



# SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

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

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## **President's Message**

Dear Colleagues,

We have been busy lately attending to the business of your SGS. The Board of Directors met via a full conference call in November, and later that month Graham Rowles convened the Future Directions Committee at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Dallas (see the President's Bulletin for details regarding the Board and Committee meetings). SGS had an ad in the GSA Program book inviting abstracts for our annual meeting in Greensboro (NC), *Improving Elders' Lives: A Collaborative Enterprise* (April 11-14). SGS's Program Chair, Jan Wassel, and I also distributed flyers to encourage the involvement of our colleagues. I hope you all have been similarly promoting our April meeting among your associates. We count on the membership to regularly communicate the expectation within their professional circles that the annual meeting will be widely attended each year. Each of you is an ambassador for the organization after all, and it is your good will and sincere efforts that will keep SGS growing and strong.

The Call for Presentations was distributed to more than 5000 persons, so we should have a robust response. You don't want to miss the meeting this year. The Marriott Greensboro Downtown hotel is the ideal location for our meeting, and *Jan got us the preferred conference hotel rate of \$99*. Greensboro is rich with history. If your children happen to be on Spring Break at the time, plan your vacation around the SGS meeting and you all will have a memorable experience. In addition, the Local Arrangements Chair, James Peacock, will be making sure that conference participants can take advantage of arranged tours to Replacements Ltd. And Furnitureland South after the concluding conference Brunch on Saturday. Jan has engaged some exciting invited speakers, and is also working on plans for an inaugural job fair, complete with a career consultant. This should be especially appealing to students, and Jan is maintaining our usual practice of subsidizing student registration fees through the use of volunteers. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should contact Lora Gage for more information (239/ 541-2011; [Lgage4SGS@aol.com](mailto:Lgage4SGS@aol.com)). Students are the future of SGS and we have a re-energized commitment to enhancing their role in the Society as a high and explicit priority. I think this will be evident when I see you all in the New Year at Greensboro.

Constance L. Coogle, SGS President

## ***An Annual Meeting Plus: “Aging is Good Business” Pre-conference***

Not only do we have a tremendous Annual SGS meeting coming up, but SGS members are also invited to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ‘Aging is Good Business’ Summit, April 11, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at UNCG. The topic is “Innovative Choices for Residential Living Styles of Boomers Coming of Age”. As with other life choices, the Boomers will demand and desire housing and living models that differ from past generations. Prepare for the creative future life styles older adults by joining professionals in gerontology, lifestyle product design, housing, furnishings, interior design, building, human resources, marketing, health and eldercare, city/county planning and service professionals at the summit in widening your knowledge for growth and adaptability in the new market place at the summit. We hope all SGS members, sponsors, and exhibitors will attend this pre-conference summit.

Anyone who registers, sponsors or exhibits at *both* SGS annual meeting and the Aging is Good Business Summit will receive a **10% rebate** on Aging is Good Business Summit fees. For information and registration forms, go to [www.uncg.edu/gro](http://www.uncg.edu/gro) . Conference hotel rates of \$99.00 per night at the Greensboro Downtown Marriott apply for those attending the summit for Tuesday night. Call 336.379.8000 to make your reservations and ask for the SGS conference rate by March 15, 2007.

As you enter dates in your 2007 date book, don’t forget these important dates connected to the **SGS 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**:

- January 10, 2007 – Deadline for Call for Papers
- March 15, 2007 – Deadline for Early Registration
- **April 11-14, 2007 – SGS in Greensboro, NC**

While we have received a number of excellent abstracts, we are looking forward to the final submissions that will round out what is shaping up to be an excellent program. SGS continues to lead the South as an organization that supports service professionals, research and students. The support of SGS members in submitting, presenting and attending the annual conference is critical to the success of SGS as an organization. For information on abstract submission and other meeting details go to <http://www.wfu.edu/gerontology/sqs/> . Conference hotel rates are \$99.00 per night at the Greensboro Downtown Marriott. Call 336.379.8000 to make your reservations and ask for the SGS conference rate by March 15, 2007. Join us and the other SGS members in Greensboro, April 11 – 14, 2007. We look forward to seeing you!

--- Janice I. Wassel, Program Chair

NOTE: The abstract submission deadline for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting has been extended to January 10, 2007. To access a copy of the Call for Presentations please visit the SGS website: [www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sqs](http://www.wfu.edu/academics/gerontology/sqs) .

## ***SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY*** ***Annual Awards***

The Board of Directors Issues An Invitation for 2007 Awards Nominations. Presentations will be made at the 28th Annual Meeting at the Marriott Greensboro Downtown -- Greensboro, NC on April 11 - 14, 2007. The **deadline for submission of nominations is February 15, 2007**

### **GENERAL CRITERIA**

Must be completed for all nominations

- ◆ Nominees for the Academic Gerontologist and Applied Gerontologist must be a member of SGS.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated evidence of significant service to SGS.
- ◆ Nominee must have demonstrated evidence of significant contribution to the field of aging and the development of gerontology in the South.
- ◆ Three letters of support must be provided.

### **SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

Complete for the particular award for which the person has been nominated

#### **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

### **Media Award**

- ◆ Any media is eligible for the award, although their contribution should be to further understanding of aging in the region.
- ◆ The product may be a single effort or part of a continuing series
- ◆ The media product should have been produced since January, 2005
- ◆ The nomination must indicate how the media product contributes to the mission of SGS.
- ◆ Three copies of the media product should be submitted with the application. If the product is available on-line, the URL should be provided

## **Proposed SGS Bylaws Change: Term of appointment for Journal of Applied Gerontology editor**

The Bylaws Committee submitted a report to the Board for its November meeting. The result is that there is only one item to be voted on at the 2007 SGS Business Meeting.

Bylaws Article IX, Section X states the Journal of Applied Gerontology editor and the Southern Gerontologist editor shall serve three-year renewable terms. The SGS Board of Directors proposes to replace "Both editors shall serve three-year renewable terms" with "The Southern Gerontologist editor shall serve a three-year renewable term. The Journal of Applied Gerontology editor shall serve a three-year term with the option of renewal for one, two or three years."

The Board's rationale is that the JAG editorship is not only a major time commitment, but also often includes a commitment of resources by the editor's institution. The proposed change will allow greater flexibility for both the editor and the editor's institution: rather than being forced to commit time and resources for a second three-year term, they will be able to opt for a shorter renewal term if desired.

The Board hereby notifies the membership that this proposed change to the Bylaws will be voted upon at the 2007 SGS Business Meeting.

Submitted by Ed Rosenberg, Chair, SGS Bylaws Committee

## ***SGS Contact Information***

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## ***Happy Solstice***

Our fall newsletter comes out just as fall officially ends and winter begins. The Winter Solstice, on December 22, marks the official beginning of winter. Solstice means “standing-still-son” and it marks the time of year when daylight is shortest and the sun’s arc in the sky is the lowest. After December 22, in each day there will be a bit more light. Humans have celebrated solstice for thousands of years and most of the major religions have found ways to mark the Solstice, the time when light is renewed in the world. From Europe and the Americas through the Middle East to Africa and Asia, there are carvings and monuments and traditions that mark the Solstice.

Most of the traditions involve light. We add light to the world around this time to help the light of the sun come back. (For those of you who have taken tacky light tours, one may wonder if the sun needs quite this much help!)

So at this special time of year, I hope we members of the Southern Gerontological Society can rededicate ourselves to this principle, and, each day, through our efforts, see that a little more light is shown on aging issues and how to improve this aging society.

We editors of the Southern Gerontologist wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful Solstice time. Thank you for your patience and support during the year.

-- J. James Cotter and Jo Ann O’Quin

## ***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***

**Michael Magnes-NC**  
**Yolanda Thompson-VA**  
**Kelly Schuller-SC**  
**Reba Cornman-MD**  
**Melanie Johnson-VA**

**Barbara Seifert-FL**  
**Kim Ketchum-NC**  
**Brandi McCullough-NC**  
**Joan Dickinson-VA**  
**Karen Vassar-VA**

**Mittie Wallace-VA**  
**Austin Curry-FL**  
**Melanie Bradshaw-NC**  
**Jacquelyn McClelland-NC**

## ***SGS Member News***

**Ruth Huber, Wayne Nelson, Ellen Netting and Kevin Borders** will publish a book this spring (2007). *Elder Advocacy: Knowledge and Skills Across Settings*, to be published by Brooks/Cole of Pacific Grove, CA.

**Angela Redwine's** poster "Functional Dynamics and Relocation: Change Over Time in Older Intensive Care Unit Patients" won second place at the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's 2006 conference in Gatlinburg Tennessee in November.

**Barbara L. Nunley** was promoted to Associate Professor at West Virginia University, School of Nursing, Charleston, WV.

**Barbara Seifert**, Ph. D. was recently inducted into Phi Delta Kappa International Honor Society. She was an invited speaker on a panel for a seminar titled "The Problem with Aging", hosted by Webster Universtiy in Orlando, FL. Also, she is going to China in May to learn more about their businesses and government, and will be focusing her interests on their treatment of the older worker.

**Eleanor Krassen Covan** and **Elizabeth Fugate-Whitlock**, University of North Carolina Wilmington Gerontology Program, working the New Hanover County Director of Emergency Management, designed a template to help long-term care facilities create emergency management plans in the event of a disaster. Results were presented as a "Hot research poster" at the annual meeting of the 2006 Gerontological Association of America.

Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc., **Marilyn Pace Maxwell**, Executive Director, was named as one of 6 winners of the National Family Caregiving Awards in a highly competitive national search. National Alliance for Caregiving, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of close to 50 national organizations and the MetLife Foundation sponsored the event to recognize outstanding community agencies which support family caregivers providing assistance to older adults. MEOC staff members Marilyn Pace Maxwell, Julia Trivett Dillon and Judy Miller joined representatives from leading non-profit organizations from across the nation at an event Nov. 9 to honor the 2006 winners of the National Family Caregiving Awards.

Former SGS member and UCF and USF student, **Elizabeth (Beth) Dugan**, has published "The Driving Dilemma: The Complete Resource Guide for Older Drivers and Their Families". It's published by Harper Collins in paperback. Beth was interviewed on "Good Morning America" several weeks ago about the book. More information about the book and her interview is at <http://www.drivingdilemma.com/>

**Larry Dupree** has been awarded the 2007 Mental Health and Aging Award from the Mental Health and Aging Network (MHAN) of the American Society on Aging (ASA). The award is given "to an outstanding professional who has demonstrated continued excellence in direct or indirect service to the mental health or dementia care of older adults and their families and who has had a profound and lasting impact on the mental health of older adults, through practice, teaching, research, advocacy or policy planning." He will be honored at the Mental Health and Aging Network Reception as part of the 2007 Joint Conference of The American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging, to be held in Chicago from March 7-10, 2007.

The Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) honored **Robert (Bob) McFalls**, *CEO of the Area Agency on Aging Palm Beach/Treasure Coast* with the 2006 Jane Kennedy Excellence in Aging Award for his dedication to and advocacy of issues facing our growing senior population.

## ***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

## Special Resource: Note to Members

### *Family Relations*

Special issue: **Family Gerontology** (December 2006). Guest edited by SGS Member, Karen Roberto.

The special issue encompasses welcomed examples of theoretical informed empirical research from which explicit implications for professional practice, education, and public policy emerged. Also included is a comprehensive review of resources that educators in the classroom and community will find useful as they teach others about families in late life.

It begins with a call for the explicit use of theory and theorizing in family gerontology. Drawing from several different theoretical frameworks, the authors of articles in this special issue contribute to the advancement of the family gerontology literature. Their use of quantitative and qualitative methodologies provides new insights into the multifaceted nature of family relationships in late life. Diverse study samples, which often include more than one family member, and the inclusion and interplay of individual- and family-level variables deepens our understanding of late life family dynamics. Additionally, two excellent papers on Family Caregiving and Caregiver Health are highlighted in the January 07 issue of *Family Relations*. For more information on *Family Relations*, please visit [www.blackwellpublishing.com/fare](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/fare) or <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/fare/55/5> For more information on the National Council on Family Relations, please visit [www.ncfr.org](http://www.ncfr.org).

## 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.

**March 1-4, 2007**

Portland, OR. "Mentorship - the Dyad, Triad, and Beyond", 33rd Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, organized by AGHE (Association for Gerontology in Higher Education). For further info see: <http://www.aghe.org>.

**March 7-10, 2007**

Chicago, IL "Let's Rethink Aging", 2007 Joint Conference of The National Council on the Aging and the American Society on Aging. For further information see: <mailto:jc07@asaging.org> or <http://www.agingconference.org>.

**April 11 – 14, 2007**

Greensboro, NC. 27<sup>th</sup> 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.