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GSA Innovation Fund Welcomes 2011 Donations
The annual GSA Innovation Fund, launched in 2010, was established to strengthen the Society’s commitment to fulfilling the needs of its members in the years ahead. Given the forthcoming demands on aging-related professionals, this annual giving campaign is the founding investment in the future of gerontology. Be among GSA’s first supporters for 2011! Visit www.geron.org/giveback for more information. All contributions to the GSA Innovation Fund will be used to invest in the development of new programs, products, and services for members.

Early Registration Opens for Boston Meeting
GSA is offering an advance registration opportunity for the 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston. This option is convenient for those who have surplus funds from the current budget year that may expire soon. Visit www.geron.org/annualmeeting to download the pre-registration form. Online registration will be available in July. Discounted hotel rates and the complete lineup of pre-conference workshops are also available on the website. The meeting will take place from Friday, November 18, to Tuesday, November 22, in Boston, MA. The 2011 theme is “Lifestyle → Lifespan.”

Grant Renewal To Bolster Journalists’ Meeting Coverage

The MetLife Foundation has awarded GSA and New America Media (NAM) $100,000 in new grant funding to continue the MetLife Foundation Journalists in Aging Fellows Program. This successful initiative, now in its second year, will bring aging-focused reporters to GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston in November. Half of the invited participants will be chosen from ethnic media outlets.

The program will accept 16 individuals who will deliver a story from the meeting and a major piece or series in the following months. The funds also will allow ten previous fellows to come to Boston to cover the newest developments in the field of aging. A panel of journalists and gerontologists will select the new fellows.

U.S. government statistics predict that over the next 40 years, the number of Americans age 65 and over will double. Additionally, those from ethnic and racial minorities are expected to make up 40 percent of this age group by 2050.

“The unprecedented growth of the senior demographic calls for a stronger media focus on aging,” said GSA Deputy Executive Director Linda Harootyan, MSW. “At GSA’s meeting, journalists can turn to experts to better understand scientific discoveries, social and policy debates, and solutions to the issues facing older people.”

Zhang To Strengthen U.S./China Ties as GSA’s First Visiting Scholar

GSA has named Ning Jackie Zhang, MD, PhD, MPH, as the first participant in its Visiting Scholar Program.

In this capacity, Zhang will play an active role in furthering GSA’s China Initiative, which seeks to foster the development of strong linkages and collaboration between gerontologists in the U.S. and China. As a result of the initiative, the number of GSA members in China has grown over the last two years to 43 individuals at 22 institutions in eight major cities.

“Dr. Zhang’s expertise will allow us to cultivate important relationships at Chinese universities, hospitals, government agencies, and professional associations.” said GSA Executive Director James Appleby, RPh, MPH. “I look forward to working with him as we foster research that will benefit the aging population around the world.”

Zhang is an active GSA member, most prominently serving as a convener of the organization’s Chinese Gerontology Studies Interest Group. His appointment as a visiting scholar will take place during the 2011–2012 academic year.

He currently is an associate professor of public affairs and health management and informatics at the University of Central Florida. His ongoing scholarly interests there are centered in clinical outcomes research, long-term care research, emergency medical services, and health informatics.

“I am excited to be part of the effort to expand GSA’s impact and reach in China and other Asian countries and stimulate translational aging studies and communications among international...
Your Strengths Bring Success to GSA

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

As a professional membership society, GSA exists to serve its members. It also exists because of its members, as you provide the three valuable resources upon which the organization is built: expertise, time, and financial support.

The GSA team is working hard to create new ways to make the most of these precious resources.

The cover of this month’s newsletter talks about GSA’s new Visiting Scholar Program. It is intended to provide the possibility for members — typically those on sabbatical leave — to focus on an aging-related project that utilizes the member’s expertise with the support of the Society. Our first participant, Ning Jackie Zhang, MD, PhD, MPH, has strong ties to China and will work to both increase the number of Chinese GSA members and bolster our support network for them.

The development of strong international ties grows increasingly important as GSA prepares to host the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco in 2017. The types of initiatives that future visiting scholars could undertake are as diverse as the many disciplines found within our Society, so I am very eager to hear from members about ideas for potential projects.

Time is a resource that is scarce for all of us. As GSA’s executive director, I am grateful for the time commitment from our elected officers, committee and task force members, meeting program chairs and abstract reviewers, and journal editors and reviewers. In recent months we also have asked members to take time to add their voices to our advocacy efforts. Such requests come in the form of e-mails with “Action Alert” in the subject line, and usually are sent in response to threats against research dollars in the federal budget. Debates on such appropriations are always looming, so expect to see similar calls to action from GSA in the near future.

Financial support for GSA can be made in very rewarding ways, too. One of these is the annual Innovation Fund, which launched last year as part of our 65th anniversary festivities. Its primary purpose is to develop new products, programs, and services for members. The 2011 Innovation Fund is now underway, and the revenue generated already has supported a number of important projects. As you will read on pages 8 and 9, the Innovation Fund provided small grants for several universities to hold Careers in Aging Week activities. In mid-2011, the Innovation Fund is being used to sponsor a webinar where members can direct questions to National Institute on Aging Director Richard Hodes, MD, regarding the state of federally funded aging research. (The webinar will be archived on GSA’s website and further coverage will appear in next month’s Gerontology News.)

Additionally, by the fall of this year, GSA will roll out a program allowing members to participate in planned giving through the Society. This will enable individuals to include GSA in their end-of-life planning and continue their legacy in the field.

I gladly welcome reader feedback on the items discussed above. If you are interested in joining the Visiting Scholar Program, have a suggestion for a member benefit that can be supported by the Innovation Fund, or want more information about planned giving through GSA, let me know at jappleby@geron.org.

Sincerely,

James

From the Executive Director


New Publications by Members


Members in the News

- Thomas Perls, MD, was quoted in an Associated Press story on April 26. He spoke about the significance of the increase in the number of Americans reaching age 100.
- GSA Fellow Susan Kemper, PhD, was quoted in a recent syndicated article from Health Day News. She discussed a new study she authored in the Journal of Gerontology Series A: Psychological and Social Sciences that found that slowing of the brain’s processing speed as people age is the prime cause of typical communication problems in older adults.
- A recent article in the U.K.’s The Telegraph focused on the longevity of Britain’s royal family. GSA Fellow Aubrey De Grey, PhD, was quoted in the story on the subject of the human life expectancy.
- Gregory O’Neill, PhD, was interviewed by WJLA, ABC’s Washington, DC, affiliate, on April 11. In response to a journal article that found that daily shopping provided health benefits to older Taiwanese residents, he spoke about the factors that can contribute to healthy aging.

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members.

The current spotlight shines on:

Michelle Putnam, PhD

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:

Teresa E. Gehman, PhD

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Jean L. Olinger, PhD, 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/connection.

Antonucci Wins Masterpiece Living’s Kahn Award

Former GSA President Toni Antonucci, PhD has been named Masterpiece Living’s 2011 recipient of the Robert L. Kahn award. This honor, established in 2008, recognizes contributions to the propagation and application of principles of successful aging. Antonucci currently is the vice president for research at the University of Michigan, where she also serves as the Elizabeth M. Douvan Collegiate Professor of Psychology and a senior research scientist at the school’s Institute for Social Research Life Course Development Program. She will assume the role of secretary general-elect for the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics when GSA hosts the World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in 2017. Antonucci conducts research on social relations and health across the life span, including multigenerational studies of the family and comparative studies of social relations across the lifespan in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Gatz Earns Honorary Doctorate

GSA Fellow Margaret Gatz, PhD, has been made an honorary doctor of medicine by the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. She was recognized for her ongoing influence on a generation of scientists in the fields of aging, epidemiology of neurodegenerative diseases, psychiatric epidemiology, and clinical psychology. She has been a foreign adjunct professor at the Karolinska Institutet since 2000, and has devoted many years of research to the Swedish Adoption/Twin Study of Ageing. That study alone has generated over 100 publications and new knowledge about how heredity and environment influence the risk of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. Gatz is currently a professor of psychology, gerontology, and preventive medicine at the University of Southern California and serves as director of the Education Core of the school’s Alzheimer Disease Research Center.

Lichtenberg Honored by Michigan Consortium

GSA Fellow Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, was awarded the 2010 Spirit of Collaboration Award from the Michigan Consortium for his work with the Detroit Community Network Program. The research aims to reduce health disparities in older, underserved African Americans. Lichtenberg is the director of both the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, and is the founding director of the Wayne State University Lifespan Alliance.

Haber Transitions to Western Oregon University

GSA Fellow David Haber, PhD, has taken a new post as a faculty member at Western Oregon University as the school starts a new program in gerontology. Until recently, he was the John and Janice Fisher Distinguished Professor of Wellness and Gerontology and associate director of the Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology at Ball State University. Haber is the author of “Health Promotion and Aging” and previously was recognized for two Best Practice Awards from the National Council on the Aging. He also received the Distinguished Teacher Award from the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education and the Molly Mettler Award for Leadership in Health Promotion from the National Council on Aging.

Wolf Receives Emerita Status

GSA Fellow Mary Alice Wolf, EdD, has been named a professor emerita of gerontology at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT. She also recently was inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. Wolf is also a fellow of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She received her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts.
Modernizing the Older Americans Act: Indispensable yet Affordable

Congress has more on its plate than enacting a budget and funding the government — and older Americans have more at stake than potential changes to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Soon Congress will consider reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA), which provides federal funds for nutrition programs, home- and community-based services, long-term care ombudsmen, caregiver support, transportation for medical services, senior centers, and senior employment programs among many others. For millions of Americans the OAA is essential to their quality of life.

The OAA is reauthorized every four years, typically with bipartisan support. But we all are well aware that in 2011, Congress's fiscal mood is none too benevolent.

Important to us and service leaders across the country are OAA provisions enacted in 2006 that begin to address the needs of adults age 50+ who want to redefine retirement into something more active, whether that be to take a new job, engage in volunteer service, continue their education, or become active in community public affairs.

The law encourages the use of trained volunteers to provide direct services and to create opportunities for adults age 50+ to remain actively engaged and to work, serve, learn, and lead.

GSA, along with Experience Wave and the National Council on Aging, has been a leader in the reauthorization effort. GSA is a founding member of the Age4Action network, a national consortium of aging groups.

In an effort to build a case for the reauthorization of the OAA and to learn more about contemporary service needs, Age4Action in 2010 hosted six OAA Idea Forums, each of which examined a fundamental question: “How can the OAA create opportunities to engage older adults in their communities?”

More than 700 citizens, aging services professionals, and civic and community leaders of Las Vegas, Philadelphia, St. Paul, St. Louis, Denver, and Los Angeles spent several hours in their respective communities discussing how OAA programs can promote and support opportunities for adults age 50+ who want to improve their quality of life and that of their communities.

The results of those community dialogues have been published in a report titled “Modernizing the Older Americans Act.” Its recommendations are grouped according to the four categories of work, serve, learn, and lead.

OAA Idea Forums

Work

As America ages, adults are living longer and healthier lives. Many people want or need to continue working past retirement. It is in the best interest of society and our economy to encourage and support these older workers.

Among the ideas for improving work opportunities for older adults is to encourage employers to maximize the effectiveness of flexible work schedules and improve technology training for both beginner and intermediate computer users.

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) helps low-income, unemployed older adults find employment that serves a community need and receive training and job placement services to support their transition to unsubsidized employment. It is not only a job training program; it is a community service program — a cost-effective way to ensure that older adults can become self-sufficient while providing a valuable service to America's communities.

It has been suggested that SCSEP participants could work as advocates on elder justice issues, assisting with long-term care ombudsmen programs and other agencies in preventing abuse and exploitation of older Americans. For example, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs created by the OAA rely on volunteers to assist with management of excessive case loads. A formal partnership would allow for standardized training and a reliable set of volunteers to help the ombudsman programs fulfill their responsibilities.

Serve

The recommendations in the Age4Action report emphasize the importance of sustainable volunteering, both for the volunteer and the benefiting organization.

OAA should support volunteers and community-based organizations by improving the coordination and delivery of services under the Act and maximizing the impact of volunteers. Research has shown that investing in volunteers can produce as much as an 8:1 return. Hiring a volunteer manager can help improve volunteer recruitment, retention, efficacy and overall community impact.

But most community organizations can’t afford a volunteer manager. Pilot programs have tested volunteer management placement programs in which a single organization trains and places volunteer managers in community organizations that cannot afford to pay them. Many of these organizations soon see the high value of such a position and find ways to work the position into their budgets. Age4Action recommends expanding such pilots and testing new models for establishing volunteer management training and support.

Safety and background checks are important to the sustainability of volunteer programs, particularly when volunteers work directly with clients, such as in elder abuse prevention programs. If safety and background checks become an explicit allowable use of funds, agencies will recognize the importance of these checks and be able to use previously allocated funds to pay for them.

Forum participants also contemplated how to improve access to transportation and health care insurance for retired adults seeking to provide community services.

Learn

Civic engagement also involves lifelong education and training. Through the OAA, older adults may seek educational opportunities for...
job training, caregiver training, and personal fulfillment. However, barriers such as transportation or lack of disability-friendly programs often make it difficult for them to access the training. It has been suggested that transportation issues be considered in the reauthorization.

Idea Forum participants also suggested that the aging community continue to pursue the long-standing goal of establishing educational tax incentives, called Lifelong Learning Accounts, which allow individuals to set aside pre-tax dollars for educational expenses in accounts similar to health savings accounts.

Lead

Engaging older adults in their communities demands that political leaders encourage it and that older Americans learn how to lead.

A possible model for the aging community may be found in the retirement training programs sponsored by an employee association that dispenses information about opportunities for ongoing community engagement following retirement. Information can be shared with employees through pre-retirement seminars or one-on-one information sessions. This prepares the new “retiree” to take an active role in the life of the community.

Specific Recommendations

Age4Action has focused its OAA recommendations on three main goals:

1) Develop a national strategy for civic engagement;
2) Strengthen the capacity of older workers; and
3) Promote sustainable volunteering.

Develop a National Strategy

Among the leaders in encouraging and facilitating civic engagement are the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA), the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and the U.S. Department of Labor.

Congress should authorize these agencies to jointly create a national strategy for older adult civic engagement, including enhancing research and evidence-based practices in this field.

At the local level, the national strategy should ensure that referral resources are strengthened so that at-risk and low-income older adults can access the social service and workforce opportunities that are designed specifically to meet their needs.

Recommendations 1–3:

- Move the civic engagement resource center at the AoA from Title IV to Title II of the OAA, thus making it a formal agency program. Authorize the agency and the CNCS to jointly create a national strategy to tap older volunteers to meet community needs.
- Authorize and fund projects for qualified institutions to collect and analyze data on the impact of work, service, and learning on both the clients and communities receiving service as well as on the 50+ adult who is providing service.
- Enhance volunteer and SCSEP referral resources at area agencies on aging.

Strengthen the Capacity of Older Workers

Age4Action wholeheartedly supports SCSEP. In order to ensure the program continues to be both effective and sustainable, Age4Action’s report recommends encouraging SCSEP providers to work with local technology training organizations to provide quality computer and technology courses to SCSEP participants so they can be adequately prepared to meet job qualifications in the modern economy.

Additionally, SCSEP participant placements should include working to prevent elder abuse, a rising unmet need. Finally, to ensure program efficiency, accuracy, and sustainability, the report calls on Congress to review SCSEP’s provisions and regulations on participant exit data.

Recommendations 4–6:

- Enhance quality technology training opportunities for SCSEP participants.
- Allow Title V programs to include elder abuse prevention and volunteer support for the state and long-term care ombudsman.
- Modify Title V program measures to account for durational exits.

Promote Sustainable Volunteering

Many older adults are active, passionate members of society who want to make a meaningful contribution. To harness their energy, OAA should help community-based organizations to recruit, train, and retain volunteers.

Recommendations 7–9:

- To increase the number of volunteers age 50+ and to improve volunteer retention, OAA should enable the establishment of volunteer management programs to train and place volunteer 50+ managers in relevant community-based organizations.
- Safety and liability measures such as driver’s license checks and criminal background checks should be an allowable use of funds under Title III.
- Include elder abuse prevention, elder justice, and services to victims of elder abuse within the purview of AoA program activities.

Take Action NOW

We can take action right now to promote the recommendations of the Age4Action report.

For example, Congress should restore funding for SCSEP, which was slashed by 45 percent to $450 million in the president’s budget request.

Also reduced under the AoA budget were the Multigenerational and Civic Engagement demonstration projects.

The committees of jurisdiction are the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and its Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging, chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and ranking member Rand Paul (R-KY); and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and its Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, chaired by Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and ranking member Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX).

The Age4Action report comes at a critical moment when the voices of adults age 50+ need to be heard. The OAA reauthorization presents an opportunity to improve society and strengthen communities through the active engagement of older adults.

To view the complete report, visit www.age4action.org.
ESPO’s Leadership Eager To Welcome New Team Members

GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) is made up of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral and junior researchers. There are many opportunities for students and emerging scholars to play an active role within the Society, and getting involved with ESPO is a great way to start! This month’s column will showcase several opportunities and provide some insight on what ESPO has been doing in preparation for GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston this November.

Don’t miss a great opportunity. ESPO has two representatives in each of the four sections of the Society: Biological Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, and Social Research, Policy, and Practice. Among their duties, the representatives have the opportunity to learn more about each section on a large scale and put together a symposium for the GSA conference. This year the Biological Sciences Section submitted an abstract that will integrate their ESPO symposium into the main Biological Sciences Section sessions. Upon acceptance, there will be four ESPO speakers presenting in four different symposia on wide ranging topics such as current knowledge on the role of vitamin D in skeletal muscle with a focus on potential underlying mechanisms of action; recent data on the inhibition of myostatin as a long-term treatment for musculoskeletal dysfunction with aging; findings on the effects of hypertension and smoking on the genetic influences underlying cognitive and physical function; and data on the potential role of intramuscular lipids on age-associated skeletal muscle loss and neuromuscular function.

In keeping with the theme of this year’s conference, “Lifestyle → Lifespan,” the student researchers in the Health Sciences Section submitted a symposium abstract on the many social, cultural, and internal factors that influence lifespan both nationally and globally. One study compares hypertension prevalence rates in two economically similar but demographically different countries: Japan and the U.S. Another examines diabetes and hypertension-related mortality risk among the oldest old in an ethnically diverse population in China. A presentation on racial and ethnic minorities within the U.S. will identify barriers to exercise and increasing support to healthcare professionals who promote exercise participation among African-American women. Finally, the findings of whether social support, religiosity, and self-management behaviors have an effect on health status and self-rated health in older adult Mexican-Americans will be presented, pending acceptance of the abstract.

There are several GSA committees that one can serve on as an ESPO member. The Membership Committee oversees the activities and policies of the Society concerning membership and assists the Society and its staff with membership promotion and retention. The Membership Committee has been working most recently on the Campus Ambassadors Program. The committee is interested in identifying those who are interested in serving as campus ambassadors. There will be a meeting at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston to provide a clearer idea of interest level among ESPO members.

The Publications Committee is excited about the discussion surrounding junior scholarship that commenced prior to the 2010 GSA conference. Each of GSA’s journals offer a reviewer-in-training service that pairs junior reviewers with more senior reviewers to guide them through the process and offer feedback on reviews. ESPO Publication Committee representatives are eager to share more information with ESPO members on how to become involved with the reviewer-in-training service.

GSA would not be complete without its task forces. Each task force has a different mission, and ESPO members are always able to find their niche with at least one. The Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology (TFMIG) undertakes activities to increase the quantity and quality of gerontological research on minority aging questions, increase the number of minority researchers in gerontology, and increase the number and participation of minority members in GSA. This year, the TFMIG is offering a student research paper/poster award solely to ESPO members. The award will recognize ESPO members for innovative and demonstrated research focusing on issues surrounding diverse racial and ethnic population groups.

The Task Force on Women has submitted a joint symposium with the TFMIG featuring presentations on women, diversity, and aging. This task force is charged with bringing greater attention to the broad range of aging women’s issues; increasing public and private research on older women; promoting gender-specific information in key databases; facilitating better utilization of research on older women in the development of policies and programs and services; supporting the professional development of women and scholars, educators, and policymakers who are advancing work on this topic; and securing funding to implement plans of work to address these goals.

These are just several of the sections, committees, and task forces that are part of the greater ESPO community. We encourage you to get involved. More information is available at www.geron.org/Students. The call for open positions will be issued within a few months; current members are eager to have more students and emerging scholars volunteer for these leadership opportunities!

Special thanks are given to the section representatives who collaborated on this article: Tracy Davis, Shieva Davarian, Sherry Greenberg, Katherine Hall, Kimberly Johnson, Donato Rivas, and Noah Webster.
Harootyan co-directs the program with Paul Kleyman, the senior editor of NAM’s ethnic elders newsbeat and national coordinator of the Journalists Network on Generations, a collaborator on this project. "The MetLife Foundation’s second-year funding not only attests to the outpouring of articles resulting from the first fellowship year, but also to the enthusiasm reporters have shown in digging deeply into issues of aging. Many have continued writing articles beyond their original proposals," said Kleyman.

Upon arrival in Boston, the fellows will participate in a day-long pre-conference session. GSA will showcase research highlights from the meeting and host discussions with veteran journalists on how to position aging stories in the current media environment.

The current application and a continuously updated list of stories from last year’s fellows are available at www.geron.org/pressroom. For a roster of previous fellows, visit www.newamericamedia.org/gsa.php.

The MetLife Foundation, the funder for this project, was created in 1976 by MetLife to continue its longstanding tradition of contributions and community involvement. Its goal is to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. The foundation typically makes grants related to the areas of health, education, civic affairs, and culture.
Careers in Aging Week exists to increase the awareness and visibility of gerontology-related vocational opportunities. It is sponsored every April by GSA and its educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Universities and colleges participate by hosting events at their schools or in their communities. These activities may include guest speakers, career fairs, poster sessions, video presentations, panel discussions, and receptions.

GSA and AGHE would like to thank the participating organizations and commend the imaginative ways they promoted gerontology on their campuses. The examples below highlight just some of the events held across the country.

**Hunter College** held a Careers in Aging Week luncheon that included a panel discussion sponsored and organized by the school’s Student Alliance for an Aging Society. The panel featured three social work graduate students and their supervisors from organizations that serve diverse elders across New York City.

Several events took place at **Ohio University**. The school hosted an expert panel on career trends in the aging field and a screening of the documentary, “Young at Heart.” Furthermore, the College of Health Sciences and Professions held an open house to inform prospective students about the gerontology certificate program and other majors that involve work with older adults.

**Rhode Island College** organized a conference on “Food, Fitness, and Falls” for students and community professionals, followed by a reception for graduating gerontology students and alumni. Information on careers in aging was disseminated at the event and an award to an outstanding gerontology student was presented.

**St. Louis University** hosted a screening of “Aging in America: The Years Ahead.” The filmmakers crossed the U.S. speaking with healthy and unwell older people to gain insight into different styles of aging in America and challenge society’s stereotypes of what it means to grow older. A question and answer session followed the screening.

**Temple University** partnered with GenPhilly’s annual event related to careers in aging, Career Boom: Job Security in an Aging America. GenPhilly is an innovative peer-led organization in Philadelphia that engages and connects emerging leaders in their 20s and 30s.

Save the date for next year’s Career in Aging Week! Visit www.careersinaging.
Following a keynote by Lydia Hernandez, the deputy mayor for aging in Philadelphia, there were five-minute “lightning talks” from various professionals representing the fields of academia, social services, arts, housing, and urban planning.

At the University of Arkansas, a student-created video showcased four area organizations that specialize in care for the older population, including those who provide social activities, housing, health care, education, and caregiver support. The film highlighted services, job opportunities, building tours, and interviews with professionals. A panel discussion followed the film screening.

The Gerontology Department at the University of Nebraska sponsored events on both the Omaha and Lincoln campuses. Upsilon Nu, the local chapter of Sigma Phi Omega, created a display for the chancellor’s monthly showcase in the Eppley Administration Building on the Omaha Campus. Other events in Omaha included a mini-festival featuring area businesses, entertainment, demonstrations, games, and food; a presentation by a financial planner titled, “Comfort or Scarcity in Old Age”; and a seminar for organizations interested in working with gerontology practicum students. The Lincoln campus hosted its annual Spring Colloquium with a presentation by an information technology professional titled, “Avatars, People & Virtual Worlds: A Research Agenda & Demonstration.”

The University of Washington held an annual career fair featuring non-profit, government, and for-profit agencies that provide services to older adults. Additionally, the school hosted a panel discussion titled, “Aging is a Social Justice Issue: Ageism, Racism, Heterosexism.” GSA member Wendy Lustbader, a speaker, author, and teacher, provided an overview of the topics and moderated the panel.

The Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology sponsored a presentation by GSA member Ingrid Conidiis, PhD, from the Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario, titled “Looking Back, Looking Forward: Learning from our Elders and Aging Research.”

GSA and AGHE gratefully acknowledge the Geriatric Social Work Initiative for providing grant support for schools of social work around the country. Other grants were made possible through the GSA Innovation Fund.

Congratulations to the Recipients of the 2011 Careers in Aging Week Grants!

Bowling Green State University
Cleveland State University
Columbia College of Nursing
Columbia University
Concordia University
Fordham University
Hunter College School of Social Work
Indiana University School of Social Work
Loyola University School of Social Work
Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center
McDaniel College
Minnesota State University Moorhead
New York University Silver School of Social Work
North Carolina Central University
Ohio University Department of School of Social Work
Oregon State University
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
St. Catherine University
St. Louis University School of Social Work
Temple University College of Health Professions and Social Work
Towson University
University of Arkansas School of Social Work
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Southern Indiana
University of Washington School of Social Work
University of the West Indies Mona Ageing and Wellness Center
University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

GSA 2011 Highlights

rs in Aging Week: April 1 to 7, 2012
com for more information!
Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology

The Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology.

The winner will be recognized at the Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Award Ceremony at GSA’s 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA, and will receive a $1,000 cash prize.

Deadline for Nominations: July 1, 2011

Visit www.geron.org for more information.

Gene D. Cohen Research Award in Creativity and Aging

The Gene D. Cohen Research Award in Creativity and Aging recognizes a professional whose research clearly shows that creative activities, particularly arts programs, can maintain and even improve the physical, emotional, and cognitive well being of older adults.

The winner will be recognized at GSA’s 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA; Travel, lodging (up to $1,000) and registration will also be provided.

Deadline for Nominations: July 1, 2011

Visit www.geron.org for more information.

Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award

The Excellence in Rehabilitation of Aging Persons Award is designed to acknowledge outstanding contributions in the field of rehabilitation of aging persons.

The winner will be recognized at the Health Sciences Section Luncheon Meeting at GSA’s 64th Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA, and will receive a $250 cash prize.

Deadline for Nominations: July 1, 2011

Visit www.geron.org for more information.
Australia Welcomes Americans for Policy Research
The Australian-American Health Policy Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for outstanding, mid-career U.S. professionals — academics, government officials, clinical leaders, decision makers in managed care and other private health care organizations, and journalists — to spend up to 10 months in Australia conducting research and working with leading Australian health policy experts on issues relevant to both countries. Fellows will be placed at an academic institution, in a commonwealth or state health department, or at another health agency. The Australian-American Health Policy Fellowship is sponsored by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing. Administration of the program in the U.S. is provided by The Commonwealth Fund. The fellowship provides a stipend of up to $5,800 Australian dollars per month for six to ten months. In addition, a supplemental allowance is provided to fellows accompanied by a spouse and/or children. The deadline for receipt of applications for the fellowship is August 15. For further information, visit www.commonwealthfund.org/Fellowships.

Federal Dollars Seek To Increase Research on Aging Kidneys
The National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases invite grant applications that propose basic, clinical, and translational research on chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its consequences for older persons. Applications should focus on the biology and pathophysiology of CKD in animal models; etiology and pathophysiology of CKD in the elderly; epidemiology and risk factors for the development of CKD with advancing age; and/or diagnosis, medical management, and clinical outcomes of CKD in this population. Research supported by this initiative should enhance knowledge of CKD and its effects on older adults and provide evidence-based guidance in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of CKD in older persons. The next application deadline for this funding opportunity is September 7. Visit grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-165.html for complete details.

NIH’s Kirschstein Program To Make Awards at Senior Level
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards individual senior level research training fellowships to experienced scientists who wish to make major changes in the direction of their research careers or who wish to broaden their scientific background. The NIH currently is accepting applications for its Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards programs, which aims to ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists are available to address the nation’s biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. These awards will enable individuals with at least seven years of research experience beyond the doctorate to take time from regular professional responsibilities for the purpose of receiving training to increase their scientific capabilities. Visit grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-111.html for further information. The next application deadline for this funding opportunity is August 8.

Chris Yoder
Senior Director of Finance and Administration Chris Yoder joined the staff in September 2001. He provides leadership on all financial matters and oversees office management at GSA’s Washington, DC, headquarters. His responsibilities include accounting, budget planning, information technology, customer service, human resources, and development of policies and procedures. Among his duties, he gathers and maintains all financial records and schedules in addition to supervising certified public accountants during GSA’s annual audit. Yoder also submits required local, state, and federal tax returns and reports. He administers the financial aspects of all GSA activities, grants, and contracts, including the monitoring of income and expenses. While working closely with the executive director, treasurer, and Finance Committee, Yoder prepares the annual budget that will be submitted to the GSA Council for approval. Additionally, he uses his extensive expertise to make recommendations on long-range financial planning goals. This includes monitoring the cost and performance of the Society’s investments and benefits.

Yoder is native of Fort Wayne, IN, and received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Goshen College. Prior to joining the staff at GSA, he served as chief financial officer for For Love of Children, a non-profit organization providing educational, mentoring, and housing services for children in the Washington, DC, area.
The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care is seeking a physician to provide inpatient and outpatient consult services within the UAB Health System. This is a tenure earning or non-tenure earning position at the rank of Assistant Professor. Salary and tenure status will be commensurate with experience. Board certification or eligibility in Geriatric Medicine is required. Geriatric fellowship training and experience in long-term care are preferred. Geriatric patient care responsibilities are expected to represent up to seventy five percent of professional effort while educational, research, and administrative effort will be allocated to reflect the applicant’s interests and skills.

Contact: Peter Bosworth MBA, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1530 3rd Avenue South, CH19 Suite 201, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-2041. (Ref #033)

UAB is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Female and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.
Shanghai’s Senior Population Reaches New High
The Xinhua News Agency has reported that approximately one out of four registered citizens in Shanghai, China, is above age 60. According to statistics released in late April by Shanghai’s Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs and the Senior Citizens’ Work Committee, the registered population of the municipality reached 14.12 million by the end of 2010. Citizens over 60 years of age numbered 3.31 million, or 23.4 percent of the total registered population. China’s total senior population was 167.14 million at the end of 2009, or about 12.5 percent of the population as a whole, according to an earlier report released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. By 2015, the Chinese government predicts that the number of residents over age 60 in Shanghai will be 4.3 million, or about 30 percent of the city’s total registered population.

Older Canadians May Face Lower Living Standards
The Edmonton Journal has reported that about half of middle-income Canadians now between the ages of 40 and 65 can expect to see a substantial decline in their living standards in retirement, according to a new study released by the Institute for Research on Public Policy. The research found that about 50 percent of those born between 1945 and 1970, averaging yearly income of between $35,000 and $80,000 Canadian dollars, can expect a decline in spending power of about 25 percent, even after taking into consideration costs for things such as mortgages and the likelihood of absent children during their retirement years. The study found that inadequate workplace pension plans as well as the failure of people to save privately were also factors.

Pension Funds Under Strain in Zimbabwe
According to a news story issued by Voice of America, Zimbabwe’s National Social Security Authority has found that close to 8,000 companies are failing to pay into the country’s retirement system, meaning smaller monthly pensions for retirees. A recent audit conducted by the authority found that 7,757 firms across the country are falling short on their stipulated monthly payments, with the majority of the more than 24,000 firms failing to contribute the required $7 U.S. dollars a month for each worker to the authority due to financial constraints.

Britain’s Ageism Claims on the Rise
In the U.K., the number of ageism claims on the job shot up by 164 percent to 2,900 in the last three months of 2010, compared to 1,100 the year before, according to a news article in The Guardian. The figures were compiled by the law firm EMW. The rise in ageism claims was attributed to older workers believing they had been disproportionately affected by job cuts.

New Zealand’s Seniors Expect To Take On More Debt
According to New Zealand’s Business Day, nearly a third of that country’s resident age 50 years and older expect to have higher debt levels by the end of June. The finding comes from the latest report from the Dun & Bradstreet Consumer Credit Expectations Survey. A total of 27 percent of people over the age of 50 expect higher levels of debt, compared to only 19 percent average across the whole population. Another 30 per cent in the same demographic expect problems meeting their credit commitments — money they already owe — in the next three months, compared to an average of 28 percent for all age groups. The survey also revealed that 34 percent of New Zealand citizens will use their credit cards to cover otherwise unaffordable expenses like vacations, home improvements, cars, and televisions during the next three months.

Latvia Moves To Raise Pension Age
The Baltic Review has reported that the Latvian government recently voted to raise the country’s official pension age to 65 by 2021, starting with a gradual increase in 2016. The pension age threshold would also change for certain categories of people — such as parents of five and more children, parents of a disabled child, or victims of Soviet political repressions — to claim an early retirement option. At present both women and men aged 62 years and older who have been paying statutory social insurance contributions for at least 10 years are entitled to old-age pension in Latvia.
NOW AVAILABLE

"The Science of Recruitment and Retention Among Ethnically Diverse Older Adults"
A supplement to The Gerontologist (Vol. 51, Suppl. 1)

This themed collection of articles includes:

• Recruitment and retention models, approaches, and methodologies that reflect a move toward developing a more inclusive science that addresses previous limitations involving diverse groups in aging research
• Theoretical and conceptual frameworks that provide direction to and an understanding of a group’s culture and how it can inform recruitment and retention strategies
• A comprehensive model for recruitment and retention that was conceptually developed by using community outreach and education programs coupled with a social marketing approach
• Cost-effectiveness of the strategies used to recruit and retain participants in aging-related research

Access the supplement online through www.geron.org/thegerontologist
NYU Adds New Diabetes Treatment Program

The New York University (NYU) College of Nursing’s Nursing Faculty Practice recently launched the Diabetes Care and Lifestyle Center for older adults. This facility includes a comprehensive diabetes management and patient diabetes self-management education and training program. The center was funded by a $130,000 grant from The Fan Fox and Leslie Samuels Foundation. There are approximately 500,000 adults living in NYC with diabetes, and 38 percent of them are older adults. Thanks to the new program, New York’s older adults will be able to receive a thorough assessment of their health conditions, and have an algorithm of services developed specifically for their needs. They will have access to diabetes treatment, nutritional advising, social work support, interdisciplinary training programs, and routine monitoring, evaluations, and systematic referral processes.

Pennsylvania Nursing School Receives $4.35 Million Grant

The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing has received a $4.35 million grant from the Helene Fuld Trust, to implement upcoming undergraduate curriculum revisions. The grant will help fund the renovation of science laboratories and the implementation of a new undergraduate curriculum, and will provide cutting edge technology for simulation education and observation through the creation of simulation models. The Helene Fuld Health Trust is the nation’s largest private funder devoted to nursing students and nursing education.

Dental Grants Enhance NYU’s Nursing Program

The New York University (NYU) College of Nursing has been awarded $202,030 to launch the first year of a three-year initiative, the Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP) Program. The funding was provided by the DentaQuest and Washington Dental Service Foundations to develop a replicable model for implementing both a comprehensive oral health curriculum in nursing schools throughout the U.S. as well as best practices for oral health care in nurse-managed primary care settings. The OHNEP will serve as the hub for nursing faculty development in oral health care and best practices in oral health. Resources will be specially tailored for nursing faculty to educate undergraduate and graduate nursing students about oral health across the life span.

St. Bonaventure Discontinues Gerontology Major

St. Bonaventure University has discontinued the operations of its Bogoni Center for Aging Studies and suspended admissions to its gerontology major. The school is still allowing students to minor in gerontology and those who are currently enrolled in the gerontology major will be able to complete their academic study. Margaret Carney, OSF, president of the university, issued this statement: “The University is making careful and strategic decisions that enable us to allocate resources in ways that ensure optimal experiences for students while they are here and when they graduate from St. Bonaventure. As we move forward, we will consider ways to remain engaged with the center’s public and private education, health care, and agency partners who have demonstrated dedication to research, education, and service to the aging.”

Texans Complete First Year of New Nursing Program

The first group of Houston-area nurses to enroll in the one-year Geriatric Resource Nurse Continuing Education Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing have completed their training. The program is part of the School of Nursing’s Center on Aging and was developed to advance geriatric knowledge of registered nurses working across care settings with older adults. Registered nurses for the program are recruited from hospitals in the Texas Medical Center and outlying hospitals, hospice facilities, and home health organizations providing health service in suburban and rural hospitals around Houston. Over a period of six months, participants attended four day-long workshops that included classroom lectures, a simulation skills lab, and a clinical/academic project. Those in the program were required to complete a small research project in which they addressed a need they discovered in their unit at their respective hospitals.

Continued from page 1 - Zhang To Strengthen U.S./China Ties as GSA’s First Visiting Scholar

geriatric and gerontological professionals,” Zhang said. “I am humbled by the journey ahead of me and wish to make significant contributions to these important projects along with the support of the GSA leadership team and staff members.”

During his involvement with the China Initiative, Zhang will have several responsibilities. He will oversee the training and mentoring of students and junior scholars who focus on Chinese gerontology studies. He additionally will aid in the development of GSA’s Campus Representative Program, which seeks to recruit faculty members at Chinese institutions to serve as the Society’s liaison to researchers, educators, and clinicians. He also is expected to establish working relationships with other Chinese organizations such as the China Medical Tribune, the Gerontological Society of China, and the China Department of Health. Zhang will collaborate with GSA Controller and Director of Asian Relations and Development Jilan Chen, who has spearheaded the China Initiative for the past year.

GSA’s Visiting Scholar Program is open to any member able to make a time commitment to a special project on the Society’s behalf. The duration, generally one or two semesters, can be dependent on the member’s schedule. For further information, contact Appleby at jappleby@geron.org.