Dear Colleagues:

It is with great enthusiasm that I address you as the President of GSA for the 2005 year. It is an extraordinary honor to serve in this capacity and I am proud to act on behalf of the nation’s leading gerontological researchers. The 2005 Annual Meeting theme that we have selected is “The Interdisciplinary Mandate,” a theme particularly salient to the Gerontological Society of America, founded in 1945 on the tenets of interdisciplinarity as the basis for excellence in the science of aging. Our program committee is the essence of interdisciplinarity and each member has provided a perspective that has enhanced the quality of our 2005 annual meeting.

There has never been a time when the nation has been more focused regarding the interdisciplinary mandate. We are optimistic that your important work will reflect what GSA is doing to address these imperatives. As you prepare your abstracts and consider your meeting plans, our executive committee for 2005 challenges you to develop a submission with colleagues outside of your immediate discipline. Initiate conversations both now and at the meeting with scientists you rarely encounter and consider where the synergies might take place across your respective programs of research. You never know!

The Gerontological Society of America is not only interdisciplinary from our charter, but also by virtue of the way our sections and members of our sections relate and inter-relate. Our structure provides a rich array of ways to share ideas and opportunities that help advance the science of aging and the creation of new knowledge for the betterment of older Americans.

GSA serves a unique role for all of us in the way it brings together diverse scientists and creates an opportunity for conversation among us. Our journals are stronger each successive year, and play a crucial role in the translation of new knowledge for the scientific public as well as the public at large. As we move into the e-journal era, I can only imagine us becoming more relevant and timelier in this transmittal of knowledge.

As an active member, I am often asked how one can become more involved in the Society and the answer is simply, “let us know.” Our staff members are extremely enthusiastic about tapping into the wealth of experience, energy and creativity that our membership represents, and there is every opportunity to join committees, interest groups, special events, congressional briefings and countless other activities of the GSA. Please let us know so we can engage you and use your special talents.

I look forward to working with you, strengthening friendships and making new ones.

Call for Papers Followed Closely by Abstract Deadline

The Call for Papers for the 2005 annual meeting will shortly be available both in the mail and on GSA’s website. Visit www.geron.org to download the abstract submission form. Abstracts received by postal or express mail must be received at GSA headquarters by close of business on March 15, 2005. Please note that this is NOT a postmark date. The submission must be in the office by the deadline and there will be no exceptions.
Fourth Careers in Aging Week Slated for Mid-April

T he Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) are proud to present the 4th annual “Careers in Aging Week”, taking place the week of April 11-15, 2005. The purpose of this week is to introduce to a broad audience the wide-ranging career opportunities that exist in aging and aging research and to promote GSA and AGHE as the premier organizations for supporting career development in the field of gerontology.

AGHE has created a website called www.carersinaging.com that provides extensive information on the different career tracks in gerontology, as well as the best academic programs to get one started on that career path. The site was created to be a resource for people who are totally unfamiliar with the field of aging as well as for those who may have some knowledge but want to know more about aging-related careers.

GSA and AGHE extend an invitation to its members as well as members of Sigma Phi Omega, the gerontological honor society, to participate. Members are asked to submit brief proposals to GSA of activities to take place on their campuses or organizations during the week. Examples of proposed activities include sponsoring forums with panels of professionals in the aging field. Others include receptions with gerontology faculty and students and open houses in university gerontology departments. Over thirty schools participated in the event in 2002, seventy schools in 2003 and ninety in 2004.

In addition to the website, GSA and AGHE have created special printed material including careers in aging brochures and booklets, flyers, posters, pins and notepads. We will also provide publicity for the event, promoting activities on our websites and in our publications.

For more information or to sign your institution up to participate, please contact Lindsay McCartney at lmccartney@geron.org or 202-842-1275.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy
The Commonwealth Fund of New York invites applicants for the 2006 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy. The deadline for the receipt of applications is March 1, 2005.

The fellowships give outstanding American professionals at a mid-career level the opportunity to study, travel, and gain practical experience in public policy in New Zealand, including firsthand knowledge of economic, social, and political reforms and management of the government sector. The program aims to reinforce New Zealand/United States links, improve public policy development by the cross-fertilization of ideas and experience, and build a network of public policy experts on both sides of the Pacific. Two to three Fellowships will be awarded for six months, starting in January/February 2006. For information and an application, see the Commonwealth Fund’s Web site at www.cmwf.org/fellowships.

Fellowship Available with U.S. Senate
The John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program is designed to identify and train new leaders in issues affecting seniors. Intended as a career development opportunity for professionals in the field of aging, the program will provide first-hand knowledge in the development and advancement of public policy and legislation that will improve the quality of life for older Americans. Once selected, Heinz Fellows will be responsible for their own placement in a Senate office or on a Senate committee staff. While the Heinz Family Foundation and the Secretary of the Senate may assist Fellows in this process, responsibility for securing placement remains with the Fellow. He or she is expected to schedule interviews directly with the appropriate person in a Senate office or on a Senate committee. More information is available at: http://www.hfp.heinz.org.
Reuben Appointed UCLA’s prestigious Archstone Chair

GSA member David B. Reuben has been awarded the Archstone Chair, a new position designed to help meet the needs of California’s aging population. California currently has the largest elderly population in the nation.

Funding for this position was provided by The Archstone Foundation in Long Beach, CA, a private, non-profit foundation whose mission is to prepare society for the growing needs of an aging society.

Reuben is currently the chief of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Geriatric clinical care has been a long-standing strength of the medical center. Resources from the new chair will be used to support the education of physicians at all levels of training.

Haber Gets Top Props for New Book

The latest issue of the American Journal of Nursing features its annual Book of the Year Awards, which are given to the most valuable texts as chosen by AJN’s panel of judges. GSA member David Haber was one of only two authors noted in multiple categories. He received recognition for his book Health Promotion and Aging (Springer Publishing) in the Gerontologic Nursing and Community & Public Health categories.

Hendricks Wins AGHE’s 2004 Clark Tibbitts Award

Former AGHE President and GSA Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Chair Jon (Joe) Hendricks has been chosen as the 2004 recipient of the Clark Tibbitts Award. This prize is given by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of gerontology and geriatrics education.

Hendricks has also been a previous recipient of the Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award and the Distinguished Career Contribution Award. He currently serves as the dean of the University Honors College at Oregon State University.

Beers and Mezey Receive Distinction

Dr. Mathy Mezey, The John A. Hartford Foundation, and Dr. Mark Beers were recently honored by the Division of Nursing, The Steinhardt School of Education, at New York University for their significant contributions to geriatric nursing.

In Memoriam

Longtime GSA member Carol Gaeta-Jaffe passed away in September 2004 after a several-year bout with Castleman’s Disease. She had been most active in the society as a Clinical Medicine State Membership Liaison, part of a network of state coordinators who serve as local contact persons to provide information on and about the Society and enlarge its membership.

She had also been active in assisting GSA at the Annual Scientific Meetings for the previous 10-12 years.

Smith named new Senate Special Committee on Aging chair

The Senate Republican Conference recently confirmed Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR) as the chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. The panel deals with many issues pertinent to long-term care providers as part of its mission. It is charged with oversight and investigation of programs and issues related to older Americans.

Smith said he plans to pursue an agenda focused on protecting seniors against fraud and abuse, conducting oversight of federal programs and agencies and offering a forum to debate issues.

Smith replaces Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), who stepped down from the position to seek the chairmanship of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Congressional Budget Office says many boomers may retire early

More than 4 million members of the baby boom generation have already left the labor force—even though its leading edge only turns 58 this year, says a new study by the Congressional Budget Office. And if they follow in the footsteps of people now in their early sixties, one-third of baby boomer men and one-half of baby boomer women will be out of the labor force by age 62, the study adds. But many boomers who have already stopped working aren’t basking in affluence. Two-thirds of the men who left early and two-fifths of the women said they did so because they were disabled. Men and women in their 50s and early 60s not in the labor force in 2001, had much lower incomes and fewer assets, according to the study.

Continued on page 4
NIH Report Seeks Stability for Behavioral Sciences
Basic behavioral and social scientists are seeking more attention to their field from the National Institutes of Health, but a report calling for a “secure and stable” home for their research recently received a tepid reception from NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, and a tightening budget may limit what NIH could do even if it wanted to help.

The report came from a 14-member panel led by University of Chicago sociologist Linda Waite, which was asked to assess NIH’s current portfolio in these areas. It tallied $936 million in basic social and behavioral and another $1.75 billion in clinical research in NIH’s 2003 budget of $26.4 billion. This research is vulnerable, however, said the panel, because it is housed mostly at institutes focused on specific diseases or life stages.

The panel proposed a solution: secure funding and a stable home at an existing institute. The top candidate is the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH’s basic research institute.

Congratulations!
The Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) of the Gerontological Society of America has continued to grow as more student members become actively involved each year. We extend our congratulations to the following individuals who have been chosen to serve as the new 2005 officers for the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization:

Michelle Washko- Chair
Lisa Barry- Chair-Elect
Frances Yang- Immediate Past Chair
Katherine Nikzad- Secretary
Leland Waters- Technology Chair
Renee Beard- Publications Committee
Gretchen Alkema- Social Research, Policy and Practice Section
Jim Konopack- Student Paper Awards Committee
Julie Sergeant- Student Paper Awards Committee and Nominations Committee
Laurie MacDougall- Task Force on Women
Kelly Fitzgerald- Public Policy Committee
Corinne Leach- Behavioral and Social Sciences Section
Casey Mayo- Clinical Medicine Section
Sarah Ruiz- Task Force on Minority Issues
Midi Spencer- Humanities and Arts Committee
Heather Menne- Task Force on Interest Groups
Nora Douglas- Membership Committee

Several of the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization members were also recipients of awards given at the recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to the following 2004 winners:

Megan Janke- BSS Student Research Award (Pre-Dissertation)
Yang Yang- BSS Student Research Award (Dissertation)
Sunha Choi- The Student Research Award for the Social Research, Policy and Practice Section
Laurie Corna- Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Interdisciplinary Paper Award
Ayush Batra- The George Sacher Student Award for Biological Sciences

SAVE THE DATE
Mark your calendars for the 2005 annual Gerontological Society of America Conference in New Orleans, LA which will be held from November 18-22. The deadline for abstracts is March 15, 2005. Students wishing to apply for an award must first submit an abstract and be accepted for presentation at the conference. Award deadlines are September 10, 2005. More information on student awards can be found at www.geron.org.
An Assistant or Associate Professor, tenure-earning, is available in the UAB Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine for a PhD. in clinical psychology. Must be licensed as a psychologist in the state of Alabama, and have 5 - 10 years postdoctoral experience conducting research related to cognitive function in the contexts of both normal aging and age-related disease processes. This person will join the Social-Behavioral Science Section of our expanding Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine. The section includes clinical and social and behavioral scientists with current interests in aging and mobility, dementia and dementia care giving, behavioral interventions for incontinence, and nutrition and aging.

Send CV and inquiry to Mr. Peter Bosworth, Administrative Office, 201 CH19, The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), 1530 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-2041. UAB is an EEOC/AA employer.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine is seeking a senior level geriatrician to provide leadership for all of the Division’s clinical programs and to guide the development of initiatives that will lead to an integrated Geriatric Medicine service line. This tenured or tenure earning Associate Professor/Professor level position will provide leadership for the development of an integrated clinical program capable of providing a full continuum of geriatric services including wellness programs, primary care, specialty care, subacute care, acute care, and long-term care. The Clinical Director will also provide oversight and direction for all Geriatric Medicine educational programs, including those serving medical students, residents, and fellows. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Board certification or eligibility in Geriatric Medicine is required. Geriatric fellowship training and expertise in long-term care are preferred. Geriatric patient care responsibilities are expected to represent up to fifty percent of professional effort while educational, research, and administrative effort will be allocated to reflect the applicant’s interests and skills. Opportunities for leadership are presented at both UAB and the affiliated Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center sites.

Contact:
Richard M. Allman, M.D., Director, Division Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1530 3rd Avenue South, CH19 Suite 201, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-2041. UAB is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Female and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

An Assistant Professor position, tenure-earning, is available in the UAB Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine for a PhD with training and three to five years postdoctoral experience in Sociology, Psychology or related field to participate in research studies in aging.

Send CV and inquiry to Mr. Peter Bosworth, Administrative Office, 201 CH19, The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), 1530 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-2041. UAB is an EEOC/AA employer.
The University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) is seeking a dynamic leader at senior faculty level as Director of the MU Center of Excellence on Aging (CEA), an interdisciplinary center with more than 70 fellows representing 20 disciplines. The CEA was officially formed in 2003 in recognition of existing outstanding MU research, education, and practice programs in gerontology. CEA fellows represent such disciplines as nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, veterinary sciences, biochemistry, health services management, health informatics, engineering, law, social work, psychology, sociology, human development and family studies, environmental design, architectural studies, and romance languages. We expect that an exemplary leader in aging, with an interdisciplinary outlook in relation to the Center will enable the CEA to fulfill its potential to strengthen research, graduate, and professional programs while enhancing our land-grant emphasis on outstanding clinical endeavors.

The CEA Director will report to the and to the Vice Provost for Research. The Director will hold an academic appointment as a tenured Associate Professor or Professor in an MU college as well as other relevant collaborative appointments within the University as qualified.

It is expected that the CEA Director will be an international leader in the field of aging who will propel the CEA to achieve world-class status. We seek a Director with exceptional research accomplishments as well as outstanding administrative, intellectual, and programmatic leadership experience. Experience with competitive and noncompetitive fundraising, center and training grants and expertise in program grant development is essential, as is the ability to develop interdisciplinary research, education, and practice teams of faculty.

The University of Missouri is an AA/EOE. To request ADA accommodations, contact (573) 884-7278 (V/TTY). Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.

It is anticipated that the position will be filled in Fall, 2005, however review of applicants will begin on February 15, 2005 and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. Applicants must hold an earned doctoral degree. Please send, in either electronic or hardcopy, a curriculum vitae, statement of interest, and names and addresses of three references that might be contacted to:

Rebecca Johnson, PhD, RN,
Chair, CEA Director Search Committee,
University of Missouri-Columbia,
Sinclair School of Nursing, Room S413,
Columbia, MO 65211
rajohnson@missouri.edu
The Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts and Dr. Jerry H. Gurwitz, Chief, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine is seeking a full time clinician-educator at the Assistant or Associate Professor level. The ideal candidate will be a highly skilled and effective clinician and teacher. Responsibilities will include an active Geriatric practice with six other Geriatricians. The position also includes leadership in developing innovative educational programs for medical students and residents. Minimum qualifications include board certification in Internal Medicine, fellowship training in geriatric medicine, and a current Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics or eligibility for the CAQ. The University of Massachusetts is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer with a strong commitment to fairness and diversity; accordingly, UMass actively seeks and encourages applications from all individuals, independent of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

Please send CV or email and a letter describing qualifications/interests to:

LINDA CARLSON
Administrative Assistant to
Jerry Gurwitz, MD & David Fields, MD
University of Massachusetts Medical School
Biotech Four, Suite 315
377 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01605-2324
linda.carlson@umassmed.edu
Innovation in aging studies begins at Purdue. You can combine a doctoral program of disciplinary depth with interdisciplinary breadth in gerontology to achieve the most useful credential in this emerging field.

Earn the Dual-Title PhD in Gerontology and one of the following fields:

- Communication
- Foods & Nutrition
- Health & Kinesiology
- Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences
- Psychological Sciences
- Sociology
- Veterinary Clinical Sciences
- Veterinary Pathobiology

For more information contact:
Gerald C. Hyner, PhD
Director, Gerontology Program
Associate Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course
hyner@purdue.edu
www.purdue.edu/aging