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Fellowship Deadline Imminent
The deadline for the submission of applications to become a GSA Fellow is January 15th. Fellowship is recognition by peers for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in GSA. Applicants need to have been a member of the Society for five or more years. For more information, contact Fellowship Coordinator Laurie Johnson at (202) 842-1275 or ljohnson@geron.org.

Call for Papers Approaching
The Call for Papers for the 2006 annual meeting will shortly be available both in the mail and on GSA’s website. Visit www.agingconference.com to download the abstract submission form. As usual, the deadline for the receipt of all abstracts is March 15th.

PBS Documentary To Air This Month
As mentioned in the December 2005 issue of Gerontology News, GSA has partnered with “Almost Home,” a documentary and outreach project. This program will air on PBS stations on January 31st at 10 p.m. For more information, visit www.almosthomedoc.org.

Annual Meeting Nets Thousands for Hurricane Relief

Combined charity donations from the Marriott World Center Resort and attendees at the recent Orlando conference have totaled nearly $47,000, which will be given in the Society’s name to benefit the victims of hurricane Katrina.

As was reported in the October issue of Gerontology News, the Marriott agreed to contribute to this cause on behalf of the convention — based on the number of room nights sold. Individuals also had the option to earmark such funds on the event’s registration forms.

Approximately 3,400 people gathered in Orlando for the meeting after it was relocated from New Orleans in Katrina’s aftermath. The revised closing session, which discussed the evacuation of elders during natural disasters, received coverage from the Orlando Sentinel. Over a dozen members of the press reported from the conference’s press room — representing such news outlets as Internal Medicine World Report, Bannockburn News, and the Erickson Tribune.

Exhibit hall traffic remained heavy throughout the weekend and all space had been sold out since October. Details on reserving booths for the 2006 meeting will be available in early February on www.agingconference.com.

Apply NOW!

Applications for the Hartford Faculty Scholars and Hartford Doctoral Fellows in Geriatric Social Work Programs are due February 1, 2006.

For more information, visit www.gswi.org.
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for electing me as your president. I will try hard to serve you well. The theme of the 2006 meeting will be “Education and the Gerontological Imagination.” The meeting theme is not as quaint as it might seem at first. Good science is imaginative, and all of our endeavors, intellectual and otherwise, are filtered through our perceptions. The issue of creativity in old age is the shortest path from imagination in general to a gerontological imagination. Gene Cohen has made a career of studying creativity in old age, and he finds creative activities to be predictive of good physical and emotional health. Creativity tends to take different forms in old age, however, depending upon one’s educational, economic, and health resources.

There is a whole literature emerging on positive aging, rooted in attempts to counter some of the dismissive aspects of ageism. As scientists, we should take this idea a step further. People creatively adapt to changes in their lives, and sometimes they find creative ways to overcome obstacles, even big ones. We should also be aware that education and personal growth opportunities are important all life long, not just during childhood and youth.

All of us exercise imagination when it comes to the aging body, particularly our own. This, perhaps, is the most accessible aspect of the gerontological imagination. There is a wonderful small literature developing around the issue of embodiment and aging that deals with how the body is imagined. The body is the experiential center through which the human being engages the world in the meaningful practices of everyday life. This “lived body,” in addition to the objectified body presented by science, should be given much more importance in gerontological research. One thinks immediately of James Birren’s emphasis on autobiography and life review and of qualitative research generally. We often take a very limited view of human potential in later life. This is unfortunate because it limits our own imagination of the people we study and serve.

One of the guiding lights of American Sociology in the middle of the last century was C. Wright Mills, who published a book in 1959 called The Sociological Imagination, in which he argued that one cannot understand the workings of the individual or the society without considering both simultaneously. He argued that personal troubles may be shared by many individuals and thus become public issues. The power that comes from that solidarity can pay off in collective action that changes the structures that limit the potential of individuals. The GSA initiative on Civic Engagement is a perfect vehicle for this aspect of the meeting theme. We should pay much greater attention to the interface between the individual and old age policy: the solvency of social security in the future and access to health care now. We should advocate for individuals by nurturing their “gerontological imagination.”

As you prepare your abstract, please consider its relevance to education and the gerontological imagination. Thank you.

Chuck Longino
GSA President

Western Carolina University invites nominations and applications for the

Ambassador Jeanette W. Hyde DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP in GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIAL WORK

The appointment will be made at the rank of professor within the Department of Social Work. The purpose of the Professorship is to provide leadership and visibility for Western’s Department of Social Work and for the field of gerontology as a whole. Applicants must have a master’s degree in social work and a doctoral degree in social work or a related discipline, and a distinguished record in social work education, research and scholarship. Salary is competitive. Curriculum vita, names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of at least three references should be sent to:

Dr. Marie Huff; Department of Social Work;
Western Carolina University; Cullowhee, NC 28723
Society Reaps Benefits of Student Donations

GSA extends its gratitude to East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania student Lindsay Iser, who recently raised over $200 for GSA during a charity event at her school. As a participant in the annual Homecoming Pageant, she was asked to select an organization she felt deserved increased awareness among the university population. Fellow students cast their “votes” by depositing money in her collection box.

Prestigious NIA Award Furthers Gill’s Research

Thomas M. Gill, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine in the Section of Geriatrics at Yale University, was selected for a MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) Award from the National Institutes of Health in recognition of his outstanding record of scientific achievements as a principal investigator on National Institute on Aging (NIA) research projects, his sustained contributions to aging research, and his leadership and commitment to the field. The MERIT Award allows the most meritorious investigators to renew their Research Project Grant (RO1) for an additional five years without having to submit a traditional competing renewal application. In Gill’s case, the MERIT Award will provide up to ten additional years of NIH support for his ongoing longitudinal study, “Epidemiology of Disability and Recovery in Older Persons,” which has led to date to over 20 published reports.

Texans Honored for Public Service

Catherine Hawes and Charles Phillips, both professors of Health Policy and Management in the Texas A&M Health Science Center’s School of Rural Public Health, received the 2005 Public Service Award from the National Citizens’ Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR). They received the awards at NCCNHR’s 30th annual meeting in October, where they were keynote speakers at the conference’s opening session.

New Member Publications


Colleague Connected!

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Bert Hayslip
(He became eligible after referring new member Benjamin Chapman.)

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

Don’t forget… Important Dates for the 2006 Annual Meeting

• Deadline for Advertising in the Program Book - January 6, 2006
• Deadline for “Early Bird” Pre-Registration – January 26, 2006
• Deadline for Reserving Exhibit Space - January 6, 2006
• Deadline for Hotel Reservations – January 18, 2006

2005-2006 AGHE Fellows Selected

Fellow status is an honor conferred by AGHE in recognition of outstanding leadership in gerontology/geriatrics education by established scholars/educators. Fellowship status is open to individuals with well-established careers of achievement in gerontology/geriatrics education who are employed by an AGHE member institution. Qualifications include outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship, and research on educational issues, influential research publications or theoretical contributions used in gerontology/geriatric education and training, or leadership in administration and funding of gerontology/geriatric educational programs, including development of new programs.

AGHE is pleased to announce the 2005–2006 Fellows in Gerontology and Geriatrics Education:

Beth Barba
University of North Carolina Greensboro
Sharon A. DeVane
Purdue University
Boaz Kahana
Cleveland State University
Eva Kahana
Case Western Reserve University
Catherine Tompkins
George Mason University
John F. Watkins
University of Kentucky
GSA Salutes its 2005 Emerging Scholar/Trainee Awardees

Awards for the best research papers and poster presentations by GSA Emerging Scholar/Trainee members were presented during the 58th Annual Meeting held at the Orlando World Center Marriott in November.

Congratulations to the 2005 recipients!

GSA would like to extend its gratitude to the members of all of our award selection committees for their hard work and dedication to making this year’s process a success.

BIOLGICAL SCIENCES SECTION

George Sacher Student Award

Kathryn Moynihan
Washington University
“Increased Dosage of Mammalian Sir2 in Pancreatic β Cells Enhances Glucose-Stimulated Insulin Secretion in Mice”

CLINICAL MEDICINE SECTION

Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award

Todd Manini, PhD
National Institute on Aging
“Physical Activity, Measured by Doubly Labeled Water, and Mortality among Older Adults: A Preliminary Report from The Health Aging and Body Composition Study”

Person-In-Training Award

Rhonda Orr, BPharm
The University of Sydney, Australia
“Power Training Improves Balance in Healthy Older Adults”

Research Award

Jama Purser, PT, PhD
Duke University Medical Center
“Frailty Phenotypes in Hospitalized Older Adults with Significant Coronary Artery Disease at Cardiac Catheterization”

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES SECTION

Student Research Award ~ Pre-Dissertation Level

Saw-Myo Tun, MA
Michigan State University
“Predictive Validity of Neuropsychiatric Subgroups on Nursing Home Placement and Survival in Alzheimer’s Disease Patients over a 3-Year Period”

Student Research Award ~ Dissertation Level

Heejeong Choi, PhD
University of Wisconsin, Madison
“Socioeconomic Status, Marriage, and Functional Limitations: The Moderating Role of Marriage in the SES-Functional Limitations Association”

SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY, & PRACTICE

Student Research Award ~ Undergraduate/Masters Level

Michael Lepore
Georgia State University
“Staff Retention in Assisted Living: Redefining Job Status”

Student Research Award ~ Doctoral Level

Kelly Fitzgerald, MPA, MS
University of Massachusetts, Boston
“The Effect of Military Service on Wealth Accumulation”

EMERGING SCHOLAR & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Interdisciplinary Research Award

Emily Greenfield, MS
University of Wisconsin, Madison
“Continuous Participation in Voluntary Groups as a Proactive Factor for the Psychological Well-Being of Adults who Develop Functional Limitations: Evidence from the National Survey of Families and Households”

POSTER AWARDS

Junji Ueda, University of Texas
“Age-Associated Decrease in EC-SOD (SOD3) Expression during Systemic Inflammation: Therapeutic Effects of a Small SOD Mimetic Molecule”

Kara Bottiggi, BA, University of Kentucky
“A Pilot Study of Literacy in the Diagnosis of Memory Disorders In Rural Elderly”

Jacqueline Wilshire, MPH, PhD
University of Wisconsin Medical School
“Racial/Ethnic Differences in Physician Distrust among Midlife Women”

Bryan James, Johns Hopkins University
“Education and Executive Function in the Baltimore Memory Study”

Caroline Robinson, MA, University of Alabama
“Sadness and Pain as Predictors of Caloric Intake among Homebound Older Adults”

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AN OLDER AMERICA INITIATIVE

Student/Junior Scholar Paper Award

Iveris Martinez, PhD
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
“Engaging Older Adults in High Impact Volunteering”

HONORABLE MENTIONS

CM Person-in-Training Award

Robin Blanchard, University of Waterloo

CM Research

Todd Manini, PhD, National Institute on Aging
Subashan Perera, PhD Univ. of Pittsburgh
Kristine Pringle, PhD, First Health Serv. Corp.

SRPP Student Research Award ~ Doctoral Level

Kathryn Kietzman, MSW, University of California, Los Angeles

For information on how to apply for a GSA Emerging Scholar/Trainee Award and for information on all of GSA’s awards, please visit our website at http://www.geron.org/awards/awards.htm.
Greg O’Neill, director of GSA’s Civic Engagement project, recently traveled to China to talk about senior volunteer programs in the United States at the First China Forum on Tapping the Talents of Older Adults. This conference was held October 8–9, 2005 in Beijing and was hosted by the China Commission for the Civic Engagement of Retired People (CERP). It was organized to show how China and its economy can benefit from the talents, experience, and expertise of its rapidly growing retiree population. The opening session was held in The Great Hall of the People at Tiananmen Square, the meeting venue for China’s Peoples’ Congress and many important political and diplomatic events.

More than 150 people attended the morning session, and the proceedings were covered by 13 of Beijing’s and China’s news organizations. The afternoon session and the next day’s session took place on the campus of Tsinghua University. Also invited to the conference was U.S. Army General (Retired) John Fugh, the highest ranking Chinese-American officer in the U.S. Army until his retirement.

During his visit, O’Neill toured the headquarters of the Gerontological Society of China (GSC) in Beijing and met with its vice president, Zhoa Baohua. Du Peng, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Renmin (People’s) University of China, and Yuan Ye, director of the China National Research Center on Aging, also attended the meeting. O’Neill also met with CERP President Tao Sen, Vice President Lin Xian Guang, and Director of Administration Yu Shinan at CERP’s office within the new Gerontological Research Center on the campus of Tsinghua University.

O’Neill’s participation in the CERP conference and his visit to the GSC were arranged by two Washington-area residents – Sharon Xu of Great Falls, VA and Donald Sladkin of Potomac, MD – who have been involved with CERP on a pro bono basis for some time. They believed Dr. O’Neill’s visit would help foster an exchange of views on aging issues between China and the United States. Xu and Sladkin have also built a Chinese-language web portal to serve as a platform for bringing pertinent information, activities, products, and job opportunities to the over-50 generation in China.

CERP is very interested in identifying GSA members who have a desire to develop collaborative relationships with gerontological researchers in China. For more information, please contact Greg O’Neill at goneill@agingsociety.org or (202) 842-1275.
FAREWELL & TRANSITIONS

The Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) has had an exciting and productive year. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication and talent of those who held leadership positions within ESPO during this past year. As we step down from our positions, we extend our congratulations to the following individuals who have been chosen to serve as the new 2006 representatives for ESPO:

- Chair: Lisa Barry
- Chair-Elect: Kelly Niles Yokum
- Past Chair & Finance Committee: Michelle Washko
- Secretary: Heather Connors
- Technology Chair: Emma Chung
- Publications Committee: Emily Greenfield
- SRPP: Jerrilyn Quinlan
- Student Paper Awards Committee: Attila Priplata
- Nominations Committee: KerstinGerst
- Membership Committee: Brianne Winston
- Task Force on Women: Laurie MacDougall
- Public Policy Committee: Kathy Wilson
- Behavioral and Social Science Committee: Katherine Morris
- Clinical Medicine Committee: Natalie Wiatrowski
- Task Force on Minority Issues: AlmasDossa
- Humanities and Arts: Shannon Bowles
- Task Force on Interest Groups: Erica Husser
- Research, Education, and Practice: Lindsey Martin

We also extend our congratulations to the 2005 student paper and poster award winners:

- Interdisciplinary Paper Award: Emily Greenfield
- Poster Awards: Kara Bottiggi
  - Bryan James
  - Caroline Robinson
  - Junji Ueda
  - Jacqueline Wiltshire

It has been a pleasure writing for Gerontology News for the past year. I now pass the torch to ESPO’s new secretary, Heather Connors, who is a doctoral candidate in Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts Boston. We look forward to the innovative ideas and advice that Heather will provide in her forthcoming newsletter articles. Congratulations once again to Heather and all those who have been chosen to serve as leaders for ESPO!

Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio is seeking a full time clinician-educator for the position of Director of Gerontology. The position includes leadership in developing innovative educational programs for residents and fellows. The ideal candidate will be a highly skilled and effective clinician and teacher. Minimum qualifications include board certification in Family Medicine. Fellowship training in geriatric medicine, and a current Certification of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics or eligibility for the CAQ. Riverside Methodist Hospital delivers the best possible patient and family experience every time by being a nationally recognized independent academic medical center setting the standard for quality, service and clinical innovation.

Additional reasons to consider this position:

- World-class McConnell Heart Hospital
- New Emergency Department
- Electronic ICU
- Center for Medical Education and Innovation
- John J. Gerlach Center for Senior Health (a continuing care community)
- Resident and fellow teaching opportunity

Please send, fax or email your CV to:

Julie Hotchkiss, OhioHealth Physician Recruiting
3732 Olentangy River Road • Columbus, Ohio 43214.
Phone 614-566-3649 • fax 614-566-3646;
email: hotchkj@ohiohealth.com
The Office of Population Research, Princeton University, is seeking a postdoctoral researcher to work on a project that examines the biological pathways linking social and economic factors to health among older cohorts in Taiwan. The candidate should have strong methodological skills and experience in working with large survey data sets. Appointment is for one-year, with possible renewal, to begin as early as July 2006. Ph.D. in related discipline required. Please send letter of application with curriculum vitae, samples of original work, and three letters of reference under separate cover to Barbara Sutton, Office of Population Research, Princeton University, 212 Wallace Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544-2091. Princeton University is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action employer.

For information about applying to Princeton, please link to http://web.princeton.edu/sites/dof/ApplicantsInfo.htm

**REHABILITATION OUTCOMES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS at Boston University**

1-2 Yr. Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships are available through the Health & Disability Research Institute at Boston University. Funded by NIDRR, doctorally prepared rehabilitation professionals are invited to apply for post doctoral fellowship positions to work with faculty mentors engaged in REHABILITATION OUTCOMES research.

Inquiries to:

Dr. Alan M. Jette, Director,
Health & Disability Research Inst.
Boston University
53 Bay State Rd.
Boston, MA 02215
Email: ajette@bu.edu

For info. visit: www.bu.edu/hdr
(617)-358-3472 - TTY (617) 358-1356
NIA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION:

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS: SOCIAL RESEARCH TRAINING ON APPLIED ISSUES OF AGING (T32-AG0000122)

This program emphasizes research methods appropriate to the study of aging, especially the conduct of research in applied settings from multidisciplinary perspective. It examines the substantive and theoretical issues pertaining to determinants of successful aging. Its goal is to develop researchers who will contribute to the theoretical and empirical knowledge base for determining policy and programs that could enhance the well-being of the elderly. The major training occurs through involvement in ongoing centers of the University. In addition, there are ongoing research seminars for fellows and associated faculty, opportunities for supervision in the writing of articles for publication, and where appropriate, enrollment in courses such as the Institute for Social Research’s summer program in survey research and quantitative and qualitative methods (ICPSR). This NIA-funded postdoctoral training program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work will have potentially 3 openings beginning between May 1, 2006 and September 1, 2006. The positions will be available for 12 months with the possible extension of a second year. This stipend is commensurate with experience, based on levels mandated by NIH ($35,568-$51,036). See website for application/contact information. Review of application materials will begin March 1, 2006.

Send applications to:
Ruth E. Dunkle, School of Social Work, 1080 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
or
http://www.ssw.umich.edu/gerontology/postdoc.html.