Unique Program Puts Students in Elders’ Place

A geriatric training method pioneered by Marilyn R. Gugliucci, PhD, president of The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (GSA’s educational branch), has proved successful enough that she plans to implement it on a national level.

This project, called Learning by Living, involves students residing in a nursing home for two weeks to better understand the experience of aging in a long-term care setting. Gugliucci started this type of training three years ago with students at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM), where she serves as director of geriatrics education and research.

“My goal in life is to change the world regarding attitudes and views of aging,” Gugliucci said. “By living the life of an elder resident these students have learned to open their hearts to older adults and as a result have created meaningful friendships; prior to this experience they only considered the disease or frailty rather than seeing the person.”

The students are afforded the same type of treatment that a nursing home resident would — complete with a medical diagnosis and standard procedures of care. These temporary patients are even given a fabricated medical history to further enhance the experience. During the summer of 2008, Learning by Living participant and UNECOM student William Vogt was given a diagnosis of...
The Olympics are over and the nation’s attention has now shifted to the historic presidential race. There are many issues and voices vying for attention, and with the economy’s current state and the cost of the war, it is increasingly difficult to be heard.

However, it is important — in times when budgets are tight and the competition for resources and attention is high — that advocates not give up, but implement a more long-term strategy and continue raising their voices on the issues they care about.

GSA is taking this approach with regard to two of its primary issues: 1) advancing the quantity, quality, and use of gerontological research for the benefit of older Americans, and 2) ensuring the training of the workforce needed to care for an aging population. See Brian Lindberg’s column on page seven for further discussion on successful advocacy.

In late July, GSA sent a letter to the Republican and Democratic parties’ platform committees urging them to add support for two key issues in their agendas.

We first asked them to increase funding (through the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Aging) for research that addresses the health challenges faced by older adults, with a particular focus on substantially increasing our nation’s investment in Alzheimer’s research. Secondly, we asked them to implement the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) “Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce” report, which calls for an increase of well-trained geriatric health professionals and frontline workers in order to avert a crisis in quality care for older persons.

While we did not think it likely that these issues would be included in the platforms, we felt it was important to continually look for opportunities to communicate our message.

Additionally, GSA has just published a special issue of The Gerontologist, titled “Better Jobs, Better Care: New Research on the Long-Term Care Workforce,” that further reinforces the importance of workforce issues. Specifically, this publication focuses on improving workforce quality and reducing the high vacancy and turnover rates of direct care workers.

By the time you read this, GSA will have announced the name of its next executive director, who will start October 1. Therefore, this will be my last column in Gerontology News. I have very much enjoyed this opportunity to share some of my thoughts and ideas. The next few months are going to be a very exciting time as the Society moves forward under the vision of a new director. We look forward to discussing all our upcoming initiatives with you in person during November’s Annual Scientific Meeting.
Richardson Honored in Great Britain

The British Society for Research on Aging has awarded former GSA President Arlan G. Richardson, PhD, its highest honor, the Lord Cohen Medal for Services to Gerontology. He is only the second American to receive this honor. Richardson is the founder and director of the Sam and Ann Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). He received the medal during the society’s annual scientific meeting in Brighton, England. He is also a professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology at UTHSCSA and holds the Methodist Hospital Foundation Chair in Aging Studies and Research. His research focuses on the role of oxidative stress in aging and age-related diseases such as Alzheimer’s and cancer.

In Memoriam

Long-time GSA member Theodora “Thea” Jackson passed away on July 26, 2008, at the age of 84. She was one of the founding members of the Society’s Task Force on Minority Issues. She also initiated the Jamaica Service Project in Queens, NY, a national model for developing services for the aging. Jackson served as its executive director until 1980, when she was appointed deputy director of the New York State Office for the Aging. After leaving government service in 1991, Jackson served as consultant on a variety of aging and educational projects. She also became a volunteer at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, where she later led efforts to establish a college degree program. Memorial gifts may be made to “The Thea Jackson Memorial Prison Ministry Fund” and sent to: First Presbyterian Church of Katonah, 31 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY 10538.

New Publications by Members

Analyzing Narrative Reality, by Jaber F. Gubrium and James A. Holstein. Published by Sage Publications.

Members in the News

• In the August 3, 2008, issue of The Orange County Register, long-time GSA media contact Jane Glenn Haas conducted an interview with Robert Butler, MD, president of the International Longevity Center-USA. He discussed his new book, The Longevity Revolution.

• GSA President Lisa Gwyther, MSW, was quoted in a recent article in The Edmonton Journal. She discussed Alzheimer’s patients and their need to have an active role in their course of treatment.

• A recent article in The Miami Herald featured quotes from former GSA President Gene Cohen, MD. He spoke of his research on the health of older people who participate in creative activities.

• David Reuben, MD, was quoted in a July 14, 2008, Associated Press story. He addressed concerns about the age of presidential candidate John McCain.

• The North American Press Syndicate published an article with comments from Peter Lichtenberg, PhD. He spoke of the importance of social connections in the well being of older people.

• The Hartford Advocate ran an article on August 7, 2008, with quotes from George Kuchel, MD, and Aubrey De Grey, PhD. The story focused on the extension of the human lifespan.

Receive a $25 Gift Card!

September is Recruit a Member Month

Strengthen GSA by encouraging colleagues and students to share in the benefits of membership.

For every member you recruit or give a gift of membership, GSA will send you a $25 Amazon.com gift card!

Visit the GSA Membership section of www.geron.org for offer details.
GSA Launches Redesigned Website

As of September 1, 2008, the face of www.geron.org has changed. The site’s navigation has been streamlined and the Society now offers more online membership benefits than ever before.

The main landing page features a number of new options:

- Single sign on for easy access to members-only content and online journal access
- A rotating banner with up to the minute news
- Eight menu categories, with “breadcrumbs” that tell users precisely where they are on the site

Networking will be easier than ever with our new membership directory, which offers:

- Quick access to contact information
- Members’ areas of expertise
- Committee and task force rosters

All online forms have been upgraded — after logging in, you can:

- Quickly update your personal information
- Join interest groups or participate in the Expert Referral Service
- Add online store items to your cart

Log in now at www.geron.org to take a tour of the new layout!
Dear Colleagues:

Another year has gone by and we’ll soon see each other at GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in November — at the new and stunning Gaylord Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. Although it is not customary for the GSA treasurer to report to the membership except at our yearly conference, it is has always been my intent to give an annual financial update in the Gerontology News. However, I see that it’s been two years since my last missive. Time flies, doesn’t it?

First, thank you for re-electing me as your treasurer. It’s been quite an interesting time to hold this office — inheriting a secure Treasury in 2004 and helping GSA navigate a new and uncharted course in its history.

Back in 2006, we had budgeted for a $171,000 deficit due to the investment we needed to make in a new computer system. I’m happy to report that, between better-than-expected revenues and a combination of delayed expenses and prudent cost savings by GSA staff, we ended 2006 with a $304,000 surplus. That was great, but I warned everyone at the Annual Scientific Meeting that deficits were coming, and that the “piper” would eventually have to be paid.

As reported at the meeting last November in San Francisco, we were projecting that our budgeted 2007 surplus of $250,000 would look more like $104,000. However, there were certain unforeseen events that occurred following the meeting and the year ended (unofficially) with about a $400,000 deficit.

However, there is good news on the horizon. Initially, we budgeted a $225,000 surplus for 2008 and now it looks more like a $400,000 surplus. To be certain we reach that amount, we need your help in recruiting and retaining members, and in making sure the conference in November is well-attended. Additionally, I have put in place safeguards to prevent the overspending GSA experienced in 2007 that resulted in the shortfall.

Furthermore, our investment funds have been riding the Wall Street rollercoaster, as have all other investments, but so far this year, we’ve outperformed both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor’s 500 in all but one quarter. And, our reserves continue to be healthy at approximately $2.3 million, even before the 2008 results.

The fiscal year in 2009 will be interesting. We will have a new executive director in place who will guide us as we navigate GSA’s new course. So stay tuned and I’ll do my best to keep you informed of GSA’s financial health. As always, if you have any questions about GSA’s finances, I’ll be happy to entertain your questions or comments by email (sreynold@cas.usf.edu) or by phone: (813) 974-9750. See you in November!
Volunteering for environmental protection activities can be physically and mentally sustaining for older people, according to the latest issue of Public Policy & Aging Report (PPAR). In fact, this demographic group is in a unique position to have a noticeable impact on its surroundings.

For those looking to fill meaningful roles in the community after retirement, volunteerism provides opportunities for social integration. The programs of environmental organizations routinely bring together people of different generations. Many of these involve healthy physical activity, such as the testing of rivers or clean up of natural areas, for example.

“Citizen involvement on a large scale is needed to address pressing issues of environmental conservation and sustainability,” state authors Karl Pillemer, PhD, and Linda P. Wagenet, PhD, of Cornell University. In one of this PPAR’s four articles, they examine the prospects and promise for what the two call “environmental voluntarism and civic engagement” (EVCE) among older persons and point to some directions for encouraging this movement.

The ongoing increase in the number of older U.S. citizens, coupled with a senior population seeking meaningful participation in society, can greatly serve environmental protection efforts.

Even the U.S. government has begun to tap this resource. For over five years, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Aging Initiative has provided opportunities for older adults to become environmental stewards in their own communities.

Additionally, older people are beginning to develop a more complex relationship with their surroundings. Public health research suggests there are a number of environmental problems that disproportionately compromise the health of the older population. This group is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution, temperature extremes, and major weather events. America’s elder citizens are also beginning to have a greater effect on the environment — through greater recreational travel, an increase in pharmaceutical waste, and the growth of independent and assisted living facilities.

This issue of PPAR, published by The National Academy on an Aging Society, is titled “Gray and Green Together” and can be purchased at www.agingsoociety.org.

As America’s aging population increases, so does its need for long-term care. And the workers who provide these services often lack the support they need — particularly in the area of pay and work relationships, according to “Better Jobs Better Care: New Research on the Long-Term Care Workforce,” the latest special issue of The Gerontologist (Volume 48, Special Issue 1).

Those aged 65 and older are projected to represent at least 20 percent of the total U.S. population by 2030, with the number of those 85-and-older increasing the most. The growth of this demographic will have a major effect on the demand for and supply of long-term care services.

Better Jobs Better Care (BJBC) was the nation’s largest single initiative created to reduce the high vacancy and turnover rates of direct care workers and improve workforce quality through both policy and practice changes.

Better Jobs Better Care (BJBC) was the nation’s largest single initiative created to reduce the high vacancy and turnover rates of direct care workers and improve workforce quality through both policy and practice changes.

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies, this four-year program was directed and managed by the Institute for the Future of Aging Services at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, with technical assistance from PHI (formerly the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute).

“The effort was to see what ideas are out there for improving direct care work — to make sure people have what they need to stay in their homes and communities,” said special issue editor Susan C. Reinhard, RN, PhD, FAAN.

Through two-types of grants — state-based demonstration projects and applied research projects — BJBC tested new approaches to providing a more stable and qualified long-term care staff and systematically evaluating what works best to achieve this objective. The special issue, which contains 12 articles, represents the findings of the BJBC program.

In addition to a need for better pay and improved work relationships, the studies found that recruitment and retention is an industry-wide problem, not just limited to nursing homes; greater job satisfaction translates to a better quality of life for patients; and older people themselves have roles to play in the long-term care workforce.

Funding for the special issue came from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Purchase information is available at www.geron.org.
In August, I promised to use this column to speak to you about engaging in advocacy. But first, let me briefly update you on congressional actions of interest before the August recess.

The mark up of the Elder Justice Act by the Senate Finance Committee, scheduled for August 1, was postponed until September 10. It is expected to pass out of committee at that time. House leadership announced a proposed second economic stimulus package that would include large increases in funding for senior nutrition programs and a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). A vote on the package will take place in September.

The Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act (H.R. 5366) remains stalled in the House, with the Senate working to introduce its bill on September 12.

And now, let us move on to the advocacy discussion.

**Becoming a “Citizen Lobbyist”**: As part of the legacy of our democracy and representative form of government, we, as citizens, have the right and some would say, obligation, to be involved with the governing of our society. By becoming an advocate on an issue for which you care deeply and have knowledge about, you are fulfilling an important role in our system of government. When you make your voice heard as an advocate, as a constituent, or as a citizen lobbyist, you are contributing to outcomes that affect individuals and society.

**Information**: Information and research are important tools for influencing Congress. As an advocate, there is no substitute for knowing the issues and being able to speak about them using facts, research, and examples to illustrate your view. Members of GSA, as researchers, experts and leaders in the field of aging, can be exceptionally valuable resources to legislators. As you become aware of reports and research which are related to aging issues under legislative consideration, provide them to the congressional members whom you are trying to influence. Most aging and health issues are complex, so providing reliable, timely information is an extremely important part of advocacy. Once you establish yourself as a source of reliable information, you may be asked to testify before a congressional committee.

**Relationships with Members of Congress and Congressional Staff**: Building Relationships – Though advocacy has changed as issues have become more complex and techniques have become more sophisticated, the backbone of effective advocacy is still relationships. When you meet with a congressperson or her/his staff, or make contact by phone, letter or email, be sure to explain your area of expertise, and the organization or institution with which you are affiliated, in order to establish yourself as a credible resource. Each contact you make builds a relationship. Be helpful to the congressperson or his/her staff whenever possible by providing material for speeches, sharing talking points on your issue, or by helping out at election time. Attend events in the district or state and invite them to yours. Remember to develop the relationship before you need to ask for help or support.

**Meetings** – Meetings to discuss particular issues or legislative proposals with a congressperson’s staff are also effective, as illustrated by the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations’ (LCAO) meetings with legislators on the Medicare Bill in July. Limit the number of people in the meeting to six. Have a preparatory meeting to decide on strategy and topics you will cover. Have one member of the group serve as an informal chairperson. Try to have a constituent as part of your group if possible. Visit the congressperson’s office early in the legislative process and again just before the vote.

**Coalitions and Networks** – Build relationships with other organizations which work on your issues. By partnering with other aging professionals, associations, and coalitions, you extend and enhance your own impact. Also, don’t overlook local and state organizations, religious groups, or politicians, as they may have access to a particular legislator through the district office.

**Money**: Dare to contribute – If you’re so inclined, make contributions (financial or by volunteering) to candidates you believe in or who support issues you care about. While contributions will not be the only or most important tactic you employ, they are another element of building a supportive relationship with a congressperson.

**Strategy**: Be proactive – When working on an issue campaign, use proactive tactics rather than responding reactively to the tactics of opponents of your position. Take the initiative to continually develop new arguments and evidence to support your position.

Know your targets – Knowing what makes a congressperson tick – significant life events and commitments, professional training, main contributors, and past legislative accomplishments or failures – can be very helpful in understanding which messages will resonate with him or her on your advocacy issue. You will need to know her or his committee assignments, bills that s/he has introduced, and any leadership positions that s/he has.

Generate constituent action – Despite the influence of lobbyists and money in Congress, legislators are devoted to acting on behalf of their constituents. Constituent voices are powerful in their offices. If your organization has members in a particular legislator’s district or state, make sure they are informed of the legislator’s position on aging issues and are encouraged to make their voices heard. Using the efficiency of communication through the Internet, you can also generate calls and emails from constituents.

Plan actions strategically – As you consider how to use your time most effectively as an advocate, consider the process by which your issue or piece of legislation will be considered and which committees will have jurisdiction. Knowing this information will allow you to formulate a timeline for your campaign, and to target legislators (and constituents in their districts or states) who can influence the legislative outcome.

Use the media – We are working on this important element for an upcoming issue!
GSA's Executive Committee has approved the following individuals for fellow status within the Society. In addition to being honored at the Fellows/International Reception during the Annual Scientific Meeting (Saturday, November 22, 2008, at 6 p.m.), they will be presented with fellowship certificates and pins at their respective section business meetings.

Fellowship is a recognition by peers in GSA for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership. This distinction comes at varying points of a person’s career and for diverse activities that include research, teaching, administration, public services, practice, and notable participation in the Society.

**Biological Sciences Section**
Bruce Carnes, PhD, University of Oklahoma
George Vogler, PhD, Pennsylvania State University

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**
Bei Wu, PhD, West Virginia University
David Eby, PhD, University of Michigan
Debra Street, PhD, University at Buffalo (SUNY)
Gordon DeFriese, PhD, University of North Carolina
Jan Baars, PhD, University for Humanistics
Julie Hicks Patrick, PhD, West Virginia University
Margo-Lea Hurwicz, PhD, University of Missouri
Scott Lynch, PhD, Princeton University
Yurie Jang, PhD, University of South Florida

**Health Sciences Section**
Elaine Cress, PhD, University of Georgia
Stephen Kritchevsky, PhD, Wake Forest University

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section**
Beverly Horowitz, PhD, Stony Brook University
Mark Brennan, PhD, AIDS Community Research Initiative of America
Robyn Golden, MSW, Rush University Medical Center
Sadhna Diwan, PhD, San Jose State University
Sherry Cummings, PhD, University of Tennessee

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**2008 Fellows Chosen**

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**Presidential Symposia Unveiled**

GSA President Lisa Gwyther, MSW, has finalized this year’s line up of presidential symposia for the Annual Scientific Meeting. These sessions are crafted to highlight the overall theme of the conference, which is “Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities”. Please note that several will include international perspectives.

Some of the symposia were developed jointly with leaders in each of the Society’s four sections, as well as the Emerging Scholar and Progressive Organization and The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

**Saturday, November 22**
10 - 11:30 a.m. >> Institute of Medicine Report: The Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. >> International Presidential Symposium: Emergency Preparedness and Older People
1:30 - 3 p.m. >> Resilience in Health and Illness: Personal Resources and Social Connections
3:30 - 5 p.m. >> Resilience in an Aging Society Meets the Resilience of Flawed Policy Ideas

**Sunday, November 23**
8 - 9:30 a.m. >> International Presidential Symposium: Working Longer in an Age of Employment Flexibility: Imagining the Resilient Older Worker
1:15 - 2:45 p.m. >> Genetic Blueprint and Environment – Which has the bigger impact?
1:15 - 2:45 p.m. >> Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Resilience and Aging: An ESPO Sponsored Symposium
3 - 4:30 p.m. >> International Presidential Symposium: Genetic and Epigenetic Factors of Aging

**Monday, November 24**
8 - 9:30 a.m. >> The Art, Social Construction, and Science of Aging: Promoting Health Through Gerontology/Geriatrics Education and Training
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. >> Research on Resilience in Exercise and Diet in Older Adults: Interdisciplinary and International Perspectives

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**Conference Registration Now Open!**
Anyone who wishes to attend GSA’s 61st Annual Scientific Meeting in National Harbor, MD, in November can now register at www.agingconference.com. Act before September 30 to get the early bird rate. Please note that paper registrations will be assessed a $15 surcharge, so book online and save!

**Volunteering Allows Free Registration**
Volunteers are needed for the Annual Scientific Meeting in November! Those who donate their time will receive complimentary registration in exchange for 12.5 hours of work, which may include such tasks as assisting at the registration desk, answering attendees’ questions, and supporting GSA staff and the Local Arrangements Committee. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Washko, PhD, at washko.michelle@dol.gov or (202) 693-3758 or Robyn Stone, DrPH, at rstone@aahsa.org or (202) 508-1206.
The 61st Annual Scientific Meeting will offer numerous mentoring activities in addition to the consultancy program outlined on the front page. Please note that some require advance registration due to limited space. Next month’s Gerontology News will have a complete listing of all mentoring and networking opportunities at the conference.

GSA Fellows Mentor Program Date and Time TBD
The GSA fellows are the keepers of much vital information for the development of junior scholars, but a connection between the two groups is not always an easy thing to accomplish. To this end, the GSA Fellowship Committee has initiated a mentor program for junior faculty and post-doctoral researchers at the Annual Scientific Meeting. If you would like to be part of this new initiative, complete the registration form found online at www.agingconference.com. Please send your completed form, along with your curriculum vitae, to Lynne Hodgson at Lynne.Hodgson@quinnipiac.edu. Applicants will be matched with GSA fellows, dependent on available mentors and specific career interest areas. There is only space to accommodate 25 mentees, applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Once the matches have been determined, GSA will share both parties’ contact information to get the discussions started. During the November conference in National Harbor, MD, the mentors and mentees will meet during a breakfast meeting (using a small round table discussion format).

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) and Fellows Speed Mentoring Session
Saturday, November 22, 7 - 8 a.m.
This is an excellent opportunity to meet with several GSA fellows, discuss research ideas, and receive encouragement and feedback. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Kara Bottiggi Dassel at kara.bottiggi@chw.edu if you are interested in participating.

Letters to My Mentor Monday, November 24th, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
This session is designed to offer participants the opportunity to compose and discuss “Letters to My Mentor.” The idea originated with two successful symposia on mentoring in gerontology that were previously offered at the GSA and The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) annual meetings. In each of the symposia, presenters offered suggestions about best practices in mentoring relationships on a number of different levels (conceptual, teaching, service, and research). A recurrent theme that ran through the presentations, however, was the extent to which mentors model their own best practices on those of their own past mentors within the field. This session will offer an opportunity for participants to discuss their own mentoring experiences through the format of shared letters they compose to their own memorable mentors. The organizers will open the session with brief remarks gathered from the mentoring symposia; the primary purpose of the discussion will be to hear what participants have to say about their mentors. Participants are asked to come to the session with a brief (one page) letter they have composed to a mentor within the field. They will be given the opportunity to read that letter to the group and then discuss the best (or worst) practices highlighted in the prose. In this way, participants will have the chance to do something we often mean to do, but forget to do: pay tribute to our mentors. The session is co-sponsored by the GSA Fellowship Committee and AGHE.

Unique Program Puts Students in Elders’ Place - Continued from page 1

An excerpt from Vogt’s notes served to summarize the experience. “I started learning the first minute I was here and have not stopped since,” he wrote. “I have touched the lives of older adults, just because I was there to listen. I have helped the staff, just because I was younger and challenged elder stereotypes. I have helped the medical profession, just by wheeling a mile in the shoes of elders and making strides towards better medical education. And I know for sure that I have helped myself by allowing myself to be absorbed into the culture, and by keeping an open mind, and an open ear, to those who wished to speak.”

Individuals seeking more information about the Learning by Living project can contact Gugliucci at mgugliucci@une.edu.

“The longitudinal data from this project indicates that these students have changed how they care for all patients based on this experience and have maintained these skills over time,” Gugliucci said. “They listen with their hearts, use touch as an added form of communication, and maintain eye contact at eye level with their patients. Thus far, it appears my goal in life is being attained, one student at a time.”
Older Workers on the Increase
Between 1977 and 2007, employment of workers aged 65+ increased 101 percent, compared to a much smaller increase of 59 percent for total employment (aged 16+), according to new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of employed men aged 65+ rose 75 percent, but employment of women aged 65+ increased nearly twice as much, climbing 147 percent. While the number of employed people aged 75+ is relatively small (0.8 percent of all employed in 2007), this group had the most dramatic gain, increasing 172 percent between 1977 and 2007. The full report on the data can be viewed at www.bls.gov/spotlight/2008/older_workers/.

Employers Have Split View on Aging Employees
In a new report from the Urban Institute, researchers state that employers value older workers for their maturity, experience, and work ethic, but they also worry about out-of-date skills and high costs. Future jobs, the experts predict, will require less physical demands and more cognitive and interpersonal skills—trends that favor educated older workers — but job opportunities for less educated older workers may remain limited. The report, titled “Will Employers Want Aging Boomers?” is available online at www.urban.org/publications/411705.html.

Checklists Advance Healthy Aging
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and AARP have released three new resources designed to help men and women over age 50 learn what they can do to stay healthy and prevent disease. “Men: Stay Healthy at 50+, Checklists for Your Health,” “Women: Stay Healthy at 50+, Checklists for Your Health,” and the “Staying Healthy at 50+ Timeline” succinctly show the evidence-based recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force regarding screening tests, preventive medicines, and healthy lifestyle behaviors for people aged 50+.
Available in English and Spanish, the checklists are designed to help patients and clinicians engage in discussions about necessary preventive screening tests. Patients can use them to record their screening test history and plan follow-up medical appointments.

The timeline displays the task force’s recommendations in a wall chart and is designed to be posted in places such as clinicians’ offices, senior centers, fitness centers, pharmacies, and other public locations. All three documents can be downloaded at www.ahrq.gov/clinic/ppipix.htm.

SAGE Continues Longevity Podcast Series
Will breakthroughs in longevity science create wealth at the same time they save and extend lives? Or will longer lives mean more people living off Social Security and running up the tab on entitlement programs? Will research investments yield economic returns or will we have to care for sick people longer—making the societal burden of longer lives enormous? These are just a few of the questions posed in the “Economics of Longevity Science” series produced by SAGE and now available as audio podcasts. To download these lectures by figures such as bioethicist Gregory Stock and Nobel Prize winner Robert Fogel, visit the SAGE website at www.sagecrossroads.org.

Site Offers Alzheimer’s Coping Tools
The Copper Ridge Institute is offering a new free caregiver training program called Caring for a Loved One with Alzheimer’s Disease. It is aimed at families that are providing care to loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias in the home setting. The program consists of a webcast and DVD that provide valuable strategies on getting support, developing realistic expectations, and especially important, taking care of yourself and your loved one. The materials are available in English and in Spanish (with subtitles). For more information, visit www.crinstitute.org.

Older Americans Have Limited Access to Services under Medicaid
A new report by AARP’s Public Policy Institute finds promising signs and mixed results among state government efforts to balance long-term care (LTC) options under Medicaid. Unfortunately, according to the report, only four states spent more than 50 percent of their Medicaid LTC dollars for older people providing home and community based services (HCBS). The remainder of the states continue to spend the majority of their Medicaid LTC dollars for older people on institutional care, such as nursing homes.
The report, A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform, is the first to examine Medicaid spending on long-term care for older people and adults with physical disabilities, separate from other LTC users such as people with mental retardation/developmental disabilities. Nationally, 75 percent of Medicaid LTC spending for older people and adults with physical disabilities pays for institutional care in nursing homes. The majority of funds now support people in home and community-based settings. Visit www.aarp.org/research/longtermcare/programfunding/2008_10_ltc.html to see the report in its entirety.
Canadian Life Expectancy Increases
Canadians live more than 1.5 years longer than the average citizens of other Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations, according to a recent Sun Media article. Life expectancy at birth in 2005 was 80.4 years for Canadians, ranking fifth among the 29 nations of the OECD, which includes most European countries, Canada and the U.S. The OECD average was 78.9 years. Canada also ranks fifth in total per capita health-care spending, doling out USD $3,678 per person from both private and public sources for health care in 2006. The OECD average was $2,824 a head. The U.S. spent the most by far — $6,714 per person.

Aging Koreans Committing More Crimes
A growing number of South Korean elderly people are committing crimes due to financial difficulties and a feeling of being isolated from society, according to The Korea Times. The paper cited information from the country’s Supreme Prosecutors’ Office, which stated that the number of crimes committed by those over 61 years old was 82,323 in 2006 or 4.3 percent of the total in 2006. This represents a sharp gain from 52,551, or 2.2 percent of the total number of crimes in 1999.

New Zealand Facing Dementia Toll
Dementia affects about 41,000 people in New Zealand and the progressive brain disorder will cost the country more than $700 million this year in healthcare and lost productivity, according to The Dominion Post. The paper cited a report from Alzheimer’s New Zealand, which showed the number of people living with dementia was much higher than previously estimated and projected to more than triple by 2050 to 146,699. New Zealand’s spending on dementia research lags behind that of other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries — its spending per person is about 1/6 that of the U.S.

Bahrain To Penalize Elder Abuse
According to The Khaleej Times, individuals who abuse elder people in their care could face jail and a fine under a draft law being reviewed by parliament in Bahrain. Tougher punishments would be imposed on those offenders who were found to be close relatives of the elderly. The elderly rights draft law penalizes maltreatment of aged people, especially if the offender is a caretaker of aged people, including family members and employees at special homes for the elderly.

Israel’s Elderly Increase Violence Complaints
In Jerusalem, the number of elderly residents who have filed complaints of neglect, violence or abuse has risen dramatically, as stated in an article on haaretz.com. The past two years have seen a 56 percent rise in the number of such complaints, according to data Jerusalem’s social services department release in July 2008. Some of the complaints cite family members or caregivers as the culprits. The recent upsurge has sparked closer cooperation between the municipality and the police, which hold joint meetings with the elderly to explain how to request municipal or police assistance and how to protect themselves from burglars.

Singapore’s Elderly Continue Working
A record number of older Singaporeans were employed in June 2007, according to the latest report by that country’s Ministry of Manpower. About 47.8 percent of the resident population aged 50 and above had jobs. The data is available online at www.mom.gov.sg/mrsd/publication.

Hong Kong To Focus on Elder Care
A new aging initiative recently launched in Hong Kong will focus on workforce development and training in aging as a means of “revolutionizing” the way the territory views and cares for its elders. The far-reaching community project, called CADENZA, is being supported by a grant of more than $48 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. Over a period of five years, the program will provide public education in aging, training for informal and family caregivers, and support for scholarship and professional education in gerontology and geriatrics. Also to be included are district-level demonstration models of innovative care and an evaluation.

Australian Boomers not Ready for Retirement
Fewer than 20 percent of Australia’s baby boomers have adequate superannuation and private insurance coverage to fund their health care in retirement, according to a recent article in The Age. The data, complied by Fujitsu Consulting, paints a bleak picture about the healthcare system’s ability to handle Australian’s aging population. It found nearly 60 percent of the 6,000 people surveyed did not have private health insurance and many did not know how they would pay for medical care in their old age.

Northern Ireland Faced with Dementia Crisis
The Belfast Telegraph reports that the number of people in Northern Ireland suffering from dementia — including those with Alzheimer’s — is expected to nearly triple in the next 40 years, according to the Alzheimer’s Society in Northern Ireland. Currently about 16,000 people live with dementia there, more than half of which have Alzheimer’s. By 2050, 47,000 people in Northern Ireland are expected to be living with dementia.
Hartford Grants To Enhance College Program
The social work program at Luther College has received two grants from the John A. Hartford Foundation — through the Council on Social Work Education’s Gero-Ed Center — to enhance gerontology education. The first grant, $5,000 over a three-year period, provides for faculty development and will involve infusing content on aging into social work courses, connecting seniors in the community to the social work program and classes, and involving students in aging-related projects. The second grant, $7,500 over a two-year period, will involve students doing oral histories focusing on human development with local seniors, as well as pairing policy students with elders in the community to work together lobbying legislators, and attending the annual legislative day in Des Moines, IA.

Arizona School Develops Aging Curriculum
Arizona State University’s College of Human Services recently introduced new bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in aging and lifespan development. The bachelor’s degree program focuses on preparing individuals whose goal is to work directly in the field of aging, in settings including care facilities, and government agencies. The master’s degree program is geared toward professionals in a range of fields looking to increase their understanding of aging issues.

Community College Adds Aging Focus
Forsyth Technical Community College, in Winston-Salem, NC, has added a gerontology concentration to its human services degree program. The school attributed the addition to a demonstrated need in the market. The development of each curriculum, typically an 18-month process, is carried out with the assistance of an advisory group drawn from representatives of the industries and institutions where graduates can expect to be employed.

California Schools To Bolster Health Care Industry
Two California universities have launched programs to support the pharmaceutical and health care industries. San Diego State University (SDSU) now offers a master of business administration (MBA) degree program in the life sciences to help pharmaceutical and biotech professionals gain business expertise. Cal State San Marcos (CSUSM) has initiated several programs to fill worker shortages in the health care industry by training technicians and billing specialists. SDSU’s MBA for Executives in Life Sciences program is intended to help professionals at life sciences firms bring drugs to market sooner as the demand from aging baby boomers continues to grow. It launched August 29, 2008, and is believed to be the first to combine business and the life sciences industries. It is targeted at executives with at least five years of experience in the biotech, pharmaceuticals and diagnostic fields. CSUSM’s programs will also assist students who serve the boomers’ growing health care demands. They are intended to help high school graduates and professionals become more competitive in the work force. Launched in mid-June, the programs train students to become pharmacy technicians, EKG technicians, and medical billing and coding professionals.

Mississippi Addresses Geriatric Nursing Shortages
Five of Mississippi’s public universities are uniting to educate nurse practitioners to care for older adults and patients with mental illness. The goal is to improve access to quality health care and reduce health disparities in two rural, medically underserved, vulnerable populations, and the $1.2 million, three-year federal grant enables the universities to collaborate on clinical courses for gerontological and psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioners. The universities — the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Alcorn State University, Delta State University, the Mississippi University for Women, and the University of Southern Mississippi — form the Mississippi Educational Consortium for Specialized Advanced Practice Nursing. In 2006, Mississippi licensed 1,232 nurse practitioners, but only seven specialized in gerontology and 46 in psychiatric mental health.

University Offers New Gerontology Certificate
The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Long Island University’s Brooklyn Campus has added a new specialty option — aging services and policies in the community — to its 15-credit program for an advanced certificate in gerontology administration. Newly approved by the New York State Education Department, the aging services curriculum addresses issues such as bereavement, elder health and retirement planning, and policy on nutrition across the life cycle. A state-approved specialty in long-term care administration, geared toward preparing nursing home administrators, is available as well.

The MPA program, which also offers an advanced certificate in not-for-profit management, focuses on management and leadership skills, ethical decision making, analytical and budgeting expertise, and written and oral communication abilities.

Job Opening • Florida State University
The Department of Sociology invites applications for two positions, effective August 2009, at the rank of Assistant Professor. One hire will be in the area of aging/gerontology to build upon our existing Health and Aging area. The second area is open, although candidates should fit within one of our areas of concentration: Stratification and Social Demography, and Social Psychology. An ability to teach Classical or Contemporary Theory is desirable. Applications should include a personal letter, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a writing sample. Screening will begin October 1 and continue until the positions are filled. All application materials should be sent electronically to Irene Padavic, Chair, Department of Sociology, using this address: sociology@fsu.edu. Please indicate on the subject line which job you are applying for (aging or open). For more information, visit our webpage at www.sociology.fsu.edu. Florida State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and race/ethnic minority applicants are particularly invited.
Consultancy Program To Continue for Second Year - Continued from page 1

navigating the publication process. For those with dissertations suitable for publication as a book, topics could include choosing a university press, timing the submission, contracts, and revisions.

“As a clinical practitioner, it was a great opportunity to talk with researchers about the challenges and rewards of conducting research in the clinical field,” said 2007 participant Catherine Spensley, MSW. “I went to the session hoping to find specific suggestions for using an appropriate scale in my research, but I walked away with much more. The interdisciplinary nature of the workshop really expanded the conversation and provided many fresh ideas.”

Pre-registration is required for this session and participants will be asked later to submit a brief statement of their challenge prior to the conference. Space is limited.

Persons interested in participating can sign up for consultancies during the Annual Scientific Meeting registration process at www.agingconference.com. A member of GSA’s staff will contact all parties and collect challenge statements.

This session is sponsored by the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Social Research, Policy, and Practice Sections and the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization, but is open to attendees of all sections. The consultancies will take place on Sunday, November 23, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and Monday, November 24, from 4 - 5:30 p.m.
funding opportunities

NIA Grant Seeks to Tackle Cognitive Changes
A new funding opportunity announcement (FOA) issued by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) is inviting applications for research examining the neural and behavioral signatures of age-related changes in cognition. The purpose of this FOA is to stimulate basic research to identify neural and behavioral profiles of cognitive aging. Applications that advance the interpretation and understanding of whether and how the brain and/or behavior changes and adapts with age for maintenance of good cognitive function are encouraged. Letters of intent are due by October 3, 2008. More details are available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-09-010.html.

Federal Funds Target Gender Discrepancies
The National Institutes of Health has announced a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) intended to support research on: 1) causal factors explaining the current patterns observed in the careers of women in biomedical and behavioral science and engineering; and 2) the efficacy of programs designed to eliminate sex/gender disparities and promote the careers of women in these enterprises. Research on variation among underrepresented minority women and socioeconomically disadvantaged women is encouraged. Letters of intent are due by September 21, 2008 with an application deadline of October 22, 2008. See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-GM-09-012.html for more details.

RWJF To Invest in Nursing Research
Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF), addresses nursing issues at the community level through funding partnerships with local and regional foundations. This project is offering funds to create a financial incentive for local and regional communities to work on nursing workforce issues. Local or regional private, independent, family or community grantmaking foundations and public charities are eligible to apply for funds. Projects will be assessed based on the following: foundation capacity for and commitment to addressing the complex issues related to the nursing workforce; scope and strength of the partnership planned among the applicant foundation, nursing leadership and other partners in the community; innovativeness and strength of the project design; impact of the project on the local community or region; and sustainability. Proposals are due by October 2, 2008. Up to 10 awards of up to $250,000 each will be made for projects lasting up to 24 months. See www.partnersinnursing.org/ for complete details.

2009 Busse Research Awards to be presented at the XIX World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Promoting international research in gerontology, two Busse Research Awards will be given at the XIX World Congress of Gerontology in Paris, France, July 5-9, 2009, to recognize the achievements of late junior and mid-career scientists and to encourage their continued contributions to aging research. One award will recognize a scientist from the social/behavioral sciences; the other from the biomedical sciences. Awards are $5,000 each, with up to $3,000 travel/living expenses. Awardees must present a lecture based on their research at the conference.

Deadline for receipt of applications: October 1, 2008.

For information and application forms, please visit the congress website at: http://www.gerontologyparis2009.com/site/view2.php?id=155
or contact: Harvey Jay Cohen, MD, Jury Chair Busse Research Awards, Center for Aging, Box 3003, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, 27710, USA.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Davis School of Gerontology and the Andrus Gerontology Center Announce an opening for the AARP Chair in Gerontology
The USC Davis School of Gerontology and the Andrus Gerontology Center invite applications for the AARP Chair in Gerontology. Applicants should have a well-established international reputation for a program of social science or policy research addressing cutting edge issues in the field of aging.

The USC Davis School offers gerontology degrees at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral levels, teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level is expected. Gerontology faculty also frequently supervise doctoral students in other schools and departments (e.g., Sociology, Biological Sciences, Psychology, Policy and Planning). Areas of current research include health, cognition, social support, aging policy, and biology and neurobiology of aging. Current faculty hold degrees in Biology, Demography, Policy, Urban Planning, Psychology, and Sociology. The USC School of Social Work has joint appointments in other Schools and departments.

The successful candidate will be expected to bring and maintain a strong program of research (as reflected by publications and external grant support); play a leadership role in facilitating research within the School, other parts of the University, and externally; inform policy concerning the implications of research findings; and teach students including those in doctoral programs.

Persons interested in the position should send a C.V., along with a letter indicating experience and areas of interest to: AARP Chair Search Committee, Andrus Gerontology Center, 3715 McClintock Avenue, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191. The application deadline is December 15th, 2008.

The University of Southern California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
PETE RSEN VISITING SCHOLAR IN
GERONTOLOGY AND FAMILY STUDIES

Dr. Toni M. Calasanti Is 2008–2009 Petersen Visiting Scholar

The Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University is pleased to announce the 2008–2009 Petersen Visiting Scholar in Family Gerontology: Dr. Toni M. Calasanti, Professor of Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She will be in residence during spring quarter.

Dr. Calasanti earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of Kentucky and is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). She is on the editorial board and has edited a special issue of the Journal of Aging Studies. She has been a member of several key committees of GSA and of Sociologists for Women in Society. She also served as a member of the Dissertation Award Selection Committee of the American Sociological Association and of the C. Wright Mills Award Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. In 2006, she received the Richard Kalish Award from GSA’s Behavioral and Social Science Section.

Dr. Calasanti’s aging research focuses on how age relations and gender relations provide a context for experience in later life. While on campus, she will pursue her research on the stressors faced by wives giving care to husbands as well as how aging husbands and wives experience their relationships with their adult children.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR THE
2009–2010 PETERSEN VISITING SCHOLAR AWARD

Oregon State University (OSU) seeks applicants for the 13th 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 2009–2010, pursuing research at the intersection between aging families and any of the following foci in the OSU Center for Healthy Aging Research: (a) diet, genes, and aging; (b) bone health, exercise, and function; or (c) social and ethnic issues in technologies for healthy aging. A PhD is required but 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 family studies and healthy aging at Oregon State University. Materials should be postmarked by November 1, 2008. 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 at walkera@oregonstate.edu.
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