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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for electing me to serve as your President. I will do my best to make this a successful year for the Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) and fill the very big shoes vacated by our Immediate Past President, Graham Rowles. We are all indebted to him for his courageous leadership and vision for the future of our beloved organization. He has assured me that he will move forward with vigor to pursue his "expanded horizons" proposals presented at the Annual Business meeting. I have every confidence that the Future Directions Committee will have great success as they pursue the goals articulated within the five themes related to the Philosophy, Organizational Structure, Intra-Regional Collaboration, Role of Students, and Administrative/Fiscal Issues of SGS. I look forward to discussing and implementing the roadmap that he has laid out for us.

I think that we can all concur that the Lexington meeting was a grand success in terms of the quality of sessions and invited presentations included. Although there were many highlights, Graham's address, "Natural Bridges: Toward a Regionally Representative, Responsible and Responsive Gerontology," will be long-remembered. For those of you who couldn't make it to the meeting, you should know that Graham and Pam Teaster put together a stellar line-up of academic, professional, and social opportunities that we can strive to emulate in the coming years. Jan Wassell, the Chair for our 2007 meeting in Greensboro, NC (April 11-14), and I intend to pursue most of the conference tracks that were so helpful in organizing the program in Kentucky. But we will be adding a special track on Business and Aging.

This track will examine the benefits of public-private partnerships in the rise of the 'silver industries' as they are being manifested in what Harry Moody is dubbing the new aging enterprise. The number of jobs in gerontology-related fields will increase by more than 36 percent by 2012, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A key factor in the expected job growth in the field of aging, besides the obvious demographic bulge, is the shift away from viewing employment solely from the illness, disease and research model. According to AARP, while demand will remain high in these areas, a vast opportunity exists for the development and delivery of new products and services to the aging population. This phenomenon is accompanied by unprecedented opportunities for networking across disciplines and professions to build expertise that will serve a burgeoning older population.

The theme for our 2007 meeting, *Improving Elders' Lives: A Collaborative Enterprise*, repeats the mission of SGS, "to improve the lives of older adults in the South," and emphasizes our desire to bridge education, research, and practice by generating, translating, and applying knowledge in the field of aging. When Carol Estes described the "aging enterprise" more than twenty five years ago the concept was cast in a negative light, reflecting the unilateral dependency in later life fostered by the medical-industrial complex. But the "new aging enterprise" connotes a purposeful, industrious undertaking that demands a certain willingness to boldly pursue new ventures and initiatives. The very fabric of our society is being affected by the transition towards an older and smaller working-age population, the rising cost of pensions and health care, and a host of other changes that are now emerging. It will take all of us working together to ensure an improved quality of life for older adults in the future. And SGS can participate in this collaborative enterprise by accelerating the process of getting information from the hands of researchers and academicians into the hands of practitioners for practical application.

I hope you will consider the theme (*Improving Elders' Lives: A Collaborative Enterprise*) as you anticipate your presentation at our next meeting in April. Think about how your work brings compassion and commitment to the solutions needed as we embark upon the collaborative enterprises that will address the problems emerging in our rapidly aging world. I look forward to seeing you all in Greensboro, NC next April 11th -14th.

-- Constance L. Coogle, PhD, President

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A Successful 27th Annual Meeting

Our 27th Annual meeting, “Natural Bridges: Preparing for an Aging South” was quite a success. The scientific and applied sessions were excellent, the networking fun and effective, and our President Graham Rowles unveiled a vision for the Society that was embraced by all. Most importantly, in the SGS tradition, we had lots of fun.

This year’s meeting focused on several themes including Elder Preparedness, Successful Aging, Human Rights And Aging, Serving Elders In Rural Environments, Aging And Public Health, and Sustaining Gerontology Through Education. There were also special sessions on validation therapy, and the partnership of public health and aging, and disaster preparedness (or lack thereof).

One hundred and fifty colleagues participated in the meeting. Altogether, our 27th Annual Meeting included 27 sessions over the 2 ½ days. There were 41 papers presented, 26 posters and 8 roundtables.

Congratulations to Graham and to Pam Teaster, Robynn Pease, and Diana Lockridge and all their helpers and volunteers from the University of Kentucky for organizing and planning the meeting. And, of course, a thanks to Lora Gage, our SGS Administrator, for her organization and support all year long but especially at the conference. Thank you to those of you who joined us in Lexington and participated in the sessions and contributed to the success of the recreational and social events. And for all of you who enjoyed your trip to the horse races in Keeneland, just remember – 10% of your winnings comes back to SGS – just kidding. We truly enjoyed the Bluegrass State and the charm of Lexington, Kentucky.

The 27th Annual Meeting also continued to support the financial health of the Society. Members of the Board of Directors are working to increase and retain membership and to garner new partnerships and support for next year’s meeting. We look forward to our 28th Annual Meeting in Greensboro under the leadership of Connie Coogle, our current President, and Jan Wassell, Program Chair and organizer extraordinaire. See you there!

SGS 2006 Awards

Submitted by Dick Tucker, PhD

2006 Best Practices Award: “Neighbors Growing Together” Intergenerational programs at Virginia Tech.

The Best Practices Award was established in 1997 to recognize programs that demonstrate an innovative and creative linkage with the aging services network. This year's awardee is recognized for a unique intergenerational program that combines Adult Day Services and the Child Development Center for Learning and Research at Virginia Tech. It is the only university-based shared site intergenerational program in the country. Both undergraduate and graduate students receive intergenerational cross-training about developmental characteristics and the process of linking the two generations. The program includes use of Montessori-based programming, a literature project to share stories with positive images of older adults, and special summer intergenerational programming for children, their parents and the Adult Day Care clients. The program and the research outcomes have been widely disseminated at professional meetings, including SGS, and the educational materials have been distributed to intergenerational scholars and practitioners.

2006 Print Media Award: Video/CD “Neighbors Growing Together” Producer: Erica Husser, Graduate student in Human Development and the Gerontology Certificate Program at Virginia Tech

This award actually goes hand-in-hand with the Best Practices Award which has just been recognized. When you have developed a “best practice”, it is important to make sure that it is as widely disseminated as possible. This is often done through print media. In this case, an ambitious 9 minute informational video/CD allowed viewers to witness intergenerational programming at the Virginia Tech “Neighbors Growing Together” program. It is a powerful method of quickly explaining the benefits, challenges and the research opportunities for this unique program. Producing something of that magnitude requires a very special “producer” who oversees the script, training and interviewing, filming, narrating and the final editing.

2006 Applied Gerontologist Award: Dr. E. Douglas Beach

The Applied Gerontologist Award is given annually to an SGS member who has a sustained record of leadership in the field of aging including innovative programs that link research and practice, all of which have clear impact on the quality of life of older persons. This year's recipient was initially trained as an economist and has his doctorate from N.C. State University. He served as the Assistant Director of the Ohio Dept. of Aging for three years.

He then served for two years as a Senior Legislative Staff Economist for Ohio Representative Hobson, focusing on Health and Aging issues. In 1999 he was named Executive Director (and then CEO) of the Senior Resource Alliance, the Area Agency of Aging of Central Florida. In addition to the traditional services of an AAA, innovative programs were added in Elder Wellness, Mental Health, Lifelong Learning, Driver Assessment, Culture Change in long term care, a cooperative HUD housing program, the state's first Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, and a pilot program in client choice for managed long term care. He took a major leadership role with the Delta Leadership Council in Central Florida which led to the introduction of a 211 system. He is President-elect of the Florida Council on Aging, and the Florida 4A, and served last year as President of SGS.

***2006 Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award:
Dr. Wilson Wong***

The Rhoda Jennings Older Advocate Award is being presented to an active member of SGS whose advocacy on behalf of elders has enriched the lives of older adults in Kentucky. Our awardee retired from a long career with IBM in 1993 and returned to Lexington to "retire". Instead, his "retirement" turned into "refirement". He enrolled in the Donovan Scholars lifelong learning program at the University of Kentucky and went on to complete the graduate certificate in gerontology. He was proud to add this hard-earned degree to his Ph.D. in Psychology from the Univ. of Southern California. He immediately put his new gerontology background to work as a volunteer legislative aide for the Kentucky legislature and worked for the head of the House Health Committee, something he continued for multiple terms and he continues to advise the committee. He has been an instructor for the Senior Net program and an active member of SCORE, the Senior Core of Retired Executives, advising small business owners.

***2006 Gordon Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award:
Dr. Ed Rosenberg***

This award is presented to an SGS member at an academic institution who has a record of teaching and scholarly activities that have contributed to the quality of life of older people, and who has made significant contributions to SGS. This year's awardee received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Southern California. He is Professor of Sociology and Social Work at Appalachian State University where he has been since 1991. He served initially as the Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology and since 2002 as Director of the Graduate Program in Gerontology. Last year, he served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Angers in France, teaching in three different departments. His research has covered a range of topics, including professional athletic retirement, mental health and elder substance abuse, volunteerism, aging inmates and cross-cultural perspectives on lifelong learning. He has been a regular presenter at international, national and regional meetings, including SGS. He is on the editorial board of several gerontological journals, including the Journal of Applied Gerontology. He has been an active member of AGHE. He has been very involved with SGS for over 10 years, much of that time chairing the By-Laws Committee and currently serving on the Board of Directors. He has been a valued mentor to his students, going out of his way to assure that they are successful in the program and meet their career goals.

2006 SGS Student Paper Awards

At the 27th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society, held in Lexington, KY three students were recognized for their outstanding contributions. The Student Paper Awards were established to nurture the future of our profession. They are presented to students who are enrolled in academic programs with an emphasis in gerontology who are first or sole author of a presentation at the meeting and who submit their full manuscripts for review.

First place award (\$250): LaVona Traywick, doctoral student in Aging at the University of Kentucky (Advisor: Nancy Schoenberg), for “Exercise Definitions and Determinants of Women Who Have Survived a Heart Attack”. This qualitative study examined the association between women’s attitudes towards exercise and their behavior.

Second place award –(\$150): Mary Katherine (Katie) Flythe, Appalachian State University (Advisor: Ed Rosenberg, PhD) for “Seeking a Gerontopia in Dementia Care: An Assessment of Environmental Design in Special Care Units”. This study found that a homelike ambiance, orientation cues, and exit disguise were among the most important design elements to contribute to supportive and stimulating dementia care facilities.

Third place award (\$100): Joshua Byrd, a Public Administration Masters student with Certificates in Health Care Administration and Gerontology at West Virginia University (Advisor: Turner Goins, PhD), for “Rural and Urban Caregivers: More Similar than Different.” This interesting study involved a random digit telephone survey of about 400 West Virginian caregivers and found that while medical conditions varied by place of residence (metropolitan/rural), there were no differences in caregiver burden or depressive symptomatology.

Open Letter to Retired SGS Members:

I'm sorry that my wife and I were unable to attend the SGS Retirees' Reception at the last SGS meeting in Lexington but we drove to the meeting from our home in Sun City Center, Florida and just didn't get to the meeting in time for the reception. We'll try to make it up to you, though, at the next GSA meeting in Dallas, where SGS should be well represented. We're planning to host a reception for SGS retirees who will be attending the GSA meeting and, in the spirit of collegiality, we'd also like to invite retired members of GSA to attend. Considering that there should be some overlap between these two groups, we should have plenty of room for everyone and we should have a good time by gorging ourselves on some first-rate wine and cheese and regaling one another with post-retirement war stories. Hope to see you in Dallas.

Submitted by Wiley Mangum, Chair, SGS Retired Members Committee

A special "THANK YOU"

to all our sponsors, exhibitors, advertisers, and donors! Without your contributions the 27th Annual Meeting the Southern Gerontological Society could not have achieved its success. SGS would also like to extend our gratitude to Graham Rowles, President; Pam Teaster, Program Chair; members of the program committee; and members of the aging network in Kentucky for their help in organizing and executing a successful meeting.

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

SGS Annual Conference & Meeting: Leadership & Professional Networking

Publications: The Journal of Applied Gerontology, The Southern Gerontologist Newsletter, The SGS Membership Directory

Student privileges: Membership discount, Conference registration discount, Networking & Leadership opportunities

For more information contact **Lora Gage**. 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!

Welcome to New Members

Jenny McNeill - NC
Diana Mathis - KY
Sara Haviland - NC
Jennifer Stallard - GA

Riesa Gusewelle - AR
Mary Ligon - VA
Rene McEldowney - AL
Debra Moser - KY

Frances Staten - LA
Tammy Ziemba - GA
Patricia Mendenhall - NC

SGS Member News

The Hanley Center, West Palm Beach, Florida, honored **Carol Colleran**, its executive vice president with the first Hanley Hero Award. Terry Allen, Hanley Center CEO, bestowed the award during the second annual National Aging and Addiction Conference (NAAC), on April 29 at the Marriott West Palm Beach.

Richard (Dick) Tucker is now retired and a "Professor Emeritus of Psychology". But retirement seems to mean not much idle time. He has been named to the Board of Directors of the new "Life Fulfilling Community", a CCRC affiliated with the University of Central Florida. He will also continue to serve as the "UCF Liaison" for the Learning Institute for Elders (LIFE) at UCF, Finally, he'll be an "emeritus mentor" to develop the Graduate Certificate in Aging Studies as an on-line program.

Karen A. Roberto, Professor and Director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech received the 2006 University Alumni Award for Excellence in Research.

The second edition of Retirement Migration in America by **Charles F. Longino, Jr.**, Wake Forest Professor of Sociology came out this summer.

Bonita L. Marks, Ph.D. and Associate Professor of Exercise Physiology at UNC-Chapel Hill, was a recipient of the 'AFAR-NYAS-GE Healthcare Neuroimaging Prize for Junior Investigators' for her research presentation entitled "The Role of Aerobic Fitness and Aging on Cerebral White Matter Integrity" at the New York Academy of Science "Imaging and the Aging Brain" Conference, May 16-17, 2006 in New York City at NYU.

Angela Redwine, Doctoral Candidate, Graduate Center for Gerontology, University of Kentucky has had a poster, "Functional Dynamics and Relocation: Change Over Time in Older Intensive Care Unit Patients", accepted for presentation at the Kentucky Rural Health Association July 2006 Conference.

Ayn Welleford has been appointed to the position of Chair of the Department of Gerontology in the School of Allied Health Professions, Virginia Commonwealth University.

CALENDAR

For those of you interested in upcoming conferences, check out the Gerontological Society of America's listing at <http://www.geron.org/USCalendar.htm>. Here's a listing of a few of the more general conferences coming up.

July 17, 2006

July 17, 2-3:30p.m. Eastern Time will be the last in the series of four free cybercasts on "Improving End of Life Care." It will focus on "Communicating Effectively and Interacting with People with Alzheimer's Disease" by James Ellor, Ph.D, D.Min, DCSW, Director, Institute of Gerontological Studies, Baylor University, Waco, TX. Contact Rita.chow@ncoa.org director, National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, National Council on Aging, Washington DC.

September 12-14, 2006

Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

"Innovations in Health Promotion", New Avenues for Collaboration, CDC's 2006 National Health Promotion Conference. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/cochp/conference>.

October 27-28, 2006

The Renaissance Tampa Hotel International Plaza in Tampa, Tampa, FL

"Building Bridges: Interdisciplinary Paths to Palliative & End-of-Life Care for People with Diverse Conditions (Cancer, Dementia, and Heart Disease)", sponsored by The Center for Hospice, Palliative Care, and End-of-Life Studies at the University of South Florida. For more information, contact Nancy Hallford at (813) 974-9808 or <mailto:nhallfor@cas.usf.edu> or visit <http://www.eolcenter.usf.edu/>.

November 16-20, 2006

Dallas, TX

59th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Gerontological Society of America.

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