Give the Gift that Strengthens GSA Membership
Although perfect for any occasion, GSA memberships make especially thoughtful graduation presents. Visit www.geron.org and click on “Gift of Membership” under the “Membership” menu item for details.

Online Travel Booking Benefits GSA
When planning arrangements for your summer trips, be sure to use GSA’s Maatiam (formerly FreePledge) website. If you make a purchase through Orbitz, Expedia, or Travelocity, for example, a portion of the sale will be donated to the Society at no cost to you. Get started at gsa.maatiam.com to book your flight and hotel reservations today!

Ongoing NASA Projects Boost Aging Research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — long aware of similarities in the health conditions of older people and astronauts — has announced the availability of funds for scientific studies aboard the International Space Station (ISS). This opportunity stems from a 2007 memorandum of agreement that NIH signed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The co-venture is designed encourage researchers from a variety of disciplines to incorporate the space environment into their experiments. (See page 10 for information on how to apply for the grants.)

“The diversity of NIH institutes and centers that agreed to participate in the initiative underscores the promise the ISS holds for human health,” said Stephen I. Katz, MD, PhD, who serves as NIH liaison to NASA. “We encourage all biomedical researchers in the United States — particularly those who are interested in molecular or cellular biology, biomaterials, or telemedicine — to give serious thought to how International Space Station facilities might answer their most pressing questions about how to benefit life on Earth.”

A symposium at GSA’s 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting identified many ways in which these studies can benefit the elderly population. The lack of gravity during space flight affects living things in a number of that mimic common effects of aging.

Among older people, the cycle of building and shedding bone tends to decelerate; changes

Aging Advocates Make Push for OAA Funding Increase
The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is currently leading efforts to secure a 12 percent increase in funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs in FY 2010. This translates to an overall boost of approximately $247.5 million over FY 2009 levels.

Representative William Delahunt (D-MA), who co-chairs the House Aging Caucus, sponsored a late March briefing on Capitol Hill to inform congressional staffers about the urgency of these appropriations when planning for next year’s federal budget.

LCAO — a coalition of 56 aging-related organizations (including GSA) — presented an overview of key OAA initiatives and described the growing demand for community-based and institutional services across the nation.

Several experts’ testimonies emphasized that a 12 percent funding increase for these programs is the bare minimum needed to be effective. They argued that elders have suffered because federal financial support has not kept pace with the rate of inflation.

“We are suggesting a modest approach to make up for years of stagnant funding,” said Heather Bruemmer, a Wisconsin state long-term care ombudsman. “This doesn’t touch on the increased economic need of older Americans based on the current economic climate.”

Each component title of the OAA (last reauthorized in 2006) was discussed with an eye toward the need for their expansion. The OAA funds much of the so-called “aging services network,” which includes supportive services, information and referral, senior centers, meals, transportation, and low-income employment.

The aging of the U.S. population and retirement of the boomer generation, coupled with the economic downturn, have exacerbated the shortage of services for older persons. Many programs under the act have waiting lists for older persons who need services that are not available.

“We estimate that 45% of our elders are on waiting lists,” said Meals on Wheels Vice President and General Counsel Bob

Continued on page 9

Continued on page 9
From the Executive Director

Contributing a Scarce Resource: Time
By James Appleby, RPh, MPH

In this month’s Policy News section (see page 4), you will read about the successful passage of The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. The legislation will greatly expand volunteer opportunities for young people and older adults alike. From GSA’s perspective, this is a terrific accomplishment because civic engagement has become a top advocacy item for us in recent years.

Furthermore, the tremendous benefits of volunteerism have been demonstrated in several of our recent journal articles (e.g., the studies by Nancy Morrow-Howell in the February 2009 edition of The Gerontologist and Erwin Tan in the March 2009 edition of The Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences).

Of course, the rewards of freely devoting one’s time to a worthy cause are not unknown to GSA members. Since joining the staff here, I continue to be impressed by your willingness to get involved and dedicate many hours to advancing the Society’s mission.

The passion of those who serve in our elected positions and on our numerous committees and task forces — complete with contact information. They can be found by clicking “Governance” under the “About Us” menu item.

Service on most of these boards is by appointment, and the best way to get your foot in the door is to reach out to committee chairs, or to the chairs of GSA’s four professional sections.

Volunteerism is also alive and well on our nation’s campuses. In April, over fifty institutions participated in our annual Careers in Aging Week. I would like to thank the many members who gave freely of their time to spread the word about gerontology. We will publicize their efforts in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) also offers several opportunities to provide meaningful service. In fact, our Campus Ambassadors Program presents a unique way for students and faculty members to work together — its purpose is to establish a professional and social network on every campus where there is an active gerontology curriculum.

At each school, a student takes the lead in promoting awareness within the field of aging; a faculty advisor serves as a liaison with the administration and as a resource for the campus ambassador. When the next academic year begins, I invite you to participate in this venture.

To learn more, you can e-mail campusambassadors@geron.org or select “Campus Ambassador Program” under the “Students” menu item on the GSA website.

James
Donald Kausler, PhD, passed away on November 20, 2008, at the age of 81. He was perhaps best known for writing “The Graying of America,” an encyclopedia intended to help a wider audience understand the effects of aging on memory. This book, now called “The Essential Guide to Aging in the Twenty-First Century,” is currently in its third edition. Kausler also wrote a column for the Scripps Howard News Service and was a frequent guest on many radio shows. He was a professor emeritus in the Department of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri.

Members in the News

• The Detroit News ran a March 25, 2009, article featuring quotes from Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, who advocated actively striving for healthy aging. He serves as director of Wayne State University’s Institute of Gerontology, which co-sponsored a conference on successful aging.
• Clinical Psychiatry News recently ran an article detailing a presentation given by Melissa Nelson, PhD, at GSA’s 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting. She reported that the rate of psychotropic medication use was higher among older Hispanics than other ethnic groups.
• Jerri Edwards, PhD, was quoted in a late March 2009 article appearing in The Senior Spectrum. She shared details about her research (published in The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences) that showed older people who prematurely cease driving may have higher mortality rates than those who do not.
• A recent United Press International story quoted Erin O’Fallon, MPH, who discussed an article she authored in The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences. O’Fallon’s research found that nursing home residents are some of the main reservoirs of antimicrobial resistant bacteria.

Colleague Connected!

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Andrew Futterman
The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Elizabeth Farrington, 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

GSA Office Hosts Butler Presentation

Robert Butler, MD, visited GSA’s Washington, DC, headquarters in early April as part of a new Visiting Member Speaker Series. He discussed his career with the staff and answered their questions about pressing issues in gerontology. Butler, who serves as president of the International Longevity Center-USA and was the founding director of the National Institute on Aging, also spoke at length about the themes of his 2008 book, “The Longevity Revolution.” Specifically, he pointed out that many problems of old age are lifelong in their development. To support an aging population, Butler made the case for health care reform, a better trained care workforce, improved health promotion and disease prevention, and further research and development.

GSA invites all members visiting the Washington, DC, area to participate in this speaker series, which is held on a monthly basis. If you are interested in visiting our office, please call (202) 842-1275 or e-mail geron@geron.org to inquire about openings in the schedule.

Yesavage Earns AAGP Distinction

The American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) has awarded its Distinguished Scientist Award to Jerome A. Yesavage, MD, of the Stanford University School of Medicine and VA Palo Alto Health Care System. He was recognized for advancing the understanding of Alzheimer’s disease through his study of neurobiology and psychopharmacology. He has been a leading investigator of changes in circadian rhythms in Alzheimer’s disease and their effects on both sleep regulation and behavioral disturbances, as well as both normal memory functioning and memory disturbances.

Binstock Receives NCOA Award, New Appointment

The National Council on Aging has recognized Robert H. Binstock, PhD, with its prestigious Ollie Randall Award for his lifelong commitment to aging issues. He served as director of the first White House Task Force on Older Americans in 1967 and is a former GSA president. His interest in improving policy for older adults is further demonstrated by his positions on governmental and foundation advisory boards and extensive writing about politics and aging. He is a professor of aging, health, and society at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. The university also recently awarded him a joint tenured appointment in its Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

Lecture Series Welcomes Austad

On March 13, 2009, Stephen Austad, PhD, participated in the fifth annual Red and Kim Little Healthy Aging Lecture Series hosted by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. He spoke of research designed to increase the human lifespan, and predicted that living to the age of 150 could be common in the near future. Austad is a professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology in the Barshop Center for Longevity and Aging Studies, located on the campus of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
New Law Rewards Civic Engagement Advocates

It is being called “a quiet revolution” and for once, the hyperbole may be justified. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the new law just signed by President Barack Obama on April 21, 2009, may represent a new chapter or even a return to our roots. Whether it will be a significant and meaningful force in spurring volunteerism among Americans of all ages is, as the president has said, up to us.

In the early years of the United States, civic action and public service were central to the development of our representative democracy. The growth of a national sense of assisting those in need expanded with the Peace Corps, Vista, and the Red Cross. Now, a new chapter in the American story of civic engagement and volunteer activism begins with the passage and signing into law of the Serve America Act.

John Gomperts, president of Civic Ventures, pointed out that this national service legislation “represents an attitudinal shift in Congress — an important recognition that national service isn’t just for the young.” He added, “This legislation marks the beginning of a new story about how an aging society can use its experience to make a better society for us all.”

GSA has worked for more than two years with likeminded organizations to expand programs that provide service opportunities for boomers and older adults. One group leading the way has been Experience Wave, with former Senator Harris Wofford as their spokesperson.

“The call to service is one that I helped issue nearly half a century ago when I worked with President Kennedy and Sargent Shriver to create the Peace Corps, and, later with Sargent Shriver, on the Foster Grandparent Program,” Wofford said in his recent testimony before the House Committee on Education and Labor. “To crack the atom of citizen service and release its full potential, we will all need to recognize that citizen service is ageless, that it spans the generations and connects the generations.”

This legislation, named after Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) at the request of Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), promotes opportunities for people of all ages and circumstances to volunteer for the good of the nation. As such, it echoes the call to action by former President John F. Kennedy, who said, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.”

“It is fitting that this legislation is named after Ted Kennedy, a person who has never stopped asking what he could do for his country,” said Obama, who championed an intergenerational approach to volunteer service throughout his election campaign. “This legislation is not just a tribute to the service to which he has dedicated his life; it is a call to action for the rest of us.”

The Serve America Act, with a price tag of nearly $6 billion over five years, was one of the first bills passed by the 111th Congress. The House voted 275–149 in favor of it; the Senate vote was 78–20. It was the only legislation Obama specified in his speech to the joint chambers of Congress in the first weeks of his presidency.

Obama used the occasion of the bill’s signing to name current Nike Foundation President Maria Eitel as his nominee for CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is an independent federal agency formed to engage Americans in service to meet community needs. Most of the programs authorized and expanded by The Serve America Act are administered by CNCS.

Several of the law’s provisions specifically target midlife and older adults (aged 55 and older). One of the obstacles to engaging older adults in volunteer positions has been the lack of a viable infrastructure that includes training, support, and a stipend. This is addressed in several of the provisions of the legislation. Also included in the bill is the underlying acknowledgement that older adults have different needs from their volunteer experiences than younger people. Younger people use volunteer roles to explore options or to get a foot in the door of a career. Older people who have already had careers like to use volunteer roles for learning a new skill or trying something they have always wanted to do, but couldn’t due to lack of time. Increasingly, older adults and retirees feel the need to return to a paying job, so need an incentive to work in nonprofit positions.

New Programs Created by the Serve America Act

The Encore Fellowship program will place midlife and older adults in leadership or management positions in public and private nonprofit organizations for one year. A public/private partnership will fund a maximum of 10 Encore Fellows per state with an $11,000 federal grant and matching funds from the host organizations.

The Silver Scholarship program establishes awards of $1,000 toward education costs and tuition for people aged 55 and older who volunteer at least 350 hours per year. The education awards are transferrable to the volunteer’s children, grandchildren, or foster children.

Modifications to AmeriCorps for Volunteers 55+

The law creates several new programs and expands existing programs under AmeriCorps (the national service program administered by CNCS); specifically, the number of volunteers serving under AmeriCorps will jump to 250,000 (an increase of 175,000) as a result. Most AmeriCorps programs engage people
under age 30, but the Serve America Act increases the funding for organizations who engage midlife and older adults (aged 55 and older) by lifting the two year term limit for volunteers (since AmeriCorps members who are 55 and older tend to serve part-time, not full-time), and by allowing the AmeriCorps education awards to be transferred to the volunteers’ family members if the volunteer doesn’t use the education award for her/himself.

The law adds four new service corps under AmeriCorps in the policy areas of health care, clean energy, poverty eradication, and support for veterans. The new service corps programs are encouraged to adopt intergenerational approaches to achieve their mandates.

Ten percent of the AmeriCorps program funding will be reserved for organizations that enroll adults aged 55 and older.

The new law also requires that state Commissions on National and Community Service complete detailed plans to recruit and enroll the baby boom generation. It also encourages state commissions to prioritize mentoring programs that engage retirees.

“All of these measures will encourage more people over 55 to serve; but more than that, these measures will encourage organizations to recruit more experienced people, create higher-impact volunteer opportunities for people 55 plus, form multigenerational service teams, and design new programs that take advantage of experience and talent,” said Lester Strong, CEO of Experience Corps.

GSA Organizes Signing Reception

To celebrate the signing of the Serve America Act, GSA, Experience Wave, and The Atlantic Philanthropies organized the reception that acknowledged those who worked to advance the bill and further the cause of national and community service.

“GSA has been a leader in inspiring research and policy development in the field of civic engagement and service, and tonight we celebrated the culmination of decades of the work by so many researchers, teachers, policymakers, advocates, and millions of volunteers themselves” said GSA President Michèle Saunders, DMD, MS, MPH. “We are grateful to The Atlantic Philanthropies and all our colleagues, who have done so much to expand service opportunities for boomers, older adults, and people of all ages.”

Wofford chaired the reception’s host committee, which included representatives from GSA, Experience Wave, The National Council on Aging, CNCS, Civic Enterprises, City Year, Inc., Civic Ventures, ServiceNation, America’s Promise Alliance, Be The Change, Inc., The Points of Light Foundation, AARP, Experience Corps, and of course, The Atlantic Philanthropies, which funds GSA’s Civic Engagement in an Older America Project.

Many emerging scholars are seeking employment or research funding. Academia and aging research and service are among the many industries that have been affected by the economic crunch. Many university budgets have seen major cutbacks. Competition for grants has been stiff. This month we focus on the possible impact of the economy on emerging scholars. Next month’s issue will address what emerging scholars can do to improve their chances at succeeding in the current economic climate.

We interviewed C. Joanne Grabinski, MA, MA, ABD, author of “101 Careers in Gerontology,” to get her take on the situation. She is currently president/educator and consultant for the private consulting firm AgeEd, as well as a lecturer of gerontology at Eastern Michigan University.

Outlook
Her first suggestion is to avoid an outlook of “doom and gloom.” Given the aging of the population, there is still demand for careers related to aging. The need for aging experts and professionals is not declining. In fact, the effect of the changing economy on older adults presents opportunities for gerontologists to help. Some areas that may see new opportunities are the training of older workers on computer and technology skills, assistance with job transitions, and unemployment counseling. For example, centers for work and families deal with credit counseling, consumer counseling, and helping older adults transition back to productive living after being laid off. Experts will be needed in mental health, homelessness, and other human service fields.

Impact
When a shift occurs in the economy, some jobs may be lost, while others may remain relatively stable. Traditionally, lower-level positions like paid caregivers may see higher rates of unemployment. Professionals like social workers, nurses, and geriatric physicians, however, probably have more job security. There is also a need for educators to train new professionals in these fields. There will likely be new jobs in the health work force at all levels. Pay rates for those beginning new jobs are likely to be lower than in recent years, especially at the master’s, bachelor’s, and associate’s degree levels. They are likely to be wage-based and have more limited benefit packages. Full-time jobs may be cut back into part-time positions; many will need to consider two part-time jobs. Academic salaries and benefits are likely to remain fairly competitive, but employees may share a greater percentage of their insurance costs. The number of open positions may decrease for a time, but late-career academics will eventually retire and create new openings.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
The current president’s economic plan is focused on creating jobs across the spectrum. Some of the aging-related areas targeted by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include $100 million for senior nutrition meals; $34.3 million for independent living services (including those for older blind adults); $120 million for employment training for low-income older Americans; $700 million for training of health professionals (at all levels); and many others.

Emerging scholars looking for research and job opportunities may want to consider some of these new and growing fields. Next month’s column will have tips for how to make yourself stand out in the job market and survive these tough economic times.

Websites with more information:
- www.newageofaging.org/content/american_recovery_and_reinvestment_act_2009
- www.recovery.gov
- www.ncoa.org

Special thanks to Kelly Niles-Yokum, PhD, for connecting ESPO with C. Joanne Grabinski.

REP Committee Recaps 2008 Symposium

GSA’s Research, Education, and Practice (REP) Committee organized a symposium for the 61st Annual Scientific Meeting based on the theme of resilience in aging. In the session, scientists discussed current aspects of successful aging from the perspectives of policy, biology, psychology, and sociology. The ability and willingness of an individual to adapt affects his or her progression through, and perception of, the life course. This resilience can be evaluated in several contexts. The presenters in this symposium discussed the biological evidence of adaptation, psychosocial well-being in old age, the use of social and psychological resources to promote resilience, and the ways in which federal policy can be used to promote adaptation and resilience in older Americans.

Donald Ingram, PhD, a biologist and professor at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, LA, gave a presentation titled “Diet Restriction versus Diet Selection: A Confluence of Concepts.” He discussed the concept of hormesis, a physiological strategy that improves organisms’ stress responses.

Continued on page 7
German Contingent Confers with GSA Staff
On Tuesday April 14, GSA hosted a delegation of the German Bundestag (lower house of the German Parliament), who were visiting Washington, DC. The six members of the group, led by MP Antje Blumenthal, serve on a parliamentary committee dealing with retirement benefits and other domestic issues. During their trip, organized by the German Embassy, the group toured several agencies, including an assisted living facility, a nursing home, and the Capitol Hill Village (a nonprofit member-based neighborhood network model for aging in place). While at GSA’s headquarters, Executive Director James Appleby, RPh, MPH, and Deputy Executive Director and Senior Director of Professional Affairs Linda Harootyan, MSW, shared information about the Society’s activities. Notably, the number of Annual Scientific Meeting abstracts submitted from Germany increased dramatically since last year. The visitors were particularly interested in learning more about how older Americans are being impacted by the ongoing financial crisis. Greg O’Neill, PhD, director of GSA’s public policy institute, provided current research articles related to this topic, as well as a selection of material from GSA journals featuring comparative US/German studies. The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from both sides to continue to explore potential future collaborations.

Study Sees Increase in Costa Rican Centenarians
*The Latin American Herald Tribune* has reported that the centenarian population in Costa Rica is rapidly increasing and is projected to continue to grow. This group has been the country’s fastest growing segment in recent years. Costa Rica has 4.5 million inhabitants, according to demographics institute CCP (a unit of the University of Costa Rica). By 2050, there will be 8,000 Costa Rican centenarians. In contrast, CCP stated that about 40 years ago, scarcely 49 percent of Costa Ricans who lived to be age 65 could expect to reach 80.

Fiji Forces Government Employees into Early Retirement
The military-led Fiji government has set 55 as the new retirement age in order to reduce spending, according to *The New Zealand Herald*. The same decree exempted top civilian servants such as the commander of the military forces, the commissioner of police and auditor general, who can work until age 65. The measures are part of a response to both a poor economy and a decline in tourist trade since the country’s 2006 coup d’état.

Continued from page 6
Organisms perceive exercise, food restriction, and some pharmacological compounds as stressors and respond by altering the regulation of specific metabolic pathways. The current thought is that the response to caloric restriction, exercise, resveratrol, and even potential calorie restriction mimetics increases stress resistance and may significantly contribute to extensions in health span and life span.

“Resilience and Psychological Well Being in Old Age” was presented by Rosemary Bleizsner, PhD, a psychologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She defined resilience as adaptability of older individuals to life challenges and opportunities. Evidence of resilience can also be measured by evaluating relationships, expressions of gratitude, and presence of durable capacity among others. Families also show evidence of resilience in how they respond to elder impairment. Blieszner’s suggest the importance of recognizing multiple sources and expressions of resilience, the value of investigating resilience, and the possibility for intervention.

Duke University sociology professor Linda George, PhD, described how individuals report subjective well-being in a presentation titled “Human Agency: How Individuals Use Social and Psychological Resources to Promote Resilience.” She discussed two paths that individuals report when asked about overall satisfaction with life. One cohort reports having a good life and satisfaction with life, while the other subset similarly reports satisfaction with their life despite having faced major adversities (determined to be a more realistic path). Middle-aged individuals have the lowest level of life satisfaction, whereas older individuals (aged 60 and over) report a much higher level of satisfaction with their lives. Neither material conditions nor health status correlated with life satisfaction in this study.

Diane Elmore, PhD, representing the Washington, DC-based American Psychological Association, participated in the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. In her talk titled “Using Federal Policy To Promote Adaptation and Resilience Among Older Adults,” she described a number of recently-enacted aging policies addressing mental health of the elderly. In addition, she presented ongoing aging policies that are on the docket for enactment, including the Positive Aging Act (which will use integrated models of mental health within primary care settings), the Alzheimer’s Breakthrough Act, and the Elder Justice Act. There are laws to protect animals, children and women from abuse and neglect, but no comprehensive law currently protects older adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Elder Justice Act, if enacted, will help to provide this universal protection to older adults.
School's Certificate To Include Aging Option
The Raymond Walters College Behavioral Sciences Department is now offering a Human Services certificate for students. The program is designed to help students develop the necessary skills and experience for entry-level human services jobs. Students will be able to choose from one of five areas of focus: crisis intervention/mental health, family (children), family (aging/gerontology), substance abuse, or vocational rehabilitation/disabilities. Ideally, this certificate will be used to enhance an associate's degree in programs such as social work, criminal justice, nursing, psychology, and other human services.

New Resources Detail Community College Senior Participation
The American Association of Community Colleges’ (AACC) Plus 50 Initiative has announced the release of “Educating Plus 50 Learners: Opportunities for Community Colleges Survey Report and Executive Summary” and “Plus 50 Students: Tapping Into a Growing Market.” These free electronic publications examine the current state of Community College Plus 50 programs nationwide. The initiative is a three-year effort to identify a pilot group of two-year institutions that will create or expand campus programs to engage the population aged 50 and over for career retraining, civic engagement, or volunteer activities. It is supported by a grant to AACC from The Atlantic Philanthropies and sub-grants are available to member colleges selected through a competitive grant process. Visit plus50.aacc.nche.edu to download the documents.

Hope Remains for Canadian School's Gerontology Degree
McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, previously reported that it would cease admissions into its gerontology program. In late March, graduates and students at the school signed a petition with 1,200 signatures asking that the program be kept alive in its current form. McMaster officials have now indicated they may blend the degree programs in health studies and gerontology for cost efficiency.

Massive Genome Biomarker Data Collection Released
The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health has announced that the genome biomarker data for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) is ready to be shared with scientists worldwide for further analysis. This ongoing $60 million, six-year study is the most comprehensive effort to date to identify brain and other biological changes associated with memory decline, and it will provide the most extensive and robust dataset of its kind in the Alzheimer's disease field. The identification of new biomarkers is an increasingly essential element of predictive, preventive, and personalized medicine. Within this context, the focus of the ADNI study is to validate new biomarkers related to Alzheimer's by developing a global database of factors, and thereby accelerating the delivery of successful new technologies, medicines, and therapies for prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of this disease. Investigators may apply for access to this data through the ADNI database website at www.loni.ucla.edu/ADNI.

New BC Center Focuses on State-Oriented LTC Services
The Boston College Graduate School of Social Work has launched a new technical assistance center that offers states the tools they need to implement a wide variety of participant-directed long-term care programs. The National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services is the only national center of its kind and is available to assist states and other entities that want to offer, or already offer, participant-directed services to people with disabilities. Participant-directed (also called consumer-directed and self-directed) long-term care programs help people of all ages with all types of disabilities maintain their independence and determine for themselves the mix of personal care services and supports that works best for them. For more information about the new center, please visit www.participantdirection.org.

Report Provides Updated Alzheimer’s Projections
Total healthcare costs are more than three times higher for people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias than for other people age 65 and older, according to the Alzheimer’s Association’s “2009 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures,” released in late March. The new report calculates total healthcare costs as per-person payments measured from all sources. Medicare payments alone are almost three times higher for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia than for others age 65 and over; Medicaid payments alone are more than nine times higher. According to the report, there are 5.3 million Americans living with the disease and every 70 seconds someone in America develops Alzheimer’s disease. By mid-century someone will develop Alzheimer’s every 33 seconds. By 2010, there will be nearly a half million new cases of Alzheimer’s each year; and by 2050, there will be nearly a million new cases per year. The full text of the Alzheimer’s Association’s “2009 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures” can be viewed at www.alz.org.
Continued from page 1 - Ongoing NASA Projects

Herbolsheimer. “The Meals on Wheels volunteer might be the only contact these older adults have on a daily basis.”

Bruemmer shared stories of neglect and abuse in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in her home state of Wisconsin. She explained that significant increases in financial support are necessary to enable ombudsmen to visit facilities on a regular basis to advocate for residents’ rights.

Marci Phillips, director of public policy and advocacy for the National Council on Aging, identified the arena of family caregiving as especially in need of increased aid.

“Family caregivers are truly the backbone of our long term services and supports and without them, the system would fail,” she said. “Eighty percent of non-institutionalized care is provided by family caregivers.” Phillips added that the estimated value of these services reached $375 billion in 2007, compared to $350 billion in 2006.

Component Titles of the Older Americans Act

Title I. Declaration of Objectives; Definitions
Title I of the act sets out broad social policy objectives oriented toward improving the lives of all older Americans, including adequate income in retirement, the best possible physical and mental health, opportunity for employment, and comprehensive long-term care services, among other things.

Title II. Administration on Aging
Title II establishes the Administration on Aging (AoA) within the Department of Health and Human Services as the chief federal agency advocate for older persons. It requires that AoA establish the National Eldercare Locator Service to provide nationwide information through a toll-free telephone number to identify community resources for older persons. It also requires AoA to establish the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center, the National Center on Elder Abuse, the National Aging Information Center, and the Pension Counseling and Information Program.

Title III. Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging
Title III authorizes grants to state and area agencies on aging to act as advocates on behalf of, and to coordinate programs for, older persons. It accounted for 70 percent of total OAA funds in FY 2006 and supports 56 state units on aging, 655 area agencies on aging, and more than 29,000 service providers.

Title IV. Training, Research, and Discretionary Projects and Programs
Title IV of the act authorizes the AoA’s assistant secretary for aging to award funds for training, research, and demonstration projects in the field of aging. Funds are to be used to expand knowledge about aging and the aging process and to test innovative ideas about services and programs for older persons.

Title V. Community Service Employment for Older Americans
Title V authorizes the Senior Community Service Employment Program, which promotes community service activities for unemployed low-income persons who are 55 years or older and who have poor employment prospects. This is the primary job creation program for adults since the elimination of public service employment under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETEA).

Title VI. Grants for Services for Native Americans
Title VI authorizes funds for supportive and nutrition services to older Native Americans. Funds are awarded directly by AoA to Indian tribal organizations, Native Alaskan organizations, and non-profit groups representing Native Hawaiians. To be eligible for funding, a tribal organization must represent at least 50 Native American elders age 60 or older.

Title VII. Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities
Title VII authorizes long-term care ombudsman program and elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation prevention programs. It also advocates for residents of long-term care facilities in order to resolve quality of life and care problems, protect residents’ rights, and improve the long-term supports and services system.

Continued from page 1 - Ongoing NASA Projects

in diets, hormones, and levels of physical activity cause bone mass to be lost faster than it is created. Space flight has a similar effect. As soon as humans enter microgravity, they start to shed bone mass. The loss, occurring primarily in bones that support body weight, increases the possibility of injury.

Falls in both astronauts and the elderly can be caused by a weakened sense of balance. When space travelers leave a weightless environment, they must re-adapt to the presence of gravity. NASA is currently investigating ways to test and train an individual’s gait control systems to keep them at optimal levels. The techniques applied in spaceflight also could be used to rehabilitate patients suffering from fall-related injuries.

Vitamin D deficiency, often caused by a lack of exposure to the ultraviolet light in sunshine, similarly affects both groups of people. It can increase the risk of diseases such as Alzheimer’s and diabetes, as well as depression, cancer, and weakened immune function. Ongoing NASA research currently is determining safe and effective Vitamin D dosing regimens.

“The ISS is an extraordinarily capable laboratory in a unique environment that has not previously been available for widespread medical research. NASA strongly supports the NIH’s leadership in this promising opportunity,” said Mark Uhran, NASA's assistant associate administrator for the ISS.

Once proposals for research aboard the station are accepted, NASA will take the lead to train its astronauts to conduct the needed experiments.
Space Research To Result from NIH-NASA Partnership
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are cooperating to facilitate biomedical research in space — specifically, aboard the International Space Station (ISS). As a result, federal funding will be offered for investigator-initiated biomedical research that will use the unique microgravity and radiation environment and resources of the ISS. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-120.html for more information. The first round of applications is due September 30, 2009.

NIH Lists FOAs via Twitter, XML Feed
Funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) from The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are now available via Twitter and an XML feed that updates nightly to reflect the latest information on active listings. Visit twitter.com/NIHforFunding for complete details. General NIH health news is also available at twitter.com/NIHforHealth. The XML feed provides institutional information systems with a comprehensive list of all active FOAs and can be found at grants.nih.gov/web_services/xml/NIH_All_Active_FOAs.xml.

RWJF Program To Foster Data Collection Technique
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has issued a call for proposals through its national program, Project HealthDesign: Rethinking the Power and Potential of Personal Health Records. Grant recipients will work to assess and test the potential of observations of daily living (ODLs) to help patients and physicians better manage chronic illnesses. Funded teams will work closely with patients and providers across different care settings. Led by a national program office based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the teams will demonstrate how health data from everyday life — observations of meals, sleep, exercise levels, pain episodes, and even moods — can be collected, interpreted and integrated into the clinical care process. The Project HealthDesign call for proposals is available at www.rwjf.org/cfp/projecthealthdesign. Brief proposals are due June 3, 2009.

IOM Welcomes Leinhard Award Applications
The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is now accepting nominations for the 24th annual Gustav O. Lienhard Award. This distinction, which includes a medal and $25,000, recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in improving health care services in the US. The award honors individuals whose creative or pioneering efforts have appreciably improved personal health services as opposed to the science base of health care. Online nominations will be accepted through Friday, June 5, 2009. The award will be presented at the IOM’s Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on October 12, 2009. To learn more about the Gustav O. Lienhard Award, please visit www.iom.edu/Lienhard.

Senior Service America, Inc.
SCSEP 2009 Summer Fellows Program
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Senior Service America (SSAI) announces its summer 2009 SCSEP Fellows Program, which will recruit and place Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants in public and non-profit agencies that provide long-term care (LTC) services. SCSEP, funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act, provides a win-win for participants and their communities: low-income persons aged 55+ help community organizations extend their reach and capabilities, while developing their own job skills, confidence, and sense of self-worth.

Applications are sought from students or graduates of accredited graduate-level programs in gerontology, public administration, social work or related disciplines. Fellows will assist SSAI sponsor organizations to expand SCSEP enrollment in agencies providing LTC services, including home and community based care. The fellow will also evaluate these efforts, including required training, to better understand the opportunities and challenges in linking SCSEP and the LTC workforce.

The fellow must be on site full-time for 12 weeks, from 6/1/09 through 8/21/09. Fellows receive a stipend of $1,000 per week. Relocation expenses are not reimbursed.

Up to 6 fellows will be selected for the following possible SSAI-SCSEP sponsor localities:
- Anniston, AL
- Caldwell, OH
- Los Angeles, CA
- Cookeville, TN
- Aberdeen, MD
- Eau Claire, WI
- Westchester, NY
- Green Bay, WI

Excellent organizational and communication skills are required.

Please submit an electronic application, with cover letter, resume, references and a sole-authored writing sample, to bharooyan@ssai.org by Friday, May 15, 2009. Please specify desired location(s). Notifications will be made by May 22, 2009. Contact: Bob Harooyan, Fellows Program Manager.
The SeniorSMART™ Endowed Chair in Memory and Brain Health: SmartBRAIN™

The University of South Carolina invites applications for the Endowed Chair in Memory and Brain Health: SmartBRAIN™ (www.seniorsmart.org). The SmartBRAIN™ initiative will focus on developing methods to promote brain health and reduce the impact of age-associated diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and stroke. SmartHOME®, SmartWHEELS®, and SmartBRAIN™ comprise SeniorSMART™, a South Carolina Center for Economic Excellence (www.sccoec.org) that is being developed among three academic partners (Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina) and two hospital systems (Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center and Palmetto Health). The SmartBRAIN™ initiative will work closely with the Brain Imaging Center of Economic Excellence (www.bioce.org). The SmartBRAIN™ Endowed Chair will be based in the USC School of Medicine at the rank of associate professor or professor, with opportunity for joint appointment in other academic units at the University of South Carolina and its partners.

The successful applicant will have an MD and/or Ph.D. degree, have a demonstrated track record in interdisciplinary scholarly productivity, and programmatic support from competitive extramural funding sources. Extensive experience in the broad field of neuroscience is essential. Familiarity with the mechanisms for enhancing research value through economic development (e.g., intellectual property, interaction with relevant businesses, translational research activities, etc.) is an important attribute that will build on the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Program.

Further information is on the Web site, www.seniorsmart.org. Address specific inquiries to G. Paul Eleazer, MD (pauleleazermd@gmail.com), Chair of Search Committee for SmartBRAIN™.

How to apply: All applications should be submitted electronically to smartbrain@uscmed.sc.edu. Applications should include a) a curriculum vitae, b) a list of 3–5 references, and c) a letter summarizing applicant qualifications, current research activities and interests, potential or realized economic value of their research, and the candidate’s qualifications to exert a leadership role.

The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status.
“Taking the Next Step: Technical Assistance Workshop” is a 2-day interactive forum for pre and post-doctoral students and recent recipients of Ph.D., M.D. or related doctoral degrees who are members of groups under-represented in aging research. During the workshop, NIA staff and associated faculty members will present information and provide technical assistance on applying for NIA grants. Participants in the workshop will have an opportunity to make podium presentations of current or planned research projects, receiving feedback from peers and NIA staff. The Technical Assistance Workshop will be held immediately prior to the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, in Atlanta, GA on November 17th and 18th. Participation is by competitive application.

Applicants: Applicants may be new to the NIH application process or embarking on an independent program of research. Investigators who demonstrate a commitment to research careers related to minority aging issues are encouraged to apply. Transportation and lodging expenses will be provided for all selected applicants. First-time applicants will be given priority and a modest payment for preparation and participation. Applications must be completed and submitted electronically or postmarked by July 17, 2009. A recent C.V. must accompany all applications. Individuals who have conducted funded research for more than 5 years, are considered established investigators and/or are former Summer Institute participants are ineligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents.

To request an application or additional information, please contact Ms. Andrea Griffin-Mann at 301-496-0765 or by e-mail at griffinmanna@mail.nih.gov. See: http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/