



SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Aging Enterprise

SGS is **on a roll!** Once again the SGS members exceed expectations in response to the Call for Presentations for the 2011 Annual Meeting, *The New Aging Enterprise*. The October 1 deadline provided the Program Committee, co-chaired by Jennifer Craft-Morgan and Wayne Moore, a chance to review abstracts and start building the 2011 program. Notification of submissions acceptance will be made mid-December. I want to thank the Program Co-Chairs for their immediate attention to the abstracts and building an exceptional program for the 32nd Annual Meeting.

Student participation is one of the great legacies of SGS and once again, student abstract submissions are excellent for the 2011 meeting. We look forward to reviewing the SGS student award submissions, so please note the deadlines. In addition to the student awards, this year's SGS program will provide an opportunity for students and others to "Meet the Professionals." Linda Wiener, author of *Exploring Careers in Aging*, Aging Workforce Consultant and aging specialist for Monster.com will open the session with a discussion on trends and issues for those trained in gerontology and related fields. Professionals, working in businesses and professions focusing on older adults or products and services targeting the older market, will be available for one-on-one discussions regarding career opportunities. In addition, the Local Arrangements Committee is working on a special 'late' Saturday night student event.

Presidential symposia will feature leaders in *The New Aging Enterprise* including Greg O'Neill, Director of The National Academy on an Aging Society, and Ting Zhang, author of *Elderly Entrepreneurship in an Aging U.S. Economy*. The 6th annual *Aging is Good Business Summit* will kick off SGS with a preconference event on April 14th from 1 to 4:30 p.m. This year the summit will focus on the good business when employees and customers approach aging with a positive attitude and cognitive fitness. Speakers for the preconference include Colin Milner, founder and CEO of the International Council on Active Aging, Brenda Loubé, founder and Principal of Corporate Fitness Works and Alvaro Fernandez, co-founder and CEO of SharpBrains.

Offered during the conference by Linda Buettner will be the Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) Applications 1 Course (4 hours) for those interested in PetPartners. Open to counselors, educators, therapists, physicians and others, this highly interactive course uses hands-on exercises to learn to incorporate and practice AAT techniques in long term care and rehabilitation settings. The additional fee for this course will include the textbook and is open to those registered for SGS.

The annual meeting of SGS is in Raleigh, NC at the Raleigh Marriott City Center. The hotel features free wireless internet and parking for those attending SGS. In the heart of downtown Raleigh, you can walk to the Historic City Market for some southern cuisine, house-made chocolate or local brew or spend some time browsing local boutiques. A limited number of hotel rooms have been reserved for SGS at the low **rate of \$128.00**. Reservations *must* be made by **Tuesday, March 15, 2011** by calling the hotel at 919.833.1120 or visiting the *new* Raleigh Marriott City Center Hotel at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/rdumc-raleigh-marriott-city-center/>

Building on and continuing the strengths of SGS depends on the appreciation of our history. To that effort, we have begun collecting our history. SGS information from the years 1978 to 1999 was deposited and remains today at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa Library Archives. However, the University archivist, Clark E. Center, Jr., has indicated that although they have stored SGS information for many years, their space and budget constraints lead them to recommend that SGS archival information be moved elsewhere. I am committed to finding a suitable location for our materials, to bring current the information and document the history of SGS. I welcome all interested in working on SGS history, interviewing founding members and documenting materials to contact me directly at jiwassel@uncg.edu. For 32 years, SGS members have been committed to the mission of bringing practice together with research, now we need to expand our mission to educating other sectors of the needs in an aging society. In my 10 years with SGS, the organization has grown due to strong leadership. In documenting our history, now is the time to 'create' our new history. This year's annual meeting is a first step in this direction.

I wish to conclude this note with a thank you to GSA for continuing to support SGS by providing SGS exhibit space. We look forward to GSA exhibiting in Raleigh at our conference. I hope you folks will be dropping by the SGS booth at GSA to say 'hi' and to enter one of a number of drawings for free SGS registration to our annual meeting.

Best Regards,

Janice I. Wassel

President

SGS IS ON A ROLL!

SGS Annual Meetings Continue to be the Highlight of Members' Springtime

The SGS board is reviewing locations for the 2012 SGS annual meeting but we would like to hear your ideas. Locations suggested to date are the Brown Hotel in Louisville, the Sheraton in Myrtle Beach, the Sheraton in Atlanta and some interest from the Biloxi-Gulfport Convention Bureau. Hosting the annual meeting takes a robust team willing to do the local groundwork. Ed Ansello has offered to continue to review locations and negotiate hotel contracts for the 2012 meeting. He has an excellent track record! Please email recommendations to me at jiwassel@uncg.edu and Ed at eansello@vcu.edu by Wednesday December 1. Also include a note on what local support is available. The satisfaction of hosting a successful meeting is greater than the time required.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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The Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is addressing the health and well being of older Virginians through the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group (AAAG). The AAAG was created in response to a Governor's mandate, HB 110 (2006 Session) amended VA Code § 2.2-5510.

Key stakeholders, various agencies, private and not-for-profit that provide services to the aging population of Virginia are members of the AAAG. This group addresses one of the fastest growing health challenges facing our country: alcohol and medication misuse among adults 60 years of age and older.

The AAAG vision is **“Virginians aging successfully, safe from alcohol and medication misuse.”**

The AAAG mission is **“To be the leader in providing education, training and resources on the use of alcohol and medications as adults age.”**

To advance its vision and mission, the AAAG has released a two-year Strategic Plan that highlights the group's high expectations and builds on the AAAG's accomplishments over the previous three years.

The AAAG created the following five goals during its strategic planning process.

Goal 1: Increase AAAG regional and statewide membership through strategic marketing targeting various stakeholders.

Goal 2: Develop a sustainable organizational structure and secure financial resources required to implement AAAG's mission.

Goal 3: Educate individuals by increasing awareness and knowledge about the use of alcohol and medication as adults age.

Goal 4: Train service providers to implement prevention or intervention best practices with aging adults who use alcohol and medications.

Goal 5: Research, develop and maintain information resources on alcohol, medication and aging for dissemination to individuals and service providers.

The AAAG invites you to examine the plan in detail

(<http://www.abc.virginia.gov/Education/olderadults/aaagroup.html#plan>)

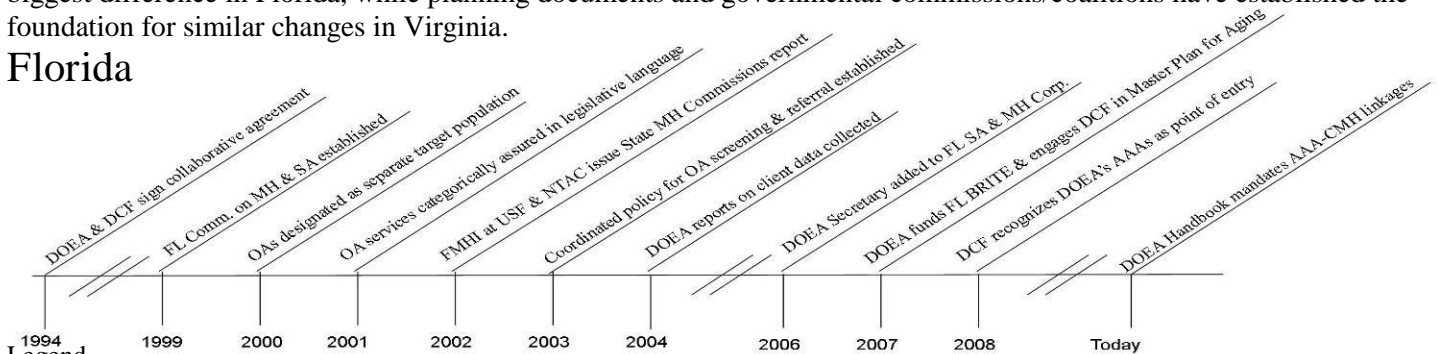
and consider how similar strategies in your state can facilitate efforts to identify and address the informational and service needs of adults susceptible to the special risks of alcohol and medication misuse and abuse as they age.

A TALE OF TWO SOUTHERN STATES

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” – Charles Dickens, 1859

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency, DHHS has an extended history of promoting cooperation at the state level to develop collaborative substance abuse and mental health plans for older adults. Yet, these joint efforts can be hampered by different priorities, capacities, funding streams, and levels of expertise in aging, substance abuse and misuse, and mental health among primary care, long-term care, and specialty substance abuse and mental health providers. Despite the barriers, states continue to strive for systems coordination and productive partnering continues. The examples below show how this has been accomplished in two states. Legislative efforts and grant funding made the biggest difference in Florida, while planning documents and governmental commissions/coalitions have established the foundation for similar changes in Virginia.

Florida



Legend

DCF = Department of Children and Families; DOE = Department of Elder Affairs; OA = Older Adult; MH = Mental Health; FL Comm. on MH & SA = Florida Commission of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; FMHI at USF = Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida; NTAC = National Technical Assistance Center for State Mental Health Planning, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; FL SA & MH Corp = Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation; FL BRITE - Florida Brief Intervention and Treatment for Elders Project (synonymous with SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment); AAA = Area Agency on Aging; P & S = Programs and Services; CMH = Community mental health

1994 – DOEA & DCF assume mutual responsibility for the development of stronger linkages

1999 – State legislation includes language requiring the review and documentation of behavioral health services for older adults and a report from the Older Adult Work Group is issued.

2000 – The Florida Coalition for Optimal Mental Health and Aging promotes an amendment to Florida's Mental Health statute that mandated the DCF to serve adults age 60+ as a separate target population

2001 – Legislation categorically assures services for older adults in crisis, those with substance abuse problems, or severe and persistent mental.

2002 – The *State Mental Health Commissions: Recommendations for Change and Future Directions* report articulates the silo effect that has resulted from categorically-oriented funding and calls for incentives to facilitate more fully integrated and coordinated systems of care.

2003 - Legislation mandates the DOEA, in cooperation with DCF, use existing funds to implement joint identification and referral to treatment of OAs with mental health or substance abuse problems

2004 - The DOEA mandated report, *Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs of Elderly Floridians: Implementation, Recommendation, and Progress*, outlines how the aging network is to comply with cross-training, collaboration, and data collections procedures.

2006 – The FL SA & MH Corp. works under the direction of the state legislature to improve interagency coordination and establish fully developed, integrated substance abuse and mental health systems.

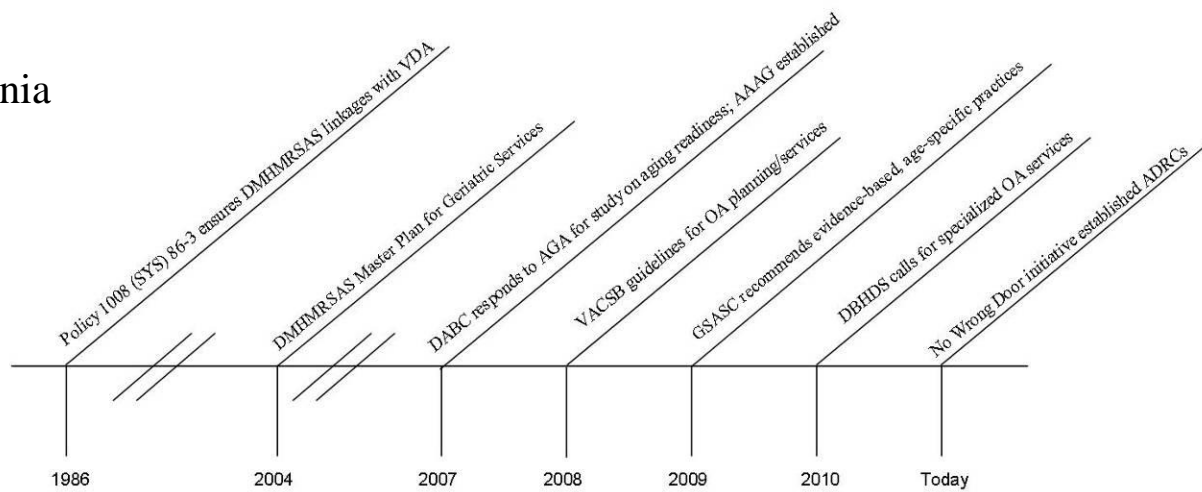
2007 - The DOEA requests (and subsequently receives) funding to establish a mental health/substance abuse treatment program within its own oversight and control.

Also, the 2007-2009 Master Plan on Aging notes DCF as the key cooperating agency responsible for decreasing the waiting period for OAs that need mental health and substance abuse services.

2008 – DOEA's network of Aging Resource Centers is recognized by DCF as a community partner in helping clients submit applications and identify opportunities for MH quality improvement.

Today – DOEA's Programs and Services Handbook specifies that each service provider agency receiving Older American Act, Title III funds shall also have cooperative arrangements with community mental health provider agencies for appropriate linkages and referrals of older person.

Virginia



Legend

DMHMRSAS = Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services; DABC = Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; AGA = Act of the General Assembly; AAAG = Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group; DBHDS = Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (formerly DMHMRSAS); VACSB = Virginia Association of Community Services Boards ; GSASC = Governor's Substance Abuse Services Council; VDA = Virginia Department for the Aging ; ADRC = Aging and Disability Resource Center

- 1986 – State Board of DMHMRSAS position establishes collaboration with VDA and other agencies to develop, enhance, coordinate, integrate, and expand services for older adults
- 2004 – VA's Geriatric Services Leadership Team develops a list of general recommendations for implementing an integrated model for the delivery of specialized clinical behavioral health services for older adults.
- 2007 – The Code of Virginia is amended and all state agencies are required to address the impact of the aging population. The AAAG coalition facilitates efforts to identify and address the informational and service needs of adults susceptible to the special risks of alcohol and medication misuse and abuse as they age.
- 2008 – DBHDS policy requires the public mental health system to provide planning and services for the older adult population to the extent funding and qualified staff are available. To assure consistency, the VACSB determines how individual mental health centers should respond to this mandate based on local priorities and available funding.
- 2009 – In its *Annual Report and Comprehensive Interagency State Plan for Substance Abuse Services* recommends the Council pledges to collaborate with all responsible and interested parties to seek public support and sufficient funding to provide and expand critical substance abuse services for Virginia's older adults. Also VDA's *Four-Year Plan for Aging Services* mandated by the GA recommends a full continuum of collaborative care for older adults who have mental health needs, intellectual disabilities, and/or substance use disorders by expanding current state and community-based programs focused on reversing the escalation of issues which can lead to expensive and preventable institutionalization.
- 2010 - The DBHDS *Comprehensive State Plan 2010-2016* cites a decline in the number of older adults receiving community level mental health services (FY 2005 - FY 2008) despite a 3% increase in Virginia's 60+ population.
- Today – VDA and DBHDS are collaborating with other state agencies and organizations to establish coordinated systems of information, referral, and access to aging and disability long-term support services.

It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done. - Charles Dickens, 1859

Constance L. Coogle and Jessica M. Hellerstein
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Two briefs and supporting documentation with details on these developments are available upon request (ccoogle@vcu.edu; hellersteijm@vcu.edu). For further information on developments in Florida you may contact Larry Dupree (Ldfmhi@aol.com). For further information on developments in Virginia contact Beverly Morgan (beverly.morgan@dbhds.virginia.gov).

The newsletter editors invite readers to contribute similar examples in other southern states where inter-system cooperation has succeeded in facilitating enhanced services for older adults.

<http://www.vda.virginia.gov/pdfdocs/FourYearPlanForAgingServices-RD461-2009.pdf>

Living Wise and Aging Well:

“Building a Livable and Senior-Friendly North Carolina”: The 2010 NC Governor’s Conference on Aging



North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue

Like every state and many nations, North Carolina faces new challenges and opportunities as our population ages. According to the 2008 American Community Survey, NC ranks 9th in size of the population age 60 and over, 10th in size of the population 85 and over and 6th in grandparents responsible for raising grandchildren under age 18. Between 2010 and 2030 our population age 60+ will grow from 1.2 million to 2.1 million.

To prepare for the expected changes, Governor Beverly Perdue---herself a former student of gerontology and long-time advocate on aging issues---put into place an initiative called *Living Wise and Aging Well*. Over the past year, the Office of the Governor worked with her Advisory Council on Aging, the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, the University of North Carolina Institute on Aging and the NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging to develop and implement a plan to identify critical issues facing the state--including the operations of state government--and to gather a wide range of ideas for policy and program development.

The plan included holding a series of six regional policy roundtables across the state, collecting information and briefing papers from key informants, surveying state agencies about their readiness for an aging workforce and an aging public (see related article in this issue of the *Southern Gerontologist*), and conducting a state conference to further consider the issues and generate ideas for policies and programs to address the most important issues.

This year, the annual NC Conference on Aging (usually an education & training conference), became a policy-focused conference, held October 13-15 in the Research Triangle Park. While still retaining a robust selection of educational offerings submitted in response to the Call for Presentations, the bulk of the conference was dedicated to discussion about issues identified in the regional policy roundtables held in the spring and working sessions to develop recommendations to inform the State Aging Plan for 2011-2015 and guide future State policy, programs and resources. Keynote speakers

at the general sessions included Governor Perdue, former UNC system President Bill Friday, Ran Coble, executive director of the NC Center for Public Policy Research, and Mitchell Silver, chief of planning for the city of Raleigh and president-elect of the American Planning Association.

The conference tracks all aligned with the issue areas of the regional roundtables:

- Homes and Neighborhoods;
- Safe Communities;
- Economics of Aging;
- Health and Aging;
- Access and Choice in Services and Supports; and
- Lifelong Engagement and Contributions.

Policy sessions on the first day of the conference included general plenary sessions and briefing sessions on each issue area with background information to use in subsequent work sessions. On Day 2, morning policy sessions focused on identifying and assessing existing, emerging, planned and potential policies, programs, and practices that are pertinent to these issues. Participants were asked to think about current priorities, identify important quick fixes and longer-range actions that would make a positive difference and not require new resources, and identify wise investments for the future of aging in NC. The goal was to develop a list of potential strategies to guide the next working policy session. During this third policy session, participants were encouraged to complete the work on developing recommended strategies for addressing priority issues to be presented to State leaders at the Closing Plenary Session the next day. On Day 3, sample recommendations were presented to and responded to by a panel of state leaders from the Cabinet and Council of State representing a range of departments and units within state government.

The conference was exceptionally well-attended (650+), and included a broad mix of people from the aging network, academia, as well as state cabinet secretaries, department heads and/or aging liaisons presumably new to professional conferences on aging. The size of the audience, the mix of perspectives, and the visible presence of the press created a high level of energy and buzz from beginning to end. In the aftermath of the conference, efforts continue to translate more than 170 recommendations/strategies into “reasonable and doable” (Perdue) policies and programs.

Most of the information for this article was compiled/edited from documents accessible at the conference site <http://www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa/index.html> (which also contains documents and presentations from the conference and from <http://www.aging.unc.edu/news/2010/1014nccoa.html>

Videos are available at <http://www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa/2010video/index.html>

For further information about the *Living Wise and Aging Well* initiative or the Governor’s Conference, contact Heather Burkhardt, MSW, at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services heather.burkhardt@dhhs.nc.gov or Conference Chair Bill Lamb, MSW, Associate Director for Public Service of the UNC Institute on Aging <bill_lamb@unc.edu>.

Living Wise and Aging Well: North Carolina Gets Ready for Growth in Its Aging Population The Aging Readiness Assessment

In March 2010, North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue initiated an Executive Order requiring an assessment of the state's readiness for the increase in the older population.

<http://www.governor.state.nc.us/NewsItems/ExecutiveOrderDetail.aspx?newsItemID=1013> All Cabinet agencies are involved and are to develop strategies and proposals to strengthen their preparedness for and response to our aging population. The assessment effort is being led by a team consisting of persons from the Division of Aging and Adult Services, the Governors Policy Office, the UNC Institute on Aging (IoA) and the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

The assessment will include a review of policies, programs and services specifically targeted toward older adults; plus collection of documents addressing the impact of an aging population on policies and programs; evidence of the involvement of older adults, their families and caregivers—as well as the private sector and local government—in shaping relevant programs, policies or services; as well as other relevant items identified by the Aging Readiness Assessment Team.

As a starting point in collecting the requested information, the Assessment Team developed a survey tool to determine ongoing and planned efforts of each of 50 state government agencies. The tool asked questions about readiness for (1) the aging of the workforce; and (2) the aging of the population of NC. Each agency was asked to appoint one “aging liaison” staff person to be key contact to communicate the purpose and expectations of the assessment and coordinate completion of the assessment, as well as help with follow-up activities such as offering input for the State Aging Plan, raising awareness of how population and workforce aging will impact state government and planning local assessment.

On October 14 at the NC Governors Conference on Aging, Jennifer Craft Morgan, PhD, Associate Director for Research at the IoA and leader of the Survey Team presented a preview of the results from state government agencies as diverse as cultural resources, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, and transportation.

The results showed that there was little consensus on agency definitions of what age a client is considered to be an older adult (48% of agencies said they had no standard definition); 65% of the agencies had not produced any plans or reports relevant on aging readiness; most agencies (89%) know the number of employees eligible to retire in the next five years, somewhat fewer (72%) know which units are likely to experience critical skills/knowledge loss and only 6% of those agencies which can identify the units likely to experience the most critical skill/knowledge loss have a plan to address this loss. Very few agencies have any volunteer programs to engage older adults to extend the capacity of their work force.

With regard to the growth of the older population, 75% of the agencies anticipate an increase demand for programs and services and 37% have made some changes in the last 5 years to address the expected increase in demand. 44% of the agencies had not yet begun working on a plan to address an increase in demand.

Asked to name the most difficult challenge each agency will face in the coming decade, “meeting the increased need from older adults for more and expanded services” was rated as most critical by responding agencies, although about a fifth of agencies indicated this did not apply for their agency. A larger range of agencies selected as a difficult challenge “planning for an aging workforce.” Other

challenges included improving use of technology and adaptive devices, and changing the agency's built environment to meet worker and client needs.

Dr. Morgan, a sociologist and gerontologist, commented on the findings. "The gap between awareness and planning is huge. The take-home message is that awareness of the potential problems related to workforce and population aging is relatively high but the institutional planning is modest at best."

She also observed the impact that the assessment process itself appears to have had on people involved, especially the "aging liaisons". "The establishment of the aging liaison was more powerful than we had anticipated. I think that's because we've established a function across agencies—a "go-to" person—that we can use as a resource for continuing the work. At the first orientation, they listened to other people's stories and light bulbs went on. They really did get interested in asking about succession planning, general workforce aging, retirement projections, critical needs and skill gaps and the built environment, and they actually cared about it. They really got into it and it was fabulous. It's impressive how many were enthusiastic about solving problems and making this an important part of their planning."

As the process continues to unfold, Dr. Morgan is most excited about the idea that people in state government—from the department of transportation to the prison system—"are thinking about aging—together." For more information on the readiness survey and the study results, contact Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan at craft@schr.unc.edu or (919) 966-0225.



Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan presents study results at NC Governor's Conference on Aging

Rosalynn Carter Institute's National Summit & Training Institute Focuses on "Averting the Caregiving Crisis"

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI), located on the campus of Georgia Southwestern University (GSW) in Americus, Georgia, held its annual summit and training institute October 20-22. This year the program was designed around a 26-page paper put forward by RCI called "Averting the Caregiving Crisis: Why We Must Act Now" that explains the urgent need for public policy and program development. The report, available online at http://www.rosalynncarter.org/UserFiles/File/RCI_Position_Paper100310_Final.pdf is based on RCI's more than three years of intensive study of the caregiving process, evidence-based programs to help family caregivers and current translational strategies for making effective programs widely available to caregivers." (p. 4).

The conference speakers, including DHHS Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee (pictured with Mrs. Carter), addressed background issues and issues specifically relating to the 12 recommendations made in the paper. Some topics included the importance of monitoring caregiver health, outreach and public education of caregivers, evidence-based professional assessment of caregivers, tying evidence-based caregiver services to risk, among others.

According to Laura Bauer Granberry, MPA, RCI's Director of National Initiatives, the audience of approximately 200 people included agency heads that provide services to caregivers, representatives from hospitals and AAAs, Federal agencies including AoA and CMS, caregiving researchers, advocates, funders and grantees, people interested in translating evidence-based programs into practice. Also attending were representatives from the Cyber University of Korea which offers an undergraduate certificate in caregiving modeled on the program at GSW.

Ms. Granberry said that more information is being posted at the Institute website <http://www.rosalynncarter.org> in the form of proceedings, presentations, results from the workgroups and feedback on the position paper. A full-day follow-up session will be presented on April 26 at the American Society on Aging meeting in San Francisco. Be on the lookout for RCI's new *The Care Report* which features work of RCI grantees and "translational lessons learned".



DHHS Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee and former First Lady Mrs. Rosalynn Carter

Virginia's Four-Year Plan for Aging Services

In 2008, Virginia's General Assembly expanded the duties of the Virginia Department for the Aging by mandating a four-year planning process for aging services (§ 2.2-703.1). In distinction and independent of the Virginia State Plan for Aging Services under Title III and Title VII of the Older Americans Act (as amended in 2006), the Department assembled a diverse planning team of experts from state agencies, boards and councils, non-profits, community programs, service providers, and advocacy groups. *Virginia's Four-Year Plan for Aging Services* recommends a full continuum of collaborative care for older adults who have mental health needs, intellectual disabilities, and/or substance use disorders by expanding current state and community-based programs focused on reversing the escalation of issues which can lead to expensive and preventable institutionalization. It offers a framework for action, recognizing the interaction or interdependence between older adults and our communities, and incorporating recommendations for both Optimal Aging by individuals and creating communities that help us Age in Place. This Plan asks and answers the question: What can each of us, our local communities and the Commonwealth do to enable us all to continue our development across the life course. To review the plan visit:

<http://www.vda.virginia.gov/pdfdocs/FourYearPlanForAgingServices-RD461-2009.pdf>

If you would like to assist the Commonwealth in effectively meeting the needs and leveraging the valuable resources of Virginia's rapidly aging population, your feedback is invited:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22ARYNBPAF>

State Gerontological Societies

Does your state have a Gerontological Society? Check these out:

Alabama Gerontological Society	http://agsinfo.org/
Arkansas Gerontological Society	http://agsociety.org/index.html
Kentucky Association for Gerontology	http://www.kagky.org/
Maryland Gerontological Association	http://mdgerontology.org/
South Carolina Gerontological Society	http://www.allbusiness.com/medicine-health/health-health-care-by-target-group-elder/10611749-1.html
Georgia Gerontology Society	http://www.georgiagerontologysociety.org/
Mississippi Gerontological Society	http://mgsms.net/

Please let Jessica Hellerstein (hellersteijm@vcu.edu) know about the news from your State Gerontological Association. If we are missing your state, please let us know. Featured in this issue of the *Southern Gerontologist* are the Arkansas Gerontological Society and the Mississippi Gerontological Society!

The **Arkansas Gerontological Society** (AGS) will host its Annual Membership Symposium on December 9, 2010 from 8:30AM to 12:30PM at Sherwood Forest, in Sherwood AR. AGS is hosting two speakers: Herb Sanders, Associate State Director for Advocacy AARP Arkansas, who will discuss the Health Care Reform Act with an emphasis on how this effects the aging and disabled population; and Eddie Schmeckenbecher, with Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN), who will demonstrate multiple up-to-date adaptive devices that enhance the ability of aging and disabled adults to maintain their quality of life and independence in their homes. Two CEUs for Nursing Home Administrators and Nurses have been approved. Social Workers and all other professionals will receive a Certificate of Attendance for submission to their respective licensure boards. Lunch will be provided. For more information, go to www.agsociety.org.

The **Mississippi Department of Mental Health Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia** hosted the 2nd Annual Mississippi Physician's Conference on Alzheimer's Disease August 17, 2010, and "We're All in This Together," the 11th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Psychiatric Disorders in the Elderly August 18 – 20, 2010 at the Whispering Woods Conference Center in Olive Branch, MS. The Conferences are the only statewide conferences designed to specifically address the needs of individuals, families and service providers affected by Alzheimer's Disease. There were over 56 vendors and more than 500 in attendance.

Guest speakers included Dr. William Theis, Chief Scientific Medical Officer of the Alzheimer's Association, Dr. William Stennis of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Dr. Margaret Kea Cassada, Board Certified Psychiatrist, Joanne Koenig Coste, author of *Learning to Speak Alzheimer's: A Habilitative Approach*, a caregiver panel discussion including Shelley Bluethmann, Dr. Steven Hume, and Candace Darcy, a day program panel discussion featuring Ruthann Shelton, Mary Nell Dorris, Shirley Garrett and Janice Pickle, and motivational speaker, Margo Hemphill. Experts from across the state led concurrent sessions on a variety of topics including caregiver support, legal issues, nutrition, and art therapy. A panel discussion of the film, *Last Rights* by Karen Cantor was a session at both Conferences. A poster session featuring research projects in the field of dementia care followed the Physician's Conference. Area legislators were invited to attend a Legislative Forum as part of the General Conference as well. The Mississippi Gerontological Society hosted a Meet and Greet reception and viewing of the film entitled, *Carried Away*. The Conference concluded with an Awards Breakfast honoring recipients of the *Direct Care Worker of the Year*, *Volunteer of the Year*, and the *Dorris Award for Caregiving Awards*.



The Dorris Award for Caregiving. From Left to Right: Diana Mikula, Director, Bureau of Mental Health; Mary Nell Dorris, original recipient of the Award; Edward Raper, 2010 Award recipient, and Kathy Van Cleave, Director, Division of Alzheimer's.

The Department of Mental Health Division of Alzheimer's plans to host the 12th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Psychiatric Disorders in the Elderly on August 17 – 19, 2011 and the 3rd Annual Mississippi Physician's Conference on Alzheimer's Disease on Saturday, August 20, 2011. The Conferences will be held at the Whispering Woods Conference Center in Olive Branch, MS. Additional Conference information can be found at www.dmh.ms.gov

Synopsis of the MS Silver Alert Training Initiative

The Silver Alert Training Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the Alzheimer's Association Mississippi Chapter and the Mississippi Nurses Association. With the passage of House Bill 664 during the 2010 Regular Session, the MS Legislature and Governor provided for the creation of a statewide rapid response system to notify the public about missing endangered adults (age 18 or older) who have dementia or other cognitive impairments. The main focus of the initiative is to educate in regards to the following areas:

- Prevention: How to prevent possible wandering
- Preparation: Have vital information available, encourage enrollment in monitoring programs, such as Medic Alert/Safe Return, Comfort Zone, Project Lifesaver, etc.
- Response: Protocols and procedures for issuing a Silver Alert

Target populations for training include Law Enforcement, First Responders, Service Providers, and the General Public. The Silver Alert Informational Brochure including information about Prevention of possible wandering behaviors, Preparation of possible wandering behaviors, and Response including protocols and procedures for issuing a Silver Alert is being distributed throughout the state through health fairs and professional conferences. Informational PowerPoint presentations are being developed for inclusion in existing trainings and a single page Silver Alert Fact Sheet is also being developed. Additional products are planned pending funding. Training efforts began August 2010 and will continue throughout 2011.

For more information regarding training events, please contact:
Kathy Van Cleave, Director, Division of Alzheimer's, MS Dept. of Mental Health
Kathy.vanleave@dmh.state.ms.us or 601-867-5000, ext. 75242.

Southern Gerontological Society Awards Nominations

The Board of Directors Invites 2011 SGS Awards Nominations

Presentations will be made at the 32nd Annual Meeting

April 14-17, 2011

Raleigh Marriott City Center, Raleigh, NC

Deadline for Submission of Nominations – February 15, 2011

Award descriptions (also listed below), award criteria, nomination forms for each award, nomination instructions and past award winners are found at the following link:

<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sgs/annualmeeting/awards/index.asp>

SGS Annual Award Descriptions

Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award

The Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award is named after a true pioneer of social gerontology who, over a six-decade career in sociology and gerontology at Cornell University and the University of Florida, has made major and lasting contributions to both fields. In public recognition of his achievements, at the 2004 SGS Annual Meeting, Dr. Streib was presented with a special Board proclamation designating him a *Distinguished Charter Member* and the person for whom the Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award is named. This award is given to SGS members in the academic milieu who have shown excellence in leadership within and contribution to professional organizations and organizations which serve older people, a strong record of scholarly publications, and significant teaching influence with students and/or training of service providers or educators.

Applied Gerontologist Award

This award is given to SGS members in the fields of applied gerontology in the South. Award winners have a sustained record of leadership in the field of aging, are recognized in their fields, and generally, have positively impacted the quality of life of older persons through developing innovative programs such as applications of findings/approaches to research, education, management or services delivery (with emphasis on application).

Best Practices Award

The Best Practices Award was established in 1997 to recognize programs that demonstrate an innovative and creative linkage with the aging services network, show evidence of sustained effort and sustained impact on improving the quality of life of older adults, and have the potential to influence aging services in the SGS region.

Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award

Several years ago, we named one of our special awards, the Older Advocate Award, for Rhoda Jennings, longtime SGS member and extraordinary advocate for older adults. Rhoda was the first recipient of the Older Advocate Award in 1987. The SGS Senior Advocate Award is given to recognize an older person whose retirement years have been devoted to community or legislative advocacy.

Media Award

SGS offers the Media Award to recognize an outstanding media contribution to further understanding of aging in the region and to the mission of SGS.

Student Paper Award

Since 1999, SGS has presented a Student Paper Award each year to recognize academic excellence. Since 2002, SGS has offered Student Paper Awards to the top three student papers. SGS has set aside the resources to provide the following financial awards: First Place: \$250; Second Place: \$150; Third Place: \$100. Awards are made available to all disciplines within the student membership of SGS.

VAA Student Research Scholarship Award

The **Virginia Association on Aging Student Research Scholarship Award** is a grant that has been established to encourage the presentation of the results of research or scholarly activity from student members of SGS. The award is restricted to expenses incurred for participation in the meeting such as registration, travel and accommodations. Awards are made available to all disciplines within the student membership of SGS. This award is made available through a generous contribution from the Virginia Association on Aging. Since 2007, this gift has allowed SGS the resources to provide a \$500 award to one student who is presenting research at our annual meeting.

Student Poster Award

2010 saw the induction of the SGS Annual Student Poster Award to recognize academic excellence in this presentation format. Awards are made available to all disciplines within the student membership of SGS.

SGS Member News

AGHE AWARD WINNERS: CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Dena Shenk**, PhD, director of the University of North Carolina Charlotte's Gerontology Program and past president of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), who recently received national recognition for her many contributions to gerontology and anthropology. AGHE—the educational branch of The Gerontological Society of America—has chosen her as the recipient of the 2011 Hiram J. Friedsam Mentorship Award. This distinguished honor, named for a former AGHE president and an outstanding mentor in gerontology, is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to gerontological education on a national level through excellence in mentorship to students, faculty, and administrators.

Edward F. Ansello, PhD, director of the Virginia Center on Aging and professor in the Department of Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University, has received the 2011 Clark Tibbitts Award from the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Named after a founder of the Association, AGHE's highest award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of gerontology as a field of study in institutions of higher education. Dr. Ansello's work focuses on elder caregiving, aging with lifelong disabilities, pre-retirement planning, geropharmacy and coalition building. A former President of both AGHE and SGS, he also received our Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award in 1990 and the Distinguished Teaching Award from AGHE in 2001.

The award presentations will take place at AGHE's 37th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, which will be held from March 17 to 20, 2011, in Cincinnati, OH. Visit www.aghe.org for further details

http://www.aghe.org/clientimages/40634/publications/aghexchangeonline/fall10_newsletter.pdf

Kelly Niles-Yokum, MPA, PhD and **Donna Wagner**, PhD co-authored *The Aging Networks: A Guide to Programs and Services*. The publication date is November 2010. Revised and updated to include the most current information concerning the Aging Network and older Americans, this Seventh Edition provides students and practitioners with a detailed overview of federal, state, and local programs and services for older consumers. As the aging population expands and changes, the challenges to the Aging Network shifts in both focus and mission. The text examines these new and emerging needs and interests of older adults and what measures are being taken to address them, including civic engagement, religion and spirituality, and arts and humanities programs.

Sharon Bundick graduated with her M.S. in Applied Gerontology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, in the Spring of 2010.

Norm Bungard, a retired Social Security manager living in St Petersburg, FL continues to volunteer for SS by educating the public, conducting workshops and pre retirement programs. Mr. Bungard recently agreed to assist with the Social Security Centenarian project. SS is required to periodically make an in-person contact with those who are 103 years of age. The purpose is to verify that they are getting their SS payments as they should. Mr. Bungard has made the contacts in years past and says it is a remarkable experience. Some few are in poor health but the majority tend to be healthy and quite happy and willing to share their story.

Dr. Joyce Varner began her tenure as President of the Alabama State Nurses Association on October 1, 2010. She also was awarded a HRSA program grant in July 2010 for a new program of nursing at the University of South Alabama titled "BSN-DNP Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner with Palliative Care Specialty". This is a bachelor's-to-doctoral nursing program that will allow students to complete their DNP and sit for certification as an Adult-Geron NP and an Advanced Practice Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse. There is also a post-master's option available. At the annual Alabama State Nurses Convention she received an Outstanding Educator award. She is very proud of these accomplishments this year.

Rita K. Chow, Ed.D, RN, spoke on "Meeting National Health Care Needs: Celebrating Historical Progress" and also received the 2010 National Gerontological Nursing Association Board Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th Anniversary & Annual Meeting held in Palm Springs, CA. October 14-16th.

Austin R. Curry addressed a television promotional piece for the Alzheimer's Town Hall held in Clearwater, FL on September 21, 2010. The web link is:

http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/seen_on_tv/alzheimer%27s-091610?CMP=201010_emailshare

Christina D. Dhir has been approved as a Certified Geriatric Care Manager by the National Association of Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM). She provides direct services in the Greater Richmond, Virginia metropolitan area.

Drs. **Dena Shenk** (UNC Charlotte) and **Karen Roberto** (Virginia Tech) were invited participants in the 4th International Social and Applied Gerontology Symposium in Turkey, April 28-30, 2010. This conference is held every two years and is hosted by the Akdeniz University Gerontology Department to reveal the effects of demographic developments and to contribute to their prevention. Roberto and Shenk were also invited presenters at the conference on Ageing Individuals and Society in Nazili, Aydin, Turkey, on May 3, 2010. This was Shenk's second trip to Turkey. She hosted Dr. Ismail Tufan, Chair of the Department of Gerontology at Akdeniz University as a Fulbright Scholar and UNC Charlotte has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with Akdeniz University.

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service honored employees for their innovation, teamwork and professionalism through the annual 2010 Extension Excellence Awards. The UNIT TEAM award was comprised of members of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department who created a program called "Adventures in Grandparenting" that provided education for grandparents who suddenly find themselves as parents again. The team was headed by SGS member Dr. **LaVona Traywick**, assistant professor--gerontology. Other team members included Drs. Laura Connerly, James Marshall, Wally Goddard, Rosemary Rodibaugh, and Mss. Lindsey Smith, Amy McClelland, Kris Elliott, Sherry Jones and Katy Randall.

As of July 1, 2010, **Lorin A. Baumhover** is the Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor at Appalachian State University. Dr. Baumhover previously served as Chief of Staff in the Chancellor's Office and before that, as Dean of the Graduate School at Appalachian.

Welcome to New Members

Jennifer Pryor – VA
Kimberly VanEck - VA
Erin Nortonen – NC
Jay White - VA

Jacqi Linville - NC
Joseph Dzugan - NC
Patricia Phillips - AR
Barbara Schneider - MN

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!

Come On By!

If you are planning to attend the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in New Orleans, please come by and visit the SGS Exhibit. Our exhibit will be in booth 905. Exhibit hours are Friday, November 19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 20 - Monday, November 22, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Jan Wassel, SGS President, and her assistant Lori Kerr will be staffing the booth and promoting membership and the SGS 32nd Annual Meeting "The New Aging Enterprise" in Raleigh, NC April 14-17, 2011.

SGS has signed an agreement with GSA to exchange ads and exhibits for this year. The plan is to continue doing this each year but there is no official agreement for future meetings.

Upcoming in the Journal of Applied Gerontology

Watch for these articles to be published in the Journal of Applied Gerontology in the December 2010 and February 2011 issues.

DECEMBER ISSUE

Social Ties and Depression: An Intersectional Examination of Black and White Community-Dwelling Older Adults by Christine Mair

Effects of Immigration and Age on Health of Older People in the United States by Chizuko Wakabayashi

Gender Variations in the Levels of Social Support and Risk of Elder Mistreatment in a Chinese Community Population by XinQi Dong

Exploitation in Older Adults: Social Vulnerability and Personal Competence Factors by Donna Pinsker

Rethinking the Value of Residents' Councils: Observations and Lessons from an Exploratory Study by Ciara O'Dwyer

"We Take Care of the Older Person, Who Takes Care of Us?": Professionals Working with Older Persons in a Shared War Reality by Chaya Koren

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Medicaid Cost-Savings of Home and Community-Based Service Programs for Elderly Persons in Florida by Adam Shapiro

Comparing the Safety Culture of Nursing Homes and Hospitals by Nick Castle

Relationships among Ethical Climates, Perceived Organizational Support, and Intent-to-Leave for Licensed Nurses in Skilled Nursing Facilities by Anna Filipova

Ethics Environment in Long Term Care by Charlotte McDaniel

Social Security and its Impact on Older Latinos by Bum Jung Kim

A Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community: Views from Providers and Residents (Brief Report) by Laura Bronstein

Layers of Influence: Important Contextual Factors in Directing Dementia Care Programs (Brief Report) by Shannon Jarrott

Gay and Bisexual Men's Disclosure of Sexual Orientation in the Workplace: Associations with Retirement Planning (Brief Report) by Steven Mock

Kendra Heatwole Shank
Assistant Editor, Journal of Applied Gerontology
jag@schr.unc.edu

Call for Membership Committee Chairperson

As the current President of SGS, and to ensure that the Society continues to thrive, I'm requesting that persons interested in serving as Chair of the Membership Committee please contact me, Jan Wassel, at: <jjwassel@uncg.edu>.

The collective character of organizational life ensures that the organization will change as its membership changes—yet at the same time organizations influence both who is a member and what it means to be a member (Bantz, 1993). Membership recruitment is everyone's responsibility, but some people have a talent for convincing others to join. If this is your strength, please consider using your gift in the leadership of SGS.

As taken from our Policy & Procedures Manual, the Membership Committee is:

A standing committee composed of a Chairperson, appointed by the President, and other members appointed by the Chair. To the degree possible, there should be two (2) Members (1 academic member and 1 practitioner member, where feasible), from each of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, District of Columbia, and West Virginia.

The Membership Committee and Chair have several key responsibilities which include: 1) development of a plan for membership that includes regular communication, recruitment, renewal, and follow-up of non-continuing members; and 2) actively seeking to increase membership from within each State by soliciting new members and encouraging rejoining members. The Membership Committee works closely with the Student Committee to assure that students are being invited to join and remain with SGS.

Please give serious consideration to serving with the Membership Committee so that our organization can continue to serve existing and new members in the "southern tradition."

Bantz, C. R. (1993). Work organization membership and behavior. In R. Kastenbaum (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adult Development* (pp. 553 – 557). Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press.