Society Welcomes Butler as San Francisco Opener

Robert Butler, one of America’s top experts on the science of aging, has accepted GSA President Roger McCarter’s invitation to present the keynote address this November at the 60th Annual Scientific Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Butler is perhaps best known for his advocacy of the medical and social needs and rights of the elderly and his research on healthy aging and the dementias. In 1975 he became the founding director of the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health, where he remained until 1982. He currently serves as President and CEO of the International Longevity Center-USA (ILC-USA) and Professor of Geriatrics and Adult Development at the Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Butler was also crucial in the foundation of the Alzheimer’s Disease Association, the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, the American Federation for Aging Research, and the Alliance for Aging Research. In 1976, he won the Pulitzer Prize in the nonfiction category for *Why Survive? Being Old in America.*

New Meeting Feature Designed To Aid Emerging Scholars

Are you a student or emerging professional who would like to get feedback on a dissertation, professional paper, or grant proposal challenge? This year’s Annual Meeting program will feature a new session format — called a “consultancy” — that will provide the tools necessary to meet your challenge.

The consultancy is a highly structured problem-solving process that provides each participant with an opportunity to both give and receive feedback on particular problems. Groups will be formed using information submitted before the conference. A facilitator assigned to each group can then provide “expert” advice to supplement and enrich the conversation.

These consultancies can be constructive and fun. Each individual has a chance to speak and to listen, and this unique and successful format reinforces the idea that when a challenge is faced together, “the answer is already in the room.”

Pre-registration will be required for this session, and participants will submit a brief statement of their “challenge” prior to the conference. Space will be limited, so be on the lookout for this special opportunity in the registration materials available in early August.

This session is sponsored by the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section and the Emerging Scholars and Professionals Organization, but is open to all sections.
MEET THE STAFF:

Meetings Department

A new monthly feature that goes behind the scenes at GSA headquarters

The Society’s Annual Meeting regularly welcomes over 3,000 attendees, but its logistics rely heavily on the work of only three individuals. From making hotel and room arrangements to handling abstract receipt and exhibit sales, this team has a hand in pretty much everything except session content. The head of the Meetings Department, DC native Jackie Osborne, has only been with GSA for two months, but she brings 14 years of experience in conference planning. Her duties include, but are not limited to, coordinating Program Committee activities; scheduling the scientific program; handling all hotel and meeting space requirements; preparing and proofing of Annual Meeting publications and promotional pieces; running the on-line meeting management program, including the input of abstracts, registration, and other information; preparation of materials to be distributed to Committee members, staff, and meeting attendees; and managing the exhibits, including sales and correspondence with exhibitors, assignment of booths, and maintenance of records for future meetings.

Additionally, Osborne supervises the continuing education program, including development and coordination of applications, forms, certificates and any other follow-ups required. She also participates in the on-site management of the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education’s Annual Meeting.

Assisting Osborne is 11-year GSA veteran Latasha Peterson, another DC native who’s most visible managing the exhibit hall at the Annual Meeting. She also provides support with abstract and registration processing; making assigned pre- and post-meeting arrangements, such as Committee room assignments, function sheets, and on-site arrangements; and on-site management of Annual Meeting signs, daily session sheets, staff training information, staff office information, and room set-up confirmations.

Rounding out the team is Jessica Clark, who also shares her time with the Promotions Department. She’s been with GSA for over a year now and hails from Philadelphia. With regards to the Annual Meeting, Clark is primarily responsible for making arrangements such as affiliate group, interest group and staff meeting room assignments; aiding in the data entry and scheduling process of abstracts in online management system; assisting in arrangements of future Annual Meetings and other GSA events including meeting proposal, travel and logistics; and managing such aspects of the registration process as data entry, badge printing, and refunds.

Foundation Offers Grants To Enhance Elderly Life Quality

The Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging annually awards up to 4 grants of $20,000 each. Applications for the grant are due September 30, 2007 and selections will be made on or about December 15, 2007. The grant purpose is to further scholarship about new or improved public policies, laws and/or programs that will enhance the quality of life for the elderly. Applicants may include all interested and qualified legal, health science, social sciences and gerontology scholars and professionals. Organizations per se, whether profit or non-profit, are not eligible to apply, although they may administer the grant. Two or more individuals in the same institution or different institutions may submit a collaborative proposal. Each grant recipient is required to publish an article on the subject of their research in a top flight journal. The request for proposals, which includes information on how to apply, the application and prior recipients can be found on line at http://www.borchardcenter.org/argp.html. The contact information follows: Borchard Foundation Center on Law & Aging, 307 West 200 South, Suite 3002, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101; info@borchardcenter.org.
The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) is now accepting
applications for a Fall 2007 internship in its Washington, DC, office. The
internship is full-time from September through December, but exact start
and end dates are flexible. A stipend is provided.

Past applicants have represented a variety of disciplines (including social
work and gerontology), but interest in gerontology, in higher education, and
in non-profit or business management is desirable. Graduate students or
recent undergrads are particularly encouraged to apply.

AGHE’s intern will have the opportunity to: (1) run special projects (e.g.,
survey administration, publications) tailored to his or her personal interests;
(2) attend public policy meetings in Washington, DC; and (3) meet and
correspond with leaders in the field of gerontological education. In addition,
the intern will assist with the preparations for (and will attend) The
Gerontological Society of America’s 60th Annual Scientific Meeting in

Please note that this is NOT a direct service position. Interns will have no
direct contact with elders.

Yee-Melichar Tapped for Numerous Posts
Darlene Yee-Melichar of San Francisco State University was recently
appointed Co-Interim Director of the school’s new independent
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, which will address student
learning achievement gaps and lifelong learning opportunities. She
has also been appointed Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
for the Statewide Academic Senate of the California State University.
Additionally, Yee-Melichar was recently elected Vice President of the
Board of Directors for the California Advocates for Nursing Home
Reform (CANHR), which is dedicated to improving the quality of
care and quality of life for long-term care residents in California.

Colleague Connected!
This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:
J. Jill Suitor
(She became eligible after referring new member Gwen Parks.)
The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org!
For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion,
which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting,
visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

In Memoriam
William D. “Bill” Bechill, the first U.S. Commissioner on Aging,
died in March after complications from a fall. While serving in
the aforementioned position, he worked closely with GSA
leadership at the time. Bechill played a critical role in writing the
Older Americans Act. He was also one of the nation’s leading
experts and advocates on Social Security, long-term care, and
senior centers. He joined the University of Maryland’s School of
Social Work in Baltimore in 1969 after his federal appointment
expired. Bechill also chaired the Maryland Commission on Aging
from 1996 to 2003 and was an advisory board chairman of the
Center on Global Aging at Catholic University.

Members in the News
> Robert Butler, S. Jay Olshansky, and Richard Weindruch
appeared as guests on the March 28th edition of “The
Charlie Rose Show.” This third installment in a series of
science-based episodes focused on the study of longevity.

New Member Publications
Aging and Work in the 21st Century,
edited by Kenneth S. Shultz and Gary A. Adams.
Published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
Sustaining Affiliate Members Provide Extra Support
AGHE’s Executive Committee would like to thank the seven Sustaining Affiliate members for their extra level of support in 2006–2007. The significant funds and services provided by these institutions and organizations are greatly appreciated. Our Sustaining Affiliate members are:

- AARP
- Mount Mary College
- Oregon Geriatric Education Center
- Purdue University
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Wayne State University
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

DO YOU WANT TO:

- Become a student leader in the field of gerontology;
- Build your curriculum vitae;
- Network with leading gerontology faculty;
- Experience what it’s like serving on an executive board of a professional association;
- Contribute to improvements in gerontological and geriatrics education;
- Travel to exciting cities;
- and form lasting relationships?

THEN AGHE IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), the educational unit of The Gerontological Society of America, is in the process of finding the next AGHE Student Representative to serve on its Executive Committee. This is a great opportunity for you to assume a leadership role in the gerontology community. The position offers an excellent learning experience involving broad networking and professional preparation.

The position is a two-year commitment:

The first year is spent as the Student Representative Designee, whose job it is to learn the ropes and shadow the Student Representative in his/her committee responsibilities, including attending conferences and executive committee meetings.

The second year is spent as the Student Representative, who serves as a voting member of the executive board. In this role the Student Representative is responsible for:

- Chairing the AGHE Student Committee
- Facilitating student interests and addressing student concerns within AGHE;
- Sitting on various AGHE Committees and Task Forces as requested;
- Running events at Annual Meetings of AGHE and GSA;
- Collaborating with Sigma Phi Omega and GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization.

To be considered for the Student Representative position, you must be enrolled at an AGHE member institution in an undergraduate, masters, doctoral, or fellowship program, and must retain student status (full or part-time) for the next two years. You should also be committed to serving one year “in training” as the Student Representative Designee (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) to be immediately followed by a year as the Student Representative (through June 2009). Finally, you should be able to attend both the GSA and AGHE Annual Meetings.

For more information about the position, please visit The Handbook for the AGHE Student Representative and Student Representative Designee located on the AGHE website at www.aghe.org. If you have questions or concerns not addressed in the handbook, please do not hesitate to contact the current AGHE Student Representative, Kelly Fitzgerald, at: kellyfitzgerald@hotmail.com.

If you are concerned with student affairs and gerontological education, are innovative, and work well with others, consider forwarding your curriculum vitae and a brief cover letter of why you are interested in serving as the Student Representative to Derek Stepp dstepp@aghe.org. We will accept applications through May 31. Send yours in today!
Summer Training Opportunities

Summertime is when many of us take vacations, relax, and read a book from the best seller list. This is also a time when many students choose to take advantage of the summer workshops being offered. These workshops are based around specific research areas and statistical techniques. The primary benefit attending a workshop is that you can obtain some of the same knowledge that you would learn by taking a course in during the school year in less time. If you have some time this summer and want to learn a new statistical skill or gather more information related to your research area, consider going to a summer workshop. You can find many of these opportunities by searching for summer opportunities at various colleges and universities. Advisors and mentors are also able to offer guidance about workshops that might be of interest to you.

Conference To Waive Fee for Students

The organizers of AARP’s Diversity & Aging in the 21st Century Conference, slated to take place from June 19-21 in Los Angeles, CA, have decided to waive all registration fees for current students. The event is further detailed on page 7. For more information and to register, visit www.aarp.org/diversityandaging or call 1-877-246-4766.

Here are two workshops that are offering special incentives for students:

The 5th Annual Summer Workshop 2007, Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice

This workshop is designed to provide participants with a complete understanding of the issue of health disparities. The workshop also has enough contact hours for either an undergraduate or graduate student to earn 3 academic credits. Contact Cynthia Clark to learn more at cyclark@mdanderson.org.

For more information:
www.mdanderson.org/crmh

When: June 23rd-29th
Where: The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Introduction to Latent Variable Methods in Measurement Research on Aging Workshop

The goal of the workshop is to provide an overview and opportunity for first-hand experience doing analyses using Mplus software. Methods of emphasis include factor analysis, item response theory, and differential item functioning (DIF) detection. A special student and trainee discount is being offered to ESPO members!

For more information:
http://instituteforagingresearch.org/module_institute.cfm?id=512&coTopID=512
or
http://tinyurl.com/2h8zsv

When: July 9th - July 11th 2007
Where: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Heads Up!

The theme for the August 2008 issue of the American Journal of Public Health is “Caring for the Oldest Old.” In order to be considered for this issue, make your submissions this summer.

Elizabeth (Beth) Kutza received her Ph.D. from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago in 1977. She went on to teach at SSA for 10 years, followed by 20 years as professor and director of the Institute of Aging at Portland State University. During all this time, she imparted her knowledge and passion for social welfare policy and the complex issues affecting the aging population to thousands of students. There is no doubt she inspired a generation of social workers and aging specialists to be dedicated to the field of aging and to helping, advocating, and serving disadvantaged populations.

In addition to teaching, Beth was involved in numerous organizations and institutions dedicated to researching and serving the aging population. She worked extensively with the Adult Learning Center in Portland and was Chair of the Editorial Board of Generations, the journal of the American Society of Aging. An active member of The Gerontological Society of America for many years, Beth held the distinctions of an elected Fellow, former candidate for president of the GSA, and Chair of the Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section.

In honor of Beth and the significant contributions she made to aging and the social service field, SSA has established the Elizabeth Kutza Fund, which will support the work of Ph.D. students at the School.

Contributions may be sent to “SSA/Elizabeth Kutza Fund” c/o Daniel Morris, Development Coordinator, SSA, University of Chicago, 969 E. 60th St, Chicago, IL 60637, or by phone at 773-834-1763.
AAHSA Publications Address Workforce Challenges
As America’s aging population grows, building a high quality long-term workforce is more important than ever. Yet high turnover and vacancy rates continue to plague the current system. Two new resources from the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging’s (AAHSA) Institute for the Future of Aging Services (IFAS) may help our country answer this question. They offer solutions and recommendations that will help address this crisis that affects our most vulnerable older population:

- The March/April issue of AAHSA’s FutureAge (http://www.bjbc.org/page.asp?PgID=224) magazine is dedicated to the findings and lessons learned from Better Jobs Better Care, a four-year research and demonstration program established to find innovative solutions that reduce turnover and vacancy rates of frontline workers.

- “The Long-Term Care Workforce: Can the Crisis Be Fixed?” (http://www.futureofaging.org/PublicationFiles/NCQLTC%20-%20Workforce%20Paper%20-%20January%202007.pdf) is a report featuring a comprehensive overview of the workforce challenges facing the long-term care field as well as policy recommendations for ensuring that the pool of talented individuals who can care for our elders continues to grow.

New Online Tool Compiles Women’s Health Data
Quick Health Data Online recently introduced the Women’s Health Assessment Tool (WHAT), a service that enables users to create a snapshot of women’s health in various counties or states. This database also offers comprehensive US data, for both women and men, regarding a variety of infectious and chronic diseases, mental health, reproductive health, maternal health, violence and abuse, illness prevention, mortality and access to care indicators. Access is free, and users can make their own tables, graphs, and maps out of any data in the database. Visit http://www.womenshealth.gov/statedata for details.

Duke Announces Mini-fellowship
Duke University’s Mini-Fellowship in Medical Student Education in Geriatrics provides a unique opportunity for non-geriatrician physician faculty at US academic medical centers to attend an innovative five-day program designed to help clinician-educators enhance their skills in curriculum design and development in geriatric medicine with a specific content emphasis on enhancing geriatrics education for medical students. The mini-fellowship will be held October 7-11, 2007 at Duke University in Durham, NC. Tuition, room and board will be covered for qualifying accepted scholars through Duke University’s Donald W. Reynolds Faculty Development to Advance Geriatrics Education Program. For detailed information, please visit http://careinaging.duke.edu/facultydevelopment.

NRC Report Addresses Confidentiality Issues
When confidential information about research participants and spatial data — information about the locations of their homes or workplaces — are linked, the risk of participants’ identities becoming known to others increases, yet such linked data make important new research possible. A new report from the National Research Council suggests mechanisms that can allow this kind of research to expand while protecting confidentiality. The document is available at http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11865.

ACP Foundation’s Meeting Summary Now Online
The Executive Summary of the American College of Physicians (ACP) Foundation’s Fifth Annual National Health Communication Conference, “Moving Toward Real Solutions: Advances to Address Low Health Literacy,” is now available on the Internet at www.foundation.acponline.org/hl/hcc2006.htm. This event was co-sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and held on November 29, 2006 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC.

Task Force Urges Lawmakers To Uphold Research Commitment
GSA, as part of the Alliance for Aging Research-led Task Force on Aging Research Funding, has joined with more than 85 organizations to urge Congress and the President to chart a better course for medical research on behalf of America’s aging population. In an April report, the group called for a 6.7% increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year (FY) 2008 to halt the erosion of the nation’s research base and facilitate medical discoveries to fight diseases and disabilities that disproportionately affect older Americans. For the past four years, federal funding for NIH has been in a painful down-cycle, even falling short of the minimal increases needed to keep pace with inflation. If the president’s FY 2008 budget proposal is enacted, the NIH’s ability to conduct and support life-saving research will be cut by more than 13%. To access a copy of this report or to learn more about the Task Force, visit www.agingresearch.org.
Diversity & Aging
in the 21st Century Conference

June 19–21, 2007
Hotel Bonaventure, Los Angeles, CA

Addressing the challenges facing diverse populations as they age.

Let the dialogue begin.

We are in the midst of a transformation. Both diversity and aging are changing the workplace and marketplace as we know it. How will this transformation impact the marketplace and what does it mean for society? The 2007 AARP Diversity & Aging Conference will address the impact of diversity and aging on public policy, marketing, programming, service delivery and community outreach in the 21st century.

Featured presenters:
SAVETHEDATE!
The 17th Annual Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons
“Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Ageing:
Empowering Older Persons”
THURSDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2007 • 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
United Nations Headquarters New York

In this 5th year following the Second World Assembly on Ageing, KEYNOTE SPEAKERS and a PANEL OF REPRESENTATIVES from the World’s five regions will be providing global, regional and local perspectives on the implementation of the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. This 2007 Celebration will be honoring Ambassador Julia Alvarez, former Permanent Alternate Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, for her tireless efforts to put ageing on the global agenda.

For information, contact the IDOP Planning Committee at idop2007@gmail.com