

gerontology news

The Gerontological Society of America, Washington, DC

March 2008

inside this issue:

- Policy News4
- International News . . .5
- Award Announcements6

Program Committee Seeks Abstract Reviewers

This year's Annual Meeting section program chairs are currently looking for members to assist in the reviewing of abstracts for the November conference. Interested persons should contact their respective section representatives at the e-mail addresses below:

Behavioral and Social Sciences: Karen Roberto, bss@vt.edu

Health Sciences: Barb Resnick, barbresnick@aol.com

Social Research, Policy, & Practice: Robert Newcomer, robert.newcomer@ucsf.edu

Issue Contains New Features' Debut

This month's issue of *Gerontology News* contains two new sections: one devoted to domestic policy news (authored by GSA's new consultant, Brian Lindberg) and another focusing on international developments in the field of aging. The creation of these features was due in large part to feedback received from last summer's newsletter reader survey.

Presidents Explore GSA/AGHE Merger

A message from Lisa Gwyther and Marie Bernard

Dear AGHE and GSA Colleagues:

In 1998, AGHE was merged with GSA as a new and distinct operating unit of GSA. Accordingly, it was stated in the documentation that the former AGHE would be "incorporated into GSA as a specialized entity dedicated to gerontology in higher education. The fundamental mission and organizational purposes formerly reflected and articulated in the AGHE mission statement and bylaws will, in large part, transfer to the new entity."

Now, 10 years later, AGHE and GSA have attained many noted objectives as a result of the merger and continue to demonstrate their vital roles in the field of aging. However, we feel more can be accomplished and therefore we have appointed a joint 10-Year Operational Review Committee to identify

areas where optimal growth and function can enrich our organization.

The Merger Committee members include: Marilyn R. Gugliucci, Ph.D. – Chair, Stephen Cutler, Ph.D. (GSA), Chuck Longino, Ph.D. (GSA), Jenny Mendez, Ph.D. (AGHE), Margaret Perkinson, Ph.D. (AGHE), Sandra Reynolds, Ph.D. (GSA), Graham Rowles, Ph.D. (AGHE), Betsy Sprouse, Ph.D. (AGHE), Frank Whittington, Ph.D. (AGHE), Cathy Tompkin, Ph.D. (AGHE/GSA), and Frances M Yang, Ph.D. (GSA). Ex-Officio Members include: Linda Krogh Harootyan, Interim GSA Executive Director and Derek Stepp, AGHE Director.

The Committee has begun its process and will employ a dynamic and fluid course of action as they accumulate organizational data and merger related information. The plan is

Continued on page 2

Committee's Work Bolsters November Program

The January meeting of GSA's Program Committee has resulted in a unique schedule for November's Annual Scientific Meeting – due partly to a location near the nation's capital – that promises to give the 2008 event many marks of distinction.

"We begin the seventh decade of GSA Annual Meetings with an over-the-top one-time-only experience, said GSA President Lisa Gwyther. "[This is] a rare opportunity to draw on well-known content and celebrity experts coming from outside GSA but 'inside the beltway.' The meeting offers a new visual perspective on the Hill from across the Potomac."

The traditional closing session is slated to be replaced by a special congressional briefing on civic engagement. The yearly GSA Community Meeting will feature an interactive panel on the recent presidential election's implications to the

aging field. CBS News Director of Surveys Kathleen Francovic will be a special guest.

The meeting's location, The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD, is a brand new facility located on the Potomac River. By November, GSA's event will be the sixth major conference held there. The sleeping room conference rate will be \$200 per night, which includes a wireless Internet connection and unlimited access to the hotel's fitness facility.

More exciting meeting features will be details in subsequent issues of *Gerontology News*. Stay tuned for information on policy debates jointly sponsored by sections, an opening night performance by The Capital Steps comedy troupe, and symposia emphasizing global issues related to the "Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities" theme.

From The Executive Director

By Interim Executive Director Linda Harootyan

I recently attended a National Institutes of Aging (NIA) Advisory Council meeting at which Dr. Richard Hodes, NIA's director, painted a rather troubling picture of NIA's long-term budget situation. Looking at current dollars, NIA had a 5.4 percent increase in its budget during the period 2003-2008. But, the picture changes dramatically if you convert those current dollars to constant dollars (the value when inflation is factored in). Then, that five-year increase translates to a 13 percent decrease in buying power. This situation has led to decreases in the length of grant awards, investigators being funded at reduced levels, and constraints being placed on inflation increases in the non-competing years of grants. Hodes said that NIA is doing its best to keep up its new investigator awards in an attempt to keep researchers in the pipeline. Once the investigator is in the pipeline, it is unfair to the scientist and detrimental to the research to withdraw support, however incremental it is.

This situation is not unique to NIA. The National Institutes of Health budget has been virtually frozen since 2003 and has shrunk by at least 8 percent after inflation is considered. The implications

are far-reaching for science. I have seen figures that show if this funding trend continues, the doubling of the NIH budget that took place between 1998 and 2003 will be eliminated in a matter of years. As you may know, other domestic spending has been more or less frozen in recent years as well.

We need to face this challenge as an organization and as part of the larger research community. GSA will be working with other organizations and coalitions to stave off further erosion of the research budget. We must tell our federal and congressional policy makers that although it appears that the cost of conducting research is high, the cost of **not** funding research is much higher.

Be sure to take a look at the Policy Section of the newsletter to see a quick assessment of how research and education would fare under President Bush's recently released budget. Judging from preliminary analyses, this budget proposal continues in the same vein as previous budget proposals from this administration. As the budget process moves forward, we will keep you informed about ways you can lend your voice to our efforts to improve the funding situation for science.

Continued from page 1

for the Committee to propose suggestions, recommendations, and/or solutions to enhance merger effectiveness and efficiency. The final report will be presented to the GSA Council at the 2008 GSA Scientific Meeting.

Your Role: The Committee members may approach you through these next months and ask for your input and feedback.. Please make every effort to assist our Operational Review Committee with this important task. We will keep you updated on the progress through the GSA and AGHE websites as well as through the AGHE and GSA Newsletters. You are also welcome to contact Dr Marilyn R.

Gugliucci at mgugliucci@une.edu if you would like to assist. Please type "*GSA/AGHE Merger*" in the subject line.

As the field of aging continues to grow and flourish, GSA and AGHE organizational vitality is of critical importance. We thank the Operational Review Committee for their efforts on behalf of our organization.

Lisa P Gwyther, MSW, GSA President
Duke University Center for the Study of Aging

Marie A. Bernard, MD, AGHE President
Reynolds Department of Geriatrics
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

gerontology news

volume 36, issue 3, March 2008

editor:

Todd Kluss
tkluss@geron.org

managing editor:

Linda Krogh Harootyan
harootya@geron.org

circulation worldwide: 5,200

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

Gerontology News (ISSN 1083 222X) is published monthly by The Gerontological Society of America, 1220 L Street NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005 and additional mailing offices. Subscription for members of the Society is included in annual dues. Non-member subscription rate is \$50 per year in the US or Canada. Foreign subscriptions are available for an additional \$25 to cover air mail overseas postage and special handling. News items must be submitted by the first of the month prior to publication.

Articles may be photocopied for educational purposes without permission. Please credit Gerontology News.

Send news items to:
Gerontology News
The Gerontological Society of America
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20005-4018
or email: tkluss@geron.org.

Send advertisements to:
Steve Kavalgian
Mill River Media, LLC
141 Boston Post Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371-1303
or e-mail: advertising@geron.org
Ad rates are available at
www.geron.org.

Advertising policy: Gerontology News accepts ads for conferences and special events, fellowships, jobs, and degree programs relevant to the field of aging. We reserve the right to reject or discontinue any advertising. Ads do not constitute an endorsement by The Gerontological Society of America.

Blieszner Assumes JG:PS Editor Position

Rosemary Blieszner has been appointed as the next editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*. She is currently an alumni distinguished professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where her primary academic interests are family studies and adult development and aging. Current Editor Tom Hess will continue working with manuscripts submitted through mid-December and his editorial assistant, Heather Blasco, will be continuing her role during Blieszner's tenure.

Fried Named Dean at Columbia

Linda P. Fried has been named Dean of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She is currently professor of medicine, epidemiology, health policy and nursing at Johns Hopkins University, where she serves as director of the Center on Aging and Health. Fried also heads Johns Hopkins' Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology and the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Program in Epidemiology of Aging.

Salerno Begins Tenure at IOM

Judith A. Salerno took the helm as Executive Officer of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in January 2008. As chief operating officer and executive director, she is responsible for managing the IOM's research programs and guiding the Institute's work on a daily basis. Prior to her move to the IOM, Salerno was deputy director of the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health.

New Publication by Members

The Longevity Revolution: The Benefits and Challenges of Living a Long Life, by Robert Butler. Published by Public Affairs Books.

Colleague Connected!

This month's \$25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:

Jennifer Margrett

She became eligible after referring new member Merea Bentrott.

The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org.

For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

Members in the News

- The website Medical News Today ran a February 20, 2008 story based on the research of Virginia Tech's Karen Roberto and Rosemary Blieszner. Their study found that the age related memory condition known as mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is more disruptive of day-to-day life and relationships than once believed.
- Elizabeth Dugan of the University of Massachusetts Medical School had an op-ed piece published in the February 13, 2008 issue of *The Boston Globe*. She addressed the issue of mandatory driving tests for older citizens.
- Kira Burditt and Toni Antonucci were featured in a recent UPI wire story due to research they presented at GSA's 2007 Annual Meeting. Their study found that as people age, they are more likely to see their spouses as irritating and demanding.

ELECTION SLATE FOR 2008

Ballots for the election of GSA's next officers will be available online April 1, 2008. E-mails containing the link will be sent to all members in late March. Please take the time now to ensure GSA has your correct e-mail address by updating your member profile at www.geron.org.

Please contact dfrazier@geron.org if you do not receive the link by April 1.

GSA PRESIDENT

Peggy Dilworth-Anderson – University of North Carolina
Linda Noelker – Benjamin Rose Institute

GSA SECRETARY-ELECT

Jacqueline Angel – University of Texas
Holly Brown-Borg – University of North Dakota

BS SECTION CHAIR-ELECT

Holly Brown-Borg – University of North Dakota
Gordon Lithgow – Buck Institute for Age Research

BS SECTION SECRETARY/TREASURER

Russell Hepple – University of Calgary
Donna Holmes – Washington State University

HS SECTION CHAIR-ELECT

Jay Magaziner – University of Maryland
Mariam Morey – Duke University

HS SECTION SECRETARY

Julie Donohue – University of Pittsburgh
Ilene Zuckerman – University of Maryland, Baltimore

BSS SECTION CHAIR-ELECT

George Niederehe – National Institute of Mental Health
Keith Whitfield – Duke University

BSS SECRETARY/TREASURER

Kristine Ajrouch – Eastern Michigan University
Steven Albert – University of Pittsburgh

BSS SECTION MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Susan Charles – University of California
Malcolm Cutchin – University of North Carolina
Esme Fuller-Thomson – University of Toronto
Scott Hofer – Oregon State University
B. Jan McCulloch – University of Minnesota
A. Lynn Snow – University of Alabama

SRPP SECTION CHAIR-ELECT

Nancy Morrow-Howell – Washington University
Darlene Yee-Melichar – San Francisco State University

SRPP SECRETARY

Margaret Neal – Portland State University
Kathleen Wilber – University Southern California

ESPO CHAIR-ELECT

Kelly Fitzgerald – University of Massachusetts
Lauren Sloane – Pennsylvania State University

ESPO SECRETARY

Susan Bodnar-Deren – Rutgers University
Amber Watts – University of Southern California

ESPO TECH CHAIR

Michelle Cheuk – University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Sarinnapha Vasunilashorn – University of Southern California

The President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget was announced on February 3, 2008.

Once the President releases his budget request, the federal budget process enters a phase of protracted debate throughout the political and policy communities. The Congress, advocacy organizations, federal agencies, and special interest groups examine, analyze, and expound upon all aspects of the President's proposed budget. The budget committees, appropriations committees, and authorizing committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate will meet and produce bills in the coming months, with the goal of passing a budget, appropriations bills, and possibly a budget reconciliation bill by the start of the fiscal year, October 1, 2008. With this being a presidential election year, the budget process will likely be held hostage to partisan factions more than usual.

Research

The President's Fiscal Year 2009 budget dealt a blow to the fields of biomedical and social sciences research. For the sixth year in a row, the Bush administration proposed flat funding of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), that is, the agency did not even receive an increase to cover inflation. The NIH budget analysts have estimated that their agency has lost 11% of its purchasing power due to inflation since 2003. The FY 2009 level is \$29.230 million, equal to the FY 2008 appropriation.

By contrast, the research areas in science and technology, including the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, and the research programs of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, received a 3% increase in the President's budget. These programs are part of the administration's American Competitiveness Initiative.

The substantial progress already made toward finding more effective treatments and potential cures for a host of age-related diseases and conditions is jeopardized by inadequate funding levels. If enacted, the current budget proposal would result in nominal increases for the NIH institutes responsible for supporting this life-saving research. The anticipated success rate of research grants funded in FY 2009 is 18%, the lowest in the history of the NIH. Recent studies have shown that an increase in research funding by \$300 million annually may be enough to achieve the kind of breakthroughs that would eventually save \$50 billion in Medicare costs and \$10 billion in Medicaid costs alone. GSA strongly supports significant increases in funding for NIH, particularly the National Institute on Aging.

Geriatric Education and Training

The President's budget completely eliminates funding for geriatric health professions programs. Geriatric health profession programs are designed to address the severe shortage of adequately trained geriatric health care providers. Last year, Congress funded geriatric health professions programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at \$30.991 million. This funding supports three critical initiatives designed to meet the health care needs of a

growing senior population. The Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA) supports the development of newly trained geriatric physicians into academic medicine; the geriatric faculty fellowships are designed to train physicians, dentists, and behavioral and mental health professionals who teach geriatric medicine, dentistry, and psychiatry; and the Geriatric Education Center (GEC) program provides grants to support collaborative arrangements involving several health professions schools and health care facilities to provide multidisciplinary training in geriatrics. GSA strongly supports full funding for the geriatric health professions programs.

Medicare

The President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposes substantial cuts in Medicare spending: \$178.2 billion over the next five years, \$556.4 billion over 10 years, and more than \$10 trillion over the next 75 years. These massive cuts are funded by increasing beneficiary cost-sharing and reducing reimbursement rates to providers who serve beneficiaries in traditional Medicare. Reductions of this magnitude will surely have a negative impact on the ability of older Americans to access health care. Payment cuts to physicians will further contribute to the shortage of physicians and health care professionals in geriatric medicine.

The President's budget includes an expansion of means-testing in Medicare. Means testing has already been implemented with the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) where those with incomes above certain levels pay higher Part B premiums. The President's budget would eliminate the MMA's annual inflation adjustment of the income thresholds for higher premium payments, so that over time more and more beneficiaries would have to pay the higher premiums.

In addition, the budget would apply this means-testing to Part D prescription drug premiums as well. Higher Part D premiums would be imposed on beneficiaries in the same income categories as under Part B. Since these income thresholds would also not be adjusted for inflation, every year more beneficiaries would have to pay the higher premiums.

On a positive note, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers would receive their first dedicated funding. The President's budget allocated \$5 million for the centers.

Unfortunately, the President's budget did not remedy Medicare's coinsurance rate of 50 percent for outpatient mental health services, as compared to 20 percent for most outpatient services under Medicare. This disparity prevents Medicare beneficiaries from accessing the mental health services that they need and is inconsistent with the recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Older Americans Act (OAA)

The President's budget proposal cuts OAA funding by a total of \$204 million, including a \$172 million reduction (40% cut) to the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and a \$32 million reduction for the Administration on Aging. For the third year in a row, the budget includes the elimination of Title

III D Preventive Health Services and the Alzheimer's disease demonstration grants. The SCSEP cuts would result in tens of thousands of poor older people being dropped from this program.

For the past seven years, OAA programs have effectively been cut as federal funding levels have failed to keep pace with inflation or to recognize increasing demographic need. In FY 2006, the programs suffered an actual reduction below 2005 levels due to the congressionally mandated across-the-board spending cuts.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

The President's budget contained a 29% cut in SSBGs, which amounts to a \$500 million reduction in funding. SSBGs fund Adult Protective Services, transportation, congregate and home-delivered meals, in-home care, adult foster care, and adult day services for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Senior Volunteer Programs

The President has proposed a Senior Corps budget of \$174 million, which is more than \$26 million less than he proposed last year and would cut the programs by more than \$39 million from 2008 levels. The budget includes \$68.2 million for the Foster Grandparent program, an unprecedented reduction of \$40 million from last year's level.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The CSBG is targeted for elimination for the fourth year in a row under the President's budget.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

The President's proposes to eliminate the CSFP, a proposal that has been made for three years in a row. CSFP provides monthly nutritious food packages primarily to low-income seniors aged 60 and older. It is estimated that 440,000 older adults nationwide receive these food packages in an average month.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP would receive a total of \$2.0 billion in FY '09 under the President's budget, a reduction of \$570 million from the FY '08 level of \$2.570 billion.

Section 202 Housing

Today there are more than 300,000 Section 202 units in over 3,500 developments across the United States. According to AARP, an estimated ten seniors are waiting for every unit that becomes available. The President's budget would cut the Section 202 program by \$195 million.

Legal Services Corporation (LSC)

The President again this year proposes to reduce funding in FY 2009 for the LSC to \$311 million. The LSC currently receives \$350 million.

international news

AARP Publication Details Global Policy Issues

AARP has launched *The Journal*, a new bi-annual international policy publication that addresses health and financial security issues facing a global aging population. The first two editions feature articles by former US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, former Denmark Prime Minister and President of the European Socialists Paul Nyrup Rasmussen, EU Commissioner Vladimír Špidla, Swedish Minister Maria Larsson, German Minister Ulla Schmidt, Executive Director of Alzheimer's Disease International Marc Wortmann, Joyce "The Green Granny" Emery, and more. *The Journal* is available online at: www.aarpinternational.org/thejournal. To request a hard copy and/or join the distribution list, please email AARP's Office of International Affairs at international@aarp.org.

UN Gathering Results in Secretary General's Aging Report

The UN Secretary General has issued two documents, titled "First Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: Preliminary Assessment" and "Regional Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002." (The Madrid Plan was the result of the Second World Assembly on Ageing 2002.) The first report reviews efforts to mainstream aging concerns throughout the world and presents a bottom-up evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action. In addition, salient trends and responses to challenges and opportunities of aging

are described and analyzed. The second report provides regional perspectives on the activities related to the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and underlines the enormous challenges that persist for the aging population in the regions. It notes that future priority actions at the regional level to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the aging process will have to be tailored to each region, taking into account needs and circumstances and the differing nature of the process of aging at the regional and sub-regional levels. Both documents can be found at the website devoted to the recent session of the Commission for Social Development at www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csod2008.htm.

AARP Interview Explores Workplace Age Discrimination

Chris Ball, chief executive officer of The Age and Employment Network, recently spoke to AARP International about the U.K.'s anti-age discrimination regulations, which were recently implemented in response to the European Union's anti-age discrimination directive. Among the provisions of the law is to allow employers to dismiss employees if they reach 65 years of age or older. Ball discusses the reaction of his organization and the public to these changes. The full interview can be read here: www.aarpinternational.org/newsmakers/newsmakers_show.htm?doc_id=669573

GSA Salutes its 2007 Emerging Scholars/ Trainee Awardees

Awards for the best research papers and poster presentations by GSA Emerging Scholar/Trainee members were presented during the 60th Annual Meeting held at the Hilton San Francisco Hotel in November.

Congratulations to the 2007 recipients!

GSA would like to extend its gratitude to the members of all of our award selection committees for their hard work and dedication to making this year's process a success.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SECTION

George Sacher Student Award



Marlene E. Starr, BS
University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston
"Vulnerability to Sepsis in Old Age is Associated with Increased IL-6 Production by Adipose Tissue"

HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION

Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award



Alessandro Morandi, MD
Vanderbilt University
"CR-P as predictor of prevalent delirium in a acute ill elderly patients"

Person-In-Training Award



Natalie Leland Wiatrowski, MS, OTR/L
University of Massachusetts
"Older Adults: Communication and Perceptions of Accidental Falls"

Research Award (Co-Recipient)



Elsa S. Strotmeyer, PhD, MPH
University of Pittsburgh
"Sensory and Motor Peripheral Nerve Function and Lower-Extremity Strength in Older White and Black Adults: The Health, Aging and Body Composition Study"

Research Award (Co-Recipient)



Benedetta Bartali, RD, PhD
Yale University
"Low Vitamin E Concentration and Subsequent Decline in Physical Function in Older Persons"

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES SECTION

Student Research Award – Pre-Dissertation Level



Maria T. Brown, LMSW
"The Relationship Between Race, Parental Education, and Cognitive Function in Later Life"

Student Research Award – Dissertation Level



Kate L. Fiori, PhD
Long Island University
"Social Network Types Among Older Adults: A Multidimensional Approach"

SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY, & PRACTICE

Student Research Award – Undergraduate/Masters Level



Skye N. Leedahl, MA
University of Kansas
"Social Organizations & Aging: The Benefits of VFW Membership"

Student Research Award – Doctoral Level



Song-iee Hong, MA
Washington University (MO)
"Structural Relationship between Social Activities and Longitudinal Trajectories of Depression among Older Adults"

EMERGING SCHOLAR & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Interdisciplinary Paper Award



Skye N. Leedahl, MA
University of Kansas
"Social Organizations & Aging: The Benefits of VFW Membership"

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AN OLDER AMERICA INITIATIVE

Student/Junior Scholar Paper Award



Fengyan Tang, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
"Inclusion of Diverse Older Populations in Volunteering: The Importance of Institutional Facilitation."

Senior Level Paper Award



Deborah B. Smith, PhD
University of Missouri-Kansas City
"Examining the Volunteer Patterns of Mid-and Later-Life American Couples."

HONORABLE MENTION

HS Research Award



Hilaire Thompson, PhD, RN
University of Washington
"Effect of Intensity of Care on Death within 1-year Following Traumatic Brain Injury"

For information on how to apply for a GSA Emerging Scholar/Trainee Award and for information on all of GSA's awards, please visit our website at <http://www.geron.org/awards/awards.htm>.



The Gerontological Society of America Call for Award Nominations

The Gerontological Society of America salutes outstanding and potential research through a host of awards. Award winners will be announced at the Society's 61st Annual Scientific Meeting, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland, November 21-25, 2007. All nomination materials must be sent to GSA's office by the deadline date. Materials received after the deadline will not be eligible. **For a complete list of all awards, a full description of nomination requirements, to obtain nomination forms, or to see a list of past award recipients, please visit the Society's Web Site at www.geron.org or email GSA's Awards Coordinator at dfrazier@geron.org.**

SOCIETY-WIDE AWARDS

The **Donald P. Kent Award** is given to a member of the Society who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society. The award was created in 1973 in memory of Donald P. Kent for his outstanding leadership in translating research findings into practical use. The winner of the Kent Award presents a lecture at the Society's Annual Scientific Meeting the following year. The Kent Award Lecture is one of the highlights of the Society's Annual Scientific Meeting. Nominees must be Fellows of the Society. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008**

The **Robert W. Kleemeier Award** is given annually to a member of the Society in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology. The winner of the Kleemeier Award presents a lecture at the Society's Annual Scientific Meeting the following year. The Kleemeier Award Lecture is one of the highlights of the Society's Annual Scientific Meeting. Nominees must be Fellows of the Society. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **M. Powell Lawton Award**, sponsored by the Polisher Research Institute of the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life, is presented to an individual to honor contributions from applied research that have benefited older people and their care. The award recognizes a significant contribution in gerontology that has led to an innovation in gerontological treatment, practice or service, prevention, amelioration of symptoms or barriers, or a public policy change that has led to some practical application that improves the lives of older persons. Although research is the usual origin of such contributions, leadership in defining and implementing a creative program may also be recognized. The award also honors an individual for exemplifying one or more of the outstanding professional and personal qualities of the late M. Powell Lawton. The award carries a cash prize of \$2,500, a certificate and up to \$1,000 for travel and per diem expenses to the Annual Meeting. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging** recognizes instances of practice informed by research and analysis research that directly improved policy or practice, and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice. Individual(s) who are mid-career and actively engaged in the conception and development of innovative programs that demonstrate excellence in translating research into practical application or policy are eligible for this award. The nominated individual(s) need not be a member of The Gerontological Society of America but nominations of non-members need an endorsement by at least one GSA member. This award carries a cash prize, certificate, and symbol totaling \$10,000. This award is funded by the New York Community Trust through a generous gift from Maxwell A. Pollack Fund. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology** acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology. Eligible nominees must have a PhD and must not be more than 10 years past the date the PhD was awarded. Self-nominations will be accepted. Nominations are not restricted to GSA members. International participation is encouraged. The award recipient will receive a plaque and a \$1,000 cash award. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **GSA Social Gerontology Award** sponsored by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. This new, original paper competition focuses on Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology. Papers should provide an interdisciplinary perspective on social gerontology theory. The top four papers will be presented at a special symposium at the 2008 annual meeting in National Harbor, MD. Cash prize of \$2,000 for best paper. **Deadline: Monday, September 1, 2008.**

The **Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology** recognizes individuals who have exemplified outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging. See www.geron.org/TFONMINORITY.htm for further details. **Deadline: Friday, March 14, 2008.**

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SECTION

The **George Sacher Student Award** is given to the best ESPO presentation by a GSA member at the Society's Annual Scientific Meeting. To be eligible, a member of the ESPO of the Society must have an abstract submitted and accepted for the Annual Scientific Meeting. After acceptance, the ESPO member will be notified to submit additional award materials by **Monday, September 1, 2008**. This award carries a cash prize of \$500.

The \$1,500 **Nathan Shock New Investigator Award** is given for outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research. Nominees must have a PhD, MD, DDS, or equivalent degree and must be within seven years of their postdoctoral research. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

Biological Sciences and Health Sciences Sections are offering the \$400 **Austin Bloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award** to recognize an outstanding paper or poster contribution by a Post-Doctoral Fellow in biomedical sciences. The Biological Sciences and Health Sciences Sections alternated annually in selecting the award from among their respective section's submissions. In order to be eligible for 2008 award, the **first** author's abstract must be submitted and accepted for presentation at the GSA Annual Meeting. After acceptance, students will be notified to submit additional award materials by **Monday, September 1, 2008.**

SOCIAL RESEARCH, POLICY & PRACTICE SECTION

The Social Research, Policy and Practice Section offers two student research awards: a \$500 cash prize for **doctoral level work** and a \$250 cash prize for **advanced undergraduate/or master's level work**. All GSA ESPO members are eligible to apply. Applicants must first submit an abstract and have it accepted for the Annual Scientific Meeting. After being accepted, students will be requested to submit additional material by **Monday, September 1, 2008.**

HEALTH SCIENCES SECTION

The **Joseph T. Freeman Award** is a lectureship in geriatrics and is awarded to a prominent physician in the field of aging—both in research and practice—who is a member of the Society's Health Sciences section. This award carries a cash prize of \$250. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **Person-In-Training** is given to a student (enrolled in a graduate education program who does not have a doctoral degree) of the HS section for the best student presentation at the Society's Annual Meeting. To be eligible for this \$500 award, the student must have an abstract submitted and accepted for the Annual Meeting. After acceptance, the student will be notified to submit additional materials by **Monday, September 1, 2008.**

The **Health Sciences Research Award** is given to a new investigator in the Health Sciences section. Individuals eligible for this \$1,000 research award are new investigators who have received a doctoral degree within the last seven years. Interested Health Sciences Section students, trainees, fellow and junior faculty must submit and have an abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting. After acceptance, the student will be notified to submit further materials by **Monday, September 1, 2008.**

The **Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award**, presented in collaboration with the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, is given to a member of the Society in recognition of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research. The award carries a cash prize of \$300. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES SECTION

The **Distinguished Career Contribution Award** honors an individual whose contributions over the course of her or his career have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature. To be eligible, the individual must be (if retired, must have been) a member of the BSS section and must have published within the past 5 years. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award** is given to an individual who has fostered excellence in and had a major impact on the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues. To be eligible for the award, the nominee must be a member of the BSS Section of GSA. **Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2008.**

The **Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award** recognizes insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences. This award is underwritten by the Baywood Publishing Company and carries a cash prize of \$500. **Deadline: May 5, 2008.**

The **BSS Student Research Award** recognizes student research at the **pre-dissertation and dissertation level** (degree to have been awarded within 18 months of date of submission). The award winner at the dissertation level receives a \$1,000 cash prize and the award winner at the pre-dissertation level receives a \$500 cash prize. Both winners receive a copy of the *Handbook on Aging* and a one-year membership in the Society. After abstract acceptance for the Annual Meeting, finalists will be requested to submit additional materials by **September 1, 2008.**

EMERGING SCHOLAR & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

The **ESPO Interdisciplinary Paper Award** honors the best interdisciplinary research paper on a topic related to aging by a GSA ESPO member. To be eligible for this \$250 cash award, ESPO members must have an abstract (due by **March 14**) accepted for presentation at the annual meeting. Finalists will be requested to submit an article-length manuscript for final judging by **September 1, 2008.**

The Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) offers five **Poster Awards** this year. The applicant must be a GSA ESPO member. Posters from all sections will be considered. To be eligible, ESPO members must have a poster abstract accepted for presentation at the annual meeting. Finalists will be requested to submit a .PDF or PowerPoint version of their poster for final judging by **September 1, 2008.**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN AN OLDER AMERICA PROJECT

GSA's Civic Engagement in an Older America initiative offers two cash awards to recognize **outstanding papers** on the topic of civic engagement as it relates to older adults. The Initiative will award \$500 to one paper from a **student or junior scholar** (no more than five years post-doctorate on September 1, 2008). The Initiative will also award \$1000 to one paper from a **senior scholar**. Finalists will be selected from among the abstracts accepted for presentation at the meeting and are requested to submit an article-length manuscript for final judging by **September 1, 2008**. The author(s) must present the work during the Annual Meeting.

In addition to the awards listed above, there are a number of student, post-doctoral fellow, and senior scholar awards offered by GSA based on abstract acceptance to the 2008 Annual Meeting. The 2008 Call for Papers is available on-line at www.geron.org and includes a complete list of these abstract-based awards. To be eligible for these awards, you must indicate your interest in applying for one when you submit your abstract on-line at www.geron.org.

Join The Careers in Aging Vanguard!

It's still not too late for your institution to participate in the upcoming sixth annual Careers in Aging Week, taking place nationwide from April 13-19, 2008. The following schools are already signed up:

For more information, contact ciaw@geron.org.

Assumption College
Ball State University
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Clark University
Ferris State University
IGSW at Boston University
Kennesaw State University
Mansfield University
Messiah College
Minnesota State University
North Shore Community College
Northeastern Illinois University
Notre Dame Der Namur University
Penn State University
Rhode Island College
Saint Joseph College

Sigma Phi Omega, The National Academic Honor and Professional Society in Gerontology
St. Cloud State University
The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Towson University
University of Colorado at Denver
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Erickson School of Aging
University of Montana
University of Nebraska at Omaha

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of North Carolina Charlotte
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Utica College (with New York State Society on Aging Education Committee)
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Webster University
West Virginia University
Winston-Salem State University
Worcester State College

Just Released!



"Multidimensional Geriatric Assessment: Back to the Future"

A special section of the March issue of *The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*

Inside: Multidimensional Geriatric Assessment: Back to the Future (Editorial) • *Darryl Wieland and Luigi Ferrucci*

The Cost-Effectiveness of a Multidisciplinary Intervention Model for Community-Dwelling Frail Older People • *R. J. F. Melis, E. Adang, S. Teerenstra, M. I. J. van Eijken, A. Wimo, T. van Achterberg, E. H. van de Lisdonk, and M. G. M. Olde Rikkert*

A Randomized Study of a Multidisciplinary Program to Intervene on Geriatric Syndromes in Vulnerable Older People Who Live at Home (Dutch EASYcare Study) • *Rene J. F. Melis, Monique I. J. van Eijken, Steven Teerenstra, Theo van Achterberg, Stuart G. Parker, George F. Borm, Eloy H. van de Lisdonk, Michel Wensing, and Marcel G. M. Olde Rikkert*

The Early Affects of "Guided Care" on the Quality of Health Care for Multimorbid Older Persons: A Cluster-Randomized Controlled Trial • *Chad Boulton, Lisa Reider, Katherine Frey, Bruce Leff, Cynthia M. Boyd, Jennifer Wolff, Stephen Wegener, Jill Marsteller, Lya Karm, and Daniel Scharfstein*

Effects on Health Care Use and Associated Cost of a Home Visiting Program for Older People With a Poor Health Status: A Randomized Clinical Trial in the Netherlands • *Ans Bouman, Erik van Rossum, Silvia Evers, Ton Ambergen, Gertrudis Kempen, and Paul Knipschild*

Preclinical Disability as a Risk Factor for Falls in Community-Dwelling Older Adults • *Kerri M. Clough-Gorr, Thomas Erpen, Gerhard Gillmann, Wolfgang von Renteln-Kruse, Steve Iliffe, John C. Beck, and Andreas E. Stuck*

Multidimensional Preventive Home Visit Programs for Community-Dwelling Older Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials • *Anke Huss, Andreas E. Stuck, Laurence Z. Rubenstein, Matthias Egger, and Kerri M. Clough-Gorr*

Second and Third Generation Assessment Instruments: The Birth of Standardization in Geriatric Care • *Roberto Bernabei, Francesco Landi, Graziano Onder, Rosa Liperoti, and Giovanni Gambassi*

Available through GSA's online store at www.geron.org.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S M.A. in GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM

This 36 hour program offers students knowledge and training in diverse areas of the fast-growing field of Gerontology. For convenience, all courses in the program meet once a week either on weekday evenings or Saturdays. A multi-disciplinary program by design, it works with students to tailor their educational experience to best meet personal and/or career training goals. The M.A. program accommodates people interested in all areas of this important specialty, as well as life-long learners interested in personal aging issues. NEIU is a state-supported commuter university serving approximately 12,000 students and is located at 5500 North St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. If you are interested and/or have any questions, feel free to contact the program coordinator at (773) 442-5846 or e-mail: l-hollissawyer@neiu.edu.

RAND is pleased to announce the 15th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 7-10, 2008. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 7-8) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics and Epidemiology of Aging (July 9-10). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2008 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations. Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/. For additional information, please contact Diana Malouf (malouf@rand.org). RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Developing a Professional 'Self' Through Relationships

A network of relationships ties us to one another and to the world. We influence and are influenced by these relationships and through this reciprocity we become our 'self'(s) and the world is changed. As emerging scholars and professionals this network of relationships offers support and sustenance as we pursue our goals. Relationships, personal and professional, challenge us to be authentic, courageous and creative. This ESPO 'essay-ette' focuses on developing a professional 'self' through relationships grounded in these three components.

Authenticity in relationships conveys to the other person that you are who you appear to be. You know your 'self'—strengths and weaknesses—and are comfortable being the person you are. You freely share your talents and abilities, and you invite others to share theirs. Your 'self' confidence welcomes others to be themselves; the assets of others do not diminish your strengths and abilities. Authenticity rests on knowing who you are and allowing yourself to be that person. Among peers, with colleagues and mentors, or employers and clients, authenticity is your first 'credential'.

Courage in relationships is very much linked to authenticity. It requires personal fortitude and resolve to enter into an authentic

relationship in which your 'self' is available to be seen and known. It requires courage to express thoughts and feelings; give opinions or make recommendations based on your beliefs, values, knowledge and experience. Creativity in relationships reflects a belief in the possibilities and potentialities of your 'self' and others. With colleagues and with clients, creativity infuses your endeavors with energy and with hope. The capacity for creativity in relationships strengthens the ties between us.

Through creativity we imagine new ways to act for ourselves and for others.

Developing an authentic, courageous, creative professional 'self' is a work in progress.

Through our relationships with

one another as members of ESPO we are part of a network of relationships through which we have the opportunity to become more our 'self'(s). Through mutual support, acceptance and encouragement we inspire each other to give voice to our goals and to actualize our personal vision. As authentic, courageous, creative scholars and professionals we have the capacity to be change agents who move forward the field of gerontological theory and practice.

Next month this column will focus on generosity—freely giving to one another as peers, colleagues and mentors—as part of scholarly and professional 'self' development.

We witness every minute the miracle of related experience, and yet nobody knows better than we do how this miracle is worked for we are ourselves this network of relationships

(Phenomenology of Perception, Merleau-Ponty, 1962, p.xxiii)

Campus Ambassadors Program Launched

By Amy Einistein and Anthony Kupferschmidt

GSA and the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) have recently launched the new Campus Ambassadors Program. Some GSA members may remember the Campus Representatives Program, which is being replaced by this new program. The Campus Ambassadors Program involves student volunteers and faculty members from campuses across the country and abroad in promoting opportunities in the field of aging on campus, organizing activities, and connecting local students with an interest in gerontology. Other goals of the program include focusing attention on gerontology as a profession, facilitating local advisory and mentoring relationships with other members of GSA, linking gerontology students with related community leaders and organizations, and providing timely information to new and potential GSA members.

GSA and ESPO are seeking both student and regular GSA members to serve as Campus Ambassadors and Faculty Advisors. Volunteering as a Campus Ambassador is a fun and easy way to get involved in GSA and ESPO and take on a leadership role in the field of aging. This new program allows the Campus Ambassador the flexibility and freedom to create an individualized program that will work well for their campus. Campus Ambassadors receive materials,

resources, and suggestions from GSA and ESPO but are encouraged to enrich their local programs with their individual creativity.

Campus Ambassadors may decide to develop a local program by creating or working with an existing campus gerontology student organization, collaborating with an existing local branch of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO), or volunteering with a co-Ambassador. A position as a Campus Ambassador is a one-year commitment.

Each local program must also have a Faculty Advisor who serves as a liaison with the university and as a resource for the Campus Ambassador.

If you are interested in generating awareness of GSA, ESPO and gerontology on your campus, and would like to help encourage inter- and multi-disciplinary academic and social networking locally, then the position of Campus Ambassador or Faculty Advisor could be for you.

To learn more about the program, go to www.geron.org/StudentOrg/campuspro.htm or contact campusambassadors@geron.org.

Become the GSA ESPO Campus Ambassador or Faculty Advisor at your school!

new resources

Canadian, U.S. Projects Outline Boomer Volunteer Trends

Two new reports from the Renaissance 50plus project in Canada that looked at novel ways to engage baby boomer volunteers uncovered a number of trends in the hard-to-engage boomer demographic. Among the trends: “virtual volunteering,” which connects the volunteer to the person they mentor via web cam and “volunteer speed dating,” which gives potential recruits the chance to meet with several agencies in the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee. The reports, which include findings from focus groups and a survey of 55-plus volunteers, as well as a review of studies from all over the world, can be downloaded at www.renaissance50plus.ca/index.php?lang=en.

The Partnership for Public Service, a national initiative that seeks to revitalize the federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve, has released the results of a research project designed to assess the feasibility of attracting larger numbers of older, experienced workers into the federal government. Their findings suggest that the government has a golden opportunity to attract talented, experienced workers to federal service, but that agencies must take action to more effectively appeal to this cohort. Read the full report at www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/publications/viewcontentdetails.php?id=122.

ILC-USA Launches Ageism Blog

The Ageism in America blog is the latest addition to the newly redesigned International Longevity Center (ILC-USA) website. The blog tracks the latest news and research on age discrimination in the United States. By adding their own comments, visitors to the site join ILC-USA staff and guest experts in ongoing conversation, pushing age discrimination practices into the public discourse. Recent experts include John Krout from the Gerontology Institute at Ithaca College and Erdman Palmore, editor of *The Encyclopedia of Ageism*. Visit www.ilcusa.org/pages/ageism.php to participate.

Kaiser's Latest Site Features Comprehensive Policy Data

KaiserEDU.org is designed to provide students, faculty, and others with easy access to the latest data, research, analysis, and developments in health policy. This site includes narrated slide tutorials, background reference libraries, and issue modules on current topics and policy debates. Topics include health and the law, health systems, HIV/AIDS, Medicaid/SCHIP, Medicare, minority health, prescription drugs, quality of care, the uninsured, and women's health. Visit the site at: www.kaiseredu.org.

AJN Releases Latest in 'Try This' Series

The *American Journal of Nursing* has announced the newest two entries in its “How To Try This” series. To read or view the articles and videos featured this month, go to www.NursingCenter.com/AJNolderadults.

“How to Try This” is a collaborative project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU's College of Nursing and the *American Journal of Nursing*. Two topics from the series will be made available each month through December 2008 in cost-free, Web-based resources including demonstration videos and companion articles in the *AJN*.

Preventing Aspiration in Older Adults with Dysphagia

By Janice L. Palmer, MS, RN, and Norma A. Metheny, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dysphagia, the impairment of any part of the swallowing process, increases the risk of aspiration. Dysphagia and aspiration are associated with the development of aspiration pneumonia. While some changes in swallowing may be a natural result of aging, dysphagia is especially prevalent among older adults with neurologic impairment or dementia, leading to an increased risk of aspiration and aspiration pneumonia. This article discusses best practices for assessment and prevention of aspiration among older adults who are being hand-fed or fed by tube. If you still insufflate feeding tubes with air to check their placement, this program's one you can't skip! You might also be surprised to know how often intubated patients with feeding tubes are likely to have silent, micro-aspirations. To view this video featuring best practice in preventing aspiration, whether nutrients are taken orally, or via a feeding tube, go to <http://links.lww.com/A226>.

The Mini Nutritional Assessment

By Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili, PhD, RN, CNSN, and Peggy A. Guenter, PhD, RN, CNSN

Older adults are especially vulnerable to malnutrition, which often goes undetected and increases the risks of illness and death. The Joint Commission has required U.S. hospitals to provide nutrition screening to all patients within 24 hours of admission, but that doesn't cover patients in other settings, nor is there a standardized assessment tool for finding malnutrition in older adults. The Mini Nutritional Assessment is an effective, easily administered tool designed to identify older adults who have or are at risk for developing malnutrition. It consists of 18 questions and can be completed in about 15 minutes. Six simple questions specifically developed to screen nutritional status in the older adult can open the door to far more comprehensive information and determine if a fuller assessment is warranted. How to administer the Mini-Nutritional Assessment is shown in this video, including a demonstration on how to measure mid-calf and upper arm circumference. Also included is a discussion among the interdisciplinary team which provides tips on enhancing the nutritional value of foods and outlines a wide range of community resources which can vastly improve the ability of older adults to meet nutritional needs. For a free online video demonstrating the use of this tool, go to <http://links.lww.com/A221>

funding opportunities

Fellowship Program to Bolster Policy Experts

The Health and Aging Policy Fellows, a new program supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and administered by Columbia University, has been established to advance the knowledge and experience of professionals in the policy-making arena by providing them with the experience and skills necessary to make a positive contribution to the development and implementation of health care policies that affect older Americans. The program is open to physicians, nurses and social workers at all career stages (early, mid, and late) with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues and a desire to be involved in health policy at the federal, state or local level. Other professionals with clinical backgrounds (e.g., pharmacists, dentists, clinical psychologists) working in the field of health and aging are also eligible to apply. Under special circumstances, exceptions may be made for non-clinicians who are in positions that can impact health policy for older Americans at a clinical level. The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is a unique opportunity because the program offers two different tracks for individual placement: (1) a residential track that requires a nine-to-12-month placement in Washington, D.C. or at a state agency; and (2) a non-residential track that requires a health policy project and brief placement(s) throughout the year at relevant sites. In addition, the program offers enrichment activities for fellows in both tracks. For further information, please visit the program website at www.healthandagingpolicy.org. In addition, please feel free to contact Harold Alan Pincus, MD, director of the program, (pincush@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu or 212-543-5400) or Phuong Trang Huynh, PhD, deputy director of the program (huynhpt@pi.cpmc.columbia.edu or 212-543-6213).

Moneys Slated for Users of Wisconsin Data

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will award two pilot grants to investigators using the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) data for scholarly research. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, careers, retirement, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and well-being, and morbidity and mortality from late adolescence to the retirement years. Selected recipients will receive \$10,000 to support their research, along with a travel stipend to attend a WLS training workshop. The workshop will take place in Madison on August 7 and 8, 2008. The deadline for application is May 27, 2008. More information about the WLS and the pilot grant program including questionnaires, codebooks and public data may be found at the WLS pilot grant website: www.ssc.wisc.edu/wlsresearch/pilot/. Please contact Carol Roan by e-mail roan@ssc.wisc.edu or by telephone (608) 265-6196 if you have further questions. Applications are welcomed from investigators in such diverse fields as anthropology, demography, economics, epidemiology, family studies, genetics, gerontology, human development, medicine, nursing, psychology, public health, and sociology. Applicants must have a doctoral-level degree. This grant program is intended to support new users and new uses of WLS data. We encourage applications from junior researchers (i.e., with fewer than five years since completing their doctoral-level degree) as well as more

experienced researchers who have not previously used WLS data. Applicants must be affiliated with either educational institutions or with 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations.

Heinz Fellowship Seeks Next Round of Applicants

The John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging is now accepting applications for the 2008 Fellowship. The program provides an opportunity for mid-career professionals in aging to learn public policy as a member of the U.S. Senate staff. Intended as a career development opportunity for professionals, the year-long program will provide first-hand knowledge in the drafting and advancement of public policy and legislation that will improve the quality of life for older Americans. The program honors the memory of the late U.S. Senator John Heinz, who spent much of his career as an outspoken advocate for the rights of older Americans. Candidates seeking consideration as Heinz Senate Fellows must be already active in an aging-related field and display the potential for future contributions to that area. For information regarding application procedures, previous fellows, stipend and placement go to: www.heinzfamily.org/programs/senatefellowship.html. The 2008 Fellowship runs from September 2008 to August 2009 and the application deadline is April 10, 2008.

Hartford Foundation, AACN Team Up for Nursing Awards

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in collaboration with The John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, is now accepting applications for the annual Awards for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing Education. Schools and programs of nursing that offer baccalaureate or graduate degrees and demonstrate a strong commitment to geriatric nursing are encouraged to apply. Applicant programs may be large or small, new or well-established. One entry per award category per school is allowed. The following are the four NEW award categories: Baccalaureate-Level Curricular Innovation, Advanced-Practice-Level Curricular Innovation, Geriatric Nursing Faculty Champion, and Outstanding School of Nursing Communications. The 2008 Awards announcement and application can be located at www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/Hartford/pdf/AwardApp.pdf. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2008.

Award Funds Target Caregivers

The Practice Change Fellows program is now accepting applications for the 2008 award cycle. This program is designed to develop healthcare leaders who can effectively promote high quality care to older adults. Eligible applicants must hold a leadership role in a health organization or institution and have service line or programmatic responsibility for care to older adults. They must be senior enough in their organization to have decision-making authority and be able to effectuate change. Nurses, physicians, and social workers are eligible to apply. Applications and more details are available at www.practicechangefellows.org. The application deadline for the 2008 award cycle is April 2, 2008.

gerontology news

The Gerontological Society of America, Washington, DC

The Gerontological Society of America
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20005-4018

March 2008

printed in the U.S.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hagerstown, MD
Permit No. 93

National Institute on Aging

Remember July 18th Deadline for Technical Assistance Workshop!

"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, depending on career stage, 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 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, in Washington, DC on November 20th and 21st. 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 by July 18, 2008 (postmarked). 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. Jamie Gulin at 301-496-0765 or by e-mail at gulinj@nia.nih.gov.