



Southern Gerontologist

Vol XVI, No. 3-4

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

Fall 2003/ Winter 2004

Contents of this Issue

President's Message

New Editor

Spotlight on Senior Members

Honoring Rhoda Jennings

Student Mentors Join with SGS in Atlanta

Gordon Streib Honored

Book/Video Review

Member News

Spotlight on Student Members

By-Laws Change

Awards

Welcome New Members

Calendar

Annual Meeting Update:

Check out the 2004 SGS Annual Meeting information at the SGS website
<http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sgs>

Make your hotel reservations today at the Sheraton Colony Square in Atlanta

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/book.go?id=0401050377&flash=y>

See page 2 for how to get there.

Southern Gerontological Society 25th Anniversary Meeting *Bridging Research and Practice in Gerontology* April 1-4, 2004 Sheraton Colony Square Atlanta, Georgia

The Southern Gerontological Society was founded in 1979. Twenty-five years does not seem a long time. However, considering the National Institute on Aging was founded in 1974, many colleagues had the vision at that time that it was important to champion the growth of gerontology in the South.

It is very appropriate to highlight the primary goal of the Society at our *Silver Anniversary* --- that is to bridge research and practice in gerontology. The bylaws of the Society show that the Society is led alternatively by a researcher and a practitioner to focus and bridge these domains. This, we believe, is a unique contribution of the Society.

The theme of our 25th Anniversary is to return to our basic root highlighting the “**bridging of research and practice in gerontology.**” Three notable features of the anniversary program are designed to enhance the celebration.

1. All former presidents are invited to submit programs on substantive issues they deem important and to plan the celebration gala at the meeting.
2. Selected leaders in substantive domains in aging and the aged have been invited to organize and lead highlighted anniversary symposia on bridging research to best practices. These symposia are highlighted in this brochure.
3. To increase student participation, the 15th *Annual Student Mentoring Conference on Gerontology and Geriatrics* will be held in conjunction with the anniversary meeting. In fostering the next generation of gerontologists, the theme of the Conference is “Teaching students to bridge research and practice.” Information specifically for students in terms of abstract submission, scholarships, and awards and prizes is contained in the centerfold of this brochure.

As the President of the Society, I invite all current and new members to come together to celebrate our accomplishments and to share visions of the future. Atlanta will be beautiful in April. I hope to see you then.

Leonard W. Poon, President

New Editor for Southern Gerontologist

Beginning with this issue, I join Jo Ann O'Quin as co-editor of the *Southern Gerontologist*. Let me begin by thanking the Southern Gerontological Society for the opportunity to help out with this publication. A little about myself – I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Gerontology at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Allied Health Professions. I also serve as Associate Director of the Virginia Geriatric Education Center. I am a graduate of Canisius College, State University of New York at Buffalo and Virginia Commonwealth University

My research, teaching, and clinical interests include special care for persons with Alzheimer's disease, policy for an aging society, and assisted living. I am the author of numerous articles, and I have been the principal investigator for several studies. Having served as a reviewer for many journals, I look forward to joining the editorship of the *Southern Gerontologist*.

It's a time of many changes. The *Southern Gerontologist* is now, for the most part, an electronically-distributed newsletter available at the website of the Southern Gerontological Society. We will continue to publish four issues per year. Over the last few years, the *Southern Gerontologist* has been reformatted so it is easier to read and includes more news relevant to SGS members. I hope we can continue to give you information that helps you grow as gerontologists. Please send us your news, your suggestions, your criticisms. We welcome them all.

This newsletter will provide a forum for members of SGS to inform and be informed about current research and practice and the achievements of our members. Let me encourage each of you to share what you are doing, to use the *Southern Gerontologist* to inform your colleagues about your work and work that you feel is important. I hope you will regard this as your newsletter, your way to keep in touch with other members between annual meetings. Write for us, submit items of interest to us, join us, jump in.

J. James (Jim) Cotter

Directions to the Annual Meeting of SGS: The 25th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society will be held at the Sheraton Colony Square in Atlanta.

From North

Take Interstate 75 (I-75) south and exit at 14th Street (exit 250) or Interstate 85 (I-85) south and exit at 14th Street (exit 250). Turn left onto 14th Street and the hotel is three blocks ahead of you on the left.

From South

Take Interstate 75 (I-75) or Interstate 85 (I-85) north. Exit at 10th and 14th Streets (exit 250). Turn right onto 14th Street. The hotel is ahead three blocks on the left.

From East

Take Interstate 20 (I-20) west to I-75/I-85 north. Exit at 10th and 14th Streets (exit 250). Turn right onto 14th Street. The hotel is three blocks ahead on the left.

From West

Take Interstate 20 (I-20) east to Interstate 75/85 (I-75 and I-85) North. Exit at 10th and 14th Streets (exit 250). Turn right onto 14th Street. The hotel is ahead of you three blocks on the left.

Using MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority)

>From Hartsfield International Airport, take the north-south line north to stop N5 / Arts Center. This 10-minute ride will cost \$1.75 one way. Take the escalator all the way up to street level, exit the station, and turn left on 15th Street. Walk up the hill and cross over Peachtree Street. Through the mall doors, you will see the hotel.

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIOR/RETIRED SGS MEMBERS

At its most recent meeting in October 2003, the Board of Directors affirmed the importance of maintaining strong ties with senior/retired members and asked the current retired representative on the Board, Wiley Mangum, to (1) plan a reception for senior/retired members at the next SGS meeting in Atlanta on April 1-4, 2004 in the Presidential Suite, offered by President Leonard Poon, and (2) form a new committee of senior/retired members to deal with issues of importance including, for example, the preferred or most appropriate designation for such members in the SGS Bylaws and other documents. All current and past senior/retired members of SGS are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting and special reception in Atlanta and to lend their unique perspectives on matters of importance to SGS. The new Senior/Retired Member Committee will be formed and hold its initial meeting in Atlanta.

A GREAT LADY – RHODA JENNINGS HONORED BY SGS

At the 24th Annual Meeting in Richmond on April 23, 2003, the Officers and Board of Directors of SGS voted unanimously to issue a proclamation recognizing Rhoda Jennings as a Distinguished Charter Member and renaming, from that date, its annual older advocate award as the Rhoda L. Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award. This honor was awarded in recognition of Rhoda's many years of faithful participation in annual meetings, her exemplary service on the Board of Directors as a previous Senior Member, and her tireless advocacy on behalf of older persons. It was informally proposed at the Richmond meeting by Past President Lorin Baumhover, brought to the Board by the current Senior Member, Wiley Mangum, and vigorously seconded by Past President Dick Tucker. A special proclamation, bearing the SGS seal and the signature of President Leonard Poon, was prepared through the good offices of President-elect Doug Beach. It was presented to Rhoda on August 8, 2003 by Senior Board Member Wiley Mangum in a small ceremony at the Medical Center of St. Joseph's John Knox Village in Tampa, where she is currently a resident. Attending the ceremony were Suresh Pai, Director of the Medical Center, Jo Ann Daw, Activities Director, and Ann and Wiley Mangum.



Student Mentors Join With SGS for the Atlanta meeting.

The Student Mentoring Conference, originally titled the Student Convention in Gerontology and Geriatrics, was founded in 1988. Since then, fourteen regional conferences have been held highlighting current research in aging, while providing information and resources to prepare students for future careers in aging. Along this historical theme, the 15th Annual Student Mentoring Conference will focus on "Teaching Students to Bridge Research and Practice in Gerontology." Our *crystal* anniversary will provide a larger arena to display student research posters, and engage in student and faculty discussions of research issues and best practice initiatives. Members of the consortium include: Armstrong Atlantic State University, Brenau University, Medical College of Georgia, North Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southern University, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and University of Kentucky.

The Student Mentoring Conference will consist of a keynote address, two student-faculty symposia, and a poster discussion session in which students will have an opportunity to display their posters as well as present orally the contents in a supportive environment. These programs are open to all SGS conference registrants. Cash prizes will be awarded to the three best posters/presentations. Registration scholarships will be given to the first 100 student poster submissions accepted by the Program Committee.

We are excited about the opportunity to hold the Student Mentoring Conference in conjunction with the Southern Gerontological Society meeting. Atlanta will provide an active environment for professional interaction and socialization. Student Poster presenters will have an opportunity to present their work to a wider Southeastern audience and participate in integrated discussion sessions. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Jim Buford, who we believe will be of particular interest to students.

We encourage you to share this information with your students. The conference will be a friendly and supportive environment for first-time presenters, and the exposure to other experts in the field will strengthen student's analytical analysis of their own work. For more information, see <http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sgs>.

-- Student Mentoring Conference Planning Committee

GORDON STREIB TO BE HONORED IN ATLANTA

Following the precedent established by the Board of Directors' earlier creation of the Rhoda L. Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award, which will be awarded, as such, for the first time at the Atlanta meeting, the Board has recently established a parallel award named for Charter SGS Member, Dr. Gordon Streib. To be known as the Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award and also to be presented, as such, for the first time at the Atlanta meeting, the award is named for a true pioneer of social gerontology who, over a six decade career in sociology and gerontology at Cornell University and the University of Florida, has made major and lasting contributions to both fields. In public recognition of this honor, Dr. Streib will be presented at the annual meeting with a special Board proclamation designating him a Distinguished Charter Member and the person for whom the Gordon F. Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award is named.

Review of Books and Videos

The *Stroke Caregivers Handbook* by Joyce Dreslin is now available free, on-line from Stroke Awareness for Everyone (SAFE). More than 40 pages long, the book is filled with frank discussions about depression, incontinence, seizures and getting help from others, as well as care for the caregiver. You can download the book at : <http://www.strokesafe.org>.

And Thou Shalt Honor ... 2-Hour VHS and Companion Book. As seen on PBS, the complete two-hour original broadcast, including all of the profiles and interviews. Combined with the companion book, the videotape is an outstanding guide for family caregivers present and future. It also is an important source of solace and comfort to those who provided caregiving to now-deceased spouses, parents and friends. Home Video - \$29.95

Educational and Institutional Use: Hospitals, universities, institutions and others planning to show the videotape to groups, please order copies licensed with public performance rights from Aquarius Health Care Videos at 1-888-440-2963 or www.aquariusproductions.com.

And Thou Shalt Honor ... The Caregiver's Companion. The airing of *And Thou Shalt Honor ...* is not the end of our efforts but the beginning. Published by Rodale Inc., *And Thou Shalt Honor ... The Caregiver's Companion*, edited by Beth Witrogen McLeod, is an invaluable resource to caregivers, professionals and care recipients. Foreword by Rosalynn Carter. Hardcover Book - \$ 24.95
Bulk Purchases: To order 10 or more copies, please contact Rose Panetta at Rodale Special Sales: 1-800-527-8200 or email inquiries to Rose.Panetta@Rodale.com. Or www.RODALESTORE.com

Counseling the Alzheimer's Caregiver: A Resource for Health Care Professionals Softbound, 6 x 9", 256 pages Order #OP120802 Price: \$39.95

The material in this new book is based on the longest-running and largest study of a psychosocial intervention for family caregivers ever to be conducted. Filled with techniques tested over 15 years of empirical clinical treatment intervention at the New York University School of Medicine's Alzheimer's Disease Center, this manual now brings the same proven recommendations to you...by outlining how to work with caregivers to address their own needs, identify goals, and develop plans to achieve them. For information: www.amapress.com or 1-800-621-8335. Softbound, 6 x 9", 256 pages Order #OP120802 Price: \$39.95

Beating the Senior Blues

The many ideas and resources in this book are specifically designed to help the senior recognize the symptoms of depression and ways to begin to take charge of life again. It offers a wealth of techniques and strategies to help evaluate medication options, overcome grief and sadness, deal with loneliness or anxiety and find pleasure in life again. 239 pages. Size: 8 1/2 in. x 11 in. Softcover. Wellness reproductions & Publishing, 1-800-669-9208 or www.wellness-resources.com \$17.95 ea.

Editorial comment: Excellent, easy to use resource guide for clinicians

SGS Member News

Judith M. Stillion, Ph.D. of Kennesaw State University received Leader of the Year award from the Senior Citizen Council of Cobb County Georgia and she also received the highest award of merit of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Bill Lamb, CMSW, MPH SGS Board member, was named Social Worker of the Year in North Carolina by the North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Karen A. Roberto, PhD, SGS Board member, was named a Fellow of the National Council on Family Relations. Also, Karen, along with **Rosemary Blieszner, PhD**, were award a 3-year grant from the national Alzheimer's Association to study the information and support needs of family caregivers.

Lane Tharp, SRES, is now a Seniors Real Estate Specialist in the Metro Atlanta associated with Georgia ElderCare Advisors.

Curtis B. Clark, M.D., encourages all SGS members to join in advocacy to ensure a a stable Social Security and Medicare program, including prescription drugs.

Kina L. Jackson, BA, CSA, social worker with Brian Center Health & Rehabilitation, Charlotte, NC, has attained certification from the Society of Certified Senior Advisors®.

Deborah Gavin-Dreschnack, PhD is now the Project Manager for a VA 3-year funded study, "Epidemiology and Cost of Falls in Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury".

Dr. Janice I. Farkas Wassel (Gerontology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro) has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

William E. Haley, PhD, Director of the School of Aging Studies at the University of South Florida, assumed office as Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section of the Gerontological Society of America.

The Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional Geriatric Education Center, a consortium of the Universities of Kentucky, Louisville, Cincinnati and East Tennessee State University directed by **Arleen Johnson, PhD**, was one of six GECs to funded by U.S. DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau for Health Professions (USDHHS, HRSA, BHPPr) to develop educational materials and conduct training on Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness for Older Persons.

Student Perspective

by Jason A. Rachel, M.S.

Mentoring is a key element in the transition from student to researcher, educator, and/or practitioner. Mentoring can be defined as a purposeful activity aimed at furthering the development of an individual; however, mentoring may occur not only between individuals, but also between groups (Bradley, D.B., Peacock, J.R., & Shenk, D. (2001). Mentoring between and within "generations" of gerontology students. *Gerontology & Geriatrics*, 22(2), pg. 1-14). The 25th Anniversary of SGS and the 15th Annual Student Mentoring conference is a prime example of groups mentoring groups. With the collaboration of the Student Mentoring Conference, students will be given the opportunity to present their work in a challenging, yet supportive, academic atmosphere. This is a great chance to perfect your presenting skills, and also network with other students, faculty, and practitioners.

Unfortunately, attending these opportunities can be financially difficult at times for students; however, grants at your university may be available that are not well publicized. Not only do some individual departments offer small travel grants for students traveling to conferences, but grants may also be offered at the dean's office or the school of graduate studies. In addition, some student associations such as graduate student associations or honor societies offer small travel grants. These grants usually only require minimal paperwork and the chances for funding are very high. I encourage you to seek out these travel grants from your university. As always, if I can assist in any way, please feel free to contact me by email at jarachel@vcu.edu.

Announcement to SGS Members: By-Laws Change

Southern Gerontological Society, Bylaws Committee

Proposed Changes and Annual Report

1. Introduction

The 2003-2004 SGS Bylaws Committee members are Ed Rosenberg (chair), Donna Dawson, W. Edward Folts, James Peacock, and Karen Roberto. The bulk of the committee's work was accomplished at the October 11-12, 2003 meeting of the SGS Board of Directors in Atlanta. Some recommendations also reflect decisions made at the April 12, 2003 Board meeting in Richmond, VA.

According to the SGS Bylaws (Article X, Section I), "the Bylaws of the Society may be amended, altered, or repealed by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Members present at any Special or Annual Meeting of the Membership, subject to written notice to all Members, setting forth the Amendments to be considered, at least 30 days prior to said meeting."

2. Proposed Bylaws Changes

The following proposed changes to the SGS Bylaws were developed by the Bylaws Committee and approved for submission to the Membership by the SGS Board at its October 11-12, 2003 meeting.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 (Membership)

Recommendation: Change the title of the "individual member" category to "regular member."

Rationale: The name change is consistent with other gerontological organizations.

Language: Change "Individual Member" to "Regular Member."

ARTICLE IX, SECTION II (Nominating Committee)

Recommendation: Change the two elected member positions from one-year terms served concurrently to two-year staggered terms.

Rationale: The overlapping terms ensure some continuity on the committee (especially since the committee's other three positions - the immediate SGS Past President and two members appointed by the current SGS President - are one-year positions).

Language: Change "Two (2) members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected for a term of one year." to "Two (2) members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected, one per year, for a term of two years."

ARTICLE IX, SECTION VIII (Development Committee)

Recommendation: Allow the President to appoint the committee chair.

Rationale: The committee is comprised of specified positions (e.g., Membership Committee chair) and "other members appointed by President", and includes a chair, but there is no specification of how the chair is to be selected/appointed. The Board's position is that this privilege should be the President's.

Language: Change "...the immediate Past President and other members appointed by President" to "the immediate Past President. Other members and the Committee Chair shall be appointed by the President."

ARTICLE IX, SECTION X (Publications Committee)

Recommendation: specify 3-year renewable terms for the editors of the Journal of Applied Gerontology and the Southern Gerontologist.

Rationale: Currently no term is specified. The Board wants to avoid rapid turnover of editors, yet still provide a specific term so that prospective editors can plan their workloads and negotiate with their employers for support during their editorships.

Language: Add, as the next-to-last sentence, "Both editors shall serve three-year renewable terms."

3. Changes to SGS Policy and Procedures Manual

Changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual require Board approval but do not require Membership approval. The Policy and Procedures Manual will be amended after the annual meeting as necessary based on Bylaws changes approved at the annual meeting.

The following Policy and Procedures Manual changes were approved by the Board at its October 11-12, 2003 meeting, and are listed as an information service to the Membership.

SECTION II, J (SGS Policy Regarding Awards)

1. The "Print Media Award" shall be renamed the "Media Award."
2. The "Older Advocate Award" shall be renamed the "Rhoda L. Jennings Older Advocate Award."
3. The "Academic Gerontologist Award" shall be renamed the "Gordon F. Streib Academic Gerontologist Award."

Submitted by Ed Rosenberg, Bylaws Committee Chair, February 10, 2004.

SGS AWARDS

The Southern Gerontological Society 2004 Awards will be made at the 25th Anniversary Meeting at the Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1-4, 2004.

Gordon Streib Academic Gerontologist Award

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

Applied Gerontologist Award

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

Rhoda L. Jennings Older Advocate Award

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

Best Practices Award

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

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

For more information call Doug Beach, Awards Committee, Senior Resource Alliance, 988 Woodcock Road, Suite 200, Orlando, FL 32803. (407) 228-1800, fax (407) 228-1835 or e-mail beachd@elderaffairs.org

SGS would like to welcome and thank the following New and Renewed Members for 2003

Roma Hanks
John Gillan
Dan Ruth
Thelma Bland Watson
Dianna J. Vass
Katie Benghauser
Margaret Sheffield
Karon L. Phillips
Nancy E. Brossoie
Christine E. Hall
Don Bower
Brianna L. Weaver
Brandy L. Bratton
Audrey J. Kemp
Jeanette Glenn Cummings
Alison Galway
Kathy Council
Diane A. Klein
Jennifer L. Farmer
Cynthia Reeser
Dory Marken
Sandra L. McGuire
Amy E. Cavender
Laura F. Haynie
Andrea C. Reese
Jane Roberts

CALENDAR

June 14-16, 2004. 21st Summer Series on Aging Conference, Sanders-Brown Center of Aging. Radisson. For more information, contact Diana Lockridge either via email at dlock3@uky.edu or via phone at (859) 257-8301 or visit our website at www.rgs.uky.edu/aging/summerseries .

October 17th - October 20th Joint Conference: Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the North Carolina Conference on Aging "Road Trip - Where Will the Journey Take You?" Visit the NCCOA website at www.aging.unc.edu/nccoa/ for more information. Deadline for Submission: March 15, 2004

October 25-28, 2004. "Creating the Future of Aging Services: 2004 Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging" For more information, call the AAHSA at (202) 508-9434 or visit the website at www.aahsa.org/call

November 19 - 23. 57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the The Gerontological Society of America in Washington D.C. Email geron@geron.org for more information.

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

SGS Annual Conference & Meeting:

Leadership & Professional Networking

Publications

The Journal of Applied Gerontology

The Southern Gerontologist Newsletter

The SGS Membership Director

Student privileges

Membership discount

Conference registration discount

Networking & Leadership opportunities

For more information contact [Sue Maxwell](mailto:sue.maxwell@leememorial.org), (sue.maxwell@leememorial.org) Membership Chair. 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!**