GSA Remembers Chuck Longino


Since 1991, he had directed the Reynolda Gerontology Program at Wake Forest University and served as the school’s Washington M. Wingate Professor of Sociology. Additionally, he was a professor of public health sciences at the Wake Forest School of Medicine.

“He was a treasured colleague to all of us and an exemplary leader who understood the importance and impact of interdisciplinarity,” said Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, who was Longino’s immediate predecessor as GSA president.

“We were fortunate to have such a remarkable leader in our presence,” Fulmer added, noting that Longino would be remembered for “his capacity to transcend interdisciplinary boundaries.”

Longino was best known as a prolific scholar, speaker, and author who was a world-renowned expert on aging and retirement migration research. Regarding his editorship of The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, he once said the job had “been both more challenging and more fun than anything I have done professionally in my entire 35-year career.”

He was a friend and colleague for many years to former AGHE president Betsy Sprouse, PhD, of the AARP Office of Academic Affairs.

“I met Chuck Longino at AGHE’s first annual meeting in 1975 in Madison, WI. He was at the University of Kansas at the time, and I remember him being so excited about this new field of work,” Sprouse said.

According to Longino, it was his work on aging and retirement migration that helped him win the GSA presidency.

Researchers and health care professionals need to focus attention on combating the causes of obesity among America’s elderly population, according to experts speaking at a mid-January Capitol Hill briefing.

The event was organized by the Alliance for Aging Research. Presenting the latest data were Robert Friedland, PhD, director of Georgetown University’s Center on an Aging Society, and GSA member Richard Suzman, PhD, director of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Program at the National Institute on Aging.

They cited current statistics showing that an estimated 40 percent of individuals aged 60–69 are obese, while approximately 30 percent aged 70–79 are obese.

“You can hardly pick up a newspaper or watch television or access the Internet without hearing about a looming or present epidemic, as it’s often referred to, of obesity. Obesity is now the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States – closing in very fast on number one, which is smoking,” said Daniel Perry, executive director of the Alliance.

“We know now that obesity is a common risk factor for a whole range of chronic age-associated diseases: type II diabetes, heart disease, stroke, sleep apnea, hypertension, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, and even some forms of cancer,” Perry continued.
New Venture Strengthens Journals’ Reach
By James Appleby, RPh, MPH

Readers may recall from previous announcements that at the start of 2009, GSA began a partnership with Oxford University Press on the production, printing, and distribution of our valued journals. Specifically, this commercial publisher has assumed responsibility for The Gerontologist and The Journals of Gerontology (Series A and B), subscriptions for which currently account for a significant portion of the Society’s revenue stream.

From outward appearances, this was a subtle change that may have gone unnoticed by many members. However, the benefits of this arrangement will become more evident as the year progresses and our relationship grows.

I am pleased to share many of the features that are set to be unveiled and discuss their significance. Oxford’s extensive experience affords them the means to improve the journals’ sales, marketing, and subscriptions — allowing us to re-channel GSA’s resources into new and different projects.

As I have stated on several occasions, my top priority is to enhance the Society’s image, influence, and income. This new partnership has the potential to do all three at the same time.

One of Oxford’s first initiatives is to create a digital archive of the publications, allowing access to the complete back catalog of GSA members’ subscribed journals. Currently, only articles published since 2000 are available online in full-text format. A “publish ahead of print” system is also imminent. This means that articles will appear online as soon as the review/editing process is complete, rather than being held until they are placed in a specific journal issue.

Additionally, subscribers will be able to utilize data in new and interesting ways. Oxford provides the capability for charts to be exported to PowerPoint documents, complete with copyright and citation information. Authors can also soon publish online-only supplementary information.

Please rest assured the quality of these journals’ content will remain unaffected, with continued oversight by our appointed editors. There will be no interruption in their coverage with abstracting and indexing services. In fact, Oxford’s extensive network will allow us greater exposure than ever before — especially in the international domain. Our agreement even includes Oxford’s promotion of GSA membership in printed material about the journals and at relevant conferences.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the GSA Task Force on Publication, whose negotiations made these new opportunities possible. If you have any questions about this transition, please use our website’s “Contact Us” form and one of our staff members will be happy to discuss the matter.

James
In Memoriam

GSA Fellow Ruth Knee, MA, passed away on October 8, 2008, at the age of 88. She joined the U.S. Public Health Service in 1943 as one of its first psychiatric social workers. Knee later became that organization’s liaison with the National Institute of Mental Health for policy development and technical assistance. She was also a founding member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), where she served two terms on its Board of Directors and also served on numerous committees, councils, task forces, and planning groups. Knee was co-founder of NASW’s Social Work Pioneers program to honor contributions to the profession. The NASW Knee/Wittman Health & Mental Health Achievement awards were named partly in her honor.

New Publications by Members

• “Handbook of Psychosocial Interventions with Older Adults: Evidence-Based Approaches,” edited by Sherry M. Cummings and Nancy P. Kropf. Published by Routledge Press.

• “Empowered Work Teams in Long-Term Care: Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Residents and Staff,” by Dale Yeatts, Cynthia M. Cready, and Linda Noelker. Published by Professions Press.

Members in the News

• Yale University’s Mary Tinetti, MD, was quoted as an expert on falls in an early November article in The New York Times. She said many older people are afraid to admit to falls because they may appear unable to care for themselves.

• Andrew Wister, PhD, in a January 5, 2009, article in The Ottawa Citizen, discussed the growing focus on gerontology within Canada’s institutions of higher education.

• Joseph Coughlin, PhD, winner of GSA’s 2008 Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging, was featured in the December 3, 2008, edition of The Wall Street Journal. He spoke on the subject of consumer product design for an aging boomer population. Coughlin serves as director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s AgeLab.

• Carol Colleran, CAP, ICADC, and John Culberson, MD, were both interviewed for a December Washington Post column on the subject of elder alcohol abuse during the holiday season. The piece was authored by Abigail Trafford, who researched the topic while attending GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting in November.

• Jacquie Smith, PhD, was quoted in a recent edition of The Los Angeles Daily News due to the publication of a recent article in The Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences. Her research found that older people often reported feeling younger than their biological ages.

• The December 29, 2008, issue of The Chicago Tribune reported on a research investigation headed by Peter Martin, PhD, at the University of Iowa. His team is surveying Iowa centenarians to determine clues surrounding their longevity.

• Linda Waite, PhD, discussed grandparents providing care for grandchildren in the January 4, 2009, edition of USA Today. She had previously reported research on the subject in The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences.

Colleague Connected!

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

He became eligible after referring new member Lichun "Rebecca" Chia.

The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org.

For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

Gloth Takes New Hopkins Post

F. Michael Gloth III, MD, has been appointed director of Outpatient Services for the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. He additionally serves as medical director at various Maryland-area nursing homes. He received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI. After completing a residency in internal medicine at The Union Memorial Hospital, Gloth finished a fellowship in geriatric medicine and gerontology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Helfand Appointed Philadelphia Board Chair

GSA Fellow Arthur E. Helfand, DPM, has been named chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, a non-profit organization established in 1973 as the Area Agency on Aging for the county and city of Philadelphia, PA. Helfand is a professor emeritus at Temple University, an adjunct professor of medicine at the Temple University School of Medicine, and a consultant to Temple University’s Institute on Aging. He formerly worked as a professor and chair at the Department of Community Health, Aging, and Health Policy at the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. Helfand also has served in a consulting capacity for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and has lectured extensively to the academic, professional and lay communities, with a particular expertise in foot problems related to aging, diabetes, and public health.

Wu Transfers to UNC Greensboro

As of January 2009, Bei Wu, PhD, has joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Gerontology Program. She has previously served as a research associate and research methodologist at the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, as a senior research associate at the Center for Health Economics Research in Massachusetts. Wu has extensive experience conducting research on aging and health, including dementia, caregiving, oral health, long-term care, and health services utilization among older adults. She is the principal investigator on two ongoing National Institutes of Health-funded projects on cognitive function and oral health among older adults and on social support, depression, and oral health in late life. Wu received her MS and PhD in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts in Boston.
As GSA's new ESPO secretary, I welcome my first newsletter column as an opportunity to introduce myself, highlight the successes of ESPO over the past year, and introduce some goals for our upcoming year.

As a student who defended her dissertation in December 2008, I was very aware this year of the role of GSA's annual meeting in the lives of its emerging scholars. I keenly observed ESPO's value for professional networking, job hunting, establishing a unique role in the field, and developing interdisciplinary collaboration.

During the past year, ESPO has made progress on several programs including the Campus Ambassadors Program and Ad-Hoc Planning Committee. A major goal this past year was to increase communication and participation among ESPO members outside of the annual meeting. An ESPO Facebook page and academic blog were some creative solutions to reach this goal. Please visit them online (see the web addresses to the right). We had continuing success at the annual meeting with our traditional events such as the paper award, wine and cheese, and fellows/students reception.

To increase participation at the annual meeting, several new ideas were debuted: an ESPO lounge for members to network in an informal setting; the ESPO dine around to give members a chance to network with colleagues over dinner; the creation of materials to get the word out about activities of interest to emerging scholars; and encouragement of participation in the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics meeting in Paris (July 2009).

We continue to explore new ideas to improve the resources available to ESPO members for the coming year. One new idea is the development of a reviewer-in-training program to mentor junior scholars in the process of journal reviews. We also hope to introduce online resources for emerging scholars such as example grant applications and tips for choosing journals for manuscript submission.

We love to hear innovative ideas from ESPO members throughout the year. Please feel free to let us know how ESPO and GSA can better serve the needs of its emerging scholars. Contact me at amberwat@usc.edu.

For more information, see the following resources:

- **ESPO Homepage**
  www.geron.org/Students/

- **ESPO Blog**
  http://gsa-espo.blogspot.com/

- **Facebook**
  www.facebook.com
  Search: GSA Emerging Scholar & Professional Organization

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organization that focused on teaching aging, and so enthusiastic about the work he was doing in aging,” Sprouse said. “In the 30-plus years since, I don’t think Chuck ever lost that excitement and genuine pleasure in his chosen career. He was a warm and caring person, always interested in what you were doing, and always with a few words of advice or just kindness.”

Longino’s career earned him recognition and leadership positions at other professional associations as well. He previously served as chair of the Section on Aging and the Life Course of the American Sociological Association and was a former president of the Southern Gerontological Society.

Before joining Wake Forest’s faculty, he had worked at the University of Miami, the University of Kansas, the University of Virginia, and the University of North Carolina. In the mid-1970s, he was a post-doctoral fellow in the Midwest Council for Social Research in Aging. He received his doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his Master of Arts degree at Colorado University, and his Bachelor of Arts degree at Mississippi College.

Longino’s family has requested that any donations in his memory be given to GSA. This can be accomplished by visiting www.geron.org and clicking “Donate Now” under the “Support GSA” top menu item.

Sprouse said Longino’s passing leaves a void among those he touched during his lifetime.

“Like most of us, I will miss Chuck’s warmth, kindness, and genuine caring for his gerontological colleagues.”

[Image: Longino and wife, Loyce, pictured at the 2006 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting.]

[Image: Longino and Fulmer, pictured during the transfer of presidential office at the 2005 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting.]
Our new president, Barack Obama, has promised to bring change to the nation’s capital. The sense of excitement is palpable, even though everyone knows change is hard. Can we really expect less power for lobbyists, less partisanship, and more transparency? Those of us who care about the nation’s older adults and the needs of aging boomers certainly hope so.

There are early signs of change, such as the new president’s style and apparent willingness to work with Republicans and those who disagree with him.

For those of us who expect this administration to fix the health care system, there are very positive signs of understanding and willingness to fight to get the job done. There have been nominations and appointments (former Senator Tom Daschle as secretary of Health and Human Services and Jeanne Lambrew as deputy director of the White House Office of Health Reform) that are very promising for the health care reform cause. In addition, we may be lucky enough to see some of our fellow aging advocates working in the administration.

For those looking for the government to play a larger role in addressing the needs of older adults with chronic illnesses and those in need of long-term services and supports, there is some, but limited, hope for change. With annual budget deficits on the road to more than a trillion dollars, shoring up Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will be more than enough for this president. Yet his commitment to the social insurance programs that have lifted so many older adults out of poverty puts many advocates in a position of looking for ways to improve programs instead of defending their existence. But protecting the entitlement programs should not be removed from our aging agenda.

Another sign of change occurred on January 19, 2009, the day before the inauguration. Obama declared Martin Luther King Jr. Day a “Day of Service.” An organization called ServiceNation hosted an inspirational breakfast attended by Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), who recounted his experiences of marching with Dr. King. Chairman George Miller (D-CA) of the House Education and Labor Committee and others working toward passage of the GIVE Act and the Serve America Act rallied the group to push for passage in the first 100 days of the new administration.

GSA, through its policy initiative, is working to ensure some of the change is designed to improve the lives of older adults. We have communicated to the Obama transition team (through the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations) our strong support for an immediate increase of National Institutes of Health funding, support for service programs, and many other programs serving America’s aging population.

There are indications that additional funds will be provided for research in the House draft of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ($2 billion for the National Institutes of Health, including $1.5 billion for research on Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Diseases, cancer and heart disease). In addition, there are some funds for training to address the shortage of primary health care providers including physicians, dentists, and nurses, and funds for the National Health Service Corps ($600 million). There will also be funds for older Americans nutrition programs ($200 million).

As I have mentioned in a previous column, we have already seen the president’s strong support for service opportunities and his commitment to signing the Serve America Act. The drafts of the Recovery Act that we have seen to date include $200 million for AmeriCorps and $120 million for subsidized community service jobs for an additional 24,000 low-income older adults under Title V of the Older Americans Act. The bill also addresses the growing need for Medicaid, SSI, energy assistance, and block grant increases.

Next month I hope to be able to provide the final amounts for all of the aging-related aspects of the Recovery Act. For now, we will keep our efforts focused on educating a new Administration and Congress about affecting change in these policy areas.

Newest PPAR Looks Into Senior Tax Breaks

Be sure to check out the latest Public Policy & Aging Report, “Aging and Tax Policy.”

- Income Tax Breaks for the Elderly — How Did We Get Here?
- Federal Taxes and the Elderly
- Older Americans and Federal Income Taxation
- Revisiting State Tax Preferences for Seniors
- State and Local Property Tax Burdens in 2005

Copies of this Public Policy & Aging Report, as well as copies of past issues, may be ordered online by visiting the National Academy on an Aging Society’s web site at www.agingso ciety.org or by calling 202-587-2842.
European Societies Facing Demographic Shift
A new European Commission report describes the results of 2008 population projections for Europe, assuming a scenario of demographic convergence based on assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration. The study finds that the share of European people aged 65+ is projected to increase from 17.1 percent in 2008 to 30 percent in 2060; and whereas in 2008 there were four persons of working age for every person aged 65 or over, in 2060 the ratio is expected to be two to one. The complete analysis is available at epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_ad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-SF-08-072.

Discrepancies Found Among US, Canadian Drug Prices
A new Fraser Institute report has analyzed prices for the drugs most commonly prescribed to Canadian seniors in 2007, and compares Canadian and American prices for brand name and generic prescription drugs. The studies found that Canadian seniors pay an average of 101 percent more than American seniors for identical generic drugs; and Canadian seniors pay an average 57 percent less than their American counterparts for identical brand name drugs. The report concludes that higher Canadian generic prices are caused by government policies that shield pharmacies and manufacturers from market forces that would put downward pressure on generic prices. See www.fraserinstitute.org/researchandpublications/publications/6114.aspx for the full report.

UK Seniors Caught by Speed Cameras
The Times reports that UK Seniors are the hardest hit by speed traffic cameras, according to survey information provided by the Transport Research Laboratory. It found that the number of men aged 60 and over receiving penalty points for speeding increased by 540 percent between 1997-2003. Among women aged 60 and over, there was a 1,200 percent rise. By contrast, the number of drivers under age 25 caught for speeding grew by only 18 percent. The study, based on an analysis of the records of 300,000 motorists, also showed that between 2003-2005 there were almost three times as many drivers aged 60 and over with speeding convictions as drivers aged under 25. From 1997-1999, young offenders outnumbered older ones by more than two to one. The study’s authors said that the low number of older drivers being prosecuted for speeding in the 1990s might be explained in part by police showing more leniency to them than to young drivers.

Korea’s Elderly Crime Rate Jumps
The Korea Herald has reported that crimes and suicides are rising among the older population of South Korea. The number of senior citizens committing crimes more than doubled from 1996 to 2006. According to findings from the Korean Institute of Criminology, the number of senior convicts aged 61 and over jumped from 34,492 in 1996 to 82,323 in 2006. This means 4.3 percent of total criminals in 2006 were committed by seniors, up from 1.8 percent in 1996. Among the types of crimes, three major types — murder, arson and sex crimes — saw a sharp increase. The number of senior murderers nearly tripled from 20 people in 1996 to 59 in 2006, while the number of arsonists jumped more than six-fold from seven to 46 people. A total of 423 seniors were involved in sex crimes in 2006, more than four times the figure of 94 in 1996.

Japanese Population Dramatically Shrinking
According to Reuters, a Japanese government report has shown that Japan experienced a record-high number of deaths in 2008. The data, based on preliminary figures of births and deaths registered at Japanese municipal offices, estimated there were 51,000 more deaths than births in 2008. The number of deaths rose an estimated 35,000 to 1,143,000, the highest since data started to be compiled in 1947. The number of babies born in 2008 (a leap year) was likely to have risen by 2,000 from a year earlier to 1,092,000. The first time Japan saw more deaths than births was in 2005. This was reversed in 2006, but deaths overwhelmed births again in 2007 and 2008. Japan expects more than a quarter of its citizens to be aged over 65 by 2015 and its population is set to shrink by a third in 50 years if current trends continue.

Irish Nursing Home Survival Rates Low
The Irish Times reports that older patients discharged from Irish hospitals to long-term care in nursing homes live 30 months on average. The survival time of these frail elderly patients is just half that of the corresponding community-dwelling group. The data was published in the Irish Medical Journal, which followed 1,552 patients discharged to nursing homes from 1997-2003. A random sample of 210 patients from the seven-year period was then chosen for detailed analysis. The patients had an average age of 82 and almost one in three was female. On average, the patients studied lived for a further 30.3 months following transfer to a nursing home. This compares with a normal life expectancy of 67 months for an Irish man aged 82, and 85 months for an Irish woman of the same age.

EU Presidency To Highlight Aging Issues
The Czech EU Presidency, which began on January 1, 2009, has announced a commitment to improve cooperation and actions aimed at better meeting the needs of older people. As detailed on a new website, www.eu2009.cz/en/important-events-3294, the presidency plans a series of conferences and events on aging issues: the Conference on Social Services (April 22-23), focusing on how services can mobilize workforce and social cohesion; the Conference on the Financial Sustainability of Health Systems (May 11-12), focusing on the rights of vulnerable groups as well as the challenges for social services; and the European Conference on Dignity and Hazard in the Elderly (25-26 May), which will focus on elderly dignity, abuse and neglect, deinstitutionalization of care, development of long-term care and community care.
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Pauline Komnenich
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Joan Lesage
Valerie Levy
Phoebe Liebig
Lewis Lipsitz
George Maddox
Wiley Mangum
George Martin
Katie Maslow
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William McAuley
Nancy Morrow-Howell
Miriam Moss
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Jon Pynoos
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Sara Rix
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Ken Schmader
Carol Schutz
Barbara Silverstone
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**SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE SECTION ENDOWMENT FUND**
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Timothy Kaufman
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Linda Breytspraak
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**DORIS SCHWARTZ GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING AWARD ENDOWMENT FUND**
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Mathy Mezey
Sheila Molony
Barbara Resnick
Carole Smyth

To make a 2009 donation to any of the Society’s funds, please visit www.geron.org and click on the “Support GSA” tab.
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The briefing occurred just one week after the National Center for Health Statistics reported that the number of obese Americans is now greater than the number of those who are merely overweight. Friedland pointed out that in many areas of the country, the obese portion of the population has doubled in the last twenty years. He also demonstrated that among Americans over the age of 50, the percentage of obese persons with chronic conditions is much higher than their non-obese counterparts.

Suzman’s presentation focused on the consequences of elderly obesity and research on new remedies to combat it. Specifically, he detailed recent activities with a behavioral economics approach — where test subjects were given rewards for satisfactory performance.

“For incentives to matter, they have to be relatively immediate,” Suzman said, adding that understanding this type of behavior is important in finding out how to change long-held habits.

He cited a 2008 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association that showed those who received rewards for losing weight were much more successful than those who received only initial counseling and monthly weigh-ins.

“Information alone is rarely sufficient to get people to change risky behaviors,” Suzman said. As a result, the National Institutes of Health is currently undertaking one of its Roadmap Development Efforts focus solely on the science of behavior change. Seventeen institutes and centers have partnered for this initiative to develop methods to increase the efficacy and cost effectiveness of behavioral interventions.

The briefing was part of the Alliance’s “Diseases in the Shadows” series, which is made possible by a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation. The office of Congressman Brian Bilbray (R-CA) hosted the event at the Rayburn House Office Building.

Policy Fellows Program Prepares for Second Year

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program, a unique professional fellowship opportunity, is now accepting applications for its second year. Supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and directed by Harold Alan Pincus, MD, (in collaboration with the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program), this national program seeks to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. The program offers two different tracks for individual placement: (1) a residential track that includes a nine-to-12-month placement in Washington, DC, as a legislative assistant in Congress or a professional staff member in an executive agency, policy organization, or at a state agency; and (2) a non-residential track that includes a health policy project and brief placement(s) throughout the year at relevant sites. Core program components focused on career development and professional enrichment are provided for fellows in both tracks. The program is open to physicians, nurses and social workers at all career stages with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues and a desire to be involved in health policy at the federal, state or local levels. Other professionals with clinical backgrounds (e.g., pharmacists, dentists, clinical psychologists) working in the field of health and aging are also eligible to apply. Under special circumstances, exceptions may be made for non-clinicians who are in positions that can impact health policy for older Americans at a clinical level. The program has also agreed to partner with the John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging. The two initiatives have combined to create the joint John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship. Each year, one individual will be designated the John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow. The application deadline for the 2009-2010 fellowship year is April 15, 2009. For further information, please visit www.healthandagingpolicy.org.

Grants To Boost Heart Failure Research

The National Institutes of Health seeks grant applications to further promote research on the role of nutrition and diet in the causation, prevention, and treatment of cardiomyopathies and heart failure. Basic, translational, and applied interdisciplinary research applications with rigorous hypothesis-testing study designs using animals or humans are of interest. The overall goal is to develop a satisfactory scientific base for preventive approaches in high-risk individuals and for rational nutritional management of patients in various stages of heart failure. The total project period for this funding opportunity may not exceed two years. Direct costs are limited to $275,000 over a two-year period, with no more than $200,000 in direct costs allowed in any single year. The deadline for applications is May 8, 2009. For complete details, please visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-136.html.

NIA Moneys Target Neuroplasticity Studies

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) invites applications for the study of factors regulating neuroplasticity with a particular emphasis on the age-dependent changes in the functions of dendrites, spines, and synapses of key cell types in regions of brain especially vulnerable in Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and in models (in vitro and in vivo) of aging and of AD. Neuroplasticity refers to the changes in both structure and function of the brain that occur in response to experiential stimuli. This ability of the brain to reorganize itself is critical both in normal development and learning, and it is no less important in aging and neurodegenerative disorders. The decline of cognitive functions in aging and disease, especially those functions that rely upon the medial temporal lobe and prefrontal cortex, appears to stem, at least in part, from selective changes in synaptic function and integrity. This funding opportunity announcement will expire January 8, 2012. For complete details, please visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-061.html.
Awards for the best research-based paper and poster presentations by GSA’s emerging scholar and trainee members were presented at the 61st Annual Scientific Meeting. The Society would also like to thank the members of the selection committees for their hard work and dedication to making this year’s award selection a success.

For information on how to apply for GSA’s awards, please visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards.

Congratulations to the 2008 Recipients!

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SECTION**

George Sacher Student Award
Jennifer Mozolic • Wake Forest University School of Medicine
“Cognitive Training Impacts Brain Structure and Functionality of Healthy Older Adults in a Randomized Controlled Trial”

Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award
Benedetta Bartali • Yale University School of Medicine
“The Effect of Leptin on Changes in Energy Intake in Community-Living Older Persons”

**BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES SECTION**

Student Research Award – Pre-Dissertation
Susan G. Kelsey • University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health
“Caregiver Perspectives About Transitioning a Family Member with Dementia from Assisted Living to a Memory Care Unit”

Student Research Award – Dissertation
Gyeon Kim • University of South Florida
“Correlates of Mental Health Service Use Among Latino and Asian Immigrant Elders: Results from the National Latino and Asian American Study”

**HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION**

Person-In-Training Award
Sandra Webber • University of Manitoba
“Effects of Ankle Power Training on Movement Time in Older Women”

Research Award
Christopher Masi • University of Chicago
“Heart Rate Variability is Inversely Related to Serum CRP in a Population-Based Sample of Older Adults”

**SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE SECTION**

Student Research Award – Junior Scholar
Eric Jurkowitz • Thomas Jefferson University
“Cost Effectiveness of the ABLE Program: A Proven Home-Based Occupational and Physical Therapy Intervention”

Student Research Award – Senior Scholar
Christina Kang • University of Pennsylvania
“The Effects of Resident Racial Mix and Medicaid Census on Disparities in Quality Care and Quality of Life Across Nursing Homes in New York State”

**EMERGING SCHOLAR & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**

Interdisciplinary Paper Award
Robert Young • Georgia State University
“African-American Longevity Advantage: Fact or Fiction? A Racial Comparison of Supercentenarian Data”

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AN OLDER AMERICA INITIATIVE**

Junior Scholar Award
Amy Cohen-Callow • University of Maryland
“Factors Related to Volunteer Behaviors: Testing the Model of Sustained Volunteerism”

Senior Scholar Award
Kyong Hee Chee • Texas State University
“Predicting Retirees’ Interest and Participation in Their Communities”

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

HS Person-in-Training Award
Jennifer Deal • Johns Hopkins University
“Anemia and 9-Year Domain-Specific Cognitive Decline in Community-Dwelling Older Women: The Women’s Health and Aging Study II”

HS Research Award
Kushang Patel • National Institute on Aging
“Red Cell Distribution Width and the Risk of Death in Middle-aged and Older Adults”

SRPP Student Research Award – Junior Scholar
Christina Miyawaki • University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare
“Preferences of Japanese American Baby Boomers About Senior Social Services and Senior Center Programs”

SRPP Student Research Award – Senior Scholar
Esteban Calvo • Boston College
“(Un)Happy Transitions into Retirement”
The Gerontological Society of America fosters new ideas, recognizes leadership in gerontological teaching and service, and salutes both outstanding and potential research through a host of awards. The Society's awards program has a dual purpose: to honor leaders in the field and to focus attention on new developments. For a full description of nomination requirements, the list of past awardees, or more details, please visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards or e-mail GSA's awards coordinator at awards@geron.org.

**CAREER AWARDS**

In order to be considered for the following awards, nominations must be submitted by the first Monday in May. Nominations should be submitted via e-mail to awards@geron.org. Please visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards for specific award criteria. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

**Society-Wide**

Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award: This award carries a $1,000 prize and acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology.

Donald P. Kent Award: This award is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.

Robert W. Kleemeier Award: This award is given annually to a GSA member in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology.

M. Powell Lawton Award: This award carries a $2,500 prize and is presented to an individual to honor contributions from applied gerontological research that have benefited older people and their care.

Maxwell A. Pollock Award for Productive Aging: This award carries a $10,000 prize in recognition of instances of practice informed by research and analysis, research that directly improved policy or practice, and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice.

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award: This award carries a $300 prize and is presented to a GSA member who has a record of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research.

Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award: This award recognizes individuals who have exemplified outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging.

Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology This award, which carries a $2,000 prize, solicits original papers that provide an interdisciplinary perspective on social gerontology theory, new theoretical frameworks that cross disciplinary boundaries, and the single disciplinary theoretical paradigm.

**Biological Sciences Section**

Nathan Shock New Investigator Award: This award is given annually for innovative and influential publications. It carries a $1,500 prize and is designed to acknowledge outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**

Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award: This award is presented annually to an individual whose contributions over the course of his or her career have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature.

Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award: This award is given to individuals who have fostered in, and had a major impact on, the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues.

Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award: This award, which is accompanied by a $500 prize, recognizes insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences. Any empirical or conceptual publication that represents state-of-the-art thinking in aging and life course development is eligible.

**Health Sciences Section**

Joseph T. Freeman Award: This award carries a $250 prize and is given for lectureship in geriatrics to a prominent physician in the field of aging, both in research and practice.

**Paper Awards**

In order to be considered for the following awards, applicants must submit their abstracts (no later than April 1, 2009) for presentation at GSA's Annual Scientific Meeting. See www.geron.org for submission details. Once the abstract has been accepted, GSA's awards coordinator will contact presenters for the required materials.

**Biological Sciences Section**

George Sacher Student Award: This $500 award is given to the best student presentation by a GSA member from the Biological Sciences Section at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**

Student Research Awards: These awards are given for completed empirical studies dealing with a topic of relevance to GSA's Behavioral and Social Sciences Section. There are two levels: (1) The Dissertation Level, which is a $1,000 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Pre-Dissertation Level, a $500 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who has yet to attain their doctoral degree.

**Health Sciences Section**

The Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award: This $400 award is designed to encourage research and to foster interest among students in the Health Sciences Section to play an active role in the Society's annual meetings. The $400 award is given to the best post-doctoral fellow presentation by a GSA member from the Health Sciences Section at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Late breaking posters will be eligible for this award.

Research Award: This $1,000 award is given to a new investigator in the Health Sciences Section. It is designed to encourage postdoctoral research and encourage participation in the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Person-in-Training Award: This $500 award is given for an exemplary paper written by a student member of the Health Sciences Section.

**Social Research, Policy & Practice Section**

Student Research Awards: These manuscripts must address a significant research, policy, or practice topic and be research-based, conceptual or analytical, and contribute to the body of knowledge. There are two levels: (1) The Carroll Estes Senior Scholar, a $500 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Elaine Brody Junior Scholar, a $250 award presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who has yet to attain their doctoral degree.

**Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO)**

Interdisciplinary Paper Award: This $250 award is given for the best interdisciplinary research paper on an aging-related topic by a GSA ESPO member. Papers may be empirical or theoretical.

Poster Awards: ESPO offers five awards for exemplary posters.

**Civic Engagement in an Older America Project**

Civic Engagement Paper Awards: These papers should focus on an aspect of civic engagement and explore questions related to federal, state, or local policy initiatives that maximize involvement of older adults in meaningful, productive civic roles, including work, caregiving, and volunteering. There are two levels: (1) Senior Scholar, a $1,000 award to recognize outstanding papers on the topic of civic engagement as it relates to older adults; and (2) Junior Scholar, a $500 award to recognize outstanding papers on the topic of civic engagement as it relates to older adults, eligible to applicants who received their doctorate no more than five years ago.
Wayne State Shares in Philanthropic Funds
Detroit-based Adult Well-Being Services and Wayne State University’s Institute of Gerontology will share in $275,000 in grant funding to document the social, economic and health status of Southeast Michigan seniors. The Kresge Foundation, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and American House Foundation are funding the first phase of the two-year pilot program. The project is modeled after the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Kids Count! Program, which measures the well-being of children across the country. The data collected on local seniors will help better plan services and advocacy efforts for the Southeast Michigan senior population, which is expected to double in the next 30 years.

AP Grant Continues Boston University’s Social Work Programs
The Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW) at the Boston University School of Social Work has announced the receipt of a five-year, $3.1 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) to continue IGSW’s efforts in preparing the social services workforce for an aging society. Since it was established with initial funding from AP in 2002, IGSW has become a national leader in provision of post-professional training in aging, improving the practice of social workers and others who care for older people and their families. Over the past six years, IGSW has trained more than 47,000 practitioners in all 50 states and in more than 24 countries, and has pioneered regional and statewide workforce development projects. The final capacity-building grant from AP will strengthen IGSW’s leadership in developing innovative online educational programs in aging — the cornerstone of its workforce projects.

CWRU Receives Prestigious McGregor Grants
The McGregor Foundation, in its semiannual round of grants, has distributed $201,410 to Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) for projects focused on aging. This includes $100,000 for the CWRU President’s Strategic Initiative Fund. The balance will go to the university’s School of Medicine to train staff to care for residents suffering from heart failure.

UT Enhances Geriatric Training Programs
The University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center at Houston will soon launch a new program, Training Excellence in Aging Studies (TEXAS), to promote geriatrics training for physicians through a $2 million award from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and $1.25 million in matching funds. TEXAS has five components: a medical school curriculum including virtual case-based learning in all four years; an education program using electronic “sound bytes” with geriatric principles and geriatrics case studies for residents from internal medicine, family and community medicine, emergency medicine, neurology, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, urology and physical medicine, and rehabilitation; a program to educate faculty from multiple disciplines to reinforce geriatric competencies among residents in their specialty areas; the Reynolds Visiting Professor Program, which will bring in experts from other Reynolds Foundation sites to share their expertise; and the implementation of elder abuse education seminars.

Indiana School’s Aging Program Finds Success
The University of Southern Indiana’s Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, established in late 2008, is generating interest among students. In recent years, the school’s College of Nursing and Health Professions has developed an increasing number of courses related to gerontology, even offering it as a minor. The number of USI students studying the social, psychological and biological aspects of aging has increased 43 percent since 2001, according the university. Most recently, the center sponsored an initiative to teach nurses at a local nursing home to use ultrasound bladder scanners.

Minnesota Funds To Enhance Nursing Studies
With the support of a $300,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, researchers at the University of Minnesota’s School of Nursing and School of Public Health — together with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Minneapolis, MN, and Palo Alto, CA — are teaming up to study better ways to care for heart failure patients. The grant is part of the Foundation’s Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative, which aims to generate, disseminate, and translate research to understand how nurses contribute to and can improve the quality of patient care.

ACE Documents Older Americans’ Education Trends
The American Council on Education (ACE) has released a new report on older adults in higher education. The publication, “Mapping New Directions: Higher Education for Older Adults,” found that older adults are more likely than those under 25 to attend community colleges; more than 40 percent of colleges and universities responding to a survey said that they did not identify older adult students for outreach, programs and services, or financial aid; and older adults are more interested in programs if they are marketed as “third age” or “lifelong learning,” as opposed to “senior” or “older adult.” Researchers found that the top five areas of study for older adults are fine arts/humanities, business management and entrepreneurship, human services and counseling, teaching education, and health services. The report offers tips for institutions seeking to attract this population. The complete document can be found online at www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ProgramsServices/CLLL/Reinvesting/MapDirections.pdf.
Older Immigrants’ Civic Actions Under Spotlight
A new report from the Temple University Center for Intergenerational Learning highlights the ways in which older immigrants contribute to their families and communities, and identifies promising practices and strategies for supporting immigrant elders in civic roles. To learn about the state of civic involvement among immigrant elders, focus groups and individual interviews were conducted in Philadelphia, PA, Atlanta, GA, and Orange County, CA, with 99 immigrant elders from seven major ethno-linguistic groups. Researchers also spoke with key informants in the communities to learn about the current efforts that sustain and promote the civic roles of foreign-born elders. To view the complete text of this report, titled “Community Treasures: Contributions of Older Immigrants and Refugees,” please visit www.projectshine.org/materials/cea.

Direct Care Workers Lack National Standards
The International Longevity Center-USA and the Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education have released a report that presents the findings of a national review of training programs and curricula for direct care workers. Although the review is national in scope, special emphasis is placed on Los Angeles and Orange Counties in Southern California, two of the most diverse and populous areas in the country. The report reveals that there is no national standard for training direct care workers, although many consumers assume these workers are trained. It also outlines best practices and innovations in training direct care workers and serves as a springboard for further research. The complete text of the report is available at www.ilcusa.org/pages/publications/ageism-caregiving-sleep/caregiving-training-in-america-southern-california.php.

Report Explores Environment’s Impact
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility’s (GBPSR) newest report, “Environmental Threats to Healthy Aging,” is the latest in a series of publications that examines environmental influences on health throughout the lifespan and provides personal and policy recommendations. It offers new and compelling scientific arguments for undertaking initiatives that will help meet emergent health challenges of the 21st century, with a focus on preventing diseases and the underlying conditions that drive them and that harm humans and our biosphere. Please contact Marybeth Palmigiano at mpalmigiano@psr.org to obtain a copy of the report.

CMS Issues Rating System for Nursing Home Quality
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the launch of a new ranking system for America’s nursing homes. This tool presents detailed information about every Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the country. The ratings are posted online at www.medicare.gov/NHCompare.

LTC Workforce Investments May Stimulate Economy
A new issue brief from the Paraprofessional Health Institute states that investing in direct-care workers to serve the growing long-term care population is one way to create jobs in communities across the country and help stabilize the economy. The publication provides facts and figures about the impact of the direct-care workforce that the government must take into consideration as it develops and implements strategies for economic recovery. The brief states that increasing and improving direct-care work — especially home health aide, certified nurse aide, and personal care attendant positions — would have a major impact, especially on low-income communities. Between 2006 and 2016, healthcare jobs will continue to outpace overall job creation by a ratio of 2:1. The full text of the brief is available online at phinational.org/archives/phi-releases-issue-brief-on-job-creation.

Research Draws Attention to Demographic Shifts
A new executive summary released by the Boston College Sloan Center on Aging and Work juxtaposes the realities of the aging of the population with the economic challenges state leaders face. This report notes that the variation in states’ demographic and economic situations will ensure that the aging of the population will have differential impacts, and therefore encourages state leaders to purposefully assess their individual state’s readiness for this demographic shift. To view the complete text, visit agingandwork.bc.edu/template_state_profiles.
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Events include guest speakers, career fairs, poster sessions, video presentations, panel discussions, and receptions.

For more information, contact ciaw@geron.org or visit www.careersinaging.com.