

## In This Issue (Clickable Links!)

### 34th Annual Meeting

- **Conference Theme**
- **Awards Nominations**
- **Call for Presentations**
- **Support Opportunities**

### Members in the News

### Website Re-launch

### New SGS Logos

### Now in JAG

### Conference Calendar

### GRITS Nominations

### Supporting Caregivers

### Recommended Resources

## President's Message:

# Transition Trials & Triumphs

Let me talk a bit about Transitions -- our theme for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Now that the November elections are over, it is a great time to assess the impact of the national results on gerontology education and practice. What are the implications of Mr. Obama's re-election on the prospects for Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid reform? How about for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act? In your own state, which party controls the state legislature and governor's office, and what is that party's track record regarding programs and policies affecting older persons? (For example, in my state, North Carolina, a Republican was elected governor -- the first in two decades -- and the legislature returned the Republican majority it attained two years ago.)

This means it's important to know who the "experts" (i.e., decision-makers) on aging policy and issues are in your state and/or your region of your state. Take a moment to assess their effectiveness and visibility.

More importantly, do they know about *your* expertise and *your* connections to professionals in Gerontology in the south? While some of our members are limited as to whether or how much they can officially advocate for one policy position over another, our roles as experts in aging is vital to informed debate. I urge you to reach out to both your newly elected and seasoned officials. Let them know how your knowledge, research and practice may contribute to our post-election dialogue.

We've had a very public transition with our new SGS website. It presents both a fresh updated face for the Society and incorporates new web-based services. This was a labor-intensive initiative which succeeded through the efforts of Ishan Williams, Malcolm Cutchin and the entire Publications Committee.

A great excuse to head to the website (as if you needed one) is to check out our new abstract submission process. The 2013 Program Committee, co-chaired by LaVona Traywick and Lee

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ***Transitions are Hot!*** **LaVona Traywick**

Gerontologists from across the South will be converging on North Carolina on April 4-7 for the 34<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Southern Gerontology Society. The 2013 theme is “Transitions.”

“Transitioning is a very hot topic in my state,” said LaVona Traywick, SGS president-elect.

“We have senior adults transitioning out of the workforce full-time; and individuals transitioning from home into assisted living, while others are using federal programs to move from nursing homes back into the community,” she said. “Plus there are transitions in health care access and reimbursement and these are just three of the topics that come across my desk.”

The conference will have five conference tracks: transitions in position, transitions in state, transitions in stage, transitions in subject, and transitions in concept. And as usual, you can present with a poster, a paper session, a workshop, or put together a symposium.

New for this year, the program planning committee is working on a special poster reception to highlight several of the outstanding poster abstract submissions. Posters are also a great way for students to showcase their work, so encourage them to apply for the SGS Student Poster Award and the Student Paper Award.

“As a former winner, I can attest to how it was a valuable experience to present at a conference in an encouraging environment and receive feedback on my project,” Traywick said. “Of course, telling your students there is a cash award involved is also a good motivator.”

To help students attend, the society is accept-

ing applications from all SGS student members for the VAA Student Research Scholarship. The scholarship covers part of the expense incurred for SGS participation in Charlotte.

The meeting will be held at the lakeside Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel and right near more than 80 retail and restaurant venues of the Shoppes at University.

The deadline for abstract submission is Dec. 7. For more information:

[www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting\\_call.html](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting_call.html).

### **SGS Call for Presentations**

#### **34th Annual Meeting**

**April 4-7, 2013**

**Hilton Charlotte University Place  
Charlotte, North Carolina**

#### **Submission Deadline:**

**December 7, 2012**

The theme of the upcoming Annual Meeting, ***Transitions***, encourages us to consider changes in our economy, life expectancies, intergenerational relationships, health care system, and long-term care; shifts in population characteristics and expectations; the evolution of the field of aging in academia and best practices; and more.

Consider how your work related to this theme might inform others. View the Call for Presentations and submit on-line at [www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org).



October 8, 2012

Dear Colleague in Aging:

I wanted to make you aware of an opportunity to promote your services, products, and research to the primary group of gerontologists who represent the Southeast United States. The Southern Gerontological Society is comprised of professional educators, health care and social services practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. We work directly with older persons and train others to work with them, and our members in attendance will be able to take news of your services back to our home communities throughout the South.

This upcoming year, SGS will be meeting in the “Queen City” of North Carolina, otherwise known as Charlotte, from *April 4-7<sup>th</sup>*. Our President, Dr. James Peacock has organized this year’s annual meeting around the theme of “*Transitions*”. This year, we will aim to cultivate the understanding that the aging process has undergone a transition from times past to the present day, and will continue into the future. To put it simply, today’s older adults are part of a new era of aging. As always, a primary goal of the annual meeting is to bridge the gap between academics and application as we explore this theme together.

Please register by **February 28, 2013** at [www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org) if you would like to share information about your organization, services, and/or products with our members through an advertisement in this year’s program, a sponsorship, or an exhibit during the meeting. With your commitment by this date, we will be able to process your information for inclusion in all printed conference material. Details regarding fees can be found on our website listed above.

Thank you for your consideration. Do not hesitate to contact me at 919-244-3829 or [bmmccull@uab.edu](mailto:bmmccull@uab.edu) or Lora Gage, our Executive Director, at 239-541-2011 or [lgage4sgs@aol.com](mailto:lgage4sgs@aol.com) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brandi M. McCullough, M.A.  
Chair, Development Committee

## Transition...(Continued from Page 1)

Ann Ferguson, is excited about this new feature. They think that the on-line submission option will greatly improve the entire abstract process. Please let us know what you think of the new system.

Planning for our Annual Meeting is well underway. Our discussions with several keynote speakers are just about wrapped up and I'm looking forward to telling you more about them in the next newsletter. However, I can tell you that attendees will be able to hear the very latest research on transitions in the long-term care workforce, how the nature of diversity is shifting in the south, news about helping caregivers with transitions in their roles, and a case study of state and community aging after the 2012 election. Our Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Dena Shenk and Cynthia Hancock, will be a great resource for

helping SGS members make the most out of their visit to the Queen City.

So now, the rest is up to you. Please consider submitting an abstract and inviting a colleague to do so, too. SGS is a very welcoming organization and is committed to nurturing our students and professionals in aging, and often it takes an encouraging word from an SGS member to get an abstract submitted. The deadline for submission is December 7<sup>th</sup> and the first authors should be notified in early February. Thank you in advance for your willingness to share your creativity, scholarship and wisdom. I look forward to seeing you in April.

James Peacock, President

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## Seeking Nominations for SGS Annual Awards

**Deadline: Feb. 1, 2013**

It's time to start thinking about SGS Annual Award nominations! We offer several awards each year at the annual SGS meeting, generally presented at an Awards Luncheon. These awards are offered for researchers, community partners, and students.

The awards include:

- \* Gordon Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award
- \* Applied Gerontologist Award
- \* Best Practices Award
- \* Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award
- \* Media Award
- \* Student Paper Award
- \* VAA Student Research Scholarship Award

Please consider nominating a colleague, community member, or student.

Go to [www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/awards.html](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/awards.html) to see a description of each award, the required materials and the deadlines.

## Members in the News

**Rebecca Adams, PhD**, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, completed three years as Associate Provost of Planning and Assessment this past summer and has joined the Gerontology Program faculty.

**Virginia Burggraf, DNS, RN, FAAN**, has received a grant from HRSA to support full tuition and books for BSN students enrolled at Radford University's Doctor of Nursing Practice program and are in the Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Midwifery concentrations.

**Rosemary Blieszner, PhD**, Associate Dean & Alumni Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, published two books recently. One is the second edition of her edited volume (with Victoria H. Bedford, University of Indianapolis, Praeger, 2012), *Handbook of Families and Aging*. This work presents 23 chapters on classic and emerging family gerontology topics. The other book is a monograph, *Spiritual Resiliency and Aging: Hope, Relationality, and the Creative Self* (with Janet L. Ramsey, Luther Seminary, Baywood, 2013). This work presents a cross-cultural analysis of contributions of spirituality to identity, resiliency, and resistance to ageism among old American and German women and men.

**Christy Jensen**, Director of Health Services Research at the Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging in Williamsburg, VA was recently invited to present her work on the "Caring For You, Caring For Me" program in Virginia at the 25th Annual Summit of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving in Americus, GA. (see pg. 11 for related story)

In September 2012 **Herman Lukow** successfully defended his dissertation, thus earning a Doctorate in Counselor Education from the College of William & Mary. The title of the dissertation is "Structuring Reminiscence Groups to Enhance Older Adult Wellness Through The Promotion of Mattering". One month later Dr. Lukow was fortunate enough to begin a post-doctoral fellowship awarded through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. This 2-year fellowship is with the VCU Medical Center's Division of Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology conducting counseling and implementing two interventions targeted to survivors of traumatic brain injury in both individual and couples settings.

**James Fozard, PhD**, an accomplished gerontechnologist, recently co-authored *Path Tortuosity in Everyday Movements of Elderly Persons Increases Fall Prediction Beyond Knowledge of Fall History, Medication Use, and Standardized Gait and Balance Assessments* published in the September 2012 issue of JAMDA.

### ARDRAF Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In July, the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Research Award Fund (ARDRAF) celebrated its 30 year anniversary. The Virginia Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University administers the ARDRAF for the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is the country's most productive state-based seed grant program to stimulate research on dementia. The ARDRAF (*Code of Virginia § 51.5-153*) was established in 1982 to stimulate biomedical and psychosocial research on dementia. To date, it has supported 136 pilot studies, which have produced more than 242 scientific publications, and a documented \$24.7 million in subsequent funding from non-state grantors. The return on Virginia investment is currently more than \$9 for every \$1 appropriated.

## Our Fresh Face Online

The SGS Publications Committee agreed at the last Annual Southern Gerontological Society Meeting, in April 2012, that the past SGS website needed an update. Most committee members discussed how they were part of other organizations that were using online capabilities more successfully and the thought was that the organization would have more appeal if changes were made to the website. It appeared that time for a change at SGS was imminent. As a result, a small sub-committee was formed that included Publication committee members Ishan Williams, Christy Jensen, Candace Kemp, and a web designer working for SGS, named Lorne Moon.

One important and key change was the decision to change the SGS logo, for a cleaner picture that represents SGS. After voting on three logos proposed by Mr. Moon, the Board of Directors agreed on the final SGS.

The launch of the new site was earlier this fall. There were several things we kept from the old site that just have a “new face”, but after adding new colors and a few pictures, the new site was ready for primetime! Everyone should take a browse, (if you haven’t already) to see some of the new features added, which the Committee thinks will be effective tools as we move forward as an organization.

## New SGS Logos

The new logos modernize what had become a dated SGS emblem that also was not easy to interpret. During discussions about a logo change among Board members a couple of years ago, the old logo served as a hilarious Rorschach test for those in attendance, some of whom revealed their neuroses to the group. Indeed, the date and origin of the old logo is, as far as I know, lost to posterity—and perhaps that is a good thing. This summer, SGS adopted two new logos to be used on printed and digital Society documents and publications. Concurrent with the



**SOUTHERN  
GERONTOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**



review by the Board, and both were slightly revised with Board feedback and finally approved for use in August. We hope you like the improvement in clarity and style that the new logos bring to the Society.

Malcolm Cutchin,  
Chair of the Publications Committee

[www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org)

Here are some key highlights to look for:

- \* Donor Features: On every page you click, there is a reminder to donate and support SGS
- \* New Memberships and Membership Renewals online
- \* Online Registration and Submission of Forms: Now we can enter registration details for the Annual Meeting and submit abstracts and other forms online that were previously available by download only

Although the site has a “fresh” look, there are still some areas that will be updated and new resources added as we progress. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Malcolm Cutchin (Malcolm\_cutchin@med.unc.edu), our Publications Chair, know and we will keep improving an already very usable and attractive website. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback over the last few months as we developed the new look to the site. The sub-committee is grateful for all the hard work!

website revision by Lorne Moon, the publications committee commissioned Lorne to produce some

new logos for our consideration. The committee selected two for



## Your SGS Leadership 2012-2013

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Southern Gerontological  
Society



## Everything Old is New Again: The Southern Gerontological Society's Venerable Legacy

Prepared by Constance L. Coogle, Ph.D.,  
Associate Director for Research,  
Virginia Center on Aging,  
Virginia Commonwealth University

The earliest leaders of SGS provided a mission-driven foundation upon which their successors built today's organization. This was well-articulated when the first president of SGS, Dr. Barbara Payne-Stancil, published *A Social Life Review of the Southern Gerontology Society* as the introductory article in the first issue of our *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (Volume 1, pp. 5-10, DOI: 10.1177/073346488200100101).

This article was also highlighted in the Winter 2011 issue of the *Southern Gerontologist* (Vol. XXIII, No. 3, p. 11).

SGS has had a long-standing interest in documenting and preserving its history. At the 2011 Annual Meeting in Raleigh, Dr. Wayne Moore and his students at North Carolina A&T State University invited SGS members to "Come and Tell Your SGS Story." During several sessions scheduled throughout the meeting, they were waiting to document stories about the key points in SGS history. They recorded

the oral histories about what SGS has meant to the membership, both personally and professionally.

During that same meeting, the Gerontologists Rooted in the South (GRITS) Hall of Fame ([www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/grits.html](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/grits.html)) was inaugurated to recognize those who made important contributions to SGS and the field of gerontology (*Southern Gerontologist*, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, p. 14). In this way the organization is maintaining and stimulating interest in the history of SGS and perpetuating the legacy of past and present members.

Also in 2011, under the leadership of President Jan Wassel and continuing under President Dana Bradley, our organizational history moved from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa (where it had been initially established through the efforts of SGS's very first Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Lorin Baumhover) to its new home at Appalachian State University. The SGS Board of Directors authorized monies for a graduate assistant at the Belk Library to catalog our documents and make them more accessible to scholars interested in the development of aging policy, research and service delivery. Our records are now included in the Rare Books and Manuscript section of the Special Collections (<http://collections.library.appstate.edu/collections/rare/rb8010sgs.html>).

Beginning with the Articles of Incorporation in 1979, the records document the organizational leadership, meeting minutes, membership records, committee files, finances, administrative operations, publications, and annual conferences. Also included is our correspondence with other state, regional, and

*(Continued on page 9)*



national organizations.

The records are not comprehensive, however. The bulk of the papers are from the 1980s, and there are some materials from the 1990s and 2000s. But there are definitely gaps in our collective documents, so this move brings us the opportunity for SGS members and collaborators to add to our archives. Members are invited to visit the website and see how you can help complete the picture. We especially need information from 1998-2002. But later information is also missing. Just go to the SGS website, click on "About Us," and choose "History," and "View the Records" ([www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/about\\_history.html](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/about_history.html)). Potential contributors

are asked to contact the SGS liaison to the Belk Library with information about their material for processing:

W. Edward Folts  
Department of Sociology  
209 Chapell Wilson Hall  
Appalachian State University  
Boone, North Carolina 28608  
(828) 262-2293  
e-mail: [foltsw@appstate.edu](mailto:foltsw@appstate.edu)

RB.8010: Southern Gerontological Society  
Records, 1975-2011, Rare Books & Manuscripts,  
Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., USA..

## ***Now in JAG!***

- **Aging Populations' Everyday Life Perspective on Healthy Ageing: New Insights for Policy and Strategies at the Local Level**, by Jenneken Naaldenberg
- **Acceptors and Rejecters of Life-prolonging Treatment: Differences in Advance Care Planning Characteristics**, by Laraine Winter
- **Prevention of Cognitive Impairment: Physician Perceptions and Practices**, by Kristine Day
- **From Nursing Home to Green House: Changing Contexts of Elder Care in the United States**, by Meika Loe
- **Social Support and Change in Depression Among Older Adults in Taiwan**, by Zachary Zimmer

## **Welcome New Members!**

Rebecca Bivens - VA

Vontella Ridley Bridges - GA

Teresa Carithers - MS

Linda Charles - NC

Patricia Fletcher - NC

Lillian Jeter - NC

Patricia Kessler - NC

Sandra Loy - NC

Jenni Mathews - VA

Joyce Morgan - FL

Emily Roberts - NC

Gail Sonnesso - NC

## Nominate Your Favorite GRITS! (Gerontologists Rooted in the South)

The GRITS Hall of Fame seeks to recognize individuals who have made important contributions to the Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) and to the field of gerontology through research, teaching, administration, advocacy, or applied practice. Nominate a member or former member of SGS for Hall of Fame consideration by Dec. 30, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/grits.html>

## Remembering a Grand Time in Asheville

The annual NC Conference on Aging was a bit different than usual this year. It was earlier (September rather than in October), more westerly (Asheville in NC's Blue Ridge Mountains), and more upscale (at the charming and historic Grove Park Inn). It was bustling with many attendees from other Southern states as it was held in conjunction with the 2012 Annual Training Conference of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A). Under the theme "Artisans of Aging Crafting Tomorrow," the conference attracted more than 700 attendees to a program designed to "craft a better tomorrow for the individuals we serve." Over 40 presenters of workshops agreed to post their slide presentations online, so you are invited to check them out at <http://www.se4a.org/conference/SE4A-Conference-2012-presentations.cfm>

## ASA Graduate Student Research Award

Are you, (or if you are an advisor, is one of your students), working on **remarkable research** on issues pertaining to aging? If so, submit your research paper to the American Society on Aging to be considered for the graduate student research award! The graduate student research award is given to spur academic and clinical interest in the field of aging, and rewards the best unpublished graduate research paper on a completed project relevant to aging and applicable to practice.

Membership in ASA is not a requirement, but is a consideration. Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate-degree program or have completed their studies less than one year before submission, and be sponsored by a faculty member.

The winner will gain the recognition of peers and thousands of professionals in the field. The winner will receive a \$500 honorarium, an opportunity to present their paper at the 2013 Aging in America conference (March 12-16 in Chicago), complimentary one-year student ASA membership and registration for the Aging in America conference.

The deadline to submit research papers has been extended to November 30. Call 415-974-9600 or visit <http://www.asaging.org/graduate-student-award> if you have any questions.

## Supporting Caregivers: Building on the Legacy of the RCI

Prepared by Christine J. Jensen, Ph.D., Director,  
Health Services Research, The Riverside Center for  
Excellence in Aging

*"I found the program life-changing ... what is especially good is that I now take care of me. It helped me feel brave to talk to my sister and find she shares very similar thoughts about caregiving for our mother with memory loss."*

— Caregiver

This is a statement made by a daughter caring for her mother about one of our caregiver support programs. I am simply amazed at the generosity, kindness, and heartfelt approach that many family caregivers, such as this daughter, engage in daily to manage the care for their older loved one. They represent more than 29% of the U.S. population, or nearly 65 million persons who are caring for a chronically ill or older loved one. This means almost one-third of all U.S. households are involved in some form of elder care.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently recognized caregiver well-being as a major public health issue. Why? Because family members who engage in elder care tend to become so involved in their loved one's needs (e.g., doctors' appointments, preparing meals, managing medications) that they lose sight of their own physical, mental and social needs. Because family caregivers do so much and ask so little, (but deserve much better,) I found it imperative that our Center, the Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging, work to bring needed resources and education to caregivers in Virginia.

I was first exposed to the "Caring For You, Caring For Me" Program (CFYCFM) when I was working on my doctorate at the University of Delaware in 2001. The program was being offered for caregivers in Delaware and Southern New Jersey. While I was impressed with the program, it wasn't until I found myself leading the Health Services Division at Center for Excellence in Aging Center that I realized we needed to bring CFYCFM to Virginia.

The program utilizes an innovative approach to enhance education, support and advocacy for family, volunteer, and professional caregivers. The program brings these individuals together to discuss coping mechanisms; exchange ideas; learn about a wide range of resources; and identify key concerns and ways to work together to enhance the quality of life for their care recipients and themselves as caregivers. Modeled on the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving's (located in Americus, GA) "Caring for You, Caring for Me" Education and Support Program, this is a 10-hour, 5-session course offering a proven approach to improving the care and quality of life of older adults and people with disabilities, through uniquely educating, supporting and connecting all types of caregivers.

The curriculum emphasizes caregiver self-assessments of health and well-being, and actively demonstrates how caregivers can be greater advocates for themselves and their loved one(s) with dementia and other diseases through interactions with healthcare and senior service providers. Each program is supported by at least two facilitators, who are required to complete a one-day

*(Continued on page 12)*

training program prior to beginning a program. CFYCFM is part of an ongoing program (established in 2009) at our Center that assesses caregiver needs and provides support group leaders with new educational approaches and resources. Caregivers are taught to seek health care, counseling, and social support based on self-assessments and participants are provided information on community resources and services, including underutilized respite and adult day services. Due to overwhelming interest, our Center is committed to offering this program in the Hampton Roads region on an ongoing basis, with the goal of expansion across Virginia as interest grows and funding becomes available.

David Haigler, of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, traveled to Williamsburg, VA in 2009 to train 25 of the original Virginia-based facilitators. Since that time, an additional 50 facilitators have been trained by CEAGH, and CEAGH remains in close contact with staff at the Rosalynn Carter Institute. In fact, I'm proud to say that I was recently invited by the leadership at the Rosalynn Carter Institute (RCI) to present our work with CFYCFM in Virginia during their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit in October. It was a pleasure to present on our work on RCI's signature program, Caring For You, which they first established in 1996. I was also able to speak with Mrs. Carter about the impact this program has made on Virginia's residents.

During the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit of the RCI, I met professionals from around the country. Several of these professionals presented during the Summit on topics including: engaging the faith-based community in supporting family caregivers; the state of caregiving in South Korea; legal issues in caregiving; best practices in stroke caregiving; and supporting those caring for individuals with



**SGS Member Christy Jensen (right) shares her organization's caregiver support success with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter.**

mental health issues. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Awards Banquet was particularly special and leaders from around the country (e.g., Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kathleen Sebelius, Barry Peterson), via video messages, offered their congratulations to Mrs. Carter for her pioneering work in caregiving for 25 years.

Back to Virginia: More than 170 caregivers, in 12 different venues, have now completed the 5-week program. An estimated 2,700 care recipients have benefited annually, and 6,600 cumulative since program inception. Several home companion companies provide free or reduced-fee respite services to enable caregiver attendance. Goals consistently are focused on family, volunteer, and professional caregivers learning from each other's perspective, reducing their sense of isolation, increasing their ability to evaluate their own physical and mental health and social needs, and learning how to find needed support through

increased knowledge of local, state, and national resources.

Each caregiver completes a pre-test during the opening session to gauge caregiver needs at the outset and a post-test to determine the program's impact at its conclusion. At pre-test, 90% of caregivers report needing to improve skills in solving problems and accessing resources, and 75% report a moderate to high need to improve their confidence in caregiving skills. At post-test, 78% report their confidence levels as either very good or excellent—a substantial increase in caregiver confidence. The two highest areas of impact reported have been being better equipped to take care of oneself and gaining knowledge of community resources. Based on evaluations, caregivers reported reduced isolation, increased confidence in their caregiving responsibilities, and increased ability to manage their own health care. Nearly 100% reported that they would recommend this program to others.

Perhaps our former First Lady Rosalynn Carter said it best: "There are only four kinds of people in the world – those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers." The key is that we recognize the impact caregiving has on caregivers and the value they represent as they are truly the backbone of our health care system for older adults.

## Conference Calendar

International Council on Active Aging Conference 2012  
**"Many Journeys, Many Destinations"**

November 29-December 1, 2012

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA

<http://www.icaa.cc/convention.htm>

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education  
Annual Meeting & Educational Leadership Conference  
**"Waves of Change: Charting the Course for Gerontology Education"**

February 28-March 3, 2013

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, St. Petersburg, FL

<http://www.aghe.org/am>

American Society on Aging (ASA) Conference  
**"Aging in America"**

March 12-16, 2013

Chicago, IL

<http://www.asaging.org>

Georgia Gerontology Society Spring Mini Conference  
**"Issues of the LGBT Aging Community"**

March 15, 2013

Medical Center of Central Georgia, Macon, GA

<http://www.georgiagerontologysociety.org/events.htm>

Arkansas Gerontology Society Annual Spring Conference  
**"Cherishing our Natural Resources: Aging Adults"**

March 27-28, 2013

4-H Center, Ferndale, AR

<http://www.agsociety.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2013agsspringconferencesavethedate.pdf>

Southern Gerontological Society 2013 Annual Conference  
**"Transitions"**

April 4-7, 2013

Hilton Charlotte University Place, Charlotte, NC

<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org>

Kentucky Association for Gerontology  
**2013 Conference**

April 28-30, 2013

Pikeville, KY

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



## Recommended Resources

### About Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Luci Bearon

Gerontologists, particularly those who study family issues, have witnessed what appears to be a significant increase in both research and media attention to issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren. Within the last six months, I have been fortunate to listen to two excellent research-based webinars about grandparents raising grandchildren sponsored by different national networks under the umbrella of USDA's Cooperative Extension system. They are both now archived, available online and free.

The first webinar, featuring Dr. Sandy Bailey of Montana State University puts a spotlight on military families and the grandparents who step in to help when parents are deployed. The second, featuring a team of researchers and educators from Cornell University, focuses on families in which grandparents are raising teenage grandchildren and includes research to show how adolescent development is impacted for teens raised by grandparents as well as information about a successful educational program developed for working with grandparents raising grandchildren. See details and links below.

#### ***Implications of Raising Grandchildren While Parents are Deployed***

[April 5, 2012, 90 min.] Organized by the Financial Security for All Community of Practice's Military Personal Finance Team (led by Carolyn Bird, NC State University) in collaboration with the Military Families Learning Network (part of eXtension.org) <http://learn.extension.org/events/458>

#### ***The Role of Grandparents in the Lives of Youth***

[October 19, 2012, 90 min.] Presented by CYFERnet <http://www1.cyfernet.org/onlinepd/10-12-grandparent.html>

**Contact the Editors of the Southern Gerontologist to share news or article ideas or provide feedback. We also welcome member and event news**

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## SGS Membership Benefits

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### **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](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.

**NOT YET A MEMBER?! JOIN TODAY! ONLINE!!**

[HTTP://WWW.SOUTHERNGERONTOLOGICALSOCIETY.ORG/JOIN.HTML](http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/join.html)