



SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

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

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Annual Meeting Update:

Check out the 2006 SGS Annual Meeting information at the SGS website
<http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sgs/>.

Lexington is the horse capital of the world. Here's some tips on what to do (from the Lexington visitors' site, <http://www.visitlex.com/>)

1. [Kentucky Horse Park](#)
2. Try your luck at [Keeneland Race Course](#)
3. A [Horse Farm Tour](#).
4. Sightsee, dine, shop [Downtown Lexington](#).
5. Wander through the restored [Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill](#)
6. Visit [Historic Homes](#)
7. Celebrate the living history of Kentucky Bourbon at [The Woodford Reserve Distillery](#).
8. Witness trotters and pacers at [The Red Mile Harness Track](#), the region's oldest track.
9. Explore the scenic beauty of horse farm country with the Bluegrass Country Driving Tour. Call **1-800-845-3959** for a map.

SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY 27TH ANNUAL MEETING

**"Natural Bridges:
Preparing for an Aging South "**

April 5-8, 2006

**The Radisson Plaza Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky**

The Executive Board of The Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) and I cordially invite you to attend the 27th Annual Meeting, which will be held April 5 - 8, 2006, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky.

The theme will allow us to focus on an issue spanning the interests of the academic and practice community- the readiness of our communities, social institutions and service programs to address challenges and opportunities presented by the pending retirement and aging of the baby boom generation.

The Annual meeting of SGS is the premier forum for researchers, academic gerontologists, and leaders in applied gerontology and practice from the South, and both old and new friends, to share ideas and issues in cutting-edge research and practice and to explore ways in which we can enrich the lives of elders and those concerned with their well being. The upcoming meeting promises to be memorable and thought-provoking. It will provide opportunities to explore innovation via networking as well as through presentation and discussion.

The 2006 SGS conference will be enriched by a link with the 17th Annual Southeastern Student Conference on Gerontology and Geriatrics that will be held in Lexington from April 7 - 9. I am excited by the prospect of joint sessions and opportunities for collaborative activities between the two meetings.

Please join us in the Bluegrass state for a choice-filled, intellectually challenging, and personally rewarding experience in a beautiful springtime environment!

Graham D. Rowles, Ph.D., President

WHAT IS SOUTHERN ABOUT AGING?

By J. James Cotter

A few months ago I read a hilarious book: **Queen Of The Turtle Derby And Other Southern Phenomena** by Julia Reed (available from Random House). Ms. Reed is trying to find out if 'the South' with all of its distinctiveness has been lost amidst the growing homogeneity of American culture. Is there really any difference anymore between Atlanta and Chicago, between the small towns and cities of the South and the small towns and cities anywhere in America? Don't they all have Wal-marts?

Ms. Reed's answer to the question is that indeed the distinctiveness of the South is alive and well with all its charm and peculiarities. The title of the book refers to the turtle race and its accompanying festival, including the crowning of a Derby Queen that occurs in Lepanto Arkansas every year.

As I read the book, I wondered whether aging and aging services in the South are indeed different from those in other regions and if so, in what ways? Our society is a Southern Society. The theme of our 27th Annual Meeting is "*Natural Bridges: Preparing for an Aging South*". Is that different in any way from preparing for an aging North or Midwest? What makes aging in the South unique?

Ms. Reed suggests seven themes that define the South: 1) gracious manners, 2) Southern femininity, 3) keeping up appearances, especially of money, good breeding, and piety, 4) food, 5) religion, 6) the ability to entertain oneself, and 7) the legacy of slavery.

How do these themes play out in aging? Would Southern women be particularly sensitive to the changes in aging? Are older Southern women different in some special way from Midwestern women? Do we need to design services and programs in some special way to appeal to Southern women? Do appearances affect how a Southern individual perceives his or her own aging?

Certainly Southern cooking is a distinctive element. Southern cooking can appear to be at odds with a healthy diet under current guidelines, but I suspect any dietary guidelines in the South will be ignored if fried chicken and sausage gravy are not at least a small part of the offering.

And does religion play a larger role in aging in the South than in other regions? Ms. Reed believes that the role of religion in life is a distinctive element of Southern culture. Certainly, the role of religion in aging and in caregiving is an important element in the South, and we know from research that Southerners attend church more often, but religion and church membership are important in other areas, so how is it different in the South?

Finally, the issue of health disparities by race and ethnic status continues to bedevil our health care system. Other regions, now even more diverse than the South, also struggle with health disparities, but does the legacy of separate but equal still play out in our perceptions of aging and the availability of health and social services?

I hope we can discuss the issue of the distinctiveness of the South at our annual meeting next month. By doing so, perhaps we can also learn more about the distinctive role that the Southern Gerontological Society plays in understanding aging and the aging network in America. We would be interested on your opinion on this as an SGS member, be you a native Southerner or a d...d Yankee (that is one who came south and stayed). Write and let us know (jcotter@mail2.vcu.edu).

SPOTLIGHT ON RETIREES AND EMERITII

Wiley Mangum, the Senior and Emeriti Representative on the SGS Board, invites attendance at the Senior and Emeriti Reception to be held at 5:15pm – 6:45pm on Thursday night at our Lexington meeting. Come and join the fun!

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

The SGS Student Members on the Board, Johannah L. Uriri, Ph.D., University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, and Jacquelyn J. Lee of University, MS say hello to student members of SGS and welcome all students to the SGS Annual Meeting. The meeting always provides a great opportunity to meet future colleagues, share experiences and enjoy learning (and grousing) with other students in the aging field.

Don't forget the Dine-Arounds with other students on Thursday night at 7:00 pm. Look forward to seeing all students there. This year's conference will be not only educational and productive, but also a time to visit old friends and make new ones.

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION'S GERO-ED CENTER OFFERS A WIDE ARRAY OF RESOURCES

By Jo Ann O'Quin

The Council on Social Work Education Gero-Ed Center (National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education), funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, is part of an exciting initiative to "gerontologize" accredited social work programs throughout the United States. "Gerontologizing" these programs includes embedding gerontological competencies into the foundation curriculum and the overall organizational structure of social work programs. One useful link is to films and videos that provide a description of useful resources for working with older adults. They also publish a newsletter "Aging Times".

The CSWE Gero-Ed Center invites social workers as well as all the gerontology community to visit the website at <http://depts.washington.edu/geroctr/> to find a wealth of resources for academicians, students and practitioners.

For more information contact: Ashley Brooks-Danso, MSW, Co-Director, Gero-Ed Center, National Center for Gerontological Social Work Education, Council on Social Work Education, 1725 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457, Phone: 703-519-2077, Fax: 703-683-8099, Email: abrooks@cswe.org

SGS MEMBER NEWS

Luisa Margolies, Clinical Research Director of the Hip Fracture Research Project of South Florida and a consultant on aging-in-place issues has just published a book, [My Mother's Hip: Lessons from the World of Eldercare](#), available from Temple University Press (April, 2005).

Congressman Sanford Bishop appointed **Kay Hind**, Director of the Sowega Council on Aging in Albany, Georgia, as a delegate the White House Conference on Aging held in October 2005. This was Kay's 4th time as a delegate or official observer at a White House Conference on Aging I have been employed by the as director/executive director since January, 1968.

Angela Redwine officially became a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Kentucky, Graduate Center for Gerontology. Her research will focus on older persons in intensive care units.

Another delegate to the White House Conference on Aging was our former SGS President, **Sue Maxwell**, Gerontology Business Leader, Older Adult Services, Lee memorial Hospital in Ft Myers FL.

Carol A. Roth, LCSW has just won the state election for Chair-Elect for the Society of Social Workers in Health Care (SSWHLC).

Michelle L. Stevenson, PhD, has taken a position as Research Specialist with the Office of Research and Technology Transfer, University of Texas System Administration. Unfortunately, and we hope, temporarily, she is moving out of the aging field and so she has had to resign as the Secretary of SGS. Mickey says, "I have enjoyed working with you [SGS members] in so many capacities and the support and kindness that you have shared will always remain with me. I will continue to admire your professional and physical strengths, although now at a greater geographical distance. The decision to leave gerontology (and the people therein) has been a hard one, but I believe that the career change will lead me to where I should be. I have learned so much from each and every one of you!"

Robert E. Pieroni, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine was recently awarded the first Outstanding Research Mentor Award by the University of Alabama, School of Medicine, Tuscaloosa Program, in appreciation for his many years supporting resident and medical student research.

Roslyn K. Rudolph, M.Ed was appointed by the Mayor and Council of Boca Raton, FL, to the Advisory Board for the Physically and Mentally Challenged. She also earned a Certificate in Gerontology from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL awarded December 9, 2005.

Dr. Gary Mayfield has returned to Mississippi as an Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work at Mississippi College, Clinton MS.

Marilyn Fall M.S., R.N., B.C of Elder Care at Home, Inc. And The Caregivers in Virginia Beach, VA was one of the 2005 Women In Business Achievement Award recipients selected by Inside Business Magazine.

Keith Dooley, M.S., Ph.D.(c) (University of Georgia) will join Murray State University in Kentucky to begin Fall, 2006 as an Assistant Professor in psychology and will be teaching courses in lifespan development and the psychology of aging.

As part of an international collaboration a guidance manual, "Helping Hospice Patients With Their End-of-Life Concerns: A Guide for Hospice Africa-Uganda Health Care Providers", was developed at the request of a hospice social worker and elder law student, Mariam Akiror, at Makerere University, and provides guidance for care in areas where there are very few social workers, physical therapists, or other interdisciplinary hospice workers. It was co-authored by Mariam Akiror (Hospice Uganda), **Jane Roberts** and Nancy Newman (University of S. Florida).

SGS WELCOMES NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Bonnie L. Callen
 DaVette Taylor-Harris
 Cynthia L. Burkhardt
 David A. Chiriboga
 Trena Palmer
 Carl W. Miller
 Judie L. Svihula
 Candace L. Kemp
 Anne P. Glass
 Anna Stillman
 Karon L. Phillips
 Barbara L. Nunley
 Richard J. Burke
 Paul D. Cotton
 Ishan C. Williams
 Jennifer K. Hamrick-King
 Malcolm Cutchin
 Andrea Gubanski
 Cynthia Riffe Hancock
 James V. Vandiver

Cynthia Parker Robertson
 Audrey J. Kemp
 Kimberly Brill
 Raymond M. Beverage
 Brenda Sanders
 Richard Lockner
 Paula Van Buren
 Joann F. Maslin
 Josephine (Dolly) Dessart
 Alicia Webb
 Urrikka Woods
 Mary Katherine Flythe

Katherine L. Jones
 Desiree M. Paulin Seponski
 Barbara Dobrosky
 Faye McHaney
 Nadine T. James
 Corinne Leach
 James Smith
 Sarah Wilson
 Christopher M. Kelly
 Furnell Rife
 R. Turner Goins
 Janice Kuperstein
 Tenzin Wangmo
 Shayna Quilty
 Melissa Snarski
 Phyllis Rogers
 Carolyn Graves Ferguson
 Kellie Marie Visker
 Barbara J. Helm

THE SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2005 AWARDS

to be made at the 27th Anniversary Meeting in Lexington, KY

April 5-8, 2006

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

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 Lora Gage (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!

SGS Contact Information

Lora Gage, SGS Executive Director

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Web address

<http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sgs/>

Office phone and Fax

Office: 941 541-2011

CALENDAR

May 3-7, 2006 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Chicago, IL.

Contact: <http://www.americangeriatrics.org/news/meeting/index.shtml>.

June 15-17, 2006

"Aging and Social Change in Africa," in conjunction with AAGE's Fifth Annual Meeting, presented by The Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University, collaborated with the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology (AAGE). Atlanta, GA. Registration deadline: June 6, 2006. Contact: email abstract to Sharon King at

gervsk@langate.gsu.edu, for more information, visit <http://www.gsu.edu/gerontology>.