



SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

A publication of the Southern Gerontological Society

Vol. XX, No. 3-4

J. James Cotter and Jo Ann O'Quin, Editors

Winter 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Significant changes have occurred in our nation since the last newsletter. The November elections gave us a history-making President and solid control of Congress by the Democratic Party. New leadership was ushered in many of our states as well. And of course the Incredible Shrinking Economy continues to generate daily headlines and headaches.

Let me briefly address each of those issues within the context of their meaning and potential for SGS.

Barack Obama's first term as President of the United States will see, among other things, the first Baby Boomers turn 65. Thus he and the Democratic Congress have the opportunity to actively address (is it now too late to pro-actively address?) solvency and reforms for Medicare and Social Security. I hope that in St. Petersburg we will have the opportunity, formally and informally, to discuss debate and evaluate the direction in which the President and Congress seem to be leaning, and what that means for the future of elderly and non-elderly generations.

Second, many, if not all of us, represent states where new political faces and new political balances of power bring new hopes (or fears) to older citizens and those of us whose lives and careers intertwine with theirs. In North Carolina, for instance, newly-elected Governor Beverly Perdue, when a state senator, spearheaded the effort to secure funds to establish the University of North Carolina Institute on Aging that now initiates, coordinates and oversees various state-wide gerontology education, research and practice initiatives. Her track record implies she will be a friend of North Carolina elders and North Carolina gerontology. As that state's older population swells due to both its own aging and a high rate of elderly in-migration, it must be determined what needs are critical to address, and how academic and practice gerontologists can best influence government to meet those needs? I hope each state's conference attendees will tell their stories and share strategies.

Third, despite the hope many of us take from the recent elections - for our country, our state, our elders - our pursuit of our goals and our

achievement of those goals will occur during the worst economy in decades. Funding for community and statewide programs and services, and for universities and their gerontology programs, has been, is being, or will be cut. (Worst but possibly correct answer: all of the above.) We will - but don't you hear this every year? - have to do more with less. All the good sentiment in the world won't buy one Meal on Wheels.

What can SGS members do? I suggest the answer is to Find A Way. Find A Way to get on your state and federal legislators' radar screen to advocate for gerontology education and practice. Find A Way to collaborate and coordinate with your academic and practitioner colleagues, since there is strength in numbers. Find A Way to couple your good sentiments with a few dollars to buy a Meal on Wheels or some home weatherization materials, or to donate, say, your old computer to the local Senior Center or Project on Aging.

And Find A Way to attend the SGS annual meeting! The political sea change that accompanies the imminent generational change of elders (the Baby Boomers replacing the Greatest Generation) provides opportunities for Southern Gerontology - if we share, coordinate, and act! Both veteran and new politicians and support staff must be made/kept aware of the importance of population aging - both its challenges and its potential. How to do that, and the messages to be communicated, can and should be developed at a conference... just like SGS!

In a year of mixed messages - high hopes for the future of gerontology coupled with a dismal economy - Find A Way to join us in St. Petersburg!

- Ed Rosenberg, President

St Petersburg in April 16-19: How Do I Find A Way?

Hey, I'm about as cheap as they come! So how can you Find A Way to attend SGS when times are tough? Here are some possibilities.

*Use regional rather than national airlines. (Of course, this assumes there will still be airlines next April...) For instance, Allegiant Air will take you from Greensboro, NC to St. Petersburg/Clearwater for under \$130, taxes and fees included. (Dates are restricted, but if several of you are going together you might argue with the airline.) AirTran flies from Charlotte, NC to Tampa Airport for \$273, taxes and fees included. Check regional carriers at airports near you. But even national carriers are offering bargain-basement airfares! This may be the best time between now and April to lock in low fares.

*Carpool instead of fly. From my home in the western North Carolina mountains to St. Petersburg is about 10 driving hours (600 miles). Figuring in stops, it's a long day's drive or an overnight drive. But if at least three of you are traveling together to SGS and with the price of gas currently under \$2 per gallon, this can be much cheaper than flying. The money you save carpooling will offset SGS registration and lodging costs.

*Double up in rooms. While SGS does better vis-a-vis the hotel if you're in a single room, doubling up saves you 50% per night - you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure that out! We'd rather see you there, two to a room, than not there at all.

*If you live within, say 60-100 miles of St. Petersburg, drive each day but spend the nights at home. (Of course, you'll miss out on the great SGS social life!) We'd rather have

you come to the conference, even if you don't stay in the hotel, than not be there at all.

- Ed Rosenberg, President

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-800-944-5500. Individuals must identify themselves as being with the group. Southern Gerontological Society at the time the reservation is made in order to receive the special group rate of \$129. Reservation deadline is March 24, 2009.

Farewell to Chuck Longino

With the death of Charles "Chuck" Longino, we have lost a pillar of SGS. In addition to his accomplishments as the Washington M. Wingate Professor of Sociology, the Director of the Reynolda Gerontology Program, his scholarship on retirement migration and many other areas of interest, Chuck was a leader who inspired and supported all of us in SGS. He said his goal was "to bridge between the sciences". Yes, we knew him as that but also as a bridge between people at SGS. When you saw Chuck at an SGS meeting, there was always that great open smile as warm as Carolina sun and a quick re-focus on you. This was often followed by an introduction to another colleague. It was almost as if Chuck was the SGS global host making sure we were all involved, connected, intellectually stimulated. It didn't matter if you were a former president of SGS or a new student at your first meeting: Chuck made you feel welcome and a part of the group. Our meetings will not have the same grace without his presence. A special session at April's SGS conference will honor Chuck's life, collegiality, and contributions to gerontology.

Calendar

For those of you interested in upcoming conferences, check out the Gerontological Society of America's listing at <http://www.geron.org/Resources/Events%20Calendar>

April 16 – 19, 200

(This premier conference should not be missed!)

St. Petersburg, FL. 30th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society, for further info see <http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sgs/>

An Invitation for 2009 Awards Nominations Southern Gerontological Society

Presentations will be made at the 30th Annual Meeting
Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront – St. Petersburg, Florida
April 16 - 19, 2009

Deadline for Submission of Nominations – February 16, 2009

GENERAL CRITERIA

Must be completed for all nominations

- ◆ Nominees for the Academic Gerontologist and Applied Gerontologist must be a member of SGS.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated evidence of significant service to SGS.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated evidence of significant contribution to the field of aging and the development of gerontology in the South.
- ◆ Three letters of support must be provided.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Complete for the particular award for which the person has been nominated

Gordon Streib Academic Gerontologist Award

- ◆ Nominee must be affiliated with an academic institution, be involved in developing training in aging and/or have completed research that has contributed to the quality of life of older people.
- ◆ Nominee must have shown leadership with and contribution to professional organizations and organizations which serve older people.
- ◆ Nominee must show evidence of significant publications.
- ◆ Nominee must show evidence of significant teaching influence with students and/or training of service providers or educators.

Applied Gerontologist Award

- ◆ Nominee must have a sustained record of leadership in the field of aging as evidenced by position(s) of paid employment and/or organizational involvement (e.g. appointed or elected positions in related local, state or regional organizations).
- ◆ Nominee must demonstrate recognition in the field, as evidenced by awards conferred by related organizations.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated development of innovative programs such as applications of findings/approaches to research, education, management or services delivery (with emphasis on application).
- ◆ Nominee must have shown evidence of presentations to community organizations.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated having impact on the quality of life of older persons (e.g. training others for leadership, advocacy, etc.)

Rhoda L. Jennings Older Advocate Award

- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated effective advocacy for and/or leadership among older adults in the Southern region.
- ◆ Nominee may be identified through previous recognition by local, state and/or national groups, or by volunteer groups.
- ◆ Nominee must be age 65 or older.
- ◆ Nominee should be a potential role model for successful aging through innovative contributions to society after 65.

Best Practices Award

Nominated agencies/corporate partners must demonstrate *at least one* of the following:

- ◆ Innovative and creative linkage with the aging services network.
- ◆ Significant involvement in aging services within the SGS region.
- ◆ Evidence of sustained effort and substantial impact on improving the quality of life of older adults.
- ◆ Opportunities offered in the field of aging.

Media Award

- ◆ Any media is eligible for the award, although their contribution should be to further understanding of aging in the region.
- ◆ The product may be a single effort or part of a continuing series.
- ◆ The media product should have been produced since January, 2005.
- ◆ The nomination must indicate how the media product contributes to the mission of SGS.
- ◆ Three copies of the media product should be submitted with the application. If the product is available on-line, the URL should be provided.

SGS Awards Nomination Form

E-mail nomination(s) with three (3) letters of support by February 16, 2009 to: Richard Tucker, Ph.D., e-mail: rtucker@mail.ucf.edu

Name of nominee	Daytime phone
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Address	Agency or other affiliation
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City/State/Zip	Position
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AWARD BEING NOMINATED FOR — Check one - Use separate form for each nomination.
 Gordon Streib Academic Gerontologist Award Rhoda L. Jennings Older Advocate Award
 Applied Gerontologist Award Best Practices Award Media Award

BASIS FOR NOMINATION - On a separate sheet(s), cite the following:
General Qualifications (for all nominations)—Cite those general achievements which qualify the candidate for receiving an award from SGS.
Specific Qualifications (varies by award)—Cite those achievements which qualify the candidate for the particular award.

Name of person(s) submitting nomination	Address
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Daytime phone	City/State/Zip
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PREVIOUS SGS AWARD WINNERS

<i>Gordon Streib Academic Gerontologist</i>	<i>Applied Gerontologist</i>	Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate
1985 – Gordon F. Streib	1985 – Margaret Lynn Duggar	1987 – Rhoda Jennings
1987 – Barbara P. Payne	1986 – Paul E. Wilson	1989 – Eleanor Richardson
1988 – Vira R. Kivett	1987 – Dexter L. Burley	1990 – Margaret H. Jacks
1989 – Erdman Palmore	1988 – Kay H. Hind	1991 – C. Colburn Hardy
1990 – Edward F. Ansello	1990 – Paul D. Cotton	1993 – Georgia R. Duggins
1991 – William J. McAuley	1993 – Thelma E. Bland	1994 – Betty Friedan
1993 – Charles F. Longino	1994 – William S. Massey	1995 – Florence L. Price
1994 – Raymond Coward	1995 – Mary Anne Hilker	1996 – Daisy L. Bates
1995 – Joan B. Wood	1996 – Curtis B. Clark	1997 – Stanley C. Walker
1996 – Rosemary Blieszner	1997 – John Skirven	1998 – Pauline Gore
1997 – Graham Rowles	1998 – Gloria Anderson Ducker	1999 – Rosalyn Carter
1997 – Lorin Baumhover	1999 – Carolyn Graves Ferguson	2000 – Dorothy Rose Crawford
1998 – Leonard Poon	2000 – Betty H. Wiser	2001 – Virginia Bell
1999 – Larry Mullins	2001 – Sue Maxwell	2002 – Mary Casey
2000 – James (Jim) P. Mitchell	2002 – Mary Anne Hilker	2003 – Mary Ellen Cox
2001 – Shirley Travis	2003 – Harry Baldwin	2004 – David Levine
2002 – Ed Folts	2004 – Jan Kauffman	2005 – Judy and Byron Thames
2003 – Victor Marshall	2005 – Carol Colleran	2006 – Wilson Wong
2004 – Karen Roberto	2006 – E. Douglas Beach	2007 – Ann Johnson
2005 – Dick Tucker	2007 – Maureen Kelly	2008 – Mary M. MacKinnon
2006 – Ed Rosenberg	2008 – Maria Greene	
2007 – Constance Coogle		
2008 – Harry R. (Rick) Moody		

Best Practices	Student Paper Awards
1997 – Best Practices of Alabama	1999 – Sharon V. King
1998 – Palmetto Senior Care/PACE Program	1999 – Benjamas Kutintara
1999 – Helping Hand Program of Lexington, KY	2000 – Miriam Williams Boeri
2000 – UNC Program on Aging	2001 – Carole J. Olson
2001 – Heart and Hand, Inc.	2002 – Derrick Chan – 1 st Place
2002 – Share the Care	2002 – Rehan D. Overton – 2 nd Place
2003 – Senior Navigator	2002 – Christine A. Fruhauf – 3 rd Place
2004 – Athens Community Council on Aging	2003 – Colleen A. Head – 1 st Place
2005 – Osceola County Council on Aging	2003 – Michelle Lague – 2 nd Place
2006 – “Neighbors Growing Together” Intergenerational Programs at VA Tech	2004 – Denise Lewis – 1 st Place
2007 - “Medicare Answers-Prescription Savings” Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast	2004 – Meldrena Chapin – 2 nd Place
2008 – InFocus Program at Williamsburg Landing	2004 – Stacy Grant – 2 nd Place
	2004 – Michelle Lague – 3 rd Place
	2005 – W. Keith Dooley – 1 st Place
	2005 – Maggie Tang – 2 nd Place
	2005 – Dunja Trunk – 3 rd Place
	2005 – Sara Margolin – 3 rd Place
	2006 – LaVona Traywick – 1 st Place
	2006 – Mary Katherine Flythe – 2 nd Place
	2006 – Joshua Byrd – 3 rd Place
	2007 – Giyeon Kim – 1 st Place
	2007 – Melissa Snarski – 2 nd Place
	2007 – Martie Gillen – 3 rd Place
	2008 – Desiree M. Seponski – 1 st Place
	2008 – Won Lee Cho – 2 nd Place
	2008 – Seokwon Yoon – 3 rd Place

Print Media Award

2006 – Video/CD “Neighbors Growing Together” Producer: Erica Husser

Editorial: Dusting Ourselves Off

With the election to the presidency of Barack Obama, it's a good time to consider his words from his inaugural address, words of hope and words challenging us to "dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America." With the growth of the aging population, it's a good time to consider this within the context of aging. This is the time to take charge of our own aging. The safety net is shrinking. It was already full of holes and now, even with all the bail-outs and stimulus, neither government nor corporate America can do much more for us as we age. For those of us who work with older persons, it's a time for even more creativity and support than usual.

The end of the last century was an era of "compassionate ageism" as Shulz and Binstock described it. We gave more and more government benefits to older persons. Now we argue about how to best fix Social Security and Medicare, and budget cuts loom in other programs. The states, under similar fiscal stress have backed off too. Local communities do what they can, but it's coming back to each one of us to take more responsibility for our own aging and the aging years of those around us.

We Americans have always emphasized both mutual support and self-sufficiency. We often debate what the public should do and what the individual should do. It's an American dichotomy. We will always rely on family and friends and volunteers and non-profit agencies to care for older people. As we know "It takes a village to raise a child."

But Americans, more than others, have always stressed the responsibility of the individual. Now, the pendulum is swinging back to an individual focused society.

What this means is that more and more... it's down to you. No question about it. You will do much more for yourself in the coming years – you must build and manage your finances, your health, your livelihood, your life.

So how do you want your aging life to look? It's the chance to design the second part of your life. Not just the chance anymore, but the responsibility. How will you pay for 30 years of retirement and leisure? How will you pay for your health care? Where will you live? What can you do to stay healthy and fit? What kind of 90 year old will you be? How will you stay in charge of any care you'll need?

In the immediate sense, for older persons around us, how will you reach out to learn from them and assist them in the lean years ahead?

So think about how you will continue to make or to remake yourself as an older person and how we want to remake the society to ennoble aging. We have duties to ourselves and to our own future and our community's future. As President Obama said, it is a spirit of working for a better future that will allow us all to foster a better society, including a better aging for our elders, ourselves, and our children.

— J. James Cotter

SGS Contact Information

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Lgage4sgs@aol.com

Web address
<http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sgs/>

Office phone: 239- 541-2011 Fax: 239-540-8654

Welcome to New Members

Chih-Ling Liou - VA
Brittany Singhas - NC
Amanda May - NC
Joan Mahon - FL

Martha Bramlett - NC
Joan D. Mahon - FL
Erin K. Smith - FL
Shelley S. Brown - TN

Rebecca Yenney - NC
Jane Weigl - FL
Jessica Krok - FL
Donneth J. Crooks - FL

SGS Membership: What's In It For You? How Do You Join?

[Professionals exploring issues, applications and answers in the field of aging](#)

SGS Annual Conference & Meeting: Leadership & Professional Networking; Continuing Education. Members receive a deep discount on registration fees for the annual meeting.

Publications: The Journal of Applied Gerontology, The Southern Gerontologist Newsletter. A free subscription to the **Journal of Applied Gerontology (JAG)**, the official journal of SGS is included with membership. The Journal is devoted to the publication of contributions that focus explicitly on the application of knowledge and insights from research and practice to improvement of the quality of life of older persons. Particular emphasis is placed on manuscripts and editorials that enhance dialogue among researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. In addition, members receive the **Southern Gerontologist**, a quarterly newsletter that complements JAG by providing updates on applied projects, member activities and emerging issues, and informing members of new books and videos of interest to the field of aging.

Student privileges: Membership discount, Conference registration discount, Networking & Leadership opportunities

SGS Committees are member friendly and provide an excellent opportunity to enhance one's

professional development. By adding your voice to SGS you can help ensure that dialogue and cooperation maintain the balance between research and practice, through the guiding principle of SGS-- the alliance of practitioners and academicians to enhance the lives of our elders.

For more information contact **Lora Gage** SGS Executive Director, at Lgage4sgs@aol.com. She will gladly send you an application and information. Don't miss the opportunity to become a member of a group of the South's most respected gerontology professionals.

JOIN TODAY!

Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work Invites Members

The **Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work** (AGESW) seeks to encourage cooperation, collegiality, and exchange among social work educators regarding the promotion of aging within the social work profession. AGESW maintains an international membership of hundreds of educators who teach, conduct research, and promote gerontology at all levels of programs of social work education.

If you do not currently have a membership in the AGESW or it is time to renew, please do so now to take advantage of the new and exciting benefits we have to offer to our members. Beginning in January 2009, receipt of the ***Journal of Gerontological Social Work*** (JGSW) will be a benefit of membership in AGESW, with members receiving 8 issues a year. In addition, members will have access to the new "members only" section of the AGESW website, where we offer a membership database, information on aging-related funding sources, and a job site where programs seeking faculty with aging relate backgrounds can post their job announcements for viewing by doctoral students on the job market.

AGESW's membership cycle is January through December, and the dues are: \$65 for new and renewing members, \$35 for renewing student members and \$25 for new student members.

AGESW membership forms are available at <http://www.agesocialwork.org/join.html>.
Contact: Tracy Schroepfer at tschroepfer@wisc.edu or by phone (608-263-3837).

SGS Member News

Victor Marshall, Director of the Institute on Aging at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received, in October, the Evelyn Shapiro Mentoring Award from the Canadian Association on Gerontology, "in recognition of his contributions to the mentoring of students, new academics, and emerging scholars in the field of aging." Dr. Marshall is a founding member of the CAG and received the award at the Association's 37th annual scientific and educational meeting. He taught the first sociology of aging course in a Canadian university calendar, and mentored many doctoral students who are currently active in Canadian and international gerontology education and research. He is also Director of the IOA's Carolina Program in Health and Aging Research (CPHAR) training program, currently supporting two postdoctoral and four predoctoral fellows. Dr. Marshall currently chairs the SGS Publications Committee.

Media Resources

TO YOU SWEETHEART, ALOHA

A New Documentary On 94-Year-Old Ukulele Legend Bill Tapia

Not many films can pull on your heart strings while equally stimulating your thoughts about aging. This is a sweet and thought-provoking film about a 94 year old man who has played the ukulele professionally since a teenager. He may be the oldest living musical performer in the world. The film follows him, with the help of a young female musician and music producer, to craft a resurgence of his career. The scenes in which he is seen as a mentor to young ukulele musicians are a delight. What is also fascinating is his relationship with the young woman and the film explores the social stereotypes and pressures of defining a young-old relationship. Their collaboration has surprising effects on each of them and on those around them. This is a fantastic film for exploring social aspects of love, friendship, and achievement by both young and old.

FRONTLINE: Living Old

This special FRONTLINE episode aired on PBS on November 21, 2006 and can be viewed online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/livingold/>

The Web site includes videos of stories of older adults, excerpts from interviews with those who treat older adults and advocate for quality care and dignity during their final year, and discussion of pertinent "Big Issues". The Readings and Links section provides a list of excellent articles and resources that may be especially useful for caregivers and educators.

— Jo Ann O'Quin