inside this issue:

- Dallas Extracurricular Activities .......2
- AJN’s Latest Study ....2
- New Resources ....3

New Feature Offers Electronic Coupons
GSA has partnered with a web service called FreePledge, which will provide discounts to members at online retailers and earn funds for the association at the same time. By following the button found on the lefthand menu bar on www.geron.org, shoppers can find coupons for numerous outlets such as amazon.com, Target, and Staples. FreePledge will then donate a portion of the proceeds directly to GSA. For example, members can use the link to buy airline tickets on orbitz.com for the Annual Meeting in Dallas.

Dallas Closing Session To Feature Interactive Ethics Panel

The newly finalized closing session for November’s annual meeting will feature a lively and thought-provoking panel discussion titled “No Easy Answers: Ethical Dilemmas in Care for the Elderly.” Centered around an actual case study of a woman who develops Alzheimer’s disease, five experts of diverse backgrounds will apply medical, social, psychological, legal, and theological thought to shape the outcome.

H.R. “Rick” Moody of AARP’s Office of Academic Affairs will moderate the panel after being introduced by GSA President Charles Longino. They are scheduled to be joined by recent GSA President-Elect Lisa Gwyther of Duke University, Dallas physician Paul Chafetz, Texas Judge Patrick Ferchill, Marie Bernard of the University of Oklahoma, and Fordham University’s Msgr. Charles Fahey.

The session will take place the morning of Monday, November 20th and the group promises multiple opportunities for audience participation.

REP Committee To Launch New Outlet for Latest Research

GSA and AGHE’s joint Research, Education, and Practice (REP) Committee has announced it will utilize the Dallas conference to sponsor its first annual “Hot Posters Session” in November. This venue is intended to give exposure to the latest research on aging and produce a means to share this information with colleagues. The committee is now seeking abstracts that examine the most current research topics and focus on their implications for research, education, and practice.

These posters will be displayed at the Annual Meeting during a special session on Friday, November 17th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and will be advertised in the GSA Program Addendum. Because of the late abstract deadline (to ensure the latest research), “Hot” poster abstracts cannot be included in the Annual Meeting Program Schedule or be published in the Annual Meeting Program Abstracts, but they will be peer reviewed. The abstracts submitted for this session will be due October 2nd and more information is now available on www.agingconference.com.

GSA Announces Newest Membership Category

Any current GSA ESPO member who completes a degree program — and would like to become a regular member — will now have the opportunity to become a “Transitional Student Member” for two years after graduation.

The cost is $90 each year. If you do not see this listed on your renewal form, please write it in.

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Dallas Regional Specialties To Be Offered Through Food, Music

Conference-goers at the Annual Meeting will have several chances to taste the flavor of Texas during several specially-planned events. The biggest of these will be an outing to the famous Eddie Deen’s Ranch, where a mere $18 will buy an evening’s worth of food and entertainment. GSA has arranged for a special BBQ menu including beef brisket, smoked sausage, and plenty of side dishes. A cash bar will also be available. Their slow-smoked sausage, and plenty of side dishes. A cash bar will also be available. Their slow-smoked sausage, and plenty of side dishes.

The Adams Mark Hotel will also feature its own musical performances, including the annual Bob Diddle symposium and subsequent track outing. The New Horizons Senior Adult Band of Dallas has agreed to perform at the grand opening of the exhibit hall and the local arrangements committee is currently in negotiations for special performance during the opening session.

AJN Report Ties Functional Decline to Hospital Stays

The American Journal of Nursing’s (AJN) latest release in the GSA-cosponsored “New Look at the Old” series highlights the hindrances older Americans can face during lengthy hospital stays. This report, titled “Immobility and Functional Decline: Avoiding the Spiral,” www.nursingcenter.com/ajn/olderadults.

The study found that older adults immobilized with bedrest, and tethered with Foley catheters, IVs, and other devices that restrict mobility, can begin to lose functional capacity (a process known as deconditioning) within 48 hours. Deconditioning lengthens the recovery process, puts patients at risk for complications, and may require discharge to an intermediate care facility rather than a return to home — factors affecting quality and cost of care, and patient and staff satisfaction.

The webcast shows how one facility is changing its policies and practices to create an elder-friendly environment that puts function first. This 30-minute video, based on the January 2006 AJN article “Functional Decline in Hospitalized Older Adults” by Carla Graf MS, RN, APRN, BC, will help all healthcare professionals look at their practices with a fresh eye and identify simple changes that prevent complex problems. Managers and administrators may also appreciate the perspectives presented in this program.

This is the 11th in a series of 18 webcasts and is a collaborative effort among the AJN, The Gerontological Society of America, and Trinity Healthforce Learning. It is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies with additional support from the Nurses Service Organization. The venture — designed to provide information and skills to improve the care and well-being of older adults — has already received several professional distinctions. Most recently it was bestowed the Silver Award for Best Feature Series from The American Society of Healthcare Publications Editors.

Letters to the Editor:

We will publish letters to the editor in response to issues raised in the newsletter. Please limit letters to no more than 350 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, address, and telephone number. Letters will be accepted or rejected at the sole discretion of the editors and may be edited for clarity or space.

Send to: tkluss@geron.org

Current Member E-Mail Addresses Sought

As announced in last month’s Gerontology News, GSA has acquired a new database system that will feature, among other things, a members-only website. When its setup has been finalized, you will receive an e-mail containing a username and password to access this feature. If GSA doesn’t have your email address on file, we will be contacting you by regular mail to request that information. We urge you to respond as soon as possible in order to take advantage of exclusive benefits, including lower registration costs for the Annual Scientific Meeting. If you have any questions, contact GSA at 202-842-1275 or geron@geron.org.
Irving Pioneers Purdue Program Option
Shalon Irving recently became one of the first people to receive a dual-title doctorate degree from Purdue University’s Gerontology Program. This curriculum offers students the opportunity to study the aging process as it relates to a specific discipline. While many universities offer doctoral degrees in gerontology, Purdue is the first to offer a dual-title degree — emphasizing disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary breadth. Irving, who is from Portland, Oregon, earned her degree in sociology and gerontology, and has accepted a position as an assistant professor of sociology at Hofstra University.

Media Outlets Highlight Important Member Work
The research of several GSA members caught the attention of reporters during the month of August. Ami Ai, of the University of Washington’s School of Social Work, was featured in a WebMD article for a presentation she made at the American Psychological Association’s 2006 convention. Her studies found that patients who used religion for support during heart surgery showed less stress than those who were spiritually doubtful. UPI ran a story based on a piece that Rush University’s Raj Shah lead-authored for the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, which showed that decline in lower limb function and worsening gait, common in elderly people, may be linked to higher blood pressure. And the Boston Globe centered a front page of its health section around a Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences article by McKee McClendon of Case Western Reserve University. This article suggested that Dementia patients live longer when families delay putting them in a nursing home.

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

Elsie Norton
(She became eligible after referring new member Linda Galbraith.)

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
GSA member Mary Starke Harper, a longtime policymaker at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), passed away on July 27th at the age of 86. During her 65-year medical career, she became one of the nation’s leading advocates for improving health care for minorities, the elderly, and the mentally ill. One of her first jobs in the field was as a private nurse to George Washington Carver. Later, she was instrumental in organizing NIH’s minority fellowship program. Over the past 33 years, it has educated more than 10,000 scientists, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and other health professionals.

new resources

Group Offers Materials Suited to Gay Elder Care
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) in New York City — the nation’s oldest and largest nonprofit organization dedicated to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders — has finished piloting “No Need to Fear, No Need to Hide: A Training Program for Healthcare Providers About Inclusion and Understanding of GLBT Elders.” Now SAGE is making the curriculum available to government agencies, service providers and other organizations nationwide. The curriculum consists of six components, including a train-the-trainer module — a six-hour session that prepares the person responsible for staff development at a given organization to train additional staff. Available for $300, the curriculum includes a comprehensive training manual as well as a CD-ROM containing the manual and hand-outs in PDF format that can be printed for distribution. For more information or to order the curriculum, contact esanchez@sageusa.org or (212) 741-2247, ext. 222.

Website Compiles Diabetes Resources
The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP), a joint program of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has developed a comprehensive website with the latest information on diabetes control and prevention. Its fact sheets, tip sheets, articles, and other information have been developed by expert work groups on topics that cover individual ethnic groups, older adults, business and managed care, health care providers, and others. These publications are excellent resources for people working with individuals with diabetes, but also are useful for classroom use. All materials are available free from NDEP and can be downloaded at www.ndep.nih.gov.
The Junior Faculty Guide to Grants

By Betsy M. Sprouse, PhD, AARP

The Chronicle of Higher Education published in its March 10, 2006 issue a guide for the new assistant professor on how to start finding grants to advance their academic career.

Among the suggestions offered by author Karen M. Marken (and a few of my own) are:

1. Make contact with your institution’s sponsored research office and/or development office.
2. Access their databases of funding sources. Make sure you cover the basics, like www.grants.gov for federal grant funding, and www.fdncenter.org for the Foundation Center’s listings of foundations.
3. Be sure to search specifically for funding opportunities available for new faculty members (available through some foundations, NIH, NSF, and perhaps your institution).
4. Learn how to write a grant proposal. It is different from your dissertation proposal.
5. Use your university colleagues and mentors to help you learn the ropes of what kind of external support is expected and where to look.
6. Manage your first grants well, no matter how small. Make the best use of the data that you can, publicize your outcomes, and make sure your funder knows what you have accomplished. It will help you get additional grants.
7. Don’t chase money. Set your own goals for grantseeking and focus on the areas where you can excel.

For the full article, see http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2006/03/2006031001c/careers.html.

If you are interested in receiving additional information about gerontological education, training, and research issues and resources, consider becoming an AGHE subscriber! The AGHEExchange, published four times during the academic year, includes the following sections:

- What Works
- Conference Calendar
- Resource Briefs
- In and Around AGHE
- Policy Page
- New Member Profiles
- Geriatric Education
- National & International News

Visit the AGHE website www.aghe.org for additional details.

Promote Your Programs and Resources in Portland!

AGHE’s 33rd Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase your program, publications, instructional offerings, and audiovisual materials. Don’t miss the chance to reach a targeted audience of gerontology educators, researchers, students, and administrators.

Conference participants select textbooks, audiovisuals, and other materials for aging-related courses; design research and instructional programs; train professionals and students working in the field of aging; plan classes and programs for older adults; help students find jobs in the community; serve as community resources to agencies and programs for older adults; and conduct basic and applied research in aging.

Being a part of AGHE’s annual meeting is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Advertise in the Program Book
   The program book is given free to each registrant and volunteer. Your quarter-, half-, or full-page ad will be seen by approximately 500 conference participants. Deadline for submission of ads is February 3, 2007.

2. Host an Exhibit
   Each exhibit reservation (excluding combined exhibits) includes one complimentary meeting registration!

   Located near meeting rooms and the registration desk, the exhibit hall is the site of all poster sessions, the silent auction, all refreshment breaks, and the computer resource center. Attendees tend to meet and socialize in or near the exhibit area.

   For exhibitors who can not attend the meeting in person, AGHE offers a modestly priced combined exhibit, which is staffed by volunteers. Deadline for reserving exhibit space is also February 3, 2007.

   Receive a 10% discount if you both advertise and exhibit.

3. Sponsor an Event
   Schools, programs, individuals, foundations, and corporations are welcome to sponsor a feature or event at the Indianapolis meeting. Sponsors can provide scholarships to support student travel and registration, help defray the cost of printing the program book, fund food breaks, provide the computer resource center, underwrite an Annual Institute, provide tote bags, or do many other things.

   For an Exhibits, Advertising, and Sponsorship prospectus, contact the AGHE office at (202) 289-9806 or info@aghe.org, or download a prospectus at www.aghe.org (go to Annual Meeting, then Exhibits/Advertising/Sponsorship Prospectus).
Welcome Back!

“Welcome back!” to the many ESPO members for whom September means back-to-school. This month’s article discusses membership options for GSA, and reminds readers to start planning for GSA’s Annual Meeting in November.

There are two types of memberships to The Gerontological Society of America about which you may not be aware. ESPO members who have graduated from their academic programs are eligible for Transitional memberships to GSA. Transitional memberships are available for $90 per year and include the GSA monthly newsletter, Gerontology News, as well as print and online access to two GSA journals. The purpose of Transitional memberships is to ease the period between the ESPO and full GSA membership categories. This type of membership is only available to current ESPO members and is available for two years upon graduation.

The GSA also has an undergraduate student membership for $20 per year. This type of membership includes inclusion in the Emerging Scholars and Professional Organization, a print copy of the Gerontology News, and online access to two GSA journals. More information about Undergraduate and Transitional memberships is available on the GSA ESPO website.

Although we will discuss The Gerontological Society of America’s Annual Meeting in more detail next month, September is a good time to start thinking about the conference, which will be held from November 16 – 20 in Dallas, Texas. For those new to the field, the Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to gain a better understanding of the range of gerontological research being conducted throughout the country. GSA’s meeting is also a great networking venue for those interested in graduate programs or job opportunities. This year, GSA has negotiated a discounted rate at the conference hotel for students. This $100 rate is limited, so don’t wait too long to book! More information on the hotel rate and on the meeting in general is available on GSA’s website. GSA and ESPO have planned a great agenda for this year’s conference which will give members many opportunities to get to know each other. October’s article will highlight some of the events you shouldn’t miss!

Leadership in Aging Fellowship Program

The Brookdale Foundation will provide funding for two-year fellowships to institutions in support of future leaders in the field of aging.

Information and applications will be available starting September 5, 2006 at www.brookdalefoundation.org

Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging

School of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley

The Rose Kleiner Doctoral Fellowship in Aging supports an individually-tailored program of research experience and training leading to a PhD in Social Welfare. Fellows participate in collaborative research through the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services, which brings together faculty and graduate students from the School of Social Welfare and other departments to address critical issues in social gerontology.

The Kleiner Fellow will receive full support, including tuition, fees, and living expenses for a minimum of four years, to pursue doctoral studies in gerontology at Berkeley’s School of Social Welfare.

For more information, contact: Admissions & Fellowships, School of Social Welfare socwelf@berkeley.edu or 510/642-9042
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  - Family and Child Welfare
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- Students must enroll for full-time study
- Application deadline: January 1, 2007
- Classes begin: September 2007

For more information visit http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SSW/PhD/index.html

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- Emotional Well-Being
- Obesity and Nutrition
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- Frailty and Disability
- Exercise & Physical Activity
- Long Term Care
- Epidemiology of Aging
- Public Policy Outcomes
- Hip Fracture & Related Disorders
- Quality of Care/Quality of Life
- Health Disparities

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PETERSEN VISITING SCHOLAR IN GERONTOLOGY AND FAMILY STUDIES

Dr. Judith Treas Is 2006–2007 Petersen Visiting Scholar

The Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University is pleased to announce the 2006 – 2007 Petersen Visiting Scholar in Family Gerontology, Dr. Judith Treas, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Demographic and Social Analysis Program, University of California, Irvine. She will be in residence during spring quarter (2007).

Dr. Treas earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is on the editorial board of Social Science Research and she has held elective office in both the American Sociological Association and the Population Association of America. Her research has been supported by the Humboldt Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the National Science Foundation, and the Russell Sage Foundation. She was recently elected to the Sociological Research Association and she is a fellow in the Gerontological Society of America.

A focus of Dr. Treas’s aging research considers how trends in the composition of the older population of the U.S. affects their needs and resources. While on campus, she will focus her research efforts on the subject of older people in America’s immigrant families.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR THE 2007–2008 PETERSEN VISITING SCHOLAR AWARD

Oregon State University seeks applicants for the 11th Petersen Visiting Scholar Award. One scholar will be appointed and will receive a cash award of $21,000. The Scholar will be in residence during one quarter of academic year 2007–2008, pursuing individual research and writing while contributing to the intellectual vitality of gerontology and family studies at Oregon State University. The requirement of a PhD may be waived if the applicant has made distinguished contributions to family gerontology in an applied setting. To be considered, submit a curriculum vitae; one or two examples of published work related to the intended project; and a letter of application specifying quarter of residence, a brief description of plans for the period, and the proposed contribution to the intersection of gerontology and family studies at Oregon State University. Materials should be postmarked by November 1, 2006. Submit applications or nominations to Alexis Walker, Oregon State University, 322 Milam Hall, Corvallis OR 97331 – 5102. Visit our website (http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/gerontology/petersen/index.html) for additional information or contact Alexis Walker at 541-737-1083, 541-737-1076 (fax), or walkera@oregonstate.edu.

Please join us in Dallas for a reception to honor all 10 Petersen Visiting Scholar Award Winners!
Fellowship is a recognition by peers for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in GSA.

New Fellowship Application Criteria for 2006
The processing of Fellowship applications has changed this year. You MUST now be nominated by a current Fellow of your Section AND have prior status as a Regular member (no student time) for a minimum of 5 years. Self-nominations are no longer permissible.

The complete application form and additional standards for qualification can be found at www.geron.org/fellows.htm.

For more information, please contact:
Laurie Johnson, Fellowship Coordinator, GSA
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20005-1503
Ph: 202-842-1275 • Email: ljohson@geron.org