



SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

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

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

SGS is moving forward in exciting new directions, thanks to Graham Rowles's efforts to establish a solid foundation for invigorating change at our last annual meeting. We both intend to keep the momentum going through the Future Directions Committee (Council of Presidents). We will soon begin drafting a strategic plan and timeline for pursuing the *Expanded Horizons* proposals he put forth at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Lexington (See p. 3). Now it's time to develop a roadmap to implement those ideas.

Our 2007 Annual Meeting, April 11-14, 2007, with its theme, *Improving Elders' Lives: A Collaborative Enterprise*, will be great. The Call for Abstracts will be issued shortly along with the brochure about the conference sponsor and exhibitor opportunities. Please consider sponsoring a session or exhibiting information about your program or service. I hope you will consider submitting an abstract. We are particularly interested in contributions that focus on the conference theme or one of the conference tracks:

- *Communities Responding to an Aging Society*
- *Aging Means Business*
- *Public Policy and Social Justice*
- *Serving Elders in Rural Environments*
- *Sustaining Gerontology through Education*

Our meeting this year will be enriched by a link with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's (UNCG) 2nd Aging is Good Business one day summit at the UNCG campus. Because Jan had such a successful conference last year, we decided to schedule it this year on SGS's pre-conference day (April 11). The summit will bring together practicing professionals and academicians in the field of aging with business men and women who are engaged in the expanding aging marketplace. This is a wonderful addition to our meeting and will continue in one of our conference tracks. Don't miss it!

-- Constance L. Coogle, PhD, President

What a Great Meeting It Will Be: SGS – Greensboro -- 2007

Submitted by Janice I. Wassel, Program Chair

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is busily working to make the 2007 Southern Gerontology Society meeting a rewarding experience for all those who attend. Our program tracks

- *Communities Responding to an Aging Society*
- *Aging Means Business*
- *Public Policy and Social Justice*
- *Serving Elders in Rural Environments*
- *Sustaining Gerontology through Education*

are designed to support the conference's theme, *Improving Elders' Lives: A Collaborative Enterprise*. Indeed, the 2007 SGS conference is a collaborative enterprise itself in bringing together the community, state and local agencies, and the universities in preparing for your visit to Greensboro. Ann Johnson, a longtime activist and untiring advocate for aging issues, will open the conference and challenge us to continue to learn, work and serve the needs of the older adult when she addresses the conference on Wednesday evening. (More on Ms. Johnson <http://www.aging.unc.edu/news/2004/MoreAboutAnn.doc>). Dr. Greg O'Neill from the National Academy on an Aging Society will speak on the needed linkages between the business community and civic engagement in an older America (<http://www.agingsociety.org/agingsociety/index.html>).

The UNCG Gerontology Program and the Bryan School of Business's 2nd Annual "Aging is Good Business Summit: Residential Choices and the Boomer's Coming of Age" is Wednesday, April 11, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. UNCG invites SGS members to attend the summit for a discounted rate. Details are available at www.agingisgoodbusiness.com or www.uncg.edu/gro. The summit brings together business professionals and academicians in the field of aging to provide critical information necessary to be competitive in creating and adapting projects and services for aging consumers and their aging families. The 2007 summit provides a breath of information on "new residential options" available for the older adult. Kicking off the summit is Matt Thorhill of the Boomer Project who will provide research based marketing knowledge for targeting and working with older adults (<http://www.boomerproject.com/index.html>). The luncheon key-note speaker, Dr. Lois A. Vitt, the Institute for Socio-Financial Studies Founding Director will prepare attendees to understand the real estate market needs to adjust for the boomers aging (<http://www.isfs.org/about.html>)

For those interested in updating their resume and learning about new career options in the field of aging we have a new addition to the SGS conference - - an opportunity to work with a career coach - so bring your resume and questions to the conference! And for pleasure, we have arranged tours to two unique businesses in the area. A must see, Replacements Limited (<http://www.replacements.com>) has the world's largest selection of old & new dinnerware, including china, stoneware, crystal, glassware, silvers and collectibles. Their 300,000 square foot facility (the size of five football fields!) houses an incredible inventory of 10 million pieces in 200,000 patterns, some over 100 years old! The second must see is Furnitureland South, the world's largest furniture showroom with over 1 million feet and an 85 foot highboy (<http://www.furniturelandsouth.com>)

As you can see, the UNCG Gerontology Program and the North Carolina SGS members expect to keep you busy when you join the other SGS members in Greensboro, April 11 – 14, 2007. We look forward to seeing you!

--- Janice I. Wassel, Program Chair

SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY “EXPANDED HORIZONS”

The following proposals, representing suggestions of the Futures Committee together with extensive consultations with SGS members and outside constituencies, were approved unanimously by the SGS Board of Directors.

A. Overall Philosophy

Proposal 1—that SGS maintain and strengthen its focus on involving academics and service professionals/policy makers in an organization spanning and seeking to facilitate communication and natural bridges between theoretical and applied aspects of gerontology.

Proposal 2—that SGS provide thematic foci and conference tracks at its annual professional meeting that relate to specific issues of relevance to aging and gerontology in the South (e.g. rural poverty, disaster response etc.) and that extend over several annual meetings.

Proposal 3—that SGS significantly increase its focus on responsible advocacy and activism in addressing gerontology-related issues of particular relevance in the South.

Proposal 4—that SGS follow the lead of other organizations and develop a listing of imperatives for the next decade that reflect clear goals with respect to research, education, service delivery, public service, public policy and social justice.

B. Organizational Structure

Proposal 1—that SGS maintain its organizational and administrative independence but explore the development of partnerships and affiliations with compatible regional organizations with an applied emphasis such as the SE4A.

Proposal 2—that SGS be proactive in developing strategies to involve members of the Baby-Boom generation as they retire in initiatives that utilize the skills and capabilities of this population and make them an integral part of a redefined and expanded organization.

C. Intraregional Collaboration

Proposal 1—that SGS develop a set of research priorities pertinent to aging and gerontology in the South and serve as a focal point for developing both funded and unfunded multi-state research initiatives and task forces to address these priorities.

Proposal 2—that SGS schedule its meetings in alignment with regional and state organizations and that the annual meeting be scheduled several years in advance to facilitate this process.

Proposal 3—that SGS acknowledge that practitioners are more likely to attend SGS meetings when they are in their own state or an adjacent state and focus on attracting such “local” practitioners from these states to the annual meeting.

D. Role of Students

Proposal 1—that SGS establish the recruitment of students (the future of the organization)

into the organization as a high and explicit priority and provide additional student activities at its annual conferences.

Proposal 2—that SGS collaborate with and support student-related organizations and activities within the region including the annual Southeastern Student Gerontology and Geriatrics Conference.

E. Administrative and Fiscal Issues

Proposal 1—that SGS formally adopt the appointment of State Representatives (with responsibilities for within state membership recruitment and local initiatives) in each of the 13 states and the District of Columbia that constitute SGS.

Proposal 2—that SGS amend its *Administrative Support Services Agreement* with the SGS Administrator to include clerical coordination of the activities of state representatives, maintenance of historical records, and work with committee chairs in the preparation of materials as they work on initiatives in support of the expanded vision of the organization.

Proposal 3—that SGS appoint a standing Development Committee to focus on creating reliable streams of funding (potentially including but not limited to grants, gifts, endowments and planned giving) to support the organization and its initiatives.

Proposal 4—that the President and Board of SGS create a Futures Committee to translate each of these proposals into strategies with specific target dates for completion of short term (2006-2007), medium range (2008-2010), and long-term ongoing goals.

Keep Up the Great Katrina Support: “Thanks, Ya’ll”

-- Jo Ann O’Quin, Oxford, MS, joquin@olemiss.edu

So many of you from the SGS family generously gave of your resources last year to those affected by Katrina. As we acknowledged recently the one year anniversary, I had the privilege to visit with my good friend, Dr. (Rev.) Jane Stanley from Gulfport. (We met through Dr. John Lovitt, Institute on Aging at MSU years ago). Jane updated me on the day-to-day life of so many less fortunate individuals whom she assists through “The Nourishing Place,” a non-profit organization she started with the help of family and her long-time associate, Dr. Gail Cotton. These are remarkable women, both “older adults” themselves, doing amazing work with and for families and older adults on the coast. They survived the storm, sheltering many older adults in Jane’s flooded house, including one couple both in their 80s who have just moved out to a small house after losing everything. Gail Cotton in fact lost her house and, at 81, is actively rebuilding with her own hands, while working tirelessly to provide basic resources to others--often driving the 6 hours north to Oxford to get supplies and donations. It is so inspirational to know these spirited, intelligent, and most resourceful women. I asked what was needed most, and there is still an enormous need for money as well as donations of all kinds. They use their funds to buy Wal-Mart cards, food, clothing, diapers, etc. for those in dire need. All the funds are used for direct support and are tax deductible. Our family has pledged an annual contribution to The Nourishing Place on the anniversary of Katrina...I would encourage you to spread the word that continued support for organizations such as this is so very much needed and appreciated by those on the Gulf Coast. In fact, if you come to Mississippi you will see billboards that read “Thanks, Ya’ll.” For those of you who can continue to help, let me say “Thanks, Ya’ll” as well.

You can contact Dr. Jane Stanley at the **The Nourishing Place**, PO Box 7785, Gulfport, MS 39506.

**SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
2006-2007**

PRESIDENT: Constance L. Coogle, Ph.D, Virginia Commonwealth University – VA Center on Aging, Richmond, VA

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Frank Whittington, Ph.D., Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

SECRETARY: Christine J. Jensen, Ph.D., College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

TREASURER: J. James Cotter, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

PAST PRESIDENT: Graham Rowles, Ph.D., University of Kentucky – Gerontology, Lexington, KY

DIRECTORS:

E. Douglas Beach, Ph.D., Senior Resource Alliance, Orlando, FL

Larry Dupree, Ph.D., USF/FMHI Dept. of Aging & Mental Health, Tampa, FL

Bill Massey, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Inc., Newport News, VA

Jim Mitchell, Ph.D. Center on Aging, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

E. Ayn Welleford, Ph.D., Dept. of Gerontology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Maureen Kelly, West FL Area Agency on Aging, Tampa, FL

Jacquelyn W. McClelland, Ph.D. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

Dean R. Burgess, Northwest Piedmont Council of Governments, Winston-Salem, NC

Janice I. Wassel, Gerontology Program, UNC – Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

Richard Tucker, Ph.D., University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

Wiley Mangum, Ph.D., Sun City Center, FL

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jacquelyn J. Lee, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

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The Surprises of Aging Services in the South

In a previous issue, I asked whether aging in the South was any different from aging anywhere else in America. Graham Rowles, our immediate Past President, was thinking along similar lines and he spoke so eloquently at our 2006 meeting about the distinctiveness of aging in the south and of the unique role played by the Southern Gerontological Society.

Today I'd like to talk about what impresses me about aging in the South. I have worked in aging related programs in the South for 21 years now and let me tell you what has surprised this Yankee boy the most.

First, the ability of the aging network in the South to do more with less. Trust me, we work with considerably fewer resources in public programs in the south than in the north. This is especially true of the rural south. I remember asking Marilyn Pace Maxwell, the Executive Director of Mountain Empire Older Citizens, the Area Agency on Aging in the westernmost, mountainous part of Virginia, why there was such collaboration in her area between Departments of Social Services, Health, the AAA, and other entities. And she said something like, "Jim, we don't have enough resources to fight over. We have to work together to figure out ways to leverage them." I think people in the aging network in the south have learned to be creative and persevering in obtaining funds from all sorts of sources to create better programs to serve older persons.

Second, the commitment of everyone, but especially front line workers, to serve older people. It's the van drivers and volunteers on home-delivered meals routes, parish nurses, information and referral resource specialists, cooks who work in senior centers, and, most especially, the direct care aides in home care programs, adult day services, assisted living, and nursing homes who make aging services in the south. Isn't it surprising how much these people give for so little recompense. And if you ask, they'll tell you it's not surprising at all because it's not about them.

Third, the warmth of welcome, even to Yankees like me. We've had a huge influx into the south of northerners fleeing the winter and other cold things of the north. Many of us are in aging services. The southern aging network has welcomed all who come and who are willing to work hard on behalf of older persons. The Southern Gerontological Society epitomizes that value of welcome to new members. It's a big tent, c'mon in, the food is good.

And that thought takes me back to when I had just arrived in Richmond. As the new Director for Programs for the Virginia Department for Aging, I had the opportunity to visit the programs of Mountain Empire Older Citizens. I started out with one of their outreach workers who, at the crack of dawn, literally, drove me over dark mountain roads to deliver me to a van driver who would show me their transportation services. He whisked me off before breakfast and I must admit I was getting a little cranky without the comforts of home. Finally, we pulled up to the home of the driver and I saw the transportation van in the driveway. We came around the back of the house and on to the porch. Off to my right the sun was just popping up over the mountain and burning away the fog. On the porch, the driver had laid out a scrumptious breakfast of eggs and grits and ham biscuits and all the trimmings for us. So that's what aging in the south is to me: the darkness of the mountains kept at bay and warmth of gifts of welcome and nurturance.

-- J. James Cotter, PhD

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

SGS Annual Conference & Meeting: Leadership & Professional Networking; Continuing Education

Publications: The Journal of Applied Gerontology, The Southern Gerontologist Newsletter

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

Carolyn Graves Ferguson - VA
R. Turner Goins - WV

Jewish Family & Childrens Svcs. of Sarasota - FL

Carole Beere - KY
Emily Bower - WV

SGS Member News

Corinne Leach received an R36 AHRQ Health Services Dissertation Grant for her dissertation: Development of Breast Cancer Beliefs Across the Life Course Among Older Appalachian Women.

Angela Redwine had an updated version of her poster "Functional Dynamics and Relocation: Change Over Time in Older Intensive Care Unit Patients" accepted for presentation at the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's Conference to be held in Gatlinburg Tennessee November 15 - 17, 2006.

Cynthia S. Reeser, MS, LPC was honored in May as the Distinguished Graduate Student in the Department of Family Studies at the University of Kentucky. Ms. Reeser is collaborating with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government on a mixed method study of successful aging.

Carol A. Roth, LCSW has been elected as President-Elect for the Society of Social Work in Leadership for Health Care.

Turner Goins, PhD and John Krout, PhD have brought out a new book: Goins, R. T., & Krout, J. A.

(Eds.). (2006). *Service delivery to rural older adults: Research, policy, and practice*. New York: Springer.

Janet Witucki Brown, PhD, RN will be presenting a paper (co-authored with Dr. Shu-li Chen) on *Elder women's decisions to enter assisted living facilities: A grounded theory study* at the International Council on Women's Health Issues in Australia in November.

Jodi Teitelman, PhD, along with her colleague, Al Copolillo, PhD received the Cordelia Myers Writers Award from the American Occupational Therapy Association . The award was given for articles published in *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy (AJOT)* on older adults with vision loss. However, Jodi's biggest accomplishment this year was making it up the steps of the Potala Palace in Lhasa in Tibet after a night of really bad altitude sickness.

Aging Resources

The National Diabetes Education Program: Diabetes is a serious chronic disease that can be managed through lifestyle changes and medication. Nearly 21 million Americans have diabetes, and at least 54 million people over age 20 have pre-diabetes. Whether you just found out you have diabetes or have been dealing with it for years, you can control your diabetes and live a long, active life. If you are at risk or have pre-diabetes, you can take steps to prevent the disease. The National Diabetes Education Program is a partnership of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and more than 200 public and private organizations. This is a great resource for health professionals working with older persons. We encourage you to visit their website (<http://www.ndep.nih.gov/index.htm>) and avail yourself of the tremendous amounts of information there.
-- the Editors

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.

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.

geron@geron.org

December 5-6, 2006

Washington, DC. "Choices for Independence: National Leadership Summit", held by the U.S. Administration on Aging. For more information, please visit AoA's Web site at www.aoa.gov.

April 11 – 14, 2007

Greensboro, NC. 27th Annual Meeting of the Southern Gerontological Society, for further info see <http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sgs/>

June 16-19, 2007

Toronto, Canada. "Growing Older with a Disability". Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology.

Social Forces: Call for Papers on Age Discrimination

Social Forces seeks papers for a special section on the sociology of age discrimination. Original papers are invited for consideration that address age discrimination and related phenomena across the life course and in a range of social contexts. Papers might focus on the social processes, institutions and structures that cause or constitute age discrimination, or on social psychological and other consequences of age discrimination. Age discrimination is behavior and hence can be distinguished from ageist attitudes, but papers that analyze the relationship between ageist attitudes and age discrimination will be welcome. We are interested in papers dealing with age discrimination in societies other than the United States and papers that analyze the intersection of age discrimination and other forms of discrimination based on gender, race and class. Papers that make a theoretical contribution in this area will be particularly welcomed, as will empirical papers based on any sound methodological approach.

The special section will be edited by Victor W. Marshall, Department of Sociology, UNC at Chapel Hill and Director of the UNC Institute on Aging. Papers will be reviewed by the section editor, the *Social Forces* editor and at least one blind reviewer.

The deadline for submitting papers is March 1, 2007. Manuscripts should be limited to 5,000-9,000 words including references and endnotes and should be e-mailed as a Microsoft Word attachment to Social_Forces@unc.edu. Any tables or figures must be editable in Microsoft Word or Excel. Do not use any automatic formatting feature. Submission fees for this section are waived. *It is essential that you note that the submission is for the special section on age discrimination.*

Inquiries about the review process or about a particular manuscript should be directed to Victor Marshall at victor_marshall@unc.edu, or (919) 843-8067.

CALL FOR EDITOR
Journal of Applied Gerontology

The Southern Gerontological Society is inviting applications for the position of Editor of the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. The incumbent will succeed Dr. Jim Mitchell, who will be retiring from the editorship of the Journal in 2007.

Selection Criteria for the position include:

- Experience as a journal editor or editorial board experience
- A publishing record that includes publications in refereed journals
- A history of involvement in research involving applied gerontology
- An understanding of and commitment to the mission and strategic plan of the journal.

The Editor tenure is three years. The Editor reports to the Publications Committee of the Society. The editor is responsible for soliciting manuscripts and managing the peer review process for the Journal. Further Information is available from the Publications Committee Chairperson, Dr. Victor Marshall (contact information provided below).

For an Applicant to be considered, the following materials must be provided:

- A current vita, dated and signed
- A complete list of the applicant's publications and reprints or photocopies of no more than three of the applicant's most significant journal articles
- A brief statement from the applicant discussing manuscript recruitment strategy and the editorial direction of *Journal of Applied Gerontology*
- A statement from an administrator of the applicant's institution or organization describing support for the appointment (if applicable)

Nominations, suggestions, and direct applications are sought. Please send applications no later than October 31, 2006 to:

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