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2010 Abstracts Welcome
GSA has issued the Call for Abstracts for the 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, LA. Submissions will be accepted starting in mid-December. Visit www.geron.org/abstracts for further details!

New Editors To Begin Review Process
On January 1, 2010, new editors Rafael de Cabo, PhD, and Merrill Silverstein, PhD, will assume their positions at the Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences and the Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, respectively. As of that date, they will evaluate all new submitted manuscripts.

Continued Member Involvement Greatly Appreciated
GSA recognizes that during the holiday season, many people make year-end contributions to worthy causes. Gifts to the Society can be made via credit card by visiting www.geron.org or faxing the information to (202) 842-1150. You can also mail a check made out to GSA with “Tax Deductible Donation” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

GSA Mourns Two Presidents
Two GSA leaders with a combined 70 years of Society involvement have passed away. Former President Marjorie Cantor, MA, died on October 31 at the age of 88, and former President Gene D. Cohen, MD, PhD, died on November 7 at the age of 65. Both had been GSA members since the 1970s; both had won GSA’s prestigious Donald P. Kent Award.

Furthermore, the two served as founding members of the board of directors of the National Center on Creative Aging (NCCA). Recently, Cohen developed an affiliation between the NCCA and The George Washington University’s Center on Aging, Health & Humanities, where he served as founding director since 1994. He was also a professor of health care sciences and a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

“Dr. Cohen’s work shifted the paradigm of aging from being problem focused to one focusing on the awakening of human potential in the second half of life,” said Gay Hanna, PhD, executive director of the NCCA.

She added that Cantor’s work was instrumental in the growth of the NCCA during its early years.

At the time of her death, Cantor was the Brookdale Distinguished Scholar and a professor emeritus within the Graduate School of Social Service of Fordham University. In addition, she was the associate director of the university’s Third Age Center and a scholar in residence at the Lighthouse International.

Cantor also collaborated closely with AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA) on a groundbreaking study of older adults with HIV in New York, NY.

“What made her work unique was that she conducted one of the first large-scale studies that examined the social support networks of older adults,”

 AoA Pledges Support on Local Care Solutions
Community partnerships aimed at serving older adults can soon expect help at the federal level. At the recent National Summit on Workable Solutions to Long-Term Care Challenges, U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Management John Wren promised a new level of cooperation to meet the needs of seniors across the country.

“Working in silos and working within the walls of individual agencies and even individual departments is no longer going to be accepted as a way of doing business in the federal government,” he said. “And not only is there an emphasis in working across agencies and departments, but more importantly, working with states and communities to solve complex problems facing people who need our attention and support.”

Wren noted that the AoA would continue to issue funding opportunities for organizations seeking to build local care networks for older people.

The Summit was convened by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA).

CPFOA is a national program funded by the RWJF to help communities develop leadership, innovative solutions, and options that serve older adults over the long term.

Wren emphasized that the AoA would not dictate how its programs are implemented locally.

“As a nation, if we’re going to be solving the complex problems — especially the types of problems we are dealing with when it comes to helping older people age in place — that the solutions are at the community level,” he said.

“It’s the role of the federal government to facilitate and support communities to solve the problems in the way that they confront them.”

Furthermore, Wren added that the federal government would work to link systems of long-term and community-based care, rather than have them work independently.

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It’s Never too Late To Create

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH

Among the GSA membership, how many people would say they can draw? It turns out that the percentage is probably not nearly as high as that of an average kindergarten class, as we found out at GSA’s recent annual meeting in Atlanta. This fascinating observation was pointed out by Opening Session speaker Erik Wahl. Like his Closing Session counterpart, economist David Galenson, he lamented the fact that only young children are regularly encouraged to develop their creative skills.

Fortunately, the meeting — under the theme “Creative Approaches to Healthy Aging” — challenged our 3,300 attendees to explore how they can view the goals of their work somewhat differently.

The January issue of Gerontology News will feature a full recap with photos and a summary of events. I think it is important, however, to reflect on some of the things we learned about creativity before we move on to the new year and new projects.

At the Opening Session, Wahl shared many philosophies, most notably that risk taking can yield positive rewards. Big change, he said, comes from big ideas, even if those ideas seem silly at the onset. Fear of failure or embarrassment is often too big an obstacle for many to overcome.

He also noted that researchers can use the logical left sides of their brains more effectively if they also exercise the creative right sides. Such an approach could apply to professionals in any field, but it has particular relevance to gerontology because creative impulses must be nurtured throughout the life course, according to Wahl.

Galenson echoed this idea in his presentation. We learned from him that creative people can fall into one of two categories: conceptualists, who make radical innovations in their field at relatively early ages; and experimentalists, whose innovations develop slowly over a long period of exploration and refinement.

Modern culture would have us believe that the most successful people are also the youngest people in society. Yet Galenson said that conceptualists are equalled or surpassed in number by those who gradually cultivate their skills.

The main impediment to experimentalists is an environment that does not encourage creative expression.

Considering this, I am pleased to report that GSA is dedicated to helping members keep the momentum of creativity.

As announced at the Opening Session, the Society has partnered with the National Center for Creative Aging to establish the Dr. Gene D. Cohen Research Award in Creative Aging. The first winner was Cohen himself; moving forward, this distinction will honor individuals whose research provides evidence that creative activities and behaviors — particularly in the arts — can maintain and even improve the physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being of older adults.

Additionally, GSA will start accepting abstracts for the 2010 annual meeting in mid-December — much earlier than in previous years. Thus, you can exercise your creativity over the holidays and turn in your submissions before the new year begins. Visit www.geron.org/abstracts to view the new Call for Abstracts. In next month’s Gerontology News, new President Peggye Dilworth-Anderson will outline her theme, “Transitions of Care Across the Aging Continuum.”

The Society also owes a generous amount of gratitude to outgoing President Michèle Saunders for her hard work and leadership during the past year. She has renewed our commitment to fostering innovation, and consequently, to the population we study and serve.

With that in mind, on GSA’s behalf, I wish everyone a safe, happy, and creative holiday season.

James

From the Executive Director
In Memoriam

GSA Fellow Herbert A. de Vries, PhD, a professor emeritus of kinesiology at the University of Southern California (USC), has died at the age of 91. He was renowned for his research related to exercise and aging. De Vries was a USC graduate who became one of the foremost exercise and muscle physiologists of his time. He authored many publications on physical fitness and aging, examining the effects of exercise on the quality of life and maintaining that the most important outcome of physical activity is stress reduction. The American Association for Physical Activity, Education, and Recreation named its Herbert A. de Vries Distinguished Research Award after him. He was also a member of that organization’s National Research Council. De Vries was a fellow of the American Academy of Physical Education, and a fellow and former vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine. At USC, he was a preceptor at the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center and a laboratory chief at the center’s Physiology of Exercise Laboratory.

Members in the News

• An article in the October 26 edition of The Chicago Tribune quoted Kelvin J. A. Davies, PhD, DSc, on the subject of exercise. He said that older people often lose a great deal of strength due to inactivity.
• In October, the magazine Science News featured quotes from John Tower, PhD. He spoke of a new study suggesting that the life-extending power of low-protein diets may come from mitochondria.
• Jon Pynoos, PhD, was recently quoted in the Evansville Courier & Press in an article about caring for aging parents. He said that many people make changes to their homes in anticipation of moving a parent in with them, though that may not be the best course of action.
• On October 29, Daily Breeze columnist Helen Dennis cited former GSA President James Birren, PhD. She recalled one of his well known remarks, “You don’t know where you are going if you don’t know where you have been.”

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website now features a monthly Q&A session with distinguished members. December’s spotlight shines on:

Hans-Werner Wahl, 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:

Karen S. Feldt

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Claire Raskind, 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

Stimulus Grant Awarded to Davies

GSA Fellow Kelvin J. A. Davies, PhD, DSc, the associate dean and holder of the James E. Birren Chair of Gerontology at the University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology, has received a $244,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant from the National Institutes of Health for research on oxidative stress and aging. The funds will be used to conduct research on several genetic regulators of large protein complexes — known as proteasomes — that help to mitigate the harmful effects of oxidative stress.

Executive Organization Recognizes Elliott

Sharon J. Elliott, MS, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, an occupational therapist for Therapeutic Life Center, Inc., has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in senior care. She is board-certified in gerontology from the American Occupational Therapy Association and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in gerontology and a doctorate in health science with a concentration in occupational therapy at the University of Indianapolis. Elliott is chairwoman of the American Occupational Therapy Association Gerontology Special Interest Section. She is also a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Pesis-Katz Named to Cuomo’s New Network

University of Rochester School of Nursing faculty member Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD, has been named to the newly created research network that is part of New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo’s nationwide reform of the consumer reimbursement system for out-of-network health care charges. Pesis-Katz has spent her career working collaboratively on research activities designed to produce and evaluate evidence-based quality improvement programs for the community. As a member of the new research consortium, she will work to establish the methodology to calculate the new usual and customary rates, provide expertise in using and analyzing claims data, and assess the impact of the new rates on utilization of out-of-network services and their costs.

Carstensen Speaks on Purpose Prize Panel

GSA Fellow Laura Carstensen, PhD, director of the Stanford University Center on Longevity, recently participated in a panel discussion during the Summit on Innovation at the Stanford School of Business’ Center on Social Innovation. The event recognized this year’s winners of the Purpose Prize, the $50,000 and $100,000 awards given to social innovators in their encore careers.
Accomplished GSA Member Recalls Capitol Hill Experience

In an attempt to keep up my image as a high-powered Washington insider, I recently met with a former high-powered Senate fellow at Againn, a new DC gastropub destined to become a K Street lobbyist favorite.

GSA member Gretchen E. Alkema, PhD, LCSW, is currently the vice president of policy and communications at the SCAN Foundation, an independent charitable organization focused on finding innovative solutions to the healthcare needs of California seniors. From 2008 to 2009, she was the first combined John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy fellow and an American Political Science Association congressional fellow. She served in the office of Senator Blanche L. Lincoln (D-AR), who is a member of the Finance Committee and the Special Committee on Aging. In this role, Alkema collaborated with legislative staff to advise Lincoln on aging, health, mental health, and long-term care policy.

Alkema holds a doctorate from the University of Southern California's Davis School of Gerontology. Previously, she received a John A. Hartford doctoral fellowship in geriatric social work and an AARP Scholars Program Award. She also completed post-doctoral training at the Greater Los Angeles VA and was a research associate for the California Fall Prevention Center of Excellence. Alkema is the author of multiple peer-reviewed publications and has taught courses in social policy and aging, care management, and program evaluation strategies. She has practiced clinical social work in government and non-profit settings including community mental health, care management, adult day health care, residential care, and post-acute rehabilitation. In addition, she has served on GSA's Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Executive Committee.

In early November, I sat down with Alkema to learn about her experiences in Washington, DC.

Brian W. Lindberg: You just finished your year-long fellowship in Senator Lincoln's office as the John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy fellow. What prompted you to move here and take this on?

Gretchen E. Alkema: I have been working with older adults my whole professional life, so that's certainly where my heart is. I felt that there was a piece missing from my broader career trajectory and that piece was substantial knowledge about the policy domain. I wanted to learn more about where the dollars, regulations, and policies originate at the federal level. I also knew for me to understand fully the policy and political worlds that I needed to be embedded in it.

BWL: Would you say that working in Senator Lincoln's office met your expectations?

GEA: My expectations were completely blown out of the water! Being treated like a member of Senator Lincoln's staff, working with the Finance and Aging Committees, being here at the most critical time that any of us in aging and health care policy could face. I had no idea of the magnitude of the work that I would encounter this year.

BWL: How about in terms of what you called your career trajectory, and that piece you were missing?

GEA: The fellowship experience was a game-changer for me. Now, I am in a position [at the SCAN Foundation] where I can pull all the parts of my twenty-year career together and help to renovate the continuum of care for older adults and their families.

BWL: Have you had a chance to reflect on what part you have played in health care reform?

GEA: First of all, it will take me a long time to fully digest the enormity of it. I suspect it will have some unique evolving meaning for me over time. To see pieces that I worked on in the bill and language that I was able to affect, a tangible imprint on policy — who knows whether they will stay in the bill — but I have my copy of the chairman's mark [from the Senate Finance Committee] and I will hang on to that forever.

BWL: Speak about an interesting aspect of your experience in Senator Lincoln's office.

GEA: Let's talk about the senator's RE-Aligning Care Act – it's the care coordination bill that she's been working on for several years. Working with multiple stakeholders, we updated some of the language and changed the name. Regardless of where people are in their health care trajectory, whether it's a person's first heart attack or someone is having difficulty managing diabetes because of other chronic conditions, current practice guidelines usually speak to how to manage one condition well but rarely address the multiplicity of factors and conditions that a person usually faces. The fee-for-service system locks people into seeing the one provider who treats the one body part or acute issue without being mindful of the system as a whole or, additionally, the non-medical aspects of care. Senator Lincoln's chronic care bill, built from the Wagner Chronic Care Model, is a template for changing the way our health care system operates. Older adults with multiple chronic conditions that impair their daily functioning are not well served with only a medical model. They often need more engagement with the social care network that utilizes various professionals, such as social workers, and takes the team approach to care.

BWL: Please explain which parts of the senator's bill ended up in the Finance Committee version of health care reform.

GEA: The staff and I worked really hard with the Finance Committee to get a pilot version of her chronic care bill included. Although this didn't work out, I think what we ended up with is better because we infused language from her bill into the description of the CMS Innovation Center that says that all of its projects must include and address the key elements of care coordination. The
language is drawn right from our bill: interdisciplinary teams, individualized assessment and preferences for care, engaging family caregivers in the process, all different aspects of care coordination.

**BWL:** How do you think that your social work background has helped you on the Hill?

**GEA:** I tell a joke that I thought I was going to stop doing family therapy ten years ago – hah!

**BWL:** There’s a lot of therapy needed up there.

**GEA:** One of the fundamental aspects to social work is that you “start where the client is,” which means you have to identify the client. On the Hill, sometimes that was the senator, sometimes it was the staff from other offices, sometimes the finance committee, or a constituent, or sometimes it was the collection of interest groups fighting on behalf of aging issues.

**BWL:** So not only did you think of the client when you developed the programs and the legislation, you had to incorporate serving all of these players throughout the process.

**GEA:** Right, because everyone is part of it. That’s the politics of it. You know the old saying which is so true: Washington operates on politics, procedure, and policy, in that order, and the order never changes. Getting the politics aligned and the procedural aspects aligned is as critical as having really good policy.

**BWL:** Are there enough social workers on the Hill?

**GEA:** No, there are not enough social workers on the Hill. There are also not enough folks with a gerontological perspective who understand how things occur at particular ages and the whole process of aging that’s always a moving target. I’ve heard about this for some time, and the reason cited as to why there’s no gerontological perspective on the Hill is because most of the staff is under age thirty. But I don’t think that’s the reason. I think it’s because people think of Medicare as a payment system in a health policy context. When constituents come up and tell their stories, the staff says, “Oh my, this is really affecting older people.” A real feel for and understanding of older Americans does not seem to be a driving force underneath the policy decisions. In addition, there is so little discussion of the patient and her/his family. That’s why we felt that getting Senator Lincoln’s language in was a real win for patient- and family-centered care.

**BWL:** The family can play such a critical role in the process to coordinate care. If they are not there, it may not happen.

**GEA:** For all intents and purposes, the family is the primary long-term care workforce. Health care providers come in and out based on their expertise and delivery system engagement, but the family is the constant.

**BWL:** Considering the meaningful research that GSA members do, are you able to use some of these resources to persuade Hill staff, and are they open to this kind of information?

**GEA:** Yes, they are. But an important caveat is that Hill staff are incredibly pressed for time. They don’t have time to read more than a page. There is very little thinking time. Health care reform only highlighted that. They have to gear up for the work that is happening at that moment. We have incredible researchers in the GSA network; we have incredible amounts of information that has deep relevance. But getting one’s voice heard means developing a relationship of trust. Washington is all about relationships. The Hill staff or Hill office is not usually going to take anyone’s brilliant ideas on the first, second, third, or fourth or maybe fifth time. But I will say that when there were issues that came to our table, especially related to geriatric workforce issues, the first thing our legislative director asked me was, “what does Claudia Beverly think about that.” She is a trusted resource in Arkansas and she represents a trusted body of knowledge. So to have people who can serve in that capacity for their elected officials means everything.

**BWL:** Before we run out of time, I would like to hear about your new job at the SCAN Foundation.

**GEA:** I am just thrilled to be part of the SCAN Foundation. It’s so wonderful to be in a place where research and policy drives the activity. It’s a place where we are able to engage the incredible skills and brain trust that exists within members of GSA and other organizations who care about what happens with older people and champion an interdisciplinary continuum of care that includes direct care workers and family caregivers as part of the workforce, not just the traditional medical providers.

**BWL:** Do you have a mandate to do more in California?

**GEA:** For our work to support the dissemination and assessment of promising programs, the answer is yes. However I would say for our broader initiative, and more of my responsibility in the communications work and the policy work, we are working at the state and federal levels. We see transforming our health care system as the fundamental basis for developing a continuum of care that works for everyone. In health care reform we see tremendous opportunity to improve the continuum of care for elders, through the innovation center, accountable care associations, bundling, transitions, and all the other care coordination provisions — especially as those new models of care include the broader home- and community-based service delivery system.

**BWL:** Okay, your goals now in your career — it looks like everything’s come nicely together for this position at the SCAN Foundation, so this is something that you hope to do for some time.

**GEA:** It is. I think my greatest goal at this juncture — and I’m sure I’ll be working on it for the rest of my life — is to transform the way in which we envision, create, and implement services and support for older Americans. I’d like to get to the point, Brian, when I say the phrase “long-term care” no one will know what I am talking about.

**BWL:** This has been a pleasure, Gretchen. From one who has worked on the Hill and is now advocating for older adults from K Street, I thank you for all you have done on our behalf this past year.

**GEA:** It was a life changing experience and I recommend that anyone even remotely interested in the policy process consider spending time in Washington through a fellowship or otherwise. Thanks, Brian.
Prestigious Hartford Grants Bolster Awardees’ Social Work Research

Six outstanding students have been chosen as the newest recipients of the prestigious Hartford Doctoral Fellowship in geriatric social work. The program is funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, administered by The Gerontological Society of America, and directed by James Lubben, DSW, MPH.

Each of the Hartford Doctoral Fellows receives a $50,000 dissertation grant plus $20,000 in matching support from their home institutions, which enables recipients to more fully concentrate on their dissertation research projects over the next two years. Fellows also receive supplemental academic career guidance and mentoring, as well as professional development enabling them to more successfully launch an academic career in gerontology and social work.

The fellowship program is a component of the nationwide Geriatric Social Work Initiative, which seeks to expand the training of social workers in order to improve the health and well being of older persons and their families. It was created to help social work doctoral students overcome their greatest obstacles, such as limited teacher training and career guidance. These fellowships cultivate the next generation of geriatric social work faculty as teachers, role models and mentors for future generations of geriatric social workers.

Lubben, the Louise McMahon Ahearn University Chair at Boston College and a professor emeritus at UCLA, works together with a national program committee to select the Fellows. This year’s committee consists of Iris Chi, DSW, of the University of Southern California; Namkee Choi, PhD, of the University of Texas at Austin; Ruth Dunkle, PhD, of the University of Michigan; Grover Gilmore, PhD, of Case Western University; Jan Greenberg, PhD, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, of Washington University in St. Louis; Holly Nelson-Becker, PhD, of the University of Kansas; and Deborah Waldrop, PhD, of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Ad hoc members include Barbara Berkman, DSW, PhD, of Columbia University and the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program, and Carmen Morano, PhD, of Hunter College and the Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award Program.

Christina Matz-Costa
Boston College
Dissertation Topic: Productive Aging in the Workplace: Understanding Factors that Promote or Impede Engagement in Work Roles

Mary Kate Dennis
University of Michigan
Dissertation Topic: Health Insights of Native American Older Adults: From Wellness to Illness

Scott Easton
University of Iowa
Dissertation Topic: Men Who Were Sexually Abused as Children: An Examination of Factors that Influence Long-Term Mental Health

Kimberly J. Johnson
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Dissertation Topic: Volunteering Among Surviving Spouses: The Impact of Volunteer Activity on the Health of the Recently Widowed

Dennis Kao
University of Southern California

Kristin Scherrer
University of Michigan
Dissertation Topic: The Intergenerational Relationships of Grandparents and their GLBQ Grandchildren

Expert Predicts Possible Shift in Senior Voting Bloc

The majority of people aged 65 and over cast ballots for John McCain in 2008, but older voters will not necessarily favor Republicans in future presidential elections, according to an article in the latest issue of The Gerontologist (Vol. 49, No. 5).

Author Robert Binstock, PhD, a renowned authority on seniors’ voting patterns, analyzed data from the 2008 national Election Day exit poll conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, which was financed by major television networks, newspapers, and magazines.

Older people were in fact the only age group to give a majority to McCain. It was just the second time in the last 10 presidential elections, the article points out, that this population segment failed to choose the winner.

“Factors other than old-age policy issues — in particular, the partisan leanings of current older voters, the candidates’ contrasting ages, and the candidates’ contrasting racial identities — shed some light on why McCain received distinctive majorities from various cohorts of older voters,” Binstock said.

The polling numbers show that 54 percent of voters aged 65 to 74 endorsed McCain in 2008. Binstock noted that those in this demographic were socialized to politics as youngsters during Republican Dwight Eisenhower’s presidency.

“The partisan leaning of the birth cohort that is now aged in its late 60s is definitely a factor in explaining the preference of a majority of current older voters for Republican presidential candidates,” he wrote.

However, baby boomers now reaching the old age category may have different political preferences. For example, in the recent election, those aged 60 to 64 — people who entered their formative teen years while Democrat John F. Kennedy was in the White House — gave more votes to Barack Obama than to McCain.

Seniors’ voting choices also may be affected by attributes unique to a particular candidate. In 2008, there was evidence that voters aged 65 to 74 favored McCain because of his similar age. This particular group of older people was by far the most likely to answer “Only McCain” when asked “Which candidate has the right judgment to make a good president?” There is also the possibility that race may have been a factor, although all white voters aged 30 years and older gave McCain a substantial majority, whereas the youngest cohort of whites, aged 18 to 29 years, favored Obama.
NIH Announces Changes to Grant Applications
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced a series of changes to its grant application process. Peer Review Enhancements that began in January of 2009 will culminate with a restructuring and shortening of applications submitted for Fiscal Year 2011 funding (due dates on or after January 25, 2010). All competing applications, including resubmissions, must use the new forms and adhere to new page limits and instructions. The NIH has developed a new website, enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/restructured_applications.html, to familiarize applicants to the new requirements.

Health Impact Project Call for Proposals Released
The Health Impact Project, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, encourages the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) to help decision-makers better assess proposed policies, projects, and programs with respect to their impact on health. The partnership has issued a call for proposals to demonstrate the effectiveness of HIAs and promote their incorporation into local, state, tribal and federal decision-making. Up to 15 demonstration projects will be awarded in this round of funding. Grants will range from $25,000 to $150,000 and must be completed within 24 months. The monies will be awarded on a rolling basis and proposals may be submitted at any time. More information is available at www.healthimpactproject.org.

Fellowships Seek Retirement Researchers
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has announced its 2010 Dissertation Fellowship Program for research on retirement income and disability insurance. The program, funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration, supports doctoral candidates writing dissertations on retirement income and disability insurance issues. Up to six fellowships of $28,000 will be awarded to doctoral candidates enrolled in an accredited program at a U.S. university. Proposals must be completed and submitted by Friday, January 29, 2010. Guidelines are available at crr.bc.edu/opportunities/Dissertation.html.

NIA To Provide Mechanism for Research Network Support
A new funding opportunity from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) is designed to provide infrastructure support in specific emerging interdisciplinary areas of behavioral and social research in aging. This grant the National Institutes of Health Resource-Related Research Project (R24), is a mechanism to facilitate research networks to seed integrative and interdisciplinary research areas through meetings, conferences, small scale pilots, short term training opportunities (such as intensive workshops, summer institutes, or visiting scholar programs), and dissemination activities to encourage growth and development, so they can develop to the point where the network activities can be supported through standard mechanisms (such as research grants, conference grants, program projects, centers, and/or institutional training grants). Any individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research is invited to work with his/her institution to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are always encouraged to apply. This funding is designed to address the network development needs of researchers interested in advancing interdisciplinary aging-relevant research programs and innovative infrastructure development in the social and behavioral sciences. All applicants must explain how the proposed networking activities will advance an emerging area and that these goals cannot be met through existing institutional programs or structures. This funding opportunity expires September 8, 2010. For more information, visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-233.html.

meet the staff

Kevin Brown

Reston, VA, native Kevin Brown is GSA's director of human resources and office management. He joined the staff in March 2008. In his position, Brown is directly responsible for the overall administration, coordination, and evaluation of GSAs human resource needs. His duties include formulating and executing policies and procedures on an office-wide basis. Brown also is responsible for ensuring that GSA adheres to federal, state, and case law regulations, as well as reviewing labor law updates and newsletters for changes that need to be implemented.

He keeps other staff members updated on new policies and acts as the main point of contact for employee questions on such matters. He maintains all employee information and personnel files to ensure compliance with audit regulation.

Furthermore, Brown acts as the primary liaison to GSA's building management company and supply vendors. He additionally manages the administration of all employee benefits. He coordinates health, life, and disability insurance enrollments and serves as the liaison with their respective service providers.

Brown currently is pursuing a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certification from the HR Certification Institute.
Aging-Friendly Supermarkets Becoming More Popular in Japan
The Yomiuri Shimbun has reported that supermarkets in Japan are making efforts to be more accessible to older Japanese. Some stores have introduced lighter shopping carts, designed in-store advertisements with larger type, widened aisles for easier navigability, and offered five percent discount coupons for the first 50 customers aged 60 or older on the 15th day of the month (when pension benefits are paid). Many supermarket operators in Japan also provide home delivery services for the elderly.

Canadian Parents’ Needs Strengthen Ties with Boomer Children
A national poll found that one third of Canadian baby boomers spend either time or money looking after their aging parents, according to a report in The Calgary Herald. The study, conducted by the Investors Group, surveyed 500 Canadians between the ages of 43 to 63 and found that 69 percent had at least one living parent or parent-in-law. Of that group, 35 percent said they devoted an average of 42 hours each month or travelled an average of 225 kilometers a month to care for their parent or parents. Forty percent of those who help their parents said they spend an average of $6,000 a year as caregivers. More than half of the boomers — 56 percent — said their bonds with their aging parents have improved because of this extra support and 60 percent said they wouldn’t have spent this quality time together otherwise if their parents did not need it.

The majority of those polled — 90 percent — said the extra financial commitment did not provide more stress for them, but 51 percent said the emotional and time demands were sources of stress.

International Longevity Center Undertakes India Project
The Times of India has reported that the International Longevity Center-India (ILC-I) will sponsor a major study of dementia sufferers in the city of Pune. The aim of the project is to help reverse dementia and to rehabilitate the patient and absorb him/her in the social mainstream. The ILC-I will identify 1,000 cases in the city and 200 identified cases of Alzheimer’s patients from hospitals, clinics, and old-age homes for the study. The Center will approach senior citizens clubs and old-age homes in and around the city, and will ask the authorities to send the names of the elderly people who are willing to volunteer to answer this test. After receiving the replies, the ILC-I will classify gender differences and rural/urban differences according to the age brackets as suggested by the United Nations. The ILC-I will use social work techniques in addition to the medical technology to find out if it is possible to prevent, revert, and rehabilitate the persons suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s.

Irish Elders’ Needs Straining Government Resources
According to a recent article in The Independent, Ireland’s Department of Finance is predicting that over one quarter of the country’s income will be spent on the pensions, health, and long-term care of 1.8 million older people by 2050. The Department also warned that tax policy must generate the resources necessary to meet the cost of the country’s public services rather than massively borrowing to pay the bills. The number of Irish people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from around 450,000 to 1.8 million by 2050. Currently, pensions, health, and long-term care account for 12 percent of Ireland’s gross domestic product, with the number expected to increase to 27 percent by 2050.

GSA Mourns - Continued from page 1

said Mark Brennan, PhD, a senior research scientist at ACRIA and a colleague of Cantor for over two decades.

“This work was one of the first to note the importance of friends as a social support resource for older adults, and was also the basis for her development of the Hierarchical-Compensatory Theory of social support,” he added. “While her paradigms were developed with regard to older adults in general, they proved to be equally valid with diverse groups, such as older LGBT adults, or older adults with HIV.”

In 2009, Cantor was the first winner of the Meritorious Service Award from Elders Share the Arts.

Similarly, GSA and NCCA have partnered to honor Cohen’s legacy by establishing the Gene D. Cohen, MD, PhD, Research Award in Creative Aging. Cohen himself was named the first recipient. His wife, Wendy Miller, PhD, accepted the award on his behalf at GSA’s recent Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

“For this award to be given jointly — to keep the momentum of his work progressing forward — was indeed a great comfort in his final days,” she said.

Cohen’s research focused on the value of creative pursuits among older adults. In 2002, he published the results of a study showing that those who engaged in the arts late in life had fewer illnesses and injuries and more independence. He also created a number of games designed for intergenerational play.

In 1975, Cohen became the first chief of the Center on Aging at the National Institute of Mental Health. His early work, focused on the mental health of the impoverished and homeless, led the charge to change Medicare regulations to allow for reimbursement of mental health services.

Cantor’s career also was dedicated to helping the underrepresented members of the population. She and Brennan co-authored two books together, “Social Care of the Elderly,” and the forthcoming “Older Adults with HIV: An In-Depth Examination of an Emerging Population.”

AGHE’s 2010 Meeting Schedule Unveiled
AGHE’s 36th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference will take place from March 4 to 7, 2010, in Reno, NV. This is the premier national forum for the discussion of issues in gerontological and geriatric education. The meeting-at-a-glance schedule is now available at www.aghe.org/am.

AGHE Authors Outline New Community College Network
The International Longevity Center and MetLife Foundation have published the latest installment in their Caregiving Brief series, “The Role of Community Colleges in an Aging Society and the Importance of Networking,” by Cullen Hayashida, PhD, Michael Faber, MA, LBSW, and Jan Abushakrah, PhD, of the AGHE Community College Task Force. This publication coincides with the launch of the Community College Training Network, an online forum for community colleges to share information and activities related to caregiving, caregiver training, and their curricula. The pilot phase for the forum launched on October 21 for participating community colleges, with a full public launch projected for December. To download an electronic copy of the brief, visit www.ilcusa.org.

Texas School Launches New Care Center
The School of Nursing at the University of Texas at El Paso has established the Border Institute for Excellence in Gerontologic Care (BIEGC) with a $337,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The BIEGC will develop new and unique learning experiences for students, advanced practice nurses, and other health care providers to improve the care of older residents in Western Texas, particularly in rural areas. It will also provide ongoing continuing education for health care providers on specific topics relevant to the care of older adults. The University’s faculty and staff will create and deliver the educational offerings. A 2008 economic and demographic study of El Paso County by The Berry Group, an independent consulting firm, reported that the number of residents aged 65 and older will increase by more than 12 percent between 2008 and 2013. Almost 20 percent of the older residents have incomes below the poverty level, and nearly all of them have some degree of disability, according to the study.

Tennessee Program Earns Geriatric Training Accreditation
The National HealthCare Corporation (NHC), an operator of long-term health care and assisted living facilities, has announced that its Geriatric Clinical Residency Program (GCRP) for physical therapists has successfully received accreditation through the American Physical Therapy Association. The NHC GCRP will be the fourth such program in the nation and the first within a senior care corporation. The GCRP trains and equips therapists to be leaders in geriatric rehabilitation by developing advanced knowledge and skills in direct patient care, management of rehabilitation programs, and teaching. The 12-month program utilizes small group work, guided independent study, continuing education workshops, mentoring by clinical faculty, and teaching opportunities for a comprehensive, 1,648 hours minimum of clinical study in order to prepare residents for the Geriatric Specialist Exam. Therapists passing the exam become certified Geriatric Clinical Specialists. Middle Tennessee State University’s Gerontology and Psychology Departments have been lending expertise to the program, offering residents a first-hand look at cutting-edge research in geriatrics.

AnA Pledges Support - Continued from page 1
The Summit also served as the release venue for a new report, “Community Partnerships for Older Adults: Local Solutions for National Long-Term Care Challenges.” This document details a CPFOA-funded project that created innovative partnerships in 15 communities across the country. The initiative was designed to identify, prioritize, and implement community-based solutions to many of the long-term care challenges Americans face.

The project found that partnerships focused on improving long-term care for older adults should include older adults in its membership as well as local business merchants, transportation providers, school districts, and policy makers; develop community-wide strategic plans that define the role of individual partners; demonstrate engagement of the most influential representatives of each member organization; develop a leadership structure that reflects the breadth of its membership; establish a neutral location to convene regular, open meetings; and assemble a paid or dedicated staff to support the partnership.

The full text of the report and a video of the entire summit can be found at www.partnershipsforolderadults.org.
Social Work E-Newsletter Continues with Expanded Focus

Ripples, the monthly e-newsletter of the Geriatric Social Work Initiative, was recently redesigned and continues to welcome new subscribers. In efforts to include cutting-edge information related to aging issues both in the U.S. and across the globe, the newsletter has been retooled to include internationally focused articles, information, and announcements. To subscribe, visit www.gswi.org/Subscribe_Ripples.htm.

New Publication Paints Global Alzheimer’s Picture

On World Alzheimer’s Day (September 21), Alzheimer’s Disease International released “World Alzheimer Report 2009,” which presents results from the most comprehensive global prevalence study of dementia to date and looks at levels of mortality, disability, strain on careers, and dependency. The report also offers examples of successful national dementia plans and information on health service responses. This resource also offers eight recommendations that provide a global framework for action on dementia. To view the publication, visit www.alz.co.uk/research/worldreport.

Latest AHRQ Preventive Services Guide Available

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released “The Guide to Clinical Preventive Services 2009,” which highlights recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). This year’s Guide provides updated Task Force recommendations on topics such as aspirin for the prevention of cardiovascular disease, major depressive disorders for children and adolescents, universal screening for hearing loss in newborns, and screening for prostate and colorectal cancer. A print copy of the Guide is available by sending an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov. To access the Guide in html or PDF format, please visit www.ahrq.gov/clinic/pocketgd.htm. Task Force recommendations are also available on the electronic Preventive Services Selector (ePSS). The ePSS is an electronic tool, available on the web or downloadable to a PDA, which enables clinicians to search for USPSTF recommendations based on a patient’s age, sex, and risk factors. The ePSS can be accessed at www.epss.ahrq.gov.

Report Details Older Workers’ Job Market Challenges

A new study from the MetLife Mature Market Institute reports that many Americans over the age of 55 plan to work at least until age 69, but that most who look for a job face challenges in finding one. Yet, Department of Labor projections indicate that the 55+ population will account for almost 93 percent of the net increase in the U.S. Civilian Labor Force between 2006 and 2016. The research found in “Buddy, Can You Spare a Job? The New Realities of the Job Market for Aging Baby Boomers” contains insights and advice for older job-seekers. It combines a survey of over 1,200 individuals aged 55 to 70 with in-depth interviews of both job-seekers and employment experts. Conducted in collaboration with David DeLong & Associates, a research and consulting firm with expertise in workforce issues, the report can be downloaded from www.maturemarketinstitute.com under “What’s New.” It also can be ordered by e-mailing maturemarketinstitute@metlife.com.

NIA Issues Tipsheet for Clinical Trial Use

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has released a new tipsheet for participants in clinical trials. Institutions are invited to use this resource when dealing with participants during research programs. The publication includes safeguards to protect participants and a glossary of terms for reference. Visit www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications to download an electronic version or to order hard copies.

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RAND is pleased to announce the 17th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 12-15, 2010. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 12-13) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics and Epidemiology of Aging (July 14-15). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2010 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations. Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/.

For additional information, please contact Diana Malouf (malouf@rand.org). RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health.
**ESPO in Review 2009**

**Elections**
ESPO recently elected a new slate of officers for the upcoming year. Congratulations to incoming Chair Kelly Fitzgerald, new Chair-Elect Natalie Leland Wiatrowski, Secretary Amanda Matzek, and Technology Chair Hannah Marston. ESPO is always looking for new members to get involved. If you would like to participate, contact ESPO at gsaespo@gmail.com.

**Membership and Participation**
ESPO enjoyed a surge in membership between 2008 and 2009. At mid-year, there were 1,121 ESPO members, representing approximately one-quarter of the total GSA membership. ESPO members are a very important part of the organization and have many opportunities to get involved in governance, network with other professionals, and get access to resources that target the needs of emerging scholars.

A major goal this year was to increase communication and participation among ESPO members outside of the annual meeting. An ESPO Facebook page, Twitter account, and academic blog were some creative solutions to reach this goal. Please check them out online if you haven’t already done so. We have used Facebook and Twitter to keep ESPO members updated about events as well as matching up roommates for the annual meeting in Atlanta.

Facebook: Join the group “GSA Emerging Scholar & Professional Organization” and friend request “GSA ESPO”
Twitter: gsaespo@gmail.com.
GSA ESPO webpage: www.geron.org/Students
E-mail: gsaespo@gmail.com.

**Family and Career Survey**
Many ESPO members struggle to balance career development with family and personal goals. Outgoing ESPO Chair Kara Bottiggi-Dassel designed and sent out the Family and Career Survey to gain a better understanding of the demographics and needs of ESPO members. The results were then presented in Atlanta at the ESPO Presidential Symposium, “Early Career Challenges: Issues and Perspectives on Professional Careers and Family Planning.”

**Campus Ambassadors Program**
This program is going strong and continues to develop. ESPO is seeking both student and regular GSA members to serve as campus ambassadors and faculty advisors, respectively. Volunteering as a campus ambassador is a fun and easy way to establish a strong professional and social network on campus for all things gerontology-related. Each local program must also have a faculty advisor who serves as a liaison with the university and as a resource for the campus ambassador. To learn more about the program, visit the campus ambassadors section of the GSA website or e-mail campusambassadors@geron.org.

**ESPO Calendar**
To commemorate GSA’s 65th anniversary, ESPO has developed a 2010 fundraising calendar. It features fun photographs of aging adults and the proceeds will support ESPO programs! It is being offered as a complimentary gift with any ESPO donation (tax-deductible) of $25 or more. See the ad below for further details.

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SUPPORT Student Programs and Activities! Make an ESPO donation of $25 or more and you will receive this colorful calendar as our thanks to you!

Great gift for the holidays!
www.geron.org/calendar
36th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, The Peppermill, Reno, NV

Save the Date: March 4–7, 2010

The AGHE Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference is the premier national forum for discussing ideas and issues in gerontological and geriatric education. Educators, clinicians, administrators, researchers, and students share their experiences, expertise, and innovations regarding teaching and learning about aging and older persons.

Registration opens December 2009

www.aghe.org/am

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