979; and a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in 1976. Pruchno is a GSA fellow, the highest class of membership within the Society.
Transitions (Part 2): Becoming Scholars and Professionals

This is the second of a two-part series on transitions experienced by emerging scholars and professionals. The first part reviewed and explored transitions experienced by ESPO members while pursuing education and training for an aging-related career. This installment will explore transitions out of educational and training institutions and into actual aging-related careers.

This is the time of year that ESPO members truly emerge as new scholars and professionals. Similar to transitioning into aging-related educational and training programs, transitioning into an aging-related career can be an exciting and challenging experience. Thus, this month’s column examines the plethora of decisions and changes encountered by ESPO members who are entering the gerontological job market.

Preparation for the transition into an aging-related occupation most often occurs throughout educational training. The final year of education and training, however, is an excellent time to put more effort into preparing and searching for employment opportunities, internships, and post-doctoral positions. Emerging scholars and professionals will want to prepare by updating their resumes or CVs. It may be beneficial to get feedback on these documents from colleagues or career service specialists. There are several resources available to help ESPO members with their job searches.

First, ESPO members may find it useful to utilize GSA’s agework.com. This is the only site dedicated to highlighting aging-related employment opportunities for job seekers.

Second, ESPO members may want to explore the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s “Directory of Educational Programs in Gerontology and Geriatrics,” which lists many institutions that provide post-doctoral experiences. This directory can be purchased at www.aghe.org or obtained at no cost through most school libraries.

A third online resource for ESPO members is the ESPO network on linkedin.com. This network allows members to post employment openings as well as post-doctoral positions on its job board. Networking is essential to learning about and obtaining desired career opportunities. ESPO members can talk to their colleagues and mentors about job openings and, if possible, utilize their networks for recommendations.

Annual GSA conferences are also excellent places to introduce oneself to the job market and network with potential employers. Despite all of this preparation and job searching, an article in a 2000 issue of Educational Gerontology by Kelly M. Everard, Pamela B. Teaster, and Elizabeth Dugan reminds readers that the timing of a first job will be different for all individuals. For example, some ESPO members may experience several months of unemployment between graduation and their first job, whereas others may begin a job before they even graduate. Awareness of these different pathways towards a first job can help to alleviate stress for ESPO members seeking employment with their new qualifications.

Beginning a first job as a qualified scholar or professional in aging is a transition that many ESPO members will find challenging. This transition most likely will look different depending on whether ESPO members begin their careers in academia, non-profit organizations, geriatric medicine, research institutions, or public policy, just to name a few. Regardless of the chosen aging-related career, however, ESPO members will experience numerous similar challenges. For example, they will learn to negotiate their salaries, identify mentors in their workplaces, find room for growth and development, and garner support for their personal and professional goals.

Everard, Teaster, and Dugan encourage new scholars and professionals to have realistic expectations of their career endeavors and to be prepared to work even harder than they did as students. For some ESPO members, this will involve continuing to publish, enhancing teaching skills, attending and presenting at conferences, meeting with clients, engaging in the workplace community, and continued networking. ESPO members can expect this to be a busy and stressful transition, but also a rewarding and encouraging experience as they embark on a journey to fulfill their career aspirations.

Last but not least, transitioning into an aging-related career will need to be balanced with other life commitments such as family and leisure activities. Finding this balance may be stressful, but practicing patience and taking the time to find a balance will help ESPO members be productive and healthy in all facets of their lives. How this will be achieved will look different for everyone. What matters is that ESPO members find a life balance that works for them and then flourish in it.
GSA Seeks Papers for Senior Service America Senior and Junior Scholar Awards for Research Related to Disadvantaged Older Adults

- Recognizing paper or poster PowerPoint submissions that advance the knowledge and understanding of the capabilities, contributions, challenges, and concerns of disadvantaged older adults; especially those who are low-income and minority group members
- The Senior Scholar Award $1,000 cash prize
- Junior Scholar Award $500 cash prize

The winners will be recognized at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, LA, in November.

Open to all GSA Membership

Entries are due by September 27, 2010

Learn more at www.geron.org

Social Gerontology Award

The Gerontological Society of America, in collaboration with the American University, is hosting a best paper competition in the area of Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology.

Submission Deadline: September 27, 2010

Papers outlining theoretical frameworks that cross disciplinary boundaries and the single disciplinary theoretical paradigm are encouraged. Papers examining the aging individual in a larger societal, economic, temporal, cultural, physical, and environmental context are welcomed.

A cash award of $2,000 is being made available for the winning paper to encourage this important and promising theoretical work in Social Gerontology.

Email inquiries and submissions to awards@geron.org.

Visit the Awards section of www.geron.org for details.
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