



# SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

*A publication of the Southern Gerontological Society*

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## In This Issue

**President's Message**

**A Message from the  
Program Chair**

**APSC**

**Class Act Update**

**Movie Review:**

**Grandmother to  
Grandmother...**

**Now in JAG**

**Lifespan Respite Funding  
Comes to Virginia**

**JAG Highlight**

**Successful Aging Dialogue**

**Conference Calendar**

**Social Discussion**

**Highlights from the NC  
Conference on Aging**

**Your SGS Leadership and  
Committee Chairs**

**Membership Info**

**SGS Contact Information**

## ***Taking Stock of Our Legacies***

As I sat down to write this contribution to the newsletter, I was struck that we were supposed to be in winter. Despite promises of snowfalls, there have (yet) to be any icicles hanging down from the eaves. Pan, Loki and Kronos (our resident 4 legged family members) are having a blast tearing through the leftover castoffs of fall and discovering toys abandoned long ago in the humid haze of summer. A new season means a new issue of the *Southern Gerontologist* arriving in your "in-box." If only it were that simple. Like most things the efforts of our colleagues are hidden from view, not unlike that favorite toy lost beneath a newly formed leaf pile. The Southern Gerontological Society is very lucky to have a number of hidden assets. Consider our tri-terrific editorial team: Luci Bearon, Constance Coogle and Christy Jensen. Together, and aided by their new editorial assistant, Jenni Mathews, they solicit, cajole and edit contributions from SGS members to bring together a wonderful resource about aging in the south several times a year. Hat's off to you ladies. Thank you for your work and for the collegial example you set for each of us.

We can also look within our own programs and organizations for inspiration. I want to share with you two things we are doing at Western Kentucky University to inspire a legacy of commitment (hmmm, that's a nice phrase; might make a good meeting theme) between our students, faculty and older adults in the community. The first is a day of service each month. Sometimes the activities are organized around a NOE (naturally occurring event) like the annual walk to end Alzheimer's, or the local chocolate festival to raise awareness and resources for Hospice. Others are less obvious. One of my favorite undergraduate activities is making and delivering birthday cards to residents who have turned 100. (continued)

## **Welcome, New Members!**

Patricia Slattum - VA

Nicole Heaps - AR

Scott Tenbroeck - NC

Darrell Baltimore - TX

Nona Reeves - NC

Yolanda Biggs - AR

Letha Chadiha - MI

Nicholas Vollmer - NC

Lindsay Ellerbe - NC

Yvonne Behrens - VA

Tina Peterson - KY

Charissa Hicks - FL

Exa Grubb - GA

Kiffany Peggs - TN

James Powers - TN

Kathie Erwin - FL

Hee Soon Lee - OH

Marian Lechner - NC

Adrienne Cohen - GA

Oluwayemisi

Obashoro-John - Nigeria

*(President's Message, continued from page 1)*

That activity always leads to some great intergenerational dialogs. The second thing we are starting this spring is a WIP (Work in Progress) on Friday afternoon. The thought behind this event is that sometimes we need just an extra bit of encouragement to take a research project to the next level. Many readers of this newsletter know that research does not occur in a vacuum. Indeed most of my work in the past two decades has been nurtured by the kindness of southerners. Our WIPs are a way to inspire and nurture that collective commitment to knowledge and creativity. What are you doing to create a legacy of commitment? Please consider sharing your ideas! A quick email to me ([dana.bradley@wku.edu](mailto:dana.bradley@wku.edu)) or any member of the SGS Board of Directors would be a great way to join the conversation.

Another way we can inspire and be inspired is to attend our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Nashville at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel on April 19-22, 2012. A large number of abstracts were submitted (thank you) and the very complete "preliminary" program is now visible on the SGS website. This was a tremendous effort undertaken by Keith Dooley of Murray State University. We have planned a full agenda of research presentations, posters and applied workshops that will hold appeal to both academic and community practitioners. Something new we are trying this year is scheduled "unscheduled" time. It seems like most of us never have enough time. So on Friday afternoon, our formal activities will end at 3pm in order to allow you time to explore and visit with your colleagues. Our local arrangements committee, under the leadership of Grace Smith, Ruth Garrett and Brittany Singas, is seeking out the best of Nashville dining and recreation. New this year will be activities designed for families of all ages. Nashville is a great vacation destination and the centrally located Sheraton is family friendly. All the 2-legged members of our family took part in the vetting process! We need not wait until we are all together in April though to take stock of our legacies. As the weather stays cool for just a bit longer, reflect on this issue of the *Southern Gerontologist*. Contained in it is a plethora of news which will warm your heart and nurture your intellect. Enjoy!

Dana Bradley, PhD ~ SGS President

# Gerontology: A Legacy of Commitment



**33rd Annual Meeting  
Southern Gerontological Society**

**Thursday – Sunday, April 19 – 22, 2012  
Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel  
623 Union Street – Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615)259-2000 1-800-447-9825**

**Colleagues of SGS,**

***I'd like to express how honored I am to serve as your Program Chair for 2012. As the Annual Meeting approaches, the invigorating – and sometimes arduous – task of turning all of your hard work into an informative, memorable week of learning is near completion. The Call for Presentations produced contributions from 15 states and the District of Columbia; I'm also excited to announce that this year the program will include international scholarship from Nigeria, Togo, and South Korea. We received many fascinating abstracts representing each of the six conference tracks, and it has been a pleasure to organize them into a diverse and exciting series of workshops, papers sessions, and poster presentations. SGS President Dana Burr Bradley has also arranged symposia by some of our most prolific and esteemed colleagues. I'm certain that we all will find topics that pique our intellectual interest and spur us on toward more innovative commitment to the aging population and to the Southern Gerontological Society.***

***Other highlights of this year's meeting include both the Annual Awards and Gerontologists Raised in the South (G.R.I.T.S) Luncheons, where we will recognize present and past accomplishments of our peers. Also, the Careers in Aging Mentoring Moments social event will allow our up-and-coming gerontologists to meet, share experiences, and generate new ideas with today's leaders in the field. Finally, entertainment opportunities abound in Nashville, so at some point you should get out and take advantage of what Music City has to offer.***

***Whether you join us for a single day or the full program, I truly hope that you will benefit from attending the 2012 Annual Meeting. I also hope that each and every one of you will take a few minutes, seek me out, and say hello. I look forward to meeting and congratulating you in person for sustaining the Legacy of Commitment to SGS. Safe travels and best of luck.***

***Sincerely,  
Keith Dooley***

# **The Area Planning and Services Committee (APSC) on Aging with Lifelong Disabilities, in Greater Richmond**

**Edward F. Ansello, Ph.D., Virginia Center on Aging, VCU**  
Reprinted with permission of *Age In Action*, Fall, 2011

Adults with lifelong disabilities are living longer and fuller lives, until recently catching both the disabilities and aging services networks relatively off guard. Developmental disabilities services have logically been oriented to early intervention, with the intent of improving the person's prospects early in the life course; and so, skills and personnel have tended to be pediatrically-oriented. At the same time, the aging network has been oriented toward a mass quantity operation, that is, serving as great a number of older adults as possible with limited amounts of funding; and so, it has been mainstream-oriented and disabilities among older clientele have posed challenges in services.

The APSC is a tested entity, deriving from more than a decade of federally-funded field-testing in several states of models of intersystem cooperation. In current terminology, one might call the APSC an evidence-based practice. The APSC in greater Richmond is a lively coalition of some two dozen organizational and individual members from Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, and Richmond, representing intellectual disabilities, parks and recreation, residential services, blindness and visual impairment, communities of faith, higher education, family caregivers, and more. It works to address both the opportunities and challenges that present themselves as more adults with lifelong disabilities grow into later life. In effect, the APSC acts as a creative form of *de facto* public policy, trying to respond in the present to issues that formal regulations have not yet incorporated. For instance, how can aging-related services that are offered only to adults ages 60 and above respond to persons with lifelong disabilities who may manifest "aging" behaviors prematurely?

The APSC, in operation since 2003, has set as its purposes: Identifying existing services and service needs; Improving communication and collaboration among service providers; Providing cross-training on both aging and developmental disabilities; Offering educational forums for the community; Raising public awareness about aging with lifelong disabilities; and Planning for emerging issues related to aging with a lifelong disability.

The APSC meets monthly, the fourth Monday. Its members have been designated by their organizations as their representatives, in order to help assure both continuity and legitimacy, for many coalitions fail when fueled simply by individual motivation. The APSC maintains separate subcommittees for staff training and for an annual public conference. Staff training workshops are usually in November and the annual conference is in June. Workshops have focused on lifelong disabilities and: having a healthy heart, dementia, exercise, arthritis, remaining at home, etc. Conferences have addressed spirituality and loss, community supports for consumers and caregivers, self-advocacy, inclusion, livable communities, etc. In addition, the APSC has produced a DVD about healthy eating, a protocol for periodically assessing the health of consumers, and has co-sponsored with other groups events such as conferences to broaden public and professional awareness. For more information about the APSC, please contact Lisa Poe at [poel@rrsi.org](mailto:poel@rrsi.org) or Ed Ansello at [eansello@vcu.edu](mailto:eansello@vcu.edu).

## What's Happening with the CLASS Act?



The late Senator Kennedy along with Senator Grasseley first began discussions regarding an insurance system for long-term care services in 2003. An overview of the system, now known as CLASS, was first introduced in 2005 by the late Senator Kennedy and Senator Dewine. CLASS stands for Community Living Assistance Services and Supports. The goal of this legislation, which passed in March 2010 as part of the Affordable Care Act, was to offer a national voluntary insurance program that would allow individuals to purchase community-based care services through payroll deduction. The focus, specifically, was to provide workers and future retirees with financing to support community living; thereby reducing the likelihood that they may become impoverished; that they would turn to Medicaid to access these services; or that they would burden family members with the large expenses associated with long-term care. The goal was to empower consumers and offer all those actively-working individuals between the ages of 18 and 65 the opportunity to not only plan ahead but to also contribute financially to their own long-term care needs. Once individuals had contributed monthly premiums for 5 years and they were identified as having significant care needs (e.g., have difficulty performing 2 or more activities of daily living, such as eating or bathing), then their benefit, of about \$50-75/day would begin to supplement the costs of support services and care. CLASS was even designed to work in collaboration with other support programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. The Congressional Budget Office initially estimated that the CLASS Act could reduce the deficit by \$74 billion between 2010-2019. There was also the benefit that this measure would reduce costs to the Medicaid system, which oftentimes becomes the measure of last resort for ongoing and long-term care for persons who cannot afford the care. However, the concern about adverse selection, meaning those individuals most in need of the coverage, would buy into the program and cost it more than it could cover, has been looming large. In other words, is the program really able to be financially solvent or will it soon require federal subsidies once the 5-year pay-in period ends?

Earlier this year, a CLASS Office was established under Health and Human Services (HHS) and housed in the Administration on Aging's building in Washington, DC. Since that time, the CLASS Act has shown anything but promise. In a June 3, 2011 letter from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius she states "... I am required to determine whether the program is actuarially sound before proceeding to offer insurance to consumers. ... we will not implement the program unless it is solvent and sustainable, as required by the statute." Secretary Sebelius has been the recipient of numerous formal requests from Congressional Officials and professional organizations, including the American Academy of Actuaries, to examine the risk involved in the CLASS Program more carefully before it was to be implemented in 2012. As of mid-October, the White House reports it has officially removed the CLASS Program from the healthcare reform plan. Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging at HHS, simply stated, "At this point, we do not have a viable path forward to implement the CLASS Act." (continued next page)

Well, what does this mean for family caregivers, who are truly the backbone of our health system because they provide a great majority of the time and expense associated with personal care and ongoing support for older or chronically ill relatives? What does this mean for working adults with chronic needs (or needs that may arise in the future) who had planned to pay into the CLASS program because they could not afford other long-term care insurance programs? For family caregivers, it means they will continue to perform the lion's share of care, while missing more days of work, missing their own medical appointments, and putting their own mental and physical health in jeopardy. For working adults who planned to participate in CLASS, it means they may not have access to financing for their care needs, other than through Medicaid. There is simply a long road ahead for the U.S. in finding creative and financially solvent means for supporting the long-term care needs of our most vulnerable adults and their family caregivers. I think they deserve better. I cannot say that here, in Williamsburg, I have heard a number of family caregivers or working adults make comments about their plans to participate in the CLASS Program. But I suspect that is because many adults are simply confused about what elements of the Affordable Care Act will be implemented, in what timeframe, and how it will personally impact them. Can you miss something you never had? I will continue to educate the older adults we serve about community resources and care planning and how important it is to state what you want and then prepare care plans accordingly. At least education is a start. And right now I'm busy answering questions about which type of Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage) Plan older consumers should participate in as we are in the midst of open enrollment. These questions show promise as retirees want choices and want to be educated about their choices. But even I have had a hard time figuring out which of more than 70 plans might be the most appropriate! And a final point about CLASS, many age-friendly organizations, such as the AARP, the Family Caregiver Alliance, the National Family Caregivers Association, and the Gerontological Society of America will continue to advocate for future CLASS-like programs...so stay tuned.

Sources:        *Kaiser Family Foundation*  
                      *American Academy of Actuaries*  
                      *Washington Post*

*Prepared by Christine J. Jensen, Ph.D.,  
Research Assistant Professor, Schroeder Center for Health Policy, The College of William & Mary  
and Director, Community and Health Services Research, The Center for Excellence in Aging*

## **Movie Review: Grandmother to Grandmother: New York to Tanzania (2009)**

**Documentary Movie, 56 minutes DVD**

**Filmmakers: John Ankele, Anne Macksoud**

**Reviewed by Luci Bearon, NC State University**

**Additional information: Old Dog Documentaries, Inc. <http://olddogdocumentaries.com>**

Among the horrors of the AIDs epidemic in Africa is the plight of the children who have been left orphans. Enter their grandmothers who have stepped in to rescue and raise many of these orphans, despite their own personal challenges. The award-winning documentary Grandmother to Grandmother: New York to Tanzania profiles a group of 25 grandmothers near Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as well as another group of grandmothers in New York City as they share their stories of hardship and reward.

Part 1, Tanzania: All the women in this segment have children attending a school named for Jann Mitchell-Sandstrom, an American grandmother who created a trust to support the school run by a local woman Mama Fatuma and to assist with the expenses of the grandfamilies. Filmmakers John Ankele and Anne Macksoud weave fragments of interviews with several of the grandmothers to produce a tapestry of complex lives full of grief over the loss of their adult children, poverty and stark hunger, fear of their own dying, and bountiful love and determination to protect and educate their grandchildren. The segment is rich in imagery of the children learning rapidly and thriving socially in the secure world provided by the school, motivated by caring staff and visiting foreign college students. We also learn that the school provides food and personal supplies to the grandmothers and is promoting ways for the grandmothers to become self-sufficient beyond subsistence income through designing and selling elegant batik fabrics. They also have plans for building physical accommodations for grandmothers to live near the school and for assuring support for the children in the event of their grandmother's death.

Part 2, NYC: The second segment of the documentary highlights the lives and struggles of several grandmothers in the Bronx who were given the opportunity to relocate to public housing designed especially for grandfamilies. These grandmothers report that they are raising their grandchildren due to a variety of challenges facing the children's parents—primarily drug abuse and violence. The grandmothers express joy and appreciation for the safety and cleanliness of the new building, the camaraderie of the residents having the common situation of raising grandkids, and the enriching afterschool program of education and recreation.

The grandmothers also share stories of how their lives have changed becoming relative caregivers, how they have overcome the grandchildren's resentment and challenge to their authority, and how their children's behaviors have improved after moving into the new and secure building. They have come to believe that their aspirations for their grandchildren have a real chance of coming true.

Part 3, NY to Tanzania: In a surprising twist, a few of the American grandmothers and their grandchildren get the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to meet and observe the lives of the African grandfamilies. Not surprisingly, both groups of women immediately recognized their common experiences and, with profound empathy and respect, turned into a support group for each other. It was charming to see the spontaneous connections the children made with each other as well. It was also striking to hear one of the American teens respectfully point out how much harder life is for the Africans than for the Americans.

The documentary would be excellent for undergraduate or graduate students or community audiences. The first time I saw the movie was at a national meeting of people who work with grandfamilies or live in grandfamilies or do both. The response was a standing ovation and tears all around. With the gracious written permission from the filmmakers, I had our university library record the video to our online teaching platform and assigned it to the graduate students in my distance ed gerontology class—they all enjoyed and were moved by it as well.

For a course in gerontology or family studies, the movie provides rich content to illustrate and trigger discussion on such issues as roles of grandmothers, women and aging, grandparents raising grandchildren, parenting in complex families and environments, intergenerational families, cross-cultural aging, living with limited resources, unexpected life disruptions, families in grief and loss, resilience and hope, fears of dying, the need to plan for a grandchild's future, and conceptual and practical issues in the design and funding of programs to meet the needs of grandfamilies, including support groups and publicly-supported housing.

The full length version of the DVD contains an extended interview with the professionals who were responsible for instigating construction of and developing programs for the grandmothers' housing complex in the Bronx in which they share details of obtaining funding and community support that would be useful for a community wishing to replicate their model. On the website, the filmmakers also provide a variety of tools for using the video for public awareness including discussion guides for people involved with Senior Services and/or Housing, people involved in Global Health, Public Health, HIV/AIDS, Medical Schools, educators and students and general community audiences.



# Now in the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*

FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

## **Successful Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programming for Older Adults: Geographic Variations**

By Matthew Smith, SangNam Ahn, Joseph Sharkey, Scott Horel, Nelda Mier, and Marcia Ory

## **An Ecological Perspective on the Community Translation of Exercise Research for Older Adults**

by Sarah Chard and Mary Stuart

## **Senior Centers - Innovative and Emerging Models**

by Manoj Pardasani and Peter Thompson

## **Treatment Outcomes for Older Adults Who Abuse Substances**

by Jules Marquart, Freida Outlaw, Ajanta Roy, Jason Luellen, Mary Moran, Amy Willis, and Tom Doub

## **Integrating the Ecological Approach in Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs for Older Adults : An exercise in Navigating the Headwinds**

by Lucie Richard, Lise Gauvin, Francine Ducharme, Maryse Trudel, and Marie-Ève Leblanc

## **“Meds are a Real Tricky Area”: Examining Medication Management and Regulation in Assisted Living**

by Candace Kemp, Shanzhen Luo, and Mary Ball

*Bethany Gerdin, BSN, Managing Editor, Journal of Applied Gerontology jag@umn.edu*



Dr. Joseph E. Gaugler, Ph.D.  
representing SGS at the 64th Annual  
Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological  
Society of America

# Lifespan Respite Funding Comes to Virginia

Christine J. Jensen, Ph.D.

The Virginia Department for the Aging (VDA) recently received funding through the U.S. Administration on Aging Lifespan Respite Care Program. The VDA program, which is federally funded for three years, will engage in activities to enhance respite and caregiver services throughout Virginia. The Commonwealth's strong statewide caregiver alliance, the Virginia Caregiver Coalition (VCC), will be instrumental to this program. SGS member Christy Jensen is in her second year as chair of VCC.

Respite, as defined by the Lifespan Respite Act of 2006, is "planned or emergency care provided to a child or adult with special needs in order to provide temporary relief to the family caregiver" (Lifespan Respite Care Act definition PI109-442). Respite may be provided in a variety of settings, including the family home, adult day centers, respite centers, or residential care facilities.

Virginia's Lifespan Respite Care Program calls for the following:

1. Build an integrated and sustainable lifespan respite infrastructure, with VCC at its core; strengthen the intellectual disability and developmental disability voice, embed it in the Code of Virginia, and integrate it into Virginia's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) network.
2. Help caregivers gain information about and access to respite care services; expand the ADRC database with respite services for families of children with disabilities; and develop a web-based "Family Caregiver Solution Center."
3. Train and recruit respite workers/volunteers with a statewide campaign, educational webinars and trainings.
4. Develop and secure funding for an Emergency Family Respite Care Voucher Program for caregivers unable to afford respite care in an emergency or crisis.

The program should increase respite care listings on the state's VirginiaNavigator website ([www.virginiannavigator.org](http://www.virginiannavigator.org)), the Commonwealth's family of websites providing connection to services; referrals by ADRC partners; caregiver knowledge and preparedness to use respite services; and volunteer preparedness to provide respite services.

Other southern states which have received Lifespan Respite Funding include Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas.

## ***Journal of Applied Gerontology* Highlight**

# **Volume 1, Issue 1 – How it all Began**

Constance L. Coogle, Ph.D.

At the Annual Meeting last year, SGS unveiled the GRITS of Distinction Hall of Fame to honor Gerontologists Rooted in the South. We named Dr. Barbara Pittard Payne-Stancil as one of the first GRITS of Distinction. This recognition is given to individuals who have made an important contribution to the Southern Gerontological Society and to the field of gerontology through teaching, research, administration, writing, advocacy, or applied practice. Dr. Payne, founder and director emerita of the Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University, and the first president of SGS, provided us another great service in 1982 when she published *A Social Life Review of the Southern Gerontology Society* in our *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (Volume 1, pp. 5-10, DOI: 10.1177/073346488200100101). Appearing as the introductory article in the very first issue, she provided us with a remarkable and enduring account of the formation of our organization. Drawing from Alex Haley and the eminent Robert Butler in the opening paragraph, she articulated her intention to “put our history in order, dramatize our reason for being, provide continuity and contribute to future plans” (p. 5). The founders of SGS laid a mission-driven foundation, on which their successors built today's organization. All SGS members, having free access to the journal, are encouraged to carefully review this scholarly use of reminiscence to raise our collective consciousness about the Society's auspicious origins.

*Author's Note: Thank you Wayne Moore, last year's Program Co-Chair, for graciously sharing the article.*

## ***Talking About Successful Aging...***

*Former SGS President Leonard W. Poon has shared with us an exciting new initiative to develop dialogue about healthy and successful aging. He wrote on behalf of his distinguished colleagues, Christine Fry, Eva and Boaz Kahana, Peter Martin, Brad Willcox, D. Craig Willcox and May Wyckle: "We would like to announce a discussion and conference opportunity for all who are interested in research and application associated with healthy and successful aging – a topic with significant policy and quality-of-life implications. The NIA recently funded a conference grant to facilitate open peer discussion in 2011-2013. News, announcements, position papers, comments, and input will be posted on <http://www.successfulaging.uga.edu>."*

*Dr. Poon has shared an excerpt from a successful R13 proposal begun in August 2011...*

Healthy and successful aging is possibly the most important research outcome and policy decision related to aging and the aging population. It was 23 years ago that Jack Rowe and Robert Kahn (1987) revitalized research and discussion on the concept of usual and successful aging. This effort through the MacArthur Foundation and other research networks created one of the most sustained and energetic research enterprises in the history of aging and the National Institute on Aging. Owing to the overwhelming public health implications of healthy and successful aging, recent research has made significant advances on definitions, approaches, and methodologies. Unfortunately, the implementation of findings to applications is still lagging behind. We propose that the time is ripe to examine, evaluate, and consolidate these findings toward new directions to focus on implementing the public health mandate to improve individual and population health and successful aging. We have assembled an eight-member interdisciplinary senior b-BSSR team who had collectively contributed to significant thinking in the field and capable of implementing new directions. This team will work together with gerontological peers to identify what we know and how to forge forward. We would share our thinking on the web and invite peer criticisms and input. The R13 project will involve a first conference on definitions, mechanisms, and methodologies with simultaneous webcast to a wide audience. A second conference using similar procedures will address proactive, preventive, and corrective adaptations to promote and enhance public health among the older populations. A third conference, to be held at a GSA meeting, will employ a previously successful GSA procedure to mentor emerging scholars in the writing of interdisciplinary R21 proposals. The outcome of this R13 project will be an R01 proposal conceptualized by the 8-member interdisciplinary b-BSSR team to test the next generation of research directions in healthy and successful aging.

# Conference Calendar

**Note: SGS Members are invited to submit notices of Southern regional and statewide non-profit educational/research events. Send dates, organization, theme, city, state, and website to Luci Bearon at [luci\\_bearon@ncsu.edu](mailto:luci_bearon@ncsu.edu)**

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## **American Society on Aging -- Aging in America Conference**

March 28-April 1, 2012

Theme: *Aging in America*

Washington, D.C.

<http://asaging.org/sites/default/files/files/2012AiA-Conf-Announcement.pdf>

## **The Arkansas Gerontological Society Spring Conference**

March 28-29, 2012

Theme: *Cherishing our Natural Resources—Aging Adults*

Ferndale, AR

<http://www.agsociety.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2012agsspringconferenceflyer.pdf>

## **Alabama Gerontological Society 31st Annual Conference**

April 11-13, 2012

Theme: *To Infinity... and Beyond! Exploring the Future of Alabama's Seniors*

Huntsville, AL

<http://agsinfo.org/news.html>

## **Southern Gerontological Society 33rd Annual Meeting**

April 19-22, 2012

Theme: *Gerontology: A Legacy of Commitment*

Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, Nashville, TN

<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/annualmeeting/index.html>

## **Kentucky Association of Gerontology Annual Training Conference**

April 22 - 24, 2012

Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Cadiz, KY

LakeBarkley@ky.gov

<http://www.kagky.org/conference.htm>

## **29th Annual University of Kentucky Summer Series on Aging**

June 4 – 6, 2012

Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa

Lexington, KY

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/aging/summerseries/summerseries.htm>

## **The Gerontological Society of America 65th Annual Scientific Meeting**

November 14-18, 2012 \*\* Abstract deadline March 15, 2012 \*\*

Theme: *Charting New Frontiers in Aging*

San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA

<http://www.geron.org/annual-meeting>

# Social Discussion

*\*Academic accolades as well as gossip,  
also known in the South as “social discussion.”  
(Formerly SGS Member News)*

## David Z. Morgan 2011 Award Winner

In recognition of exceptional leadership and devoted service to geriatrics leadership in West Virginia, the West Virginia Geriatrics Education Center presented the David Z. Morgan Award to this year's recipient, Barbara L. Nunley, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC at the West Virginia Geriatric Society Scientific Assembly. Barbara has been a strong voice for Geriatric Nursing education for many years. As an Associate Professor of the WVU School of Nursing, Charleston Division, Barbara has been a very effective spokesperson for geriatric issues and is accomplished in educating health professionals in the care of seniors and seniors' caregivers. She has worked on many service activities in the field of gerontology such as, serving as the WVU SON's faculty representative to the Southern Region Coalition sponsored by the Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences through participating in the development of strategic plans for implementing geriatric curricula in all BSN programs in the southern region.

## Recipient of the Clark Tibbitts Award

The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) — the educational branch of The Gerontological Society of America — has chosen **Edward F. Ansello, PhD**, of Virginia Commonwealth University as a recipient of the Clark Tibbitts Award. This distinguished honor, named for an AGHE founder, was established in 1980 to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of gerontology as a field of study in institutions of higher education. The lecture is now available on-line at <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/vcoa/news/pdfs/tibbittsfall11.pdf>.

## E. Harris Spindle Award for Service to Seniors

The Area Planning and Services Committee on Aging with Lifelong Developmental Disabilities (APSC), led by **Dr. Edward Ansello** in the Virginia Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University, received the E. Harris Spindle Award for Service to Seniors. The annual award is presented to a business, corporate or human service organization that contributes to the well-being of seniors and caregivers.

## Published!

**Steven M. Marson**, of University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Marson & Associates, presented *Suicide Among Elders: A Durkheimian Proposal* at the last SGS conference. This paper has now been published in *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2011. This journal was selected because they publish in color, and the graphic they used in the paper is best understood in color.

*A Special Congratulations to  
Lora Gage who celebrated 24 years of  
marriage on October 24, 2011!*

For a more lively and accurate discussion, please contribute tidbits often. You can contribute to the social discussion of your SGS colleagues by submitting noteworthy items to Jenni Mathews at [jmathews@vcu.edu](mailto:jmathews@vcu.edu), subject: SGS Social Discussion. Remember, no item is ever too trivial! Thank you for keeping us up to date!

## Highlights from the NC Conference on Aging

Lucille B. Bearon, PhD, CFLE

The 2011 NC Conference on Aging was held Oct 18-20 in Charlotte. According to Program Chair, SGS Member Bill Lamb of the UNC Institute on Aging, this year's conference theme "The Community Response: Implementing the Plan for a Livable, Senior-Friendly North Carolina" was designed to focus on local initiatives and research which addressed issues identified as priority topics at last year's Governor's Conference on Aging. Additionally, plenary and special sessions featured cutting-edge programs and thinkers on big issues. In the opening plenary luncheon, Dr. L. Allen Dobson Jr., President and CEO of Community Care of North Carolina, described this nationally touted demonstration program that provides care management for persons dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. In the families track, Brent Elrod, National Program Leader for Military and Veteran's Programs of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Cooperative Extension) reported on challenges facing caregivers in military families and new programs to serve military families in partnership with the Department of Defense. A team of SGSers from NC universities (Ed Rosenberg, Ellie Covan, Steve Fulks, Shannon Mathews, Jim Mitchell, Dena Shenk, and Jan Wassel) united to address "Gerontology Education and Training in Troubled Times" laying out the growing concerns of the fate of gerontology with massive changes in budgeting for higher education. In the closing session, Dr. Rosemarie Tong, a distinguished professor at UNC Charlotte delivered a compelling speech with the message that we can only understand aging in the United States if we compare personal and societal responses to aging across a variety of countries and cultures. Next year's NC Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2012 meeting of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging, September 9-12 in Asheville, NC.

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

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**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](mailto: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!**

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## Calling all Gerontologists!

Please commit to helping support SGS by agreeing to sponsor, exhibit, or advertise during the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee from April 19-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. An example of how your donation might be used would be to provide scholarships to help students attend the annual meeting. Every donation amount is significant, whether it be \$25 or \$500. Donors will be recognized in the 2012 annual meeting program. You may donate by mailing a check to:

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