

SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

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Jo Ann O'Quin & Susan Eftink, Co - Editors

Winter 2002

2002 Meeting Update "Using the Gift of Long Life"

By Wiley Mangum, Program Chair

Planning for our annual meeting in Orlando on May 22 - 25, 2002 is moving at a good pace and things are really starting to come together. On October 19th, the Program Planning Committee met at the Rosen Centre Hotel (our meeting hotel) in Orlando and made a number of important decisions about the meeting. Shortly after this meeting, the Call for Presentations was mailed to SGS members and others who might have an interest in the 2002 meeting.

Although we had received a large number of abstracts by the announced abstract submission

deadline of December 1st, we may still have some slots open on the program for various kinds of presentations after we've had a chance to review the abstracts we have on hand. If so, we will communicate with SGS members via our listserv and, possibly, solicit a few more presentations of various types.

I attended the GSA meeting in Chicago last month, mainly with the thought of "talking up" our 2002 meeting, and I was able to buttonhole quite a few people. I met with Dr. James Birren and confirmed that he will give the keynote address on the theme of our meeting: Using the Gift of Long Life at the opening session. I also had a chance to speak with some of the other major national and international figures in gerontology about the possibility of their participating in some special symposia that should be of great interest to everyone attending the meeting.

All were quite interested in doing so, but I'd better hold the details until everything is nailed down.

This has been one of the most fateful years in American history and all of us are still trying to recover from and/or adjust to the events of "9/11" and their aftermath. Also, all of us have all been contending with the current economic recession and, possibly, a reduction in organizational travel funds. Along with President Bush, however, I would like to urge each and every one of you to support the national economy, as well as that of SGS, by attending our meeting in Orlando. The Program Committee and the Officers and Directors of SGS are doing everything they can to make this an excellent meeting, including keeping the meeting and hotel registration fees as low as possible in keeping with a quality meeting. Now, it's really up to you!

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Congratulations to the Publication Committee

SGS reached an agreement with SAGE on a new contract that will extend our publishing agreement with them for the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* until December, 2005. Special thanks are extended to Nancy Schoenberg, Publications Chair, Larry Mullins, JAG Editor, and Dick Tucker, SGS president. Dr. Tucker stated that "We look forward to a productive, continuing relationship with SAGE".

Southern Gerontologist

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Vision

Bridging gerontological education, research and practice to serve our aging society.

Mission

The Southern Gerontological Society is an inclusive membership association of diverse individuals and organizations with interests in gerontology.

Members seek to improve the quality of life for older adults through education, research and practice.

Long Term Goals

The long term goals of SGS include five priority areas which focus on aging issues, especially as these issues relate to older adults in the South.

- ✓ To foster and enhance the bridges among education, research and practice.
- ✓ To facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among professionals, students and older adults.
- ✓ To advance the leadership role of SGS in improving the quality of life of older adults.
 - ✓ To provide expanded and new forums for professional development.
 - ✓ To ensure the continued vitality of SGS.

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Gerontology/sgs

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is difficult to write this message without reflecting on the mind-numbing and life-altering events of September 11. In doing so, it is natural to focus on the many negative consequences and challenges that we now face as a nation. Every aspect of our society has been affected. For SGS members and organizations, it has resulted in immediate economic impact on many of our agency and university budgets, causing us to evaluate priorities for service and for daily operations. More important, it has caused us to reflect upon our personal as well as professional values. In that regard, let me share with you an experience that I had on September 11 that has allowed me to focus on more positive dimensions of these events, and not coincidentally, the theme of this year's annual meeting.

At the University of Central Florida, we have a lifelong learning program, the Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) at UCF. This program is now in its 11th year and has just recently been able to move its weekly meetings back on campus. In that regard, much more attention has been given to intentional ways that LIFE members can be involved with the students that would utilize members' accumulated experience and their "gift of long life". The first meeting of this academic year was held at 9:00 a.m. on September 11 in our new Student Union Building in the center of campus. By the end of the first class, as members were taking their morning break, all quickly became aware of the events which had unfolded over the previous 90 minutes. A large screen TV had been brought to the rotunda of the Student Union just down the hall from the LIFE classroom, and UCF students were clustered around. LIFE members quickly became members of that transfixed audience.

For many of these students, this was likely the most horrific event they had encountered in their lifetime. For many of the LIFE members, it must have evoked memories that were but historical facts for the students. Although I was as caught up as everyone in the dizzying emotions of the moment, I also realized that many of our LIFE members were the age of the students during WWII and had likely experienced similar emotions after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Now a major difference was that everyone was on the scene "live" via TV. Before long, students and LIFE members were spontaneously sharing their reactions

continued on page 3

with the LIFE members, either individually or in small groups. I was moved by the spontaneity and genuineness of these interactions.

At a LIFE board meeting several weeks later, we were discussing a rationale and plans to develop intergenerational activities on campus. Without any prompting from me, that discussion quickly turned to the events of September 11 and the interactions with the students. One board member admitted some initial concern about how LIFE members would be received by the students, but how the very natural coming together that morning had allayed those concerns. LIFE is now embarking on a mentoring program involving several of the campus learning communities, such as the Honors Program. They are also making their experience and expertise available to instructors in a variety of disciplines. Although the group had been enjoying their weekly meetings, there is now new energy and enthusiasm. To me, it's an operational definition of "Using the Gift of Long Life".

I look forward to further exploration of our conference theme with all of you in May.

Dick Tucker, President

The University of
North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
**Institute on
Aging**

Carolina Program in Healthcare
and Aging Research offers
predoctoral and postdoctoral
research training fellowships
funded by the National Institute on Aging
(T32 AG00272-01A1)
visit the IOA's website at:
www.aging.unc.edu/research/training
For additional information,
contact: Carol Hogue, PhD,
Program Director: chogue@email.unc.edu
For further assistance, call (919) 966-9444

**BARBARA PAYNE STANCIL...
REFLECTIONS OF A FRIEND**

By Chuck Longino , SGS Past President

I first met Barbara at a seminar of the Midwest Council for Social Research in Aging in Kansas City. It was 1974. I was a new postdoctoral fellow, teaching at the University of Kansas. She was from outside the region, so she paid her own way to the seminar, but participated like a charter member. I remember wondering how she could have a more profound Southern accent than I had at the time. I had grown up in Mississippi, but Barbara could "y'all" circles around me. What a ball of intellectual energy she was, studying the beginnings of the Shepherd Centers of America (headquartered in Kansas City) in the sociological context of volunteerism.

Barbara was a leader. Her will was strong, and she saw her goals clearly. In addition, she had strong political instincts that led her to accomplish many of her goals. I remember the organizational meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society. Barbara took a lead role in the event. During the following year, she hosted several meetings to hammer out the charter and bylaws of the organization, and she served as president for the first two years of its independent life, holding both conferences in Atlanta. She was undaunted by the fact that the hotel was rebuilding its lobby floor at the time of one of the meetings. If the SGS has a "founding mother," it is Barbara.

It is appropriate for us to honor her now. Her friends will always remember her red hair and wry wit, her pioneering efforts to make spirituality a viable topic within gerontology, the passion of her love for Frank Stancil, and the "large presence" that was uniquely Barbara. We will miss her.



Dear SGS Membership,

After considerable deliberation concerning my professional and personal goals, I recently came to the realization that it was necessary for me to take a leave of absence from the Ph.D. Program in Gerontology at the University of Kentucky. The primary basis for making this decision was not a reflection of the program itself, but a result of my evolving aspirations to work in a more applied manner with older adults. As a consequence of this decision, I decided that it would only be appropriate for me to step down from my position as Student Representative to the SGS Board of Directors and allow an active student member to take over. Jason Rachel from Virginia Commonwealth University has graciously offered to step into the position for the remainder of this term, and has already begun to do a fantastic job for the student members of the organization. I feel strongly that my taking a leave of absence is the best decision for me, and I hope it is one you can and will respect. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as the SGS Student Representative for the past two years. I greatly appreciate the opportunities the position has afforded me and will always consider it a highly valued experience. I look forward to interacting with you all in the future.

*Most sincerely yours, Katie Victory Tussey
SGS Student Representative*

Student Column

By Jason Rachel, SGS Student Representative

It is a privilege to follow Katie Victory Tussey as the SGS Student Representative. I hope to continue the great progress Katie achieved during her term as the Student Representative.

My work in the field of aging began in 1998 with the pursuit of a master's degree in Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). While acquiring my degree, I received the Department of Gerontology Student of the Year award for 2000. After graduating, I worked briefly in the assisted living industry. In July, I returned to academia to work on a doctoral degree in Health Related Sciences with a specialization in gerontology under the guidance of the VCU School of Allied Health Professions. At present, I hold the position of Vice President of Publicity for the Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega. I am employed by the Virginia Center Aging (VCoA) as the Public Relations Specialist where I maintain our website (<http://views.vcu.edu/vcoa>), develop and implement lifelong learning programs, edit our quarterly newsletter, *Age in Action*, and promote VCoA at various meetings and conferences.

My first announcement concerns our 23rd Annual Meeting, "Using The Gift of Long Life" and the Student Paper Award. There have been changes made to the award in the student's favor, so please take note:

◆ *Cash Awards will total \$500 (\$250, \$150, and \$100) for the top three papers.*

◆ *The Student must only be the PRIMARY author, not the sole author.*

◆ *The deadline has been moved to March 15, 2002.*

Please take advantage of these changes and submit a paper. If you have any questions to the above-mentioned changes, contact me via email at jarachel@vcu.edu. Again, thank you for this great opportunity. I look forward to working with the Board and the SGS student membership.

Note from Editors:

We welcome and encourage you to submit articles, upcoming events, announcement of "members in the news", titles of published books and resource materials, or other information that may be of interest to members. Send suggestions and materials for publication in the newsletter to:

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Southern Gerontologist
Future Copy Due Dates:
Spring 2002.....3/1/2002
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Winter 2002....12/1/2002

Immediate News Release to SGS:

The Georgia Centenarian Study, a ten-year study conducted at the University of Georgia Gerontology Center, received new five-year funding to continue research on genetics, neuropathology, and functional capacity of centenarians. The Program Project, "A Population-Based Multidisciplinary Student of Centenarians," which began September 30, 2001, is jointly funded by four divisions within the National Institute on Aging. The funding of this project is timely as the Census Bureau announced last week that the number of Americans aged 100 years and over increased 35% in the last 10 years. The Bureau reported that there are 50,454 Americans over 100 years, an increase of about 13,000 from a decade ago. The Bureau also projected that there will be one million centenarians in America by 2050 when the baby boomers reach 100.

The Study will focus on three major areas of centenarian research. University of Georgia biomedical and behavioral researchers will be joined by faculty from eight other universities in this multidisciplinary team. The collaborating universities are LSU, Boston University, Kentucky, Emory, Duke, Chicago Medical School, Iowa, Michigan, and Georgia State. First, the study will test and isolate genes that can contribute to longevity. Second, the study will attempt to answer questions about the relationship between late-life aging of the brain and cognitive impairment. Finally, everyday functioning among centenarians varied from active engagement, similar to those studied by the Georgia Centenarian Study in the last ten years, to severe physical incapacity and dementia. We do not yet know the proportion of centenarians who are intact, very frail and physically and mentally dysfunctional, and in between. The research team will first investigate the distribution of functioning in the Georgia population and then examine the relative impact and contribution of physical, mental, neuropsychological, and cognitive health to the level of functioning of these centenarians. The research team will also take this opportunity to examine how diseases and chronological age separately and jointly influence everyday functioning of centenarians. The findings can contribute to treatment and rehabilitation strategies for the improvement of functions for the frail elders.

The Georgia Centenarian Study is one of two systematic studies of centenarians in the U.S. For further information, contact Dr. Leonard W. Poon, the Principal Investigator of the Study and Director of the University of Georgia Gerontology Center (lpoon@geron.uga.edu or www.geron.uga.edu).

National Survey on Nursing Homes Released

The News Hour with Jim Lehrer/Kaiser Family Foundation Harvard School of Public Health has recently released a national report on the nursing homes. The results are based on a telephone survey conducted from April 23, 2001 - June 3, 2001 among a randomly selected nationally representative sample of 1300 adults, 18 years or older. The study reported that about 2 in 10 (23%) have had substantial experience with a resident in a nursing home. The following are some experts from the findings.

The public's attitudes about nursing homes are mixed. Around a third

says nursing homes are doing a good job serving health care consumers, around a third says they are doing a bad job, and the rest say they do a mixed job or that they don't know. Furthermore, six in ten Americans see an important role for nursing homes in providing affordable, round-the-clock care to people who need it. Yet on the other hand, majorities of the public believes that nursing homes are understaffed, that nursing home staff are often poorly trained, that at least some nursing home residents are abused and neglected, that many residents do not have enough

privacy and cannot rely on the safety of their belongings, and that many residents are lonely. About half of Americans would be reluctant to move into a nursing home if they could not take care of themselves at home. The vast majority of the public believes that most people who enter a nursing home never go home, and nearly half the public believes that being in a nursing home makes people worse off than they were before coming to the nursing home. A full copy of the 58-page report is available at www.kff.org.

The Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGE SW) is a national membership organization of social work educators with interest in aging. AGE SW was established in 1981 to assist faculty with instructional issues on aging and social work education. Membership in AGE SW has many benefits including membership meetings at major social work (Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting) and gerontology (GSA) conferences; biannual newsletter which includes feature stories, information on instructional resources and opportunities, book reviews, and member news. Other membership benefits include monthly email listserv of events and current information, and networking opportunities. Yearly membership is \$30 for individuals or \$120 for institutions (which includes four individual memberships). For more information, visit the AGE SW web site at: www.agesocialwork.org OR contact Nancy P. Kropf, President, at nkropf@arches.uga.edu.

***Service Learning in Gerontology
Request for Proposals***

***Sustaining and Expanding a National Model for Institutionalizing
Intergenerational Service-Learning in Gerontology
funded by the***

***Corporation for National Service,
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and
Generations Together/University of Pittsburgh***

Submission Deadline: March 22, 2002, 4:30 pm EST

Awards will be announced on April 15, 2002 for this \$8,000 grant to run between May 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003. A letter of intent to apply for this grant must be received by March 1, 2002. Please send one signed original and 7 copies to: *Generations Together, University of Pittsburgh
121 University Place, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, Attention:
Merrille Weissman.* For addition information call (412) 648-7099, or e-mail: Merrilw@pitt.edu, or check the website at www.gt.pitt.edu.
E-Mail: Merrilw!pitt.edu, <http://www.gt.pitt.edu>.

***Recent Member
Publications:***

The Best Friends Staff: Building a Culture of Care in Alzheimer's Programs, by Virginia Bell and David Troxel, Health Professions Press, 2001 is a training resource for teaching a relational approach to Alzheimer's care. Their first book, *The Best Friends Approach to Alzheimer's Care*, was published in 1997.

Restructuring Work and the Life Course, edited by Victor W. Marshall, W. Heinz, H. Krueger and A. Verma, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, was published in 2001.

**Wanted:
Membership
Committee
State
Coordinators**

Sue Maxwell, Membership Committee Chair is looking for members interested in serving as state coordinators. As a coordinator, your basic job will be to assist our management firm and Committee Chair in recruiting and retaining SGS members.

In order to recruit members, we would ask that you supply us with the names and addresses of interested members from your state. Our management company will be responsible to mail out all the necessary membership information.

On a quarterly basis, you will receive a list of SGS members who are delinquent in paying their dues and it would be your responsibility to assist us with obtaining a renewal from those members. Your role might be for the management company to send out a letter under your name.

We currently have representation from the states of Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Florida. If you are interested in representing another state, please e-mail Lora Gage at lgage4sgs@aol.com.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Sue Maxwell at sue.maxwell@leememorial.org and she will be happy to answer your questions.

New Book & Video Review

By Ron Aday, *SGS Book and Audiovisual Editor*

Families in Later Life: Connections and Transitions by Alexis Walker, Margaret Manoogian-O'Dell, Lori McGraw, & Diana White (Book/2001/344 pages). Sage, 2455 Teller Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320. 1-800583-2665 or order on line at www.sagepub.com. Paper \$39.95.

This book provides a comprehensive view of families in later life. It fully addresses the diversity of aging experiences in society by race, gender, social class, and in a form, which combines insight from the humanities as well as the social sciences. The book is divided into five major sections focusing on (1) negotiating ties with young adults; (2) the generations in midlife; (3) the centrality of intimacy in later midlife, (4) transitions at work and at home in early old age, and (5) challenges and possibilities in later life. The book also includes a balance between empirical selections and literary pieces, keeping students interested and engaged. A major strength of this book is that every article included has been carefully edited so students are attracted to the learning process. Other highlights of the book include: framing essays by the editors, questions for discussion, annotated web sites and videos at the each of each section, and a complete index. A highly developed and useful Instructor's Manual is also available.

Managing Older Offenders, Video Series of three 20-minute videos/2001. American Correctional Association, 4380 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706,-4322, 1-800-222-5646, ext. 1860. Purchase price \$350.

This video package provides an overview of older offenders and explains why this population group continues to grow at an alarming rate. This series analyzes how older offenders affect facility operation, with special attention given to intake; assessment and classification; housing; medical care, mental health services; programs, staff training; and the reintegration back into society. The series includes a comprehensive profile of the typical older offender and provides actual perspectives from inmates and correctional officers. This video series can serve as an excellent training package for gerontologists who desire more information regarding the special needs of older offenders or for those who wish to conduct training workshops for correctional personnel. The information provided is current and the illustrations are excellent for training purposes. An extensive Leader's Guide is provided with the video series.

Aging: Growing Old in a Youth-Centered Culture, Video Series/2001. Films for the Humanities and Sciences, PO Box 2053, Princeton, NJ 08543-2053; 1-800-257-5126; www.films.com. Purchase price for the two 30-minute videos is \$159.

A longer life span can bring a variety of challenges especially as an increasing number of our citizens join the ranks of the centenarians. As an increasing number of baby boomers march toward old age, policy changes are in order. This timely two-part series addresses the multifaceted issue of maintaining a good quality of life over the long hall, as the senior-set becomes the dominant demographic segment in a nation where a premium is still placed on being young. In the video *Living Longer...Living Better* experts including medical ethicist David Solomon examine a number of policy issues facing baby boomers including the changing infrastructures of Medicare and Social Security. The second video *Living Longer...Aging Well* provides valuable insights into the social construction of aging in a society frequently lacking adequate support. This program features the stories of exemplary individuals who, despite the inhospitable social climate, are growing older with courage and dignity. Excellent video series for seniors or students.

Creating Successful Dementia Care Settings developed by Margaret P. Calkins and volume authors John Marsden, Sherylyn Briller, Mark Profitt, and Kristin Perez, Book/4-volume set/2001. Health Professions Press, PO Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-9945, 1-888-337-3308, www.healthpropress.com. Purchase price \$65.

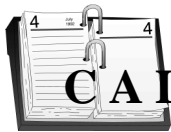
Making the social and physical environment more dementia-friendly can be challenging. This 4-set volume is an ideal resource whether designing or trying to improve the services of an existing facility. These volumes describes how to integrate the physical environment, staff care practices, and residents' needs into a complementary, holistic approach to dementia care. Each volume provides easy-to-implement ideas for making each facility's care culture more supportive of individual residents. The 4-set volume focuses on (1) Understanding the Environment through Aging Senses; (2) Maximizing Cognitive and Functional Abilities; (3) Minimizing Disruptive Behaviors; and (4) Enhancing Identity and Sense of Home. Each topic provides information about what staff can do to help, and what the care environment—both the physical environment and staff practices—can do to help.



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Got a calendar item? Fax it to SGS at (941) 540-7851.



CALENDAR

February 28 - March 3, 2002 - Association for Gerontology in Higher Education 28th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference. Additional information can be found at www.aghe.org.

April 4 - April 7, 2002 - Joint Conference of The National Council on Aging and The American Society on Aging, will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver, CO. For more information visit the web site at: <http://www.agingconference.org/>

May 22 - May 25, 2002 - SGS annual meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida. For more information, visit www.sgs-gerontology.org.

May 30 - June 2, 2002 - Southeastern University/Community Conference on Spiritual Dimensions of Aging: Research and Practice. For information: Kimberly Johnson, Conference Manager, CAREing Center, Kennesaw State University, (770) 499-3340; 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591; Fax - (770) 420-4439; E-mail - kjohnson@kennesaw.edu

Members in the News

Judy Cambell MSN, RN, EdS, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Middle Tennessee State University is the recipient of the 2001 National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) Research Award. The award acknowledges her research on the benefits of a nurse-managed wellness program in senior centers. Judy will receive the award and be a special presenter at the annual joint conference of the National Council on Aging and American Society on Aging to be held in Denver in April.

Ron Aday, Director of Aging Studies and Professor of Sociology at Middle Tennessee State University is the recipient of the 2001 Outstanding Public Service Award given by the University. Ron has been involved in a multitude of public service activities, many of which have achieved regional and national recognition. He is the former chair of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and is the current President of the Tennessee Federation on Aging. He also served as chair of numerous community boards and committees dealing with aging issues. Ron also received the Distinguished Research Award from MTSU last year.

Charles Longino, Jr., PhD, Director of Reynolda Gerontology Program at Wake Forest University has been named Editor to the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* beginning January 1, 2002. He is also Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Public Health Sciences at Wake Forest University and Associate Director of the J. Paul Sticht Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is past-president of SGS, and is currently president-elect of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and will assume the office July 1, 2002.

Betty Wiser, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve on the steering committee of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness project and HRSA's Office of Women's Health "Regional, State, and Territorial Women's Health Coordinators Conference."