New President Highlights Workforce Issues, Creativity

It is an incredible honor to serve as your president during the coming year. GSA has a strong, expanding agenda and I am pleased to share the theme for the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting: “Creative Approaches to Healthy Aging.” I chose this topic because it reaches across all of GSA’s sections and the various disciplines of its members — and challenges each of us to look at the goals of our work somewhat differently.

Our program co-chairs this year are Judith Salerno, MD, and Michael Katz, MD. I know their planning and support will be invaluable in the months ahead.

By Michèle J. Saunders, DMD, MS, MPH

Forecast Underscores Need for Aging Careers

The graying of America’s population is resulting in a shortage of people trained to meet the unique needs of older adults. To close this gap, GSA and its educational branch — the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) — are encouraging their members to participate in the upcoming 2009 Careers in Aging Week, which will take place from April 12-18.

Its purpose is to introduce a broad audience to the wide-ranging career opportunities that exist in the field of aging and aging research, as well as to promote GSA and AGHE as the premier resources for supporting career development in the field of gerontology.

“Starting in 2011, every 20 seconds a baby boomer will turn 65. As was noted in the recent Institute of Medicine report, ‘Retooling for an Aging America,’ we are currently unprepared to meet the needs of this population,” said former AGHE president Marie Bernard, MD, now deputy director of the National Institute on Aging. She served on the committee that produced the report.

“We need individuals with proficiency at every level — from the researcher/scientist through to the direct care provider. If we train a critical mass of experts, disseminate models of care proven effective, and develop additional models to fill existing gaps, we can make a difference to prevent a shortage of care workers,” Bernard added.

Organizing CIAW events can be an undertaking not only for faculty, but students as well.

“I have the perspective that each student recruited to a geriatric field placement or career then will recruit others, since students and alumni are the best recruiters,” said Nancy Hooyman, PhD, of the University of Washington, who formerly served as chair of GSA’s Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section.

Last year, she convened a panel of social workers to highlight the rewards of specializing

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Hartford Deadlines Approaching

Applications for the next round of Hartford Doctoral Fellows and Hartford Faculty Scholars are due on February 2, 2009. These two programs — funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by GSA — are designed to support those pursuing careers in geriatric social work. Complete details are available at www.gwsi.org.
Forces Align for an Improved Workforce

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH

When the Institute of Medicine released its “Retooling for an Aging America” report in April 2008, GSA fully supported the publication’s call for a labor pool of adequate size and competency to care for our country’s rapidly increasing over-65 population. Our affiliation with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, as GSA President Michele Saunders points out (see page 1), demonstrates this is still a top advocacy item for the Society.

I’m happy to report that in late December, our efforts — and those of many partner organizations — were rewarded with new legislation from Senator Herb Kohl, who chairs the Senate Special Committee on Aging. He introduced the Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act, which aims to expand education and training opportunities in geriatrics and long-term care for licensed health professionals, direct care workers, and family caregivers. This would be accomplished under the proposed legislation by amending the existing Public Health Service Act, the Workforce Investment Act, the Older Americans Act, and the Social Security Act.

When the 111th Congress convenes in January, Kohl plans to reintroduce the bill. Its wide-ranging provisions include (among many other things) an increase in funding for grants in geriatrics at health professions schools, support for additional geriatric nurse training, and a requirement for government studies on workforce needs in long-term care.

This legislation closely followed the release of “Recognition of Excellence in Aging Research,” a much-anticipated report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging. It contains an assessment of all federally-funded research projects related to older adults and aging issues — many of which were discussed at a symposium at GSA’s annual meeting in November. The full version is available for download at www.aging.senate.gov/award/report.pdf.

There is further news to share on the government front. GSA was most recently active in developing policy recommendations to the Obama Administration on behalf of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO). Two of our high priority issues — increased appropriations for federally-funded aging research and the expansion of civic engagement opportunities for older adults — were included among the five “early action” recommendations by LCAO. In the documentation that was sent, there were also calls to strengthen the geriatric health and long-term care workforce, and to promote care coordination in senior health care services.

It’s clear that the calls to address geriatric care workforce issues are gaining momentum among many stakeholder groups. There are also ways to get involved on the individual level. As detailed in this month’s newsletter, GSA members can further the cause by participating in our annual Careers in Aging Week. If you aren’t sure how to get activities organized at your institution, please visit www.careersinaging.com — there are reports from previous years as well as e-mail contacts for people who have run these events in the past.

James
Sclater Tapped for Chinese Project

Anne Sclater, MD, chair of the Discipline of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland, has been named the 2008 Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Kilborn Memorial Visiting Professor to the West China University of Medical Sciences in Chengdu. The purpose of this year’s visiting professorship is to enable a Canadian specialist to visit West China University of Medical Sciences for a three-week period in the fall of 2008 and to contribute to the education of students and the professional development of the faculty in the discipline of geriatric medicine.

Lund Takes Cal State’s Gerontology Department Chair

After 28 years as a faculty member in the Department of Gerontology at the University of Utah, Dale Lund, PhD, has joined the Department of Sociology at California State University San Bernardino as professor and chair. Lund is internationally known for his research and scholarship related to coping with difficult life transitions in later life, particularly family caregiving and spousal bereavement.

Hennessy Steps Down from RRF

As of December 31, 2008, Marilyn Hennessy, MBA, has stepped down as president of the Retirement Research Foundation, a philanthropic organization she helped develop 24 years ago. This private foundation supports programs committed to improving the quality of life of older people. Hennessy’s interest in the challenges faced by refugees and immigrants lead the foundation to encourage ethnic organizations in their efforts to serve older members of their communities. She has personally sponsored over 40 Southeast Asian families. In 1986, she organized and chaired the First International Rehabilitation Conference in Beijing, China.

Freund Among Inspire Award Winners

ITN America President and Executive Director Katherine Freund, who was the 2006 recipient of GSA’s Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging, has been named a winner of AARP The Magazine’s Inspire Awards. Each year these distinctions pay tribute to ten extraordinary people age 50 and over who have made the world a better place through their innovative thinking, passion, and perseverance. She was recognized for her work with ITN America, an independent non-profit that offers transportation to seniors.

Colleague Connected!

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

David Bass

He became eligible after referring new member Branka Primetica.

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

New Publications by Members


In Memoriam

Denis Trudel, a long time staff member of the Division of Aging and Seniors in the Public Health Agency of Canada, passed away on January 25, 2008. His dedication to the field of aging began in 1989 when he joined the Secretariat for the National Advisory Council on Aging as a co-op student. Trudel remained with the Secretariat while he pursued his Masters of Library Science, and remained there after he graduated. In 1994, when the Secretariat became part of the newly formed Division of Aging and Seniors, Trudel took charge of the division’s reference center.

Members in the News

• The research of Adam Davey, PhD, received widespread press coverage due to his presentation at GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting. His study, which found that depression in centenarians is often underdiagnosed, was reported by the BBC, The Los Angeles Times, and numerous local television news affiliates.

• Numerous news outlets have recently reported on findings presented at GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting by Nir Barzilai, MD. His research on the drug Januvia (sitagliptin), manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc., found that it significantly reduced blood sugar levels in elderly patients with type-2 diabetes and was not associated with low blood sugar.

• Robert Binstock, PhD, was quoted in a New America Media article on November 29, 2008. He discussed his presentation at GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting, where he addressed the trends of senior voters.

• Statements from the Urban Institute’s Richard Johnson appeared in two recent news articles. In The Knoxville Times on November 25, 2008, he was quoted from a presentation he gave at GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting on the impact of the economic crisis on older Americans. In a November 26, 2008, article from New America Media, he discussed senior unemployment rates.
Older Americans can expect a boost from the next Congress in helping them find worthwhile volunteer and community service opportunities, according to experts speaking at the recent Capitol Hill briefing sponsored by GSA’s Civic Engagement in an Older America Project. This event served as the capstone and closing session of the Society’s recent 61st Annual Scientific Meeting.

On Tuesday, November 25, 2008, attendees made their way from the modern Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center to the historic Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building — better known as the site of hearings on Watergate, the Iran-Contra affair, and the sinking of the Titanic, and where both John and Robert Kennedy’s presidential bids were announced.

Both candidates in the recent presidential election voiced support for an expanded federal commitment to volunteer service. Therefore civic engagement advocates have been preparing to work with congressional leaders to enact service legislation early in the 111th Congress. GSA held this Hill briefing as a prelude to the hearings that will follow next year.

The proceedings began with former Senator Harris Wofford (D-PA), who gave a historical perspective on the current service movement. He served under John F. Kennedy as the first director of the Peace Corps and later traveled the country with President-Elect Obama as a surrogate speaker during the campaign.

Briefing attendees were able to meet the congressional staff responsible for advancing the civic engagement and service legislation: Emma Vadehra from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), which drafted the Serve America Act; Alex Ceja of the House Committee on Education and Labor, sponsor of the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act; Debra Whitman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, which has been a strong supporter of both civic engagement legislation and older worker bills; and Madeline Gitomer, a staffer for Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), sponsor of the Encore Service Act, which includes the Silver Scholars Program.

Representing another facet of civic engagement and volunteer service were Tom Nelson, AARP’s chief operating officer, and Stanley Litow, IBM’s vice president for corporate citizenship and corporate affairs. They provided the perspective of the stakeholders who not only support expansion of service opportunities for older adults, but also have made service a part of their organizational culture.

Lastly, the audience received perspectives from several volunteers: Gloria J. Thomas, an Experience Corps volunteer; Jerry H. Gallun, a legacy leader with Habitat for Humanity; and Karen Harlow-Rosentraub, an associate professor at Case Western Reserve University. This panel described the importance of training and organizing volunteers for projects such as the Katrina Hurricane cleanup. Both Thomas and Gallun shared personal stories about the impact that their service has had on the children and families that have received their services, and how important this purposeful work has been in their lives.
GSA's annual meetings always feel like Old Home Week to me — the chance to see friends of long-standing and hear all about how the field has been moving forward in the past year. With the energy from the election still fresh and talk of who among us will join the new administration, GSA added some special policy sessions to explore the future.

AARP Director of Policy and Strategy John Rother, JD, presided over a panel of beltway insiders during a policy briefing titled “Where Can We Go from Here? What Public Opinion, Policy Analysis, and Politics Tell Us About the Next Congress.” The panelists were Judy Feder, PhD, dean of Georgetown University’s Public Policy Institute; Kathleen Francovic, PhD, director of surveys at CBS news; and Chris Jennings, president of Jennings Policy Strategies, Inc., who served as senior health care advisor to President Clinton.

They addressed the politics, policies, and polling results of the recent presidential election and what they might mean for Medicare, Social Security, and other aging-related issues.

Frankovic started the session with an overview of poll results from the campaign season. National polling data found that, in general, aging issues did not play a large role in this campaign:

• Given 11 issues of importance to choose from, “retirement security and Social Security” ranked fifth, chosen by only five percent.
• The economy ranked first, chosen by 41 percent.
• Taxes, gas prices, the federal budget deficit, and the housing crisis were named by another 15 percent.
• Health care costs, the war in Iraq, and terrorism ranked higher than Social Security.

However, there was an age gap in some important areas. For example, the category of those aged 65 and older was the only age group where the majority voted for John McCain. This same demographic was also more likely to approve of President Bush, be high school graduates or less, be church-goers, and be veterans. Older Americans were less worried about being able to afford health care and less worried about a future terrorist attack than the 18-29 age group. However, everyone was worried about the economy.

Feder, fresh from an unsuccessful congressional campaign, but showing her indomitable spirit, relayed the very real fears and concerns she encountered from citizens while on the campaign trail. She found that people with health insurance coverage feared losing it; others were concerned about having to change doctors. Others admitted to being unable to afford health insurance — particularly striking because she ran in an area of Northern Virginia known for its high incomes. Feder was involved in long-term care issues and health care reform long before running for Congress. Prior to joining Georgetown University, she worked on the Pepper Commission and the Clinton health care plan. In outlining President-Elect Barack Obama’s plan, she expressed optimism with the new administration and the opportunity for meaningful health care reform.

Jennings pointed out the differences of the political and policy situation today as compared with 1993, when the first real health care reform was attempted. There is more bipartisanship now; there is more agreement that meaningful health care reform must include the uninsured and the underinsured; and there is common ground on discussions of quality care and the value of the health care dollar. In addition, major stakeholders in the business community and even the insurance industry have voiced support for change. Furthermore, when the nation faces a crisis of the magnitude confronting us now with the economy, a greater opportunity for meaningful debate exists.

Following the panel presentations, moderator Rother opened the floor to questions from the audience. There were many discussion points raised, including one about Medicare which struck a nerve: Why don’t we use Medicare as a model for expanding health care coverage? Jennings replied that the elderly tend to act protectively about Medicare. The fear of some is that if Medicare is expanded, the original benefit will be diminished even the insurance industry have voiced support for change. Furthermore, when the nation faces a crisis of the magnitude confronting us now with the economy, a greater opportunity for meaningful debate exists.

To learn more about how to participate in CIAW, please visit www.careersinaging.com. The site provides extensive information on different career tracks and academic programs in gerontology. During the past six years, an average of over 80 institutions have participated each year. GSA has also developed special promotional materials to assist institutions in creating awareness for their events.
Over 3,300 people made their way to National Harbor, MD, for GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting. Approximately 500 sessions — including 979 posters — took place during the five-day event, which was held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. A total of 83 exhibitors were featured in the Exhibit Hall.

Among the most popular presentations were the Presidential Symposia, which showcased the meeting’s theme, “Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities.” Also widely attended were sessions in the Public Policy Series, which concluded with a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill. See page 4 for more details on that event, which served as the meeting’s closing session.

The briefing was not the only session to take advantage of the conference’s Washington, DC-area location. GSA’s Society-wide Community Meeting welcomed a panel of prominent experts to discuss expectations from the next Congress and administration. AARP’s John Rother, JD, moderated a lively discussion between Kathleen Frankovic, PhD, of CBS News; Judith Feder, PhD, of Georgetown University; and Christopher Jennings of Jennings Policy Strategies.

The photographs on the right give more details about the unique events from the meeting.

The Call for Papers for the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting will be available in the coming weeks. The theme for this conference will be “Creative Approaches to Healthy Aging.” An April deadline for the receipt of abstracts will be announced shortly.
GSA issued 26 press passes to reporters at the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting. This number was slightly above last year’s and was greater than any of the previous five meetings. Among those covering the conference were representatives from The Washington Post, several AARP publications, New Scientist magazine, Elsevier Global Medical News, German Public Radio, and a Japanese daily newspaper. A number of press registrants also attended Tuesday’s congressional briefing on Capitol Hill.

A press briefing on the economy’s impact on older Americans was held on Monday the 24th. This allowed reporters exclusive access to the speakers of that day’s “Financial Crisis 2008: Implications for Aging” symposium. A conference call was set up for this briefing to allow reporters to cover the meeting remotely. Among those dialing in were representatives from The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, and Reuters Health News.

The most widespread story to come out of the meeting focused on a presentation by Temple University’s Adam Davey, PhD. His research found that depression in centenarians is underdiagnosed. Thanks to the Internet Broadcasting news distribution service, reports on this study made their way to the websites of dozens of local news affiliates across the country in addition to such major outlets as the British Broadcasting Corporation. Also receiving a great deal of coverage was Januvia, a diabetes treatment drug released by Merck & Co., Inc. Data showing the effectiveness of the drug on older patients was presented at the conference by Nir Barzilai, MD, of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University.
Becoming a Professional 'Self':
Relationships and Reciprocity

This network of relationships ties us to one another and to the world. We influence and are influenced by these relationships; through this reciprocity we become our “self(s)” and the world is changed. Without this network of relationships we are less human; more alone. Through these relationships we develop a vision and a voice that locates us in the world in a different place from where we would have been without them. I would like to acknowledge the network of relationships in ESPO and GSA without which we, as emerging scholars and professionals, would not have become the professional “self(s)” to which we have aspired this past year.

This is my final ESPO newsletter submission. It has been my privilege to give voice to your needs, issues and concerns, and to have had the opportunity to reflect on, to affirm, and to inspire you in reaching your professional and personal goals. Toward that end, as ESPO begins 2009, we have a new Executive Committee including Kara Bottiggi-Dassel, chair; Kelly Fitzgerald, chair-elect, Sarah Ruiz Ramon, past-chair; Amber Watts, secretary and Michelle Cheuk, technology chair.

Because of your clear and compelling input from last year’s annual business meeting — about your needs for connection, inclusion, visibility, and voice — this year’s GSA annual conference hosted the first ESPO Lounge, with opportunities for networking, informal presentations, snacks, and down time during two of five very busy days. Nancy Falk and Leanne Clark successfully managed fundraising for this initiative, along with Shawn King, Kelly Niles-Yokum, Kara Bottiggi-Dassel, and Sarah Ruiz Ramon, who were integral to the planning and organization of the lounge. ESPO’s Executive Committee — particularly Ab Brody, Kara Bottiggi-Dassel, Kelly Niles-Yokum and Lisa Barry — also produced two brochures: ESPO 101 and Navigating GSA. These supported ESPO members in their efforts to become more involved in ESPO and in the larger organization.

On the publications front, ESPO’s representatives Markus Shafer and Samantha Solimeo proposed that the reviewers of GSA’s journals invite ESPO members to partner with them as “junior reviewers.” This proposal passed at the Publications Committee 2008 Business Meeting. The next step in this process will be for ESPO to establish a mechanism through which its members can indicate their interests and areas of expertise, and that this listing can be made available to the journal editors and reviewers. I will be joining Markus on the Publications Committee in this effort.

As we begin 2009, my wish for all of us is that we continue to build our network of relationships and transform the world through the opportunities we create, the generosity we share, and the passion we inspire as gerontological scholars and professionals.

Continued from page 1

us that this new resource will be a state-by-state tool that “facilitates linkages between medical and public health communities with information and strategies needed to improve the delivery of preventive services within clinical and community settings.”

As you may remember, GSA has also brought a great deal of attention to “Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce,” the April 2008 report issued by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). This publication not only delineated a coming shortage in the numbers of well-trained care providers for the country’s aging population, but provided many important solutions to reduce the extreme deficit. During my presidency, we will continue to support the IOM’s recommendations. To that end, GSA has already joined the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, a new coalition of over two dozen organizations devoted to effecting change through legislative and regulatory actions. It is noteworthy that the Alliance has support not only from its member organizations, but also from the Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

One of GSA’s most exciting developments in 2008 was the appointment of James Appleby as executive director. I look forward to working closely with him as we further the Society’s mission to advance research, education, and practice in the field of aging. As James shared at the recent annual meeting, our primary focus will be on enhancing GSA’s image, influence, and income.

We are fortunate to have a strong internal network to accomplish these goals. Specifically, I am referring here to the National Academy on an Aging Society, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization. I pledge to work closely with their leadership to further emphasize that we are all part of the same GSA team.

I am enthusiastic about the year ahead and look forward to serving you and seeing you in Atlanta!
Funds Boost Wake Forest’s Geriatric Training Program

Wake Forest University School of Medicine will receive nearly $2 million over the next four years in a grant that will help to maintain the Medical Center’s position as a leader in geriatric medicine and medical training. The $1,994,741 grant is being awarded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which is giving 10 grants to academic medical training. The newly-named Donald W. Reynolds Geriatric Education program will be co-directed by GSA members Hal Atkinson, MD, MS, and Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS. The medical school will use the grant, in part, to build on 20 years of experience and expertise in geriatrics by developing leaders in geriatric medicine and geriatric teaching programs, strengthening current geriatrics education and expanding education to include all Wake Forest medical students, internal medicine residents, family medicine residents, specialty residents and fellows, and community physicians. The money will also be used to develop a curriculum for specialty physicians to integrate geriatrics principles into their teaching programs, a program for certification of geriatrics competencies for all medical students, and new training opportunities for medical students, residents, and fellows, such as a new program combining teaching with offering geriatrics telemedicine consultation for older adults residing in rural communities.

College Boosts Aging Curriculum

As the number of seniors in Carroll County, MD, continues to grow, the Center for the Study of Aging at McDaniel College is aiming to improve the community’s attitude toward older adults. For the first time, the center is offering two nonacademic programs in gerontology. These are geared toward people who work or volunteer at assisted-living facilities, nursing homes and other places that serve seniors. The Gerontology Specialist program is designed for people without a high school diploma, while the Senior Gerontology Specialist program will provide a more in-depth understanding of the physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges of aging. In addition, the college is also starting a graduate-degree program for gerontology.

AGHE Now Accepting Meeting Registrations

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) is now accepting registrations for its upcoming Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference. This event will take place from February 26-March 1, 2009, in San Antonio, TX. Under the theme “Deep in the Heart of Aging: Promoting Healthy Futures Through Education and Training,” this conference is the premier national forum for discussing ideas and issues in gerontological and geriatric education. Educators, clinicians, administrators, researchers, and students share their experiences, expertise, and innovations regarding teaching and learning about aging and older persons. Visit www.aghe.org/site/aghewebsite/section.php?id=8271 for complete details.

Heating Costs too High for Northern Irish

The Belfast Telegraph, citing survey data, recently reported that almost 40 percent of people over age 50 in Northern Ireland are planning to cut back on heating their homes because of growing financial strain. The figures revealed that older people are so worried about how they will cope with the spike in the cost of living they are prepared to put their health on the line and put up with the cold. The poll also found one in four older people now stay in bed to keep warm compared with one in seven last year. Half of those surveyed said they will be forced to turn down their heating this winter if they cannot meet cost of heating their homes.

World’s Oldest Person Dies

Edna Parker, a former Indiana schoolteacher who was certified as the world’s oldest person, died on November 26, 2008. She was aged 115 years and 220 days. The new holder of the title of world’s oldest person is Maria de Jesus of Portugal, who turned 115 on September 10, 2008. The second-oldest person in the world now is a Los Angeles woman, Gertrude Baines, the daughter of former slaves. At 114, she is also the oldest person of African descent in the world.

Beijing To Raise Women’s Retirement Age

According to the China Daily news service, the retirement age for Beijing’s female officials at the county level and above is set to be raised from 55 to 60 in 2009. The reform is part of a series of legal revisions to ensure sexual equality at work, according to the Beijing municipal government. Under current regulations, female officials at the municipal level and under have to retire at 55, five years before their male counterparts.

Argentina’s Pensions Go Public

The Washington Post reports that Argentina’s government will nationalize its pension funds in response to the recent international financial crisis. The move will affect approximately $25 billion in funds. Argentina had privatized pensions in 1994, but current legislators agreed that the system had failed. The public system will pay out a set amount to pensioners, unlike a private system that changes more widely depending on the market.
AJN Releases Latest in ‘Try This’ Series
The American Journal of Nursing (AJN) has announced the newest entries in its “How To Try This” series. To read or view the articles and videos featured this month, go to www.NursingCenter.com/AJNolderadults. “How to Try This” is a collaborative project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU’s College of Nursing and the American Journal of Nursing. Topics from the series consist of free web-based resources, including demonstration videos and companion articles in the AJN.

The Impact of Event Scale–Revised: A Quick Measure of a Patient’s Response to Trauma.
By Kathryn Hyer, PhD, MPP, and Lisa M. Brown, PhD
A person may suffer debilitating anxiety and other physical and psychological symptoms without recognizing them as a response to a traumatic event. Older adults in particular may be reluctant to admit experiencing such symptoms. The Impact of Event Scale-Revised (IES-R) is an easy-to-administer questionnaire used to evaluate the degree of distress a patient feels in response to trauma. It provides a structured way for a patient to communicate distress when she or he may not have the words to do so. For a free online video showing nurses using the IES-R with an older patient, go to links.lww.com/A316.

Screening for Alcohol Use and Misuse in Older Adults: Using the Short Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test–Geriatric Version
By Madeline A. Naegle, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN
The Short Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test-Geriatric Version (SMAST-G) is often used in outpatient settings to detect “at-risk” alcohol use, alcohol abuse, or alcoholism in older adults. As the number of older adults in the United States grows, those who develop problems of abuse and a dependence on alcohol will grow as well. The availability of accurate, easy-to-use screening tools to detect people in need of counseling can increase the number of older adults whose lives can be improved and even lengthened. To watch a free online video of a nurse administering the SMAST-G, go to links.lww.com/A271.

Compendium Details Boomer Generation’s Impact
A two-volume publication titled “Boomer Bust? Economic and Political Issues of the Graying Society,” edited by GSA member Robert B. Hudson, PhD, explores issues associated with the baby boom generation attaining old age from both societal-level and cohort-level perspectives. The theme most central to the collection is how singular will be the economic and political impact of the boomers. Issued by Praeger Publishers, the book is available from numerous retailers, including praeger.com.

Cornell Launches Translational Research Site
Scholars at Cornell University recently launched the Aging Research Translator (ART), a blog designed to provide non-technical summaries of studies published in peer-reviewed academic journals. The ART website has been designed with community-based practitioners in mind. The blog can be viewed at www.agingresearchtranslator.com.

Kaiser’s Site Compares Health Facts Across States
The Kaiser Family Foundation recently launched statehealthfacts.org, an interactive U.S. map that provides state-by-state information on many health categories: demographics and the economy; health status; health coverage and uninsured; Medicaid and SCHIP; health costs and budgets; Medicare; managed care and health insurance; providers and service use; minority health; women’s health; and HIV/AIDS.

Latest PPAR Explores OAA’s Aging Network
Be sure to check out the latest Public Policy & Aging Report, “The Evolving Aging Network”
• The Aging Services Network: Broad Mandate and Increasing Responsibilities
• Evolution of the Aging Network: Modernization and Long-Term Care Initiatives
• The Aging Network: State of the States
• Toward Inclusion: A Public-Centered Approach To Promote Civic Engagement by the Elderly

Authors: Carol V. O’Shaughnessy, Suzanne R. Kunkel, Abbe Lockmeyer, Richard Browdie, Melissa Castora, Jeffrey Kahana, Lawrence T. Force

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.agingsoociety.org or by calling 202-587-2842
Fellowships Seek Retirement Researchers
The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College has announced its 2009 Dissertation Fellowship Program for research on retirement income and disability insurance. The program, funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration, supports doctoral candidates writing dissertations on retirement income and disability insurance issues. Up to six fellowships of $28,000 will be awarded to doctoral candidates enrolled in an accredited program at a U.S. university. Proposals must be completed and submitted by Friday, January 30, 2009. Complete guidelines are available at http://crr.bc.edu/opportunities/dissertation_fellowship_program_4.html.

Federal Grants Aimed at Nuclear Receptor Research
Grant applications are being sought for research into underlying biologic mechanisms involving nuclear receptors, their co-regulators, and intracellular signaling systems in the process of aging and the connections of the aging process with pathophysiology in middle- and old-age. This funding opportunity announcement is issued by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. All submissions are due by May 8, 2009, and more information can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAS-07-267.html.

RWJF Monies Target Nursing Schools
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing program is designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. Through grants to nursing schools, the program will provide scholarships in the amount of $10,000 each to college graduates without nursing degrees who are enrolled in accelerated baccalaureate and master's nursing programs. January 21, 2009, is the deadline for online receipt of applications and supporting documents. Visit www.newcareersinnursing.org for complete details.

NINR Welcomes Program Project Applications
The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) invites applications for program projects in symptom management research and in health promotion/disease prevention research. Successful program projects are designed to bring together scientists in diverse fields, who would not otherwise collaborate, to apply interdisciplinary approaches to work on an important well-defined problem. In addition, the program project can facilitate the support of essential shared core facilities (e.g., major equipment), although the need of a group of investigators for a major piece of equipment or a core facility does not in itself justify a program project grant. Letters of intent are due by March 16, 2009, and more information is available at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-09-003.html.

POSITION OPENING
ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY
The Bogoni Center at St. Bonaventure University invites applications for a tenure track position in Gerontology at the assistant professor level. The Center is an endowed program in gerontology offering an undergraduate major, contracted research and outreach to health care providers and caregivers.

The successful applicant is expected to possess a completed Ph.D. or near completion ABD., evidence of research and teaching competence and the ability to offer courses in Introduction to Aging Studies, Introduction to Quantitative Research and a core curriculum course in the field. Upper level offerings are dependent upon the interests of the candidate and the needs of the Center. Additional opportunities include funded travel, funded workshop presentations and funded research projects.

Please forward a cover letter, curriculum vita, transcript and three letters of recommendation to:

James W. Moor, Ph.D., Director, The Bogoni Center, Post Office Box Z, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778.
LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT YOU ARE A LEADER IN YOUR FIELD!
Be Recognized: Become a GSA Fellow

Recognize those members who have made major contributions to our field by nominating them for fellowship in The Gerontological Society of America. Honor those who have enriched our field with their leadership in research, education, and practice.

To apply, candidates need to:
- Be nominated by a current GSA Fellow of the candidate’s section; self nominations are no longer accepted;
- Be a Regular GSA Member for a minimum of 5 years;
- Adhere to specified requirements made by each Section (please see application for complete listing of requirements);
- Get an endorsement from ONE other Fellow of the sponsoring Section besides the nominating Fellow (both must be members in good standing);
- Submit an ORIGINAL application;
- Submit an ORIGINAL C.V.

Nominations accepted until February 2nd.
Nominations MUST be submitted electronically. Please visit www.geron.org/Membership/Fellows for details.

SAN ANTONIO
DEEP IN THE HEART OF AGING:
Promoting Healthy Futures through Education and Training

Our conference blends 35 years of AGHE meeting themes representing our growth in theory, education, practice, and praxis, while embracing social, psychological, physical, spiritual, and business approaches, supporting the health of older adults and caregivers.

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Crowne Plaza Hotel-Riverwalk
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