inside this issue:
• Policy Year in Review . . . . .4
• Annual Meeting Recap . . .8
• Nominate a Fellow . . . . .14

Elections Schedule Moved Forward
Due to the earlier dates of GSA’s 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting (November 5 to 9; abstracts due March 5), GSA’s next officer elections also will take place earlier than usual. Members can expect to receive their ballots approximately March 1 and the voting period will remain open until April 15. Additionally, GSA currently is looking for members who wish to serve on the Society’s committees and task forces starting next year. Individuals interested in volunteering for these leadership positions should contact Carrie Johnson at cjohnson@geron.org with their name, CV, and committee or task force of interest. A list of GSA’s committees and task forces can be found at www.geron.org/governance.

Register Now for AGHE’s Meeting!
GSA’s educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, currently is accepting registrations for its 40th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference at www.aghe.org/am. This event — taking place from February 27 to March 2 at the Westin Denver Downtown in Denver, CO — is the premier national forum for discussing ideas and issues in gerontological and geriatric education. The theme for 2014 is “Taking Educational Quality to New Heights.”

AARP Partnership Spurs Journalism Program’s Evolution
The Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, which GSA has run jointly with New America Media (NAM) since 2010, will soon expand thanks to new funding support from AARP.
For the past four years, this co-venture — responsible for more than 200 news stories by 65 alumni to date — has largely centered around GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting and in-depth stories proposed by each fellow. In 2014, the addition of a series of regional briefings and telebriefings will keep participating reporters engaged year-round.
The new cohort will consist of 13 fellows. One of them will be supported by the John A. Hartford Foundation, now in its third year of involvement with the program.
“We are very excited to have AARP as our new partner and look forward to the possibilities this brings for growing the program,” said GSA Deputy Executive Director Linda Harootyan, MSW. “These fellowships provide an important mechanism for informing journalists about new developments in the field of aging.”
The program is co-directed by Harootyan and Paul Kleyman, the senior editor of NAM’s ethnic elders newsletter and national coordinator of the Journalists Network on Generations.
As in previous years, half of the fellows will be selected from general audience media and half from ethnic media outlets that serve communities within the U.S.
“AARP is excited to join the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program as a sponsor and partner,” said Jeffrey Davis, AARP’s senior vice president of media relations and public outreach. “We see real value in educating journalists on the issues and policies affecting our aging society and look forward to providing unique opportunities for fellows to learn and engage.”
Continued on page 6

PP&AR Added as Member Benefit; Joins Journals in Oxford Vanguard
GSA members are now entitled to complimentary access to Public Policy & Aging Report (PP&AR), the quarterly issued since 1996 by the Society’s policy branch, the National Academy on an Aging Society.
Effective immediately, PP&AR will be published by Oxford University Press (OUP), which also distributes GSA’s peer-reviewed journals, including The Gerontologist and The Journals of Gerontology Series A and Series B. Each installment will continue to explore an aging policy issue and provide readers with detailed information, a variety of perspectives, and key references.
Every member will be granted online access to the complete catalog of current and former PP&AR issues. Subscription to the print edition will be an optional benefit. (Membership currently includes subscriptions to two GSA periodicals with the option to add a third for $49 and a fourth for $60.)

GS Fellow and PP&AR Editor Robert Hudson, PhD, said both the Society and its members will be well served by the new affiliation with OUP.
“Not only is OUP a superb ‘legacy’ brand in the traditional world of publishing, but is on the cutting edge in making new research and scholarship available across a range of digital and social media platforms,” said Hudson, the chair of social welfare policy at the Boston University School of Social Work.
He added that the partnership will bring a range of benefits. The print copy will feature sharper images and graphics, and articles will be
Continued on page 11
From the Executive Director

GSA Primed to Raise Visibility of Members’ Work

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

What does it take for the world to discover your discoveries? For individuals, it’s often a challenge to get the word out about new research and make the case that further studies should be funded. Thankfully, an organization like GSA has the power to amplify the voices of its members — and I’m happy to report that the Society has taken steps to further ensure success in the new year for both research promotion and advocacy.

As shared on the front page, the Journalists in Aging Fellows Program will soon expand. With major support now coming from AARP, GSA will be able to disseminate aging-related news in different regions of the country on an ongoing basis, in addition to what we offer at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Nearly all of the 200 articles the fellows have produced to date use GSA members or their research as a source. As the program grows, so will coverage of the important work that gerontologists are conducting.

And as we spread the word about the benefit of aging research to the general public, so too must we work to ensure the funding that sustains that research. GSA recently made new strides on the advocacy front thanks to the leadership of Deputy Executive Director Linda Harootyan, who just completed her term as chair of Friends of the National Institute on Aging (FONIA) — a coalition of approximately 50 aging, disease, research, and patient groups.

Linda’s work used new approaches to advocate and engage GSA members in helping to educate policymakers and funders at a national level.

She led the effort to have FONIA included for the first time on the agenda of a National Advisory Council on Aging meeting. This group serves to advise the secretary of health and human services, the director of the National Institutes of Health, and the director of the NIA, while also recommending research funding for promising applications.

Moving forward, the council will receive a written report from FONIA at each meeting, and offer FONIA the option to appear on future agendas as circumstances demand.

In October, Linda orchestrated a meeting between the FONIA leadership, National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, and NIA Director Richard Hodes to discuss the value of aging studies in the overall federally-supported research enterprise. Linda also secured a first-ever placement for FONIA on GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting program, chairing a session in New Orleans titled “The Impact of Cutbacks in Research Funding and What You Can Do.” This symposium showcased what advocacy efforts FONIA has been undertaking and what role researchers can and must play in communicating to Congress why an investment in aging research is so critical and makes financial sense.

I congratulate Linda on these major accomplishments and offer our continued support to Alliance for Aging Research CEO Sue Peschin, a GSA member who will succeed Linda as FONIA chair.

Moving forward, the FONIA will increase its efforts to involve individual researchers in its advocacy outreach. It will also develop another session for the GSA meeting, which is taking place in Washington, DC, this year — the epicenter of all decision making regarding federal research funding. The GSA team will certainly be working to make sure we take advantage of the locale when planning for the meeting. GSA, too, will continue to make its members aware of advocacy opportunities through “Action Alert” e-mails.

The best people to make the case for the value of aging research to elected leaders are those who are conducting it in congressional districts across the U.S. When GSA offers opportunities to make your voice heard, I urge you to take advantage of them.

Sincerely,

James
In Memoriam

Kenneth Cook, PhD, passed away at the age of 82 on October 28, 2013. For 18 years, he worked as a volunteer for GSA’s educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education — earning the organization’s Mildred M. Seltzer Distinguished Service Recognition in 1996. Cook previously was employed by AARP for 21 years, ultimately working as director of the AARP Andrus Foundation. He also was formerly a research psychologist and vice president of Century Research Corporation, and a past president and director of the Southern Gerontological Society.

New Publications by Members


• “Ageing, Meaning, and Social Structure: Connecting Critical and Humanistic Gerontology,” edited by Jan Baars, PhD, Joseph Dahmen, PhD, Amanda Grenier, PhD, MSW, and Chris Phillipson, PhD. Published by Policy Press.

• “Handbook of Minority Aging,” edited by Keith E. Whitfield, PhD, and Tamara A. Baker, PhD. Published by Springer Publishing Company.

Members in the News

• GSA Fellows Deborah Gold, PhD, and Victoria Bedford, PhD, were quoted in a Parade magazine article titled “The Science of Siblings” on June 22. The piece discussed how sibling relationships shape personalities.

• GSA Fellow Toni Miles, MD, PhD, appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on October 22 in an article titled “State Task Force Addressing Major Aging Issues.” Miles described her work on the health care research and data committee that is advising the Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias State Plan Task Force.

• A November 11 article from New America Media quoted Jung Kwak, PhD. The piece titled “It’s About Life” summarized Korean Americans’ changing views on palliative care.

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on:

Marlene Starr, BS

Visit www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Colleague Connection

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

Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, DrPH, MPH

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Tvil Jacob was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, visit www.geron.org/connection.

Nurse Leader Award Recognizes Capezuti

GSA Fellow Elizabeth Capezuti, PhD, RN, FAAN, has received the American Academy of Nursing and Hartford Foundation’s Nurse Leader in Aging Award for 2013 for her research and leadership in gerontological nursing as well as her promotion of education, community outreach and service. Capezuti is the John W. Rowe professor in Successful Aging at New York University College of Nursing. Her work focuses on care of older adults in hospitals and nursing homes with studies highlighting the injuries and falls due to restraints including side rails.

Ingram Earns University of Georgia Award

Former GSA President Donald Ingram, PhD, has been selected as a recipient of the 2013 University of Georgia Graduate School Alumni of Distinction Award. Recipients have accomplished meritorious achievement and success in their professional field as evidenced by honors earned in the profession. Currently a professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Louisiana, Ingram founded the Laboratory of Experimental Gerontology at the National Institute on Aging and previously was the chief of the Behavioral Neuroscience Section of the National Institutes of Health. He has developed and patented four drugs to treat Alzheimer’s disease and authored more than 300 scientific publications.

Allman Appointed to VA Post

GSA Fellow Richard Allman, MD, has been appointed as the chief consultant of geriatrics and extended care services in the Office of Patient Care Services at the Veterans Health Administration in Washington, DC. Allman previously was the director of the Birmingham/Atlanta VA Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center and was the Parrish Endowed Professor of Medicine at University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he also served as director of the Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging. He also was the 2013 recipient of GSA’s Donald P. Kent Award.

Pruchno Awarded Two Year HHS Grant

GSA Fellow Rachel Pruchno, PhD, director of Research at the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, has received a two-year, $681,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to examine the effects of Hurricane Sandy on a large, representative sample of more than 3,200 older people living in the nine New Jersey counties hit hardest by the storm. The study will identify aspects of social capital that promote the resilience of older adults exposed to the disaster. Because the participants were also assessed twice (in 2006 and in 2011) before Hurricane Sandy, the study offers a unique opportunity to understand resilience in older people. Pruchno currently is the editor-in-chief of The Gerontologist.
Past Year’s Legislative Accomplishments Provide Insight for 2014

When you realize that the second session of the 113th Congress starts with basically the same cast of characters that we saw last year, your assessment of whether that is good or bad depends on how optimistic you are. If you see the glass as half full, you will see the recent budget deal as a harbinger of a productive year ahead in Congress. If you see the glass as half empty, you will consider the current congressional leadership to be weak on bipartisanship and strong on gridlock, so that the second session of the 113th will probably look a lot like the first.

To begin with optimism, there are four developments in the positive column. First, at the end of the year, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) stood up to the Tea Party members of the Republican caucus and outside conservative interest groups and pushed through a bipartisan two-year budget agreement with the Senate that lays the groundwork for appropriations levels for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. This ensures that we will not go through another government shutdown in the near future. Second, the budget agreement itself reduces the arbitrary cuts from sequestration. Third, although the Affordable Care Act (ACA) had a terrible beginning to its first open season for selecting health plans, it is back on track to make health coverage available to most Americans — an overdue and monumental step forward. Fourth, with only three months to do its work, the Commission on Long-Term Care (and its staff) created some consensus on facts and options, an insightful report, an alternative report, and a bit of momentum on the issue that Congress has dodged for decades.

Next, there’s a list of things that some may consider not so positive: the costly government shutdown over an attempt to repeal ACA (which everyone inside the beltway knew would not happen); no gun control legislation; no House action on the Senate’s bipartisan immigration reform; only modest changes to the future sequestration plans; the Senate’s failure to pass veterans’ health and benefits legislation; no settlement on SNAP (food stamp) funding; arguments beginning to boil on extending unemployment benefits, the debt ceiling expiration in February; and I won’t mention foreign affairs or phone records. Also, as we move into 2014, the midterm election year politics have begun and will make some bipartisanship even more difficult.

Let me mention one historic “accomplishment” that may be considered a neutral, positive, or negative development depending on where you sit politically or how it plays out in the next year. The Democrats in the Senate used the “nuclear option” to change the rules of the Senate to allow for a simple majority vote to move to consideration of presidential nominees to the courts and the executive branch (with the exception of the Supreme Court). Whether Republican delays in these nominations were significant enough to merit this rule change is a subjective matter.

Nonetheless, as the majority in this senate (and in future senates) moves nominees through the process more quickly, the response of the minority to these tactics will be important to watch. A minority has the ability to slow down almost every aspect of the legislative process and when and how often it exercises this right can influence most policy areas.

Another noteworthy development with unknown consequences is the movement of Ron Wyden (D-OR) to the Senate Finance Committee chairmanship. This has come about because of Senator Max Baucus’ (D-MT) retirement to become the U.S. ambassador to China.

Further, it looks like major changes to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security are becoming less likely for 2014 (an election year).

“As the appropriations process revs up, some advocates are hopeful that the improved allocations will enable them to make a case for higher funding levels for their specific programs.”

Budget Deal

One pundit suggested that someone gave Boehner a backbone as a holiday gift, but most believe that the majority of Republicans in the House had just had enough of the bad press and blame that came with the government shutdown in October. So, the “mom in tennis shoes,” Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), privately negotiated a deal with Ryan. Their deal, the Bipartisan Budget Act (H.J. Res. 59), passed the House (332-94) and the Senate (64-36) and was signed by President Barack Obama. It succeeded because it made no one happy and everyone had to compromise.

The two-year budget agreed to by Congress and signed by the president shrinks the planned sequestration cuts by $45 billion in 2014 and $18 billion in 2015. The sequestration relief provided under the agreement is divided equally between defense and non-defense programs, but enables the appropriations committees to determine how funds are allocated to various programs. The mandatory program cuts stay in place, including the two percent across-the-board cut in payments to Medicare providers. The budget also includes cuts in payments for inpatient services at long-term care hospitals and modifies scheduled reductions to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals.
Debt Limit
In February, the debt limit expires again and the Department of Treasury will have to use “extraordinary measures” to pay the nation’s bills. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and other conservative Republicans are thinking beyond passage of the budget toward future deficit reduction tied to a debt limit increase in 2014. Obama maintains the position that he will not negotiate over the debt ceiling and said he does not expect Republicans to revive a demand that threatens default on Treasury Department obligations. Is there another round of “chicken” being instigated?

Appropriations
The passage and signing of the budget agreement sets the appropriations process in motion again. The 12 House and Senate appropriations subcommittees will work on specific funding levels for their various areas of jurisdiction and then try to come to agreement regarding differences between the two chambers for fiscal year 2014. They need to complete this work by January 15, when funding runs out.

As the appropriations process revs up, some advocates are hopeful that the improved allocations will enable them to make a case for higher funding levels for their specific programs. Meals providers for older adults began making the case before the ink had dried on the budget deal. Some have noted that Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), who chairs the Appropriations Committee, made her first major appearance as chair at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD. The NIH leadership has continued its “lobbying” of both parties in Congress on the value of NIH work and products to the economy, medical treatments, and society. However, Mikulski said recently, “I have 12 subcommittees. We’re not picking favorites at this point.”

The original Senate funding levels for FY 2014 would have provided an increase of $307 million for the NIH. But since the total for the whole budget is $46 billion less that the Senate bill had assumed, it is less likely that all of the programs that had been scheduled for increases will get them, but the numbers are much better than the original House bill would have provided. So the competition is between non-defense discretionary programs for about $22 billion in additional funding.

In separate legislation, $126 million would be authorized over 10 years for pediatric research at the NIH from federal funds that had been designated to support the political parties’ quadrennial conventions (Presidential Election Campaign Fund). The House passed the bill (H.R. 2019) on December 11.

Medicare Physician Reimbursement
Congress has yet to pass a permanent long-term fix on the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate, known as SGR or “doc fix.” But progress has been made with the Senate Finance Committee, and both the House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees passed a bipartisan proposal, the Medicare Patient Access and Quality Improvement Act of 2013 (H.R. 2810). The budget agreement protects physicians for three months from the scheduled 24 percent cut so that these committees can come to agreement on how to pay for the bill (about $150 billion over 10 years) and work out differences in approaches and miscellaneous other provisions.

Some aging and health care advocates are pushing members of Congress to support the Medicare Drug Savings Act (S. 740 and H.R. 1588). The Senate Finance Committee’s Health Subcommittee chairman, Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), introduced the bill, which would save Medicare $140 billion over 10 years. The savings could pay for replacing the SGR. This legislation allows the Medicare program to negotiate drug prices for low-income beneficiaries.

Affordable Care Act
The ACA website debacle helped pull the Republicans out of the government shut down debacle. Now that the site is working better and we have data on the first two months of open enrollment in the health insurance marketplaces, it is obvious that many Americans are interested in securing coverage. According to the Obama Administration, nearly 1.2 million people have selected a plan or requested an eligibility determination for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Some 364,682 people selected plans from either the state or federal marketplaces. An additional 803,077 have been determined to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. A million additional people have received eligibility determinations but have not selected plans. There had been 39 million website visitors though November and more than 5 million calls to federal call centers. So far, 944,531 people have been determined to be eligible for financial assistance.

With all this interest, there are still those fighting to repeal the law and those that argue that more Americans will lose coverage than will gain it. This issue will not go away quietly in an election year.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization
The Older Americans Act is still not reauthorized but still alive. The hard work of the staff of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (HELP) has kept the process moving forward despite a lack of interest by many to tackling major programmatic changes. The bill was passed by the HELP Committee, but during the markup of the bipartisan, slimmed down version of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 1562), chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) proposed a working group to discuss the state funding formula before the bill comes to the Senate floor. Sub-Committee on Primary Health and Aging Chair Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) publicly stated that no state should lose funds and no senior should lose access to services because of this reauthorization. Among other things, the bill does include improvements to the long-term care ombudsman and elder abuse prevention programs.
Members Launch NC-Based Assisted Living Comparison Site

Consistent with the recommendations emanating from a recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality supported conference, GSA Fellow Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD, and GSA members Philip Sloane, MD, MPH, and Lauren Cohen, MA, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have launched the Assisted Living Comparison Experts website at www.alce.unc.edu. This resource provides information on all licensed adult and family care settings in North Carolina in a user-friendly format. This free website is based on years of research, with data derived from state licensure files, provider interviews, and consumer reviews. Assisted Living Comparison Experts is designed to help consumers make the most informed choice when selecting a community, and is currently working towards expansion in other states.

New Report Predicts Caregiver Support Ratio Will Plummet

The AARP Public Policy Institute has released a new report, “The Aging of the Baby Boom and the Growing Care Gap: A Look at Future Declines in the Availability of Family Caregivers,” which provides a national and state-by-state look at the future care gap as the baby boomers age over the next few decades. It defines a “caregiver support ratio” as the number of potential caregivers age 45 to 64 for each person age 80 and older. It uses this support ratio to document the projected declining availability of family caregivers to provide long-term services and supports as the boomers age into their 80s, beginning in 2026. In 2010, the caregiver support ratio was more than 7 potential caregivers for every person in the high-risk years of 80-plus. In 2030, the ratio is projected to decline sharply to 4:1, and it is expected to further fall to less than 3:1 in 2050. The paper also highlights demographic trends that may influence the future supply of family support for the frail older population. To view this report, visit bit.ly/19f504.

Feds Update Aging-Related Data Site

The Administration for Community Living has released a newly enhanced Aging Integrated Database (AGID), a data warehouse that provides easy access to Administration on Aging-supported surveys, performance results, and population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The AGID data warehouse allows users to produce customized tables in a user-friendly, step-by-step process and output the results in print or spreadsheet form. AGID users have the ability to select only the data elements of interest, and to examine results by geographic locations or demographic stratifiers that are meaningful to their work. Researchers interested in more detailed analyses of the data can download most files as SAS datasets. Data from AGID can be downloaded in spreadsheet form and post-processed for graphical displays and more in-depth analysis. AGID is ideal to use for classroom assignments and workshop sessions, as well as individual research projects. The AGID website, www.agid.acl.gov, includes several ways to access the data along with instructional videos and FAQs to help users navigate the system.

Continued from page 1 - AARP Partnership Spurs Journalism Program’s Evolution

AARP’s involvement will facilitate the program's expansion to include regional briefings and telebriefings.

For the former, potential partners will be identified — by AARP state offices, for example — to host events in different locations across the U.S. NAM will help ensure the representation of ethnic media at such briefings and that coverage includes content relevant to ethnic audiences.

The program’s phone-in telebriefings will provide ongoing opportunities for journalists to keep up on the latest developments in aging, often based on major new reports and research findings. Each event will address how the particular topic impacts minority individuals and communities.

GSA, NAM, and AARP will work together to determine the topics and speakers for each of these events.

The centerpiece of the program will remain the fellows’ participation in GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting, to take place next fall in Washington, D.C. The fellowship requires participating reporters to deliver a story from the conference and a major piece or series in the following months.

On arriving in Washington, the fellows will participate in a seminar the day before the GSA conference begins. The reporters’ daylong session will showcase research highlights from the meeting and host discussions with veteran journalists on how to position aging stories in the current media environment.

“These fellowships enable ethnic-media journalists to inform the communities that trust them about the complex and often sensitive issues of aging accurately and in their own language or cultural terms,” said NAM Executive Director Sandy Close. “Research by experts at the GSA meeting helps reporters reveal both ethnic disparities and positive innovations in subjects from income security to end-of-life care.”

All applications for the fellowship program will be reviewed by a selection committee of journalists and experts in aging.

The criteria will include clarity and originality of proposed in-depth story projects; quality of samples of published or produced work; and high-impact potential of proposals geographically and across different ethnic or racial populations.

Ten previous fellows also will receive funds to come to the meeting in Washington to cover the newest developments in the field of aging.

“The fellowship continues to offer a terrific platform for stretching my network of journalists and aging sources,” said Kerry Hannon, a Forbes magazine contributing editor and PBS Next Avenue columnist who was selected as a fellow in 2011. “This supportive program has provided an enriched playing field for me to report, learn, and make an impact through my writing.”

A continuously updated list of stories from the fellows is available at www.geron.org/journalistfellows.
ESPO Wraps up a Productive 2013

Thanks are given to Jennifer A. Palmer, MS, for her contribution to this installment of ESPO News.

ESPO has concluded a busy year and this column highlights our 2013 activities. We hope you have benefitted from all of ESPO’s offerings and will continue to do so in the new year. Keep a look out for similar and brand new initiatives in 2014.

Career Development Opportunities

Webinar Series • The ESPO Webinar Task Force finalized the details for the first installment in the ESPO Career Development Webinar Series, scheduled for Friday, February 7. The presentation is titled “Increasing the Odds that Your Manuscript Will Be Published” and will be led by Merrill Silverstein, PhD, the current editor of The Journal of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences. Watch your e-mail and the ESPO Facebook page for more details on how to register!

ESPO/Section Symposia • ESPO representatives from each GSA section organized symposia on a variety of topics for the 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting. ESPO members participated as presenters and discussants of these successful symposia alongside senior GSA professionals.

Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars • ESPO members joined with GSA professionals and leaders during the Mentoring Consultancies session at the 2013 annual meeting. Structured mentoring centered around questions raised by participants on professional development. Several GSA bodies came together to sponsor this event including the Task Force on Mentoring, the BSS and SRPP Sections, the Publications Committee, and ESPO.

Reaching Out to Membership

Annual Meeting Communications • The ESPO Executive Committee mailed “I Am an ESPO Member, and I Am the Future of GSA” postcards to members prior to the annual meeting via snail mail. ESPO leaders donned “Ask Me about ESPO” buttons in New Orleans to make themselves identifiable and more accessible to ESPO membership. ESPO also posted several pages advertising the group’s activities in the Program Book.

ESPO Annual Meeting Survey • In December 2013 we repeated last year’s effort of administering an online survey to ESPO members who attended the annual meeting. Last year’s survey informed several initiatives this year, a tradition we plan to repeat in 2014. The 2013 survey targeted an even wider audience of ESPO members by reaching out to those individuals who did not attend the annual meeting.

Newsletter Columns in Gerontology News • The Newsletter Task Force collaborates to write monthly columns on behalf of ESPO for GSA’s Gerontology News. This past year’s column, edited by Jenny Palmer, included topics about: getting involved in ESPO, writing abstracts for the annual meeting, being a novice reviewer for GSA journals, academic and non-academic positions in gerontology, funding opportunities in aging, and being an advocate for elders. You can access this past year’s issues online at www.geron.org/Publications.

Maximizing Use of Media • This year’s social media accomplishments have included channeling all ESPO communications through one e-mail address, revising our web page, and using Facebook as a medium to pair members together to share hotel costs at the annual meeting. The ESPO chair continued to send quarterly e-newsletters to keep members informed of current happenings.

Additional Initiatives

Membership Spotlight Nominations • “Member Spotlight” features a chosen member on the GSA website, highlighting his/her research/practice interests, accomplishments, aspirations, etc. to introduce GSA members from across the globe to the rest of the membership and highlight his/her dedication to gerontology. Four times a year, this honor is bestowed specifically upon an ESPO member. We have begun a nominations process for selecting “spotlighted” members. If you would like to nominate an ESPO member or nominate yourself, please write us at espo@geron.org to learn more.

International Task Force • This year the ESPO International Task Force sponsored a book drive on behalf of the new social work program at Ilia State University, located in the country of Georgia. We collected teaching and learning gerontology resources at this year’s Annual Meeting as part of this effort. ESPO also worked over the summer with the Canadian Association on Gerontology Student Connection to co-author a newsletter column. The piece focuses on the benefits of international collaborations. We will share this write-up via an ESPO e-newsletter from the ESPO chair and via a posting on the ESPO webpage.

“Thank You” Campaign • ESPO grants travel awards by lottery each year to ESPO entrants who are attending the Annual Meeting. This year ESPO took an extra step to thank financial sponsors of the cause. We extended heartfelt gratitude individually to donors via a “thank you” card initiative.

Please don’t be a stranger! Volunteer or nominate yourself or others for ESPO positions. Contact us at espo@geron.org with any questions or comments. And please make use of the GSA website (www.geron.org/espo), Twitter (@GSA_ESPO), Facebook (search “GSA Emerging Scholar & Professional Organization”), and LinkedIn (search “GSA ESPO”) to keep in touch throughout 2014.
**Diverse Attendance**

Approximately 3,600 people made their way to New Orleans for GSA’s 66th Annual Scientific Meeting. Among them, 18 percent came from a total of 38 countries outside the U.S. The program featured more than 400 sessions during the five-day event at the New Orleans Marriott and Sheraton New Orleans. Among the most popular presentations were the Presidential Symposia, which showcased the meeting’s theme, “Optimal Aging Through Research.”

**Unique Events**

In the President’s Opening Plenary Session, the keynote address, “Guiding the Modern World Through the Second Half of Life,” Bruce Clark discussed how gerontologists have a unique opportunity to help guide the dialog to change how the world thinks about old age.

The Mentoring Effect, a special project of the GSA Innovation Fund, was officially announced in New Orleans. This is a three-year effort that will raise money to be used exclusively to support mentorship within the Society. GSA has received more than $85,000 in pledges so far.

The meeting also served as the venue for the launch of the Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative, which is a new partnership between GSA and the John A. Hartford Foundation. This will be a multi-year project designed to create change in the practice environment that will improve the health of older adults, their families, and communities. Learn more by visiting www.changeagents365.org.

On the final day of the meeting, GSA convened its second Global Aging Forum, which focused on transnational research and educational efforts concerning global aging and health.

The photographs on the right give more details about these and many other unique events.
Outgoing GSA President Laurence Rubenstein handed over the reins to his successor, Rosemary Blieszner, at the conclusion of the Donald P. Kent and Robert W. Kleemeier Award lecture session.

The Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative kicked off with a reception attended by more than 300 people. Participants used a live word cloud, Twitter station, and photo booth to interact and collaborate with other Hartford grantees. Here, Lois Evans and Jeffrey Halter answer “Incorporating mental health in primary care” to the question that photo booth participants were instructed to answer, “What kind of practice change is needed?”

During the President’s Opening Plenary Session, keynote speaker Bruce Clark said that gerontologists will be able to find many areas in the work force increasingly receptive to how much they can contribute.

Social Media Participation

GSA engaged attendees through social media unlike any previous meeting. Users were able to follow live updates from concurrent sessions via Twitter at @geronsociety and follow even more content from the meeting via the hashtag #GSA13. There were more than 1,490 tweets using this hashtag and nearly 10 percent of attendees were tweeting on site. On Facebook, attendees could view photos and tag themselves at receptions. GSA Facebook posts were seen by more than 40,000 people around the world. Photos and videos from the meeting are available at at www.facebook.com/geronsociety.

GSA in the News

GSA issued press passes to 42 reporters in New Orleans, including representatives from CNN International, Forbes, Next Avenue, the Arizona Republic, La Opinión, and several NPR affiliates.

Among these press attendees were 17 new and 17 returning participants in the MetLife Foundation Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, which GSA organized for the fourth consecutive year in conjunction with New America Media using funding provided by the MetLife Foundation. Half of the participants in the program represented media outlets with ethnic minority audiences.

Visit www.geron.org/press for links to news articles that resulted from sessions at the meeting. This page will be updated continuously as participants in the MetLife Foundation Journalists in Aging Fellows Program submit their stories in early 2014.

Looking Ahead

The Call for Abstracts for the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting — taking place from November 5 to 9 in Washington, DC — is now available on GSA’s website at www.geron.org/abstracts. The theme for this conference will be “Making Connections: From Cells to Societies.” All abstract submissions must be received by March 5.

Please note that both the meeting dates and the abstract deadline are earlier than in previous years.
ADVANCING THE AGING SCIENCES AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

National Science Foundation funding will allow 11 new doctoral students to study aging over the next 2 years at Oregon State University. This Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) is the first and only IGERT program in the nation with a focus on aging sciences. The program provides a $30,000 stipend and support for tuition and research.

Students will be mentored by faculty in existing research cores at Oregon State’s Center for Healthy Aging Research: 1) diet and genetics 2) musculoskeletal 3) psychosocial and 4) gerontechnology.

Students from diverse disciplines, including psychology, sociology, public health, nutrition, exercise sciences, engineering, computer sciences, chemistry, biology, design and other disciplines are welcome to apply for Fall 2014.

Dr. Karen Hooker is the program’s Principal Investigator. Program information is available on the IGERT in Aging Sciences website: http://health.oregonstate.edu/igert/ or contact Anne.Hatley@oregonstate.edu.

RAND is pleased to announce the 21st annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 7-10, 2014. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 7-8) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics Psychology and Epidemiology of Aging (July 9-10). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2014 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: http://www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/.

For additional information, please contact Cary Greif (cary_greif@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health. RAND is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

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ATTENTION SCHOOLS OF NURSING—JOIN US!

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Continued from page 1 - PP&AR Added as Member Benefit; Joins Journals in Oxford Vanguard

Dissertation Fellowships Focus on Retirement Income Research

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College is accepting applications for the 2014 Dissertation Fellowship Program for research on retirement income and policy issues, funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration. The fellowships support doctoral candidates writing dissertations on retirement income and policy issues. The program is open to scholars in all academic disciplines and up to two fellowships of $28,000 will be awarded. The submission deadline for proposals is February 14. Award recipients will be announced by April. Visit the crr.bc.edu/about-us/grant-programs/dissertation-fellowship-program-2/ to view the proposal guidelines.

Mental Health Scholarship Targets Asian, Pacific Islander Social Workers

The Asian and Pacific Islander Social Work Educators Association is inviting applications for the Okura Mental Health Scholarship for API (Asian and Pacific Islander) Social Workers. This scholarship is funded through the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation Grant and is being offered in collaboration with the Council of Social Work Education. The Okura Mental Health Scholarship for API Social Workers aims to improve mental health services to the API population in the U.S. through innovative and culturally competent social work research, practice, and education. Two scholarships will be offered each year (maximum $10,000 each) to fund the planning, implementation, and results dissemination of an innovative and culturally competent research or projects that focus on API mental health related issues. There are three funding cycles and scholarship funding for each year will be for a period of 15 months. Applicants may apply for only one year of support; current applications are being accepted for the 2014–2015 funding cycle. Eligible applicants are post-graduate API social work doctoral students at the dissertation stage, or non-tenured full-time social work professors in the early stage of their career doing API related mental health research/training/programs. Scholarship applicants should be affiliated with an institution of higher education in the U.S. Collaborations between university faculty and practitioners are encouraged. For additional details, visit www.cswe.org/CentersInitiatives/Diversity/AboutDiversity/51139/54865.aspx. The due date for proposals is March 30.

AHRQ to Support Advances in Patient Safety through Simulation Research

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) plans to fund a diverse set of projects that develop, test, and evaluate various simulation approaches for the purpose of improving the safe delivery of health care. Applications that address a variety of simulation techniques, clinical settings, provider groups, priority populations, patient conditions, and threats to safety are welcomed. The next due date for this funding opportunity is May 25. Additional details can be obtained at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-004.html.

The most recent issue, “The Longevity Dividend: Geroscience Meets Geropolitics,” was developed in partnership with the American Federation for Aging Research. It showcases work in the emerging interdisciplinary field of geroscience, which is based on the knowledge that aging itself is the major risk factor for most chronic diseases prevalent in the older population. The authors argue state that finding a way to slow the biological processes of aging will do more to extend the period of healthy life in humans than attacking individual diseases alone.

A total of seven articles discuss the contemporary pursuit of scientific means to extend the period of healthy life by slowing aging in people — known as the Longevity Dividend Initiative — and some of the obstacles that stand in the way of what many consider to be one of the most exciting breakthroughs in the history of science and public health.

As author Gordon J. Lithgow, PhD, points out, many childhood diseases were brought under control by antibiotics and vaccines once scientists understood they essentially had a single cause: microbes. If the diseases of late life also have a single cause (aging itself), then researchers should be able to develop classes of therapeutics by targeting aging mechanisms in a way similar to targeting microbial infection.

Yet Hudson, in his introduction to the issue, explains that scientists may face difficulty in convincing skeptics — among the biomedical community, public and private funders of research, and the general public — that attacking aging is a viable and more efficient approach to reducing the risk of all fatal and disabling diseases and improving well-being across the life cycle.

Author S. Jay Olshansky, PhD, additionally emphasizes that the Longevity Dividend Initiative is not focused on delaying aging at the expense of an extended period of infirmity at the end of life. He writes that “although people who benefit from advances in aging science will probably live longer, the extension of healthy life is the primary goal. In addition, reductions in the infirmities of old age and increased economic value to individuals and societies would accrue from the extension of healthy life.”
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Visit:
http://tulane.edu/som/aging/interdisciplinary-phd-program-in-aging.cfm
South Korea Experiencing Increase in Disabled Older Adults

Yonhap News Agency reported on October 7, 2013, that a state-run think tank indicated the proportion of those aged 65 years and older who have disabilities is rising in South Korea. The proportion of older South Koreans with disabilities was 38.8 percent in 2011, compared to 36.1 percent in 2008 and 32.5 percent in 2005. The increase in proportion can be attributed to the additional number of older adults with disabilities who are living longer due to medical technology and advances, as well as the increase in the number of older people becoming disabled. Those aged at least 65 years of age is expected by comprise 24 percent of the total population in South Korea by 2030, and almost 38 percent in the year 2050.

Hong Kong Government Offers Strategies to Address Declining Workforce

An article in the South China Morning Star on October 25, 2013, focused on a proposed five-pronged approach to managing the challenges arising from Hong Kong’s aging population. Government advisors suggested five strategies to address Hong Kong’s declining workforce. These include approaches to reach individuals that are currently inactive in the workforce, such as housewives and retirees, and to encourage them to return to the workforce. There is growing concern as the workforce is expected to further decline over the next five years due to the aging population. It is reported that by the year 2041, only 1.8 working people between the ages of 15 and 64 will financially support one dependent older adult, as compared to a ratio of 5:1 in 2013. The proposed strategies not only include expanding the labor force by encouraging more women and retirees to return to work, but also includes enhancing the quality of the workforce by improving education and maximizing skill to job pairing; searching for global talent and upgrading the labor import system; fostering a supportive environment for raising children; and helping older adults remain active in the community.

Art Exhibition Sparks Conversations About Death at Singapore Hospital

On November 18, 2013, Channel NewsAsia published an article regarding an arts exhibition in Singapore that aimed to elicit conversations about death and dying among healthcare professionals, caregivers, and the public. The exhibit, “BOTH SIDES, NOW,” ran for three weeks at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. The works included installations, short films, animation, outdoor theater, and public dialogue. One of the installations, “Entrances and Exits,” consisted of objects donated by patients, caregivers, and healthcare workers and symbolized how these individuals faced loss, while remaining resilient. The animated short films depicted personal stories by medical professionals on their experiences with death, and the films and stories were created from research and interviews with 50 patients, caregivers and medical professionals. The exhibition also featured a will booth allowing individuals to complete a living will.

China’s Rural Older Adult Population Facing Care Shortage

Shanghai Daily published an article on December 5, 2013, on the increasing desolate rural areas in China where many young people have left their aging families behind. The article described the Nalong village of Fusui County in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, where 200 older people established an association to care for each other. It was reported that China has 194 million people aged 60 years or older and 120 million are from the countryside, and 40 percent of rural older individuals are left without family care. The article stated that services for older people in rural areas are limited; furthermore, most rural older people in China do not have the funds to pay for the existing services. The traditional preference for support within the home hinders the development of older care services, but if older people are moved to nursing homes, their children are then seen as not being filial. Despite these preferences, however, China’s cabinet ordered lower-level authorities to increase investment in nursing services in rural areas this past fall.
Recognize Leaders in the Field

Nominate Them To Become GSA Fellows!

Fellow status is an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. This recognition can come at varying points in a career and can acknowledge a broad scope of activity, including research, teaching, administration, public service, practice, and notable participation within the Society.

Potential candidates must:
• Get a nomination letter from a current GSA fellow of the candidate’s section. Self-nominations are no longer accepted.
• Get an endorsement letter from one other fellow of the candidate’s section (both must be members in good standing).
• Be a regular GSA member for a minimum of five years.
• Meet the specific requirements made by the candidate’s section.
• Submit a current C.V.

Nominations will be accepted until February 15. Visit www.geron.org/Membership/Fellows for details.

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Chattanooga’s Nursing School to Establish Gerontology Chair
The new Vicky B. Gregg Chair of Gerontology in the School of Nursing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga has been funded by a $1.5 million gift from the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Health Foundation and honors the distinguished career of the organization’s retired chief executive officer. The School of Nursing has recently earned two U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grants for curriculum development and research in gerontology, and the person that will serve as the Gregg Chair will oversee research projects, community partnerships, and course delivery in the areas of adult and geriatric medicine. The position will be filled by an advanced practice nurse with adult geriatric nurse practitioner experience and will work to improve the health care of older adults through inter-professional teams, including representatives from academic departments such as nursing, nutrition, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and others. These teams will focus on curriculum development, research, and outcomes for best practices to improve the health of geriatric patients and identify cost-effective health care protocols.

Boston College Leads Effort to Prepare Social Workers
The National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services at The Boston College Graduate School of Social Work has formed a partnership to help prepare social workers for the expanding area of needs of older people and individuals with disabilities. The New York Community Trust has provided support to the center, which will work with the Council for Social Work Education and its National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education to assist the Graduate School of Social Work and eight other social work programs in developing and implementing classroom and fieldwork curricula on person-centered and participant-directed services and supports. The three-year $886,300 award will fund an in-classroom and fieldwork project curricula at Boston College and social work schools or programs at Southern Connecticut State University, University of Maryland, Plymouth State University, Hunter College-City University of New York, University of Portland, University of Vermont, University of Washington, and University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. The schools will create person-centered and participant-directed modules for its core classes, and schools will collaborate with a local aging and disability resource center or similar agency that will review the curricular resources and supervise student field placements.

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