



# SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

*A publication of the Southern Gerontological Society*

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

We are well into summer and public discourse seems to be either about the weather (too hot and humid) or the economy (deal or no deal). Certainly this year there is more uncertainty regarding the federal budget and its potential impact upon our professional lives. Temperatures are indeed high all around the US. Regardless of where you practice, teach, research or deliver services to older adults and their families, the way you currently do things is likely to be effected by policy changes in Washington. As a gerontological historian, my professional motto is *honor the past while embracing the future*. As a society, we can become distracted by uncertainty or choose to help our colleagues across the south. Honoring our past means not only looking carefully at the historical record but also identifying meaningful initiatives, best practices and outcomes that we should build upon to move forward. As SGS's President, I invite you to join other scholars and practitioners in building upon SGS's rich legacy by choosing to attend our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in Nashville at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel on April 19-22, 2012.

What can you expect from our Annual Meeting? Cutting edge applied research offered in a format designed to encourage discussion, debate and engaged learning. The conference takes place in a venue featuring wonderful music, an amazing variety of culinary opportunities and unscheduled "down time" to meet with colleagues and explore downtown Nashville. The theme this year is *Gerontology: A Legacy of Commitment*. As each of you considers submitting your abstracts, it is my hope that together we will examine best practices with this in mind: Do these practices meet the future needs of the South? Please consult the

call for presentation for more details and remember (<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sgs/annualmeeting/archive/2012/SGS2012Call.pdf>) abstracts are due October 15, 2011.

As a society, we have much to be grateful for. Thanks to the thoughtful leadership of Dr. Jan Wassel, our organizational history will be moved from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, to its new home at Appalachian State University. This provides both stability for our valuable documents and an opportunity to add to the collection under the guidance of trained archivists. The SGS Board of Directors authorized monies for a graduate assistant at Appalachian State University libraries to catalog our documents which will help make them more accessible to scholars interested in the development of aging policy, research and service deliver. With this move comes the opportunity for SGS members and collaborators to add to our archives. I've requested that ASU libraries work with SGS to develop guidelines for a "call to collection," that will guide our mutual effort to enhance our history.

2011 brought about a change in editorial leadership for The Journal of Applied Gerontology. Dr. Malcolm Cutchin and editorial team lead our journal to a number of organizational "bests" including its impact factor, circulation, and submissions. The amount of work and professional dedication by Dr. Cutchin and his team cannot be understated. SGS owes them a huge debt of gratitude which will be collected; I am sure, through a reasonable plan worked out by future SGS Presidents. Through the work of the Publications Committee, under the direction of Dr. Victor Marshall, Dr. Joseph Gaugler of the University of Minnesota was chosen as JAG's Editor – in –Chief. The pool of editorial candidates was impressive and my heartfelt thanks go to the Committee for their careful deliberations. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Sage Publications. They are an engaged and proactive publishing partner in a time of truly great uncertainty in the publishing world. And to each of you, who have submitted a manuscript, recommended to a colleague to do so or spent your valuable time as a reviewer, thank you. JAG is a fantastic asset to SGS and I hope that you are as proud of it, our Editors, and our contributors as I am.

As I close, I ask a favor of our membership. This is a great time to reflect upon what role SGS has *had* in your professional life. Equally important to ask is, *what role might it have in the future?* I am particularly interested in hearing from our emerging professionals and those who are new to the field of aging. What sort of discussions should SGS be having with our communities? With the South? Which practitioners, scholars, and researchers are we missing from our conversations? Ask someone who might not be a SGS member, think a bit and then please do let me or a member of the SGS Board of Directors know your thoughts. SGS does have a legacy to move into the future.

Dana Bradley, PhD  
SGS President

## ***OUT-GOING PRESIDENT'S CLOSING THOUGHTS***

As my term concludes, I'd like to share some of what I have learned as SGS President with the new President, Dana Bradley, and the membership.

1. List your goals and all you wish to achieve early and then cut your list in half, and in half again. Prioritize the remaining goals and hope to accomplish at least two.
2. Know that the dedicated SGS membership will be successful in providing creative and significant abstracts, even if they struggle with the annual meeting's theme.
3. Form your program committee early since organizing the annual meeting is the priority (forget what I wrote in #1).
4. Seek advice from Past-Presidents, frequently.
5. Expect at least one of your invited speakers to run into a last-minute conflict (especially if coming from Washington D.C.).
6. Do not serve Portobello mushrooms for lunch.
7. Plan for the unexpected: tornados, fire alarms .....
8. Carry a flashlight, cell phone, and any medicine you might need at all times (climbing 14 floors in the dark may be challenging).
9. Know even when the unexpected happens: lack of electricity, water, or an organized, prepared hotel staff, SGS members will press forward with sessions and then enjoy an evening of bantering.
10. Remember at all times, SGS members are committed to the society and to improving the lives of older adults.

During the FY 2010-11, universities have experienced extensive budget cuts, yet SGS members continue to actively support the society. The tornado in the middle of our annual meeting was both a learning and bonding experience. Most of the sessions continued, but unfortunately we were not able to honor Gordon and Ruth Streib as planned. In spite of the tornado, the conference was a success bringing a number of new members to the society. The SGS archives are in the process of moving to their new home at Appalachian State and we thank the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa for housing them for several decades. Thanks to all who helped over this past year supporting the society. SGS is not a static organization, but an organic organization committed to improving the lives of older adults as long as we:

“Hold hands and stick together.  
Be aware of wonder.”  
Robert Fulghum

Janice I. Wassel, PhD  
Out-going President

## SGS 2011 Awards



This year's winners receive awards from Awards Committee Chair, Dr. James Peacock.

Left: Dr. Dena Shenk, UNC Charlotte, **2011 Gordon Streib Academic Gerontologist Award**. *This award is presented to an individual educator or researcher, affiliated with an academic institution, whose work has contributed to the quality of life of older people. Awardees demonstrate significant contributions in all of the following: involvement in educating or training students, educators and/or service providers; publications; and leadership in professional organizations and organizations which serve older people.*

Middle: Dr. LaVona Traywick, University of Arkansas, **2011 Media Award**. Title: "Fit in 10." *This award honors a contribution, in any medium, that furthers understanding of aging in the region and contributes to the mission of SGS.*

Right: Dr. Luci Bearon, North Carolina State University, **2011 Applied Gerontologist Award**. *This award is given 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.*

## SGS 2011 Awards Continued



Left: Nicole Collins, Florida State University and Co-Authors: Elizabeth Corsentino, M.A., Natalie Sachs-Ericsson, Ph.D., & David C. Steffens, M.D. , M.H.S. **2011 Student Paper Award.** Title: *"The Impact of Religious Factors on Current and Past Suicidality among the Elderly."* Since 1999, SGS has presented a Student Paper Award each year to recognize academic excellence. Pictured: Nicole Collins and Elizabeth Corsentino, M.A with awards at their poster presentation.

Right: Jessica Hellerstein, Virginia Commonwealth University & the Alcohol and Aging Awareness Group. **2011 Student Poster Award.** Title: *"Web-Based Strategies for Program Assessment and Support in the New Aging Enterprise"*. This award is presented to the student whose poster and presentation shows excellence in appeal, content, and presentation style. Drs. James Peacock and Constance Coogle (faculty advisor) pictured with Jessica Hellerstein.

<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sqs/annualmeeting/awards/index.asp>

## ***Annual Meeting Presentation in Remembrance of Dr. Charles F. Longino, Jr.***

SGS outgoing Publications Committee Chair, Victor Marshall, and outgoing Editor of the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*, Malcolm Cutchin, presented several copies of the April issue of the *Journal* (Volume 30, no. 2) and a bouquet of flowers to Loyce Longino, widow of Charles F. (Chuck) Longino, Jr. The issue includes a tribute to Chuck by Victor Marshall, introducing a special section of four papers written by scholars who had the privilege of working with Chuck: Don Bradley, Jim Mitchell, Larry Polivka, and Victor Marshall. The papers, which were presented at the 2010 SGS conference, represent the diverse areas in which Chuck contributed to knowledge in social gerontology, as well as the breadth of his collegial relationships. Chuck Longino, who died on Christmas Day 2008, is a former SGS President who also published in the first volume of the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*.

Photo Credits:

<http://www.wfu.edu/wowf/2008/20081015.qa.longino.html>



Above, from left to right: Victor Marshall, Loyce Longino, and Malcolm Cutchin.

## ***Bet you will never forget the 2011 Annual Meeting!***

Despite the the uncertainty generated by the tornado that hit downtown Raleigh, the 2011 SGS conference was a successful meeting of our talented and congenial members and conference goers. In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, we developed and fielded a web-based survey. The survey achieved about a 24% (N=42) response rate (if you are in the web survey business, that's not too bad!). I thought this would be a good venue to summarize the main findings of that survey.

- While a majority of respondents (66%) were not impacted by the tornado, the remaining 34% experienced travel-related or logistical obstacles. Many respondents noted that the hotel was ill-prepared for the emergency. Some noted that a SGS communication plan (e.g., post on the website or email to members) during emergencies would have helped keep attendees informed.
- 93% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with timing of the conference overall. Those who were not satisfied suggested that the conference be shortened to not include Sunday or to avoid proximity to significant religious observances (e.g. Palm Sunday, Passover)
- 95% of respondents were satisfied with the cost of attending the conference (e.g. registration, hotel, etc).
- 100% of the respondents were satisfied with the registration process!
- Fewer, 87%, were satisfied with the food served at the conference. Some made particular note that the all day drink set-up was great.
- 100% of respondents indicated satisfaction with the presidential sessions (e.g., opening, symposia). Some made particular note of their high levels of satisfaction with the theory session organized by Victor Marshall (UNC).
- 95% were satisfied with the paper sessions; 100% were satisfied with the workshop sessions

Thanks to all who attended! Thank you also to those who responded to the survey!  
Thanks again for investing in SGS. Your input and participation are very valuable to our organization.

Wishing you all the best,  
Your 2011 SGS Program Chairs:  
Jennifer Craft Morgan (UNC Institute on Aging)  
& Wayne Moore (NC A&T State University)

## ***Successful Silent Auction!***

The 2011 Silent Auction was very successful despite the interruption of the tornado during the closing of the auction. This year there were many items donated including but not limited to jewelry, art, food, t-shirts/sweatshirts, gift baskets, and books many of which came from Gordon Streib's collection. Thanks to all who donated to the silent auction and all who bid. Through your generosity the silent auction closed with a total of \$1,353 in sales. A special thank you to Joy Whittington for organizing and running the Silent Auction again this year.

## ***Movers and Shakers***

Thank you to the many people who contributed their time and resources to the 2011 Annual Meeting in Raleigh, including:

- Our Program Committee led by Wayne Moore, Jennifer Craft Morgan and Jan Wassel
- The Local Arrangements liaisons – Brandi McCullough and Jessica Erricolo
- Ed Ansello for leading the Site Selection Committee efforts
- Soo Hyung Kim, Okjae Lee and Sarah Johnson for assistance with AV equipment
- Janet Caldwell, Megan Englebretson and Shawn Royster for helping with the SGS Come Tell Your Story sessions
- Silent Auction organizer Joy Whittington and her volunteers
- James Peacock for sale of art glass with a portion of the proceeds donated to SGS
- The Awards Committee, led by James Peacock, for their work in the selection of awardees
- Session moderators, registration volunteers, and Dine-Around hosts
- Lora Gage for her invaluable stewardship of the conference and our organization

And a hearty thank you as well to our Sponsors, Exhibitors and Advertisers as listed below:

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## ***Beauty Queen Tornado Scene\****

During our Annual Meeting, on the afternoon of April 16, 2011, a tornado came through downtown Raleigh, leaving SGS Conference Attendees in unusual situations. For this portion of the newsletter, we solicited stories about members' experiences during and after the tornado, which left the hotel with no power...



\*Thank you to Dr. Edward F. Ansello for his thoughtful and witty contribution to the newsletter regarding the title of this column.

I had just finished paying for my Silent Auction items. I decided to go up to my hotel room to get my computer so that I could send some important emails to the peer reviewers for our grant program. I was going to work with Dr. Constance Coogle to send the applications to the reviewers (n=18); a daunting task, but nonetheless, one that needed to be done before SGS (note, this was being done *at* SGS). So, I proceeded away from the Silent Auction, through the hallway, and was ready to turn right and head to the elevators when a group of debutantes and their family members rushed past me saying "THIS WAY!" Noticing the ominous weather outside, I decided to follow the beauty queens, clad in evening wear, down to the bowels of the convention center, thinking that the rest of my SGS colleagues would be right behind me. This was NOT the case.

To back up a few seconds, before reaching the bowels of the convention center, we were in the breezeway between the hotel and the convention center when the tornado winds came ripping through. A group of us got down on our hands and knees and I instructed everyone to "cover your heads." I was terrified and convinced that we were moments away from having the roof fly off the breezeway. Well, the winds passed, and a voice came on the intercom: "Please proceed outside, there is an emergency; please proceed outside, there is an emergency" (Okay, so the hotel only had emergency intercom recordings for fires). We were guided to the basement of the convention center. At this point, several of the debutantes (all ages) were suffering from panic attacks. Eventually, I got up and spoke with the convention center bouncer, who wouldn't let me leave the area. I explained to the bouncer that I was separated from everyone I knew, and eventually, in hushed tones, he allowed me to leave and go "that way"—very specific and useful instructions when you are in a pitch black hallway/area.

In the midst of this, I had called Dr. Coogle to tell her to not go up to her room as we were in a natural disaster situation. Ever focused on work-related responsibilities, she seemed practically oblivious to the disaster at hand and asked if I could still access my email. I kindly explained that I did not have access to my email at that moment! I advised her to get away from the windows and wait for my further instructions. Eventually I made it back to Dr. Coogle who was sitting with Dr. Ayn Welleford at the hotel bar. It was good to be back "home" with my faculty advisors. We sat, chatted, were not served alcohol, and eventually used a glowstick to climb the stairs and get my computer to draft emails. All ended well. That evening, I found Dr. Jodi Teitelman in the lobby and we had a grand time. Thank you to my fellow Theater Row Building workers for humoring me and causing a ruckus. We had great fun.

-Jessica Hellerstein

I'd just gone up to my room to collect my wallet and pay for the Auction Items I'd won. I decided to stick around in my room while the storm blew through. Even though I know I shouldn't have, I was drawn to the window and watched as the sky got pitch black to the point where you couldn't see across the street. The window was speckled with torn pieces of leaves and roofing insulation that stuck to the windows—even on the 8<sup>th</sup> story floor.

Before heading back down to collect my materials that I'd left I filled up the ice bucket with water as well as putting some in the tub in case I needed it later to flush toilets, etc.

I used my cell phone to guide myself down stairs and made the decision to prop open stair well doors with hotel fire extinguishers that gave access to sunlight from the hall and allowed guests to see much better as they accessed the stairs. I sort of wished I'd stayed on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor—but was totally grateful that I wasn't on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

I was also grateful that I'd won a gift basket at the auction that included food—dinner was served!

The hotel staff, guests and attendees made the best of it and were in very good spirits.

-Jason Hawthorne Petty  
-----

I was beginning Paper Session X. We had uploaded our slides and were just about to start when the lights flickered once and then went out totally. I was asked to go to the hallway even though I knew an interior room with no windows was the best place. I saw many people going to the large hallway windows to watch the sky, which was not wise. I noticed that family in Virginia had text-messaged me to say we were in the path of the tornado and to seek safety. I moved into another interior room with candles but then made my way to the hotel lobby. Those with broadband iPads were able to get weather information to know that the coast was clear and the storm had passed.

Since we could not go to our rooms and the hotel staff provided no information on the current status, as the skies lightened and the sun came out, my colleague and I made our way down the street while it was still light to seek food. The Big Easy had power and we ate walking back in the remaining daylight to the hotel which still had no power and no information except that their generator failed. We could see the damage in the streets, downed trees, sign posts uprooted, torn-up shrubs, broken glass and damaged cars. We passed a wedding party at the Sheraton, now in the street. We made a bet as to when power would be restored and I won the bet.

Once emergency power was restored we were allowed slowly up to our darkened rooms. I knew I would be OK because in my room I had two flashlights. While emergency lights were on in the hallways, no lights or outlets worked in the rooms. Being a good New Yorker and post 9/11, I always have a flashlight in my attaché and suitcase. I also noted that the moon was almost full, so I opened the drapes to serve as a night light.

Another lesson learned from 9/11, is text-messaging works in an emergency instead of cell phones. They operate on different systems and do not overload as easily as the mobile networks...always text. I was aware that there was a tornado warning at 2pm, but no announcement was provided when we went from a warning to a watch to an emergency. A little before 4pm, the skies did not look too bad as I went for a glass of water before my presentation. It all seemed to happen so fast, both the tornado arrival and departure.....the hardest part was no information.....now I will buy a small weather emergency radio to carry in my luggage.....knowing what is going on would help.

-Elizabeth Friberg  
-----

Wow - looks like I missed a tornado at the conference by an hour! Ha, I had no idea. I feel like disaster lurks around me yet misses me all the time! I missed the tornado, but wanted to again thank you for the opportunity to present at the SGS conference. It was a wonderfully organized, informative experience. Thank you!

-Bethany Imbody  
-----

When the tornado hit I was closing the Silent Auction in the Alumni Room which was an interior room. The lights flickered then the power went out leaving us in pitch blackness. We heard a sound that at first we all thought was a downpour of rain. Then we felt a strong draft which we later found out was the tornado blowing through the ventilation system. Joy Whittington and I finished closing the Silent Auction while Keith Dooley provided light from his cell phone. After closing the Silent Auction we all ventured out into the hallway to see the debris through the windows. There did not appear to be any damage to the hotel with the exception of loss of power. The guests all seemed to be fine, just milling around waiting for power to be restored.

There were sessions scheduled at 4:00 and some went ahead and presented for those who attended. I remained at the registration desk for some time then headed upstairs briefly then on to a meeting with SGS leadership. After identifying and locating SGS guests that may have needed assistance, planning for the continuation of the conference began. Thanks to the efforts of Jan Wassel, Ed Rosenberg, Ed Ansello, Lorin Baumhover, Wiley Mangum, Ed Folts, James Peacock, Jo Ann O'Quin and the hotel staff we were able to continue the conference as scheduled on Sunday morning.

We have much to be thankful for. The only problem for SGS was the power outage and a little confusion. Many others were not nearly as fortunate. I would like to thank all of the SGS attendees for remaining calm, your patience and understanding. This certainly made our job during this time much easier.

-Lora Gage  
-----

Based upon a decision to not request travel support in deference to junior tenure-track faculty, I drove back and forth from Greenville, NC, to the conference site on an "as needed" basis. The tornados made their way through Eastern NC during the evening hours on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> when I was home with my wife. One of our daughters was home with her family and the other was safely at the beach on a barrier island with her husband.

We had excellent television coverage through a local channel with constant monitoring of thunderstorm "super cells" with the characteristic tornado "hook" at their trailing edge. These super cells seemed to be hitting populated areas as they moved from southwest to northeast at about 50 mph. We were told that they were highly unusual because of their size, strength, and the extended time that they were on the ground. The forecasters would monitor one tornado, urging people in the path to get immediately in their "safe place" before moving on to the next tornado. They repeatedly emphasized the life-threatening nature of these huge storms. It seemed that this storm-by-storm account went on for about 4 hours. Local storm spotters were sharing their sporadic damage reports. At one point when our weather forecasters went to the "safe place" in their studio about 1 mile from our home, my wife and I moved to our interior closet next to our brick fireplace chimney in the center of the house. We were fortunate, in that tornados tracked just east and west of us by a few miles but not directly over us. Toward the end of the evening, there were reports of fatalities.

With a conference presentation the next morning and televised reports of the damage on South Saunders Street, I was uncertain whether I could get to the Marriott City Center the next morning. I tried

repeatedly calling the hotel with no success. After calling Ed Rosenberg's wife, Judy, to get his cell number, I reached Ed in his room. He said the conference was a "go" for the morning.

After leaving home early, I arrived in Raleigh to find South Saunders Street closed. I diverted back to the Hammond Street exit and drove north towards the hotel. In the Shaw University area a few blocks from the hotel, I asked several police officers for the best route to the hotel, past the debris, fallen trees, and downed power lines. Arriving at the hotel, I was probably less sympathetic than I might have been when told about dark rooms and cold showers. I do not discount the seriousness of the situation from the perspective of a hotel occupant, but it was likely quite different from my experience.

To date, they have set the unofficial death toll from the reported 60 tornadoes in NC that evening at 22 people with a significant number of adult care home residents killed in Bertie County, some 45 miles northeast of Greenville.

Thankfully we can say that none of our conference attendees, as far as I know, were injured.

-Jim Mitchell  
-----

I was in the silent auction room when the lights went out. No one left that room until they got their items!! Everyone pulled out their cell phones for light so that items could be totaled up. Talk about serious shoppers!

-Jan Brown  
-----

No clever skills and didn't find anyone who needed help. However, was thrilled beyond description when hotel staff granted my request for a flashlight and was then able to read. Sad to learn of tornado(s) and fatalities. Conference ended on good note -a good time for this Yankee first-timer.

-Barb Schneider

## ***Gerontologists Rooted In The South (GRITS) GRITS of Distinction***

The Southern Gerontological Society is pleased to present ***GRITS of Distinction*** to our members and visitors on the Web.

***GRITS of Distinction*** recognizes individuals who have made an important contribution to the Southern Gerontological Society and to the field of gerontology through teaching, research, administration, writing, advocacy, or applied practice. They are role models for future generations interested in the advancement of knowledge and practice in the field of aging.

The honor of being the first ***GRITS of Distinction***— Dr. Gordon Streib, Dr. Charles Longino Jr., Dr. Barbara Payne Stancil – was celebrated by remembering the founding parents of the Southern Gerontological Society at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

### Editorial\*

Malcolm P. Cutchin, PhD

*J Appl Geron.*;30(3):271-2

\* SoGe Editor's Note: In April, the editorship of the Journal of Applied Gerontology transitioned from Dr. Malcolm Cutchin to Dr. Joseph Gaugler. We are pleased to offer their respective editorials marking the transition. These were originally published in the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* June 2011 issue and are re-printed here with permission from the authors and SAGE Publications Inc.

It has been 4 years since I became the editor of JAG. As I step down from the post, it seems apropos to take the opportunity to let a few words flow. It has been a great honor to serve the community that JAG represents. I have been impressed with the scholarship that has crossed my desk. The efforts of reviewers who freely give their time, energy, expertise, and wisdom in the review process have been equally remarkable. The peer review system has its flaws, including those of editors who oversee the process and make final decisions. I am sure that we sometimes we get those decisions wrong. But I believe we more often get them right because engaged, thoughtful reviewers have done the difficult work for us and steered us in the correct direction. Not every review is brilliant, but in my experience at JAG, the overall quality of the reviews was outstanding. To those of you who have played such a vital role in the life of this journal and the shaping of our gerontological literature as a reviewer, my hat is off to you. Sitting on this side of the fence, I learned as much from you as I did from authors. What a privilege!

The peer review process takes a community of individuals who feel a particular responsibility to serve the common good. If you stop to think about how we do this on a continuing basis, with no tangible compensation and little acknowledgement, it makes the process all the more unique and notable. We might say the commitment we hold is for that imperfect, provisional thing we call knowledge. But the continuous development of knowledge only occurs through the continuous development of the people producing it. I have tried to run this journal with that idea in mind, especially with respect to more junior authors. To be able to play that role, albeit in my own flawed way, has been the most worthwhile part of my editorial experience.

I was able to edit JAG only because I was fortunate to have the help of two extremely capable editorial assistants, Rebecca Aldrich and Kendra Heatwole Shank. The editorial board and associate editors were essential in maintaining quality and adding new dimensions to JAG. I also am grateful to the Southern Gerontological Society and their commitment to me and the Journal. In various ways, this collective shifted the character of JAG over the last 4 years. I believe we expanded the meaning of applied gerontology by opening new discussions as well as publishing a slightly wider variety of disciplinary and methodological approaches to applied gerontology. The Journal also is more international than it was 4 years ago. And although I cannot take any credit for it, the work being published in JAG reflects an increasing sophistication of gerontological inquiry. To be able to help provide a clearer window into that broader and deeper world of applied gerontology has been very gratifying.

Leaving JAG in the hands of the new editor, Joseph Gaugler, makes this farewell a much easier task. I feel sure that Joe will take the Journal in exciting new directions with very positive results. I hope that you will support him in those efforts by submitting manuscripts and reviewing when invited to do so. Publishing in a good journal is difficult for authors. Deciding which manuscripts to publish is often equally difficult for reviewers and editors. As long as we are challenged through the process, however, we should grow from it and be renewed by it. I know that my experience as editor of JAG has worked that way for me; I have been inspired by the responsibility and contributions of this community. I hope that Joe has the same experience and that JAG continues to thrive as a key outlet for the community's efforts.

## Out with the Old, In With the Old: Introductory Editorial\*

Joseph E. Gaugler, PhD  
*J Appl Geron.*; 30(3):273-4

It is with humility and great excitement that I assume the Editor-in-Chief role for the *Journal of Applied Gerontology*. Such an honor would not be possible without the excellent example provided by Dr. Malcolm Cutchin; under his leadership and during my time as a member of the Editorial Board I have experienced first-hand some of the exciting research (particularly work linking theoretical advances to applied gerontology) that he fostered during his tenure as Editor-in-Chief. As Editor-in-Chief, it is my desire to further this work and continue to build on the quality of research that Dr. Cutchin has so ably facilitated.

There are three areas of particular interest where I believe the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* could serve to markedly advance the discipline, particularly when compared to other leading journals. The first is an emphasis on translation/translational science. In many focal areas of gerontology (e.g., caregiving; see Gaugler, 2009), descriptive, theoretical, and intervention research has emerged to the point where translation is seen as a critical need. However, there exist few efforts to outline how translation in gerontology can effectively occur, or how progress in past translational programs (whether in gerontology or other disciplines) can facilitate future work. When considering the other leading journals in gerontology, this is an area where the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* could stake a national leadership position.

A second focal area where again the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* could make a claim for greatly advancing the discipline is in research methodology, and in particular, mixed methods. Many behavioral and social science scholars have acknowledged the need to integrate qualitative and quantitative research approaches to enhance understanding of phenomena (e.g., see Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010). However, gerontology and its many leading dissemination outlets have not embraced these cutting edge techniques with the same vigor as other disciplines. This is clearly another area where the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* could greatly advance the discipline by welcoming mixed methods studies that grapple with key applied questions that are best answered by qualitative/quantitative integration and reflect on the paradigmatic, theoretical, design, and analytic considerations of such strategies.

A third focus that I wish to bring to the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* is an emphasis on process evaluation, or the “exploration of the implementation, receipt, and setting of an intervention to help in the interpretation of the outcome results” (Oakley et al., 2006; p. 413). In the rush to publish the findings of outcome evaluations, researchers and practitioners are often left unaware of how a given intervention was implemented, how well it was actually received by participants, and other key details that could better explain intermediate or long-term program success. Due to their inherent focus on intervention delivery, implementation/use, and context (particularly important for multi-site interventions), process evaluations are ideal for integration of qualitative and quantitative methods and thus dovetail with the prior two goals I outlined: to position the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* on the cutting edge of how research is applied and evaluated in gerontology.

These are but three of the ideas that I hope can serve as a guiding focus of *The Journal of Applied Gerontology* while I serve as Editor-in-Chief. I welcome ideas from readers, contributors, and any others who have a stake in advancing the vision of applied gerontology. I hope you can join us as we continue to pursue the scholarly vision of the *Journal of Applied Gerontology* that Dr. Cutchin and so many of his predecessors have helped to achieve!

### References

- Gaugler, J. E. (2009). The art and science of caregiving. *The Gerontologist*, 50, 133-137.
- Oakley, A., Strange, V., Bonell, C., Allen, E., Stephenson, J., & RIPPLE Study Team. (2006). Process evaluation in randomised controlled trials of complex interventions. *British Medical Journal (Clinical Research Edition)*, 332(7538), 413-416.
- Tashakkori, A., & Teddlie, C. (Eds.). (2010). *Mixed methods in social & behavioral research*. (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.



## ***VCU Department of Gerontology Celebrates 35th Anniversary***

The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was held at the Virginia Historical Society on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 guests enjoyed the "Creativity and Aging" theme, silent auction, remarks by keynote speaker Dr. Baxter Perkinson as well as those by Dean Cecil Drain and Gerontology Department Chair Dr. E. Ayn Welleford.

Between the proceeds from the Silent Auction and the sponsorships by numerous aging services organizations throughout Central Virginia, the event raised over \$10,000 for the Department of Gerontology's Student Scholarships. Generous sponsors included the VCU School of Allied Health Professions, the MCV Alumni Association, Morningside Bellgrade & West End, Mariners Landing Resort Community, Comfort Keepers, Lift Caregiving, A Grace Place, Senior Connections, Dr. J. James Cotter, Dr. E. Ayn Welleford, Dr. Constance Coogle, the Virginia Association of Home Care and Hospice, the Alzheimer's Association-Greater Richmond Chapter, Couples and Kids Counseling Center, the Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health, Dr. James Hinterlong, Pamela DeYoung, MSG, Billy and Leigh Burke, MSG, Dr. Patricia Slattum, Marcia Tetterton, MSG, Dr. Tarynn Whitten, and Dr. Janet Hutchinson.

Special thanks are deserved by Dr. Baxter Perkinson for his remarks and live art demonstration as well as the Event Advisory Committee and Departmental Advisory Committee for their continued dedication and wisdom as we continue in our mission of "Improving Eldercare Through Education."



Photo: Future Gerontologists: Glenda Frazier, Abigail Solomon, Jessica Hellerstein, and Ashley Harland

## ***SGS 2011 Student Reflection***

The Southern Gerontological Society's 2011 Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina had a strong business focus. Examining the state of the gerontological field from a private enterprise perspective, the conference showcased many ways in which the private sector has helped advance many academically recognized best practices. The theme seemed strongest when discussed in light of the ever-increasing use of private-public partnerships to deliver services tailored to individual needs while also reaching a large client base. One of my favorite presentations discussed a public-private partnership based in North Carolina that successfully used a systems-level approach to improve transitions from hospital care to the community while also reducing re-hospitalizations. Another valuable presentation came from the US Census Bureau. Representatives provided a comprehensive tutorial of the Census website that can quickly and easily provide researchers and service providers the information they need to apply for grants, to develop services in an efficient manner, and to plan for the future. The new Census data will better help the gerontological field understand the rapidly changing demographics of our aging community and allow us to adapt as needed. Next year's conference in Nashville, Tennessee seems well-equipped to further incorporate Census data as well as service providers from all walks of life in order to reflect on the past and look to the future of aging services. As a student, the SGS Annual Meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to learn new and practical techniques, to discover cutting-edge research, and to network with peers and colleagues throughout the South.

Charlotte Arbogast  
Virginia Commonwealth University

## **SOCIAL DISCUSSION\***

### **\*Academic accolades as well as gossip, also known in the South as “social discussion.” Formerly, SGS Member News**

**Norman Bungard** has and continues to be a community leader and an inspiration to others, young and old. The Civitan Four Chaplains Award was the greatest honor Norm has received and was totally unexpected. He has been the Chaplain for the St. Petersburg Civitan Club for about three years.

For **Lora Gage**, it has been a busy summer with lots of changes. In May her oldest daughter Michaela graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University. In June her son Ryan graduated from Mariner High School. On July 4 they celebrated Ryan's 18th birthday and on July 6 they celebrated Michaela's 22nd birthday. On July 16 Michaela was married. In August her daughter Katelyn starts pre-k and Ryan will begin classes at Florida Gulf Coast University.

**Christine J. Jensen** of the Center for Excellence in Aging and Geriatric Health, Williamsburg, VA, was recently awarded the Center's largest grant to date, from the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation. This one-year project is focused on training healthcare providers and therapists in the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) Model so that they can better serve older patients with substance use issues.

**Patricia Slattum** in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science and Clarence Biddle in the School of Allied Health Professions' Department of Nurse Anesthesia have been granted funding under the Presidential Research Incentive Program to collaboratively study "Risk Factors for the Development of Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction in Older Adults Undergoing Major Noncardiac Surgery."

#### State News

**Lifespan Respite Care Program:** The only state in the South awarded in 2011, **Virginia** now joins Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee in their efforts to help support, expand and streamline the delivery of planned and emergency respite services while also providing for the recruitment and training of respite workers and caregiver training and empowerment.

#### *A Special Congratulations to:*

##### **Ellie Covan - Distinguished Faculty Award**

Dr. Covan was awarded the 2011 Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Covan gave a highlighted teacher workshop during the March 17-20 AGHE Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. "The Distinguished Teacher Honor recognizes persons whose teaching stands out as exemplary, innovative or of impact, who are nominated by their AGHE peers. AGHE is a membership organization of colleges and universities that offer education, training and research programs in the field of aging. AGHE has more than 280 institutional members throughout the United States, Canada and abroad."

<http://appserv02.uncw.edu/news/atuncw/annview.aspx?id=6306>

For a more lively and accurate discussion, please contribute tidbits often. You can contribute to the social discussion of your SGS colleagues by submitting noteworthy items to Jessica Hellerstein at [hellersteijm@vcu.edu](mailto:hellersteijm@vcu.edu), subject: SGS Social Discussion. Remember, no item is ever too trivial! Thank you for keeping us up to date!

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

[Professionals exploring issues, applications and answers in the field of aging](#)

**SGS Annual Conference & Meeting:** Leadership & Professional Networking; Continuing Education. Members receive a deep discount on registration fees for the annual meeting.

**Publications:** The Journal of Applied Gerontology, The Southern Gerontologist Newsletter. A free subscription to the **Journal of Applied Gerontology (JAG)**, the official journal of SGS is included with membership. The Journal is devoted to the publication of contributions that focus explicitly on the application of knowledge and insights from research and practice to improvement of the quality of life of older persons. Particular emphasis is placed on manuscripts and editorials that enhance dialogue among researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. In addition, members receive the **Southern Gerontologist**, a quarterly newsletter that complements JAG by providing updates on applied projects, member activities and emerging issues, and informing members of new books and videos of interest to the field of aging.

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

SGS Committees are member friendly and provide an excellent opportunity to enhance one's professional development. By adding your voice to SGS you can help ensure that dialogue and cooperation maintain the balance between research and practice, through the guiding principle of SGS-- the alliance of practitioners and academicians to enhance the lives of our elders.

For more information contact **Lora Gage** SGS Executive Director, at [Lgage4sgs@aol.com](mailto:Lgage4sgs@aol.com) 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!**

## Conference Calendar

**Note: SGS Members are invited to submit notices of Southern regional and statewide non-profit educational/research events. Send dates, organization, theme, city, state, and website to Luci Bearon at [luci\\_bearon@ncsu.edu](mailto:luci_bearon@ncsu.edu)**

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Florida Conference on Aging  
August 22-24, 2011  
Theme: Aging: Through a New Lens  
TradeWinds Island Grand Hotel, St. Petersburg Beach, FL  
<http://www.fcoa.org/2011%20Registration%20Brochure%20FINAL.pdf>

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Georgia Gerontology Society September 19-21, 2011  
Theme: It Takes a Village  
University of Georgia Conference Center and Hotel  
Athens, GA  
<http://www.georgiagerontologysociety.org/conference.htm>

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Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Training Conference  
September 25-28, 2011  
Theme: Aging Rocks!  
The Peabody Hotel  
Memphis, TN  
<http://www.se4a.org/pdf/SE4A-Reg-Booklet.pdf>

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Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving  
2011 National Summit & Training Institute  
October 5-7, 2011  
Theme: Using What Works: Bringing Effective Caregiver Programs to Your Community  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Americus, Georgia  
<http://www.2011rcisummit.org/page/page/8217475.htm>

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10th Anniversary Conference: International Council On Active Aging  
December 1-3, 2011  
Theme: Active Aging Comes of Age  
Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, Florida  
<http://www.icaa.cc/convention.htm>

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2011 Arkansas Gerontological Society Symposium  
December 8, 2011; 8:30 AM – 1PM  
Sherwood Forest—1111 West Maryland Avenue  
Sherwood, AR  
<http://www.agsociety.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/2011agsfallmembershipmeetingflyer.pdf>

***Aging Rocks!***  
**Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A)**

The 2011 Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) Annual Training Conference will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, at the world famous Peabody Hotel, on 25-28 September.

The Annual Training Conference is a great opportunity to network with aging professionals from across the Southeast and beyond. The SE4A's purpose is to promote sharing of information among members and to provide a unified voice for the expression of programmatic needs by encouraging the development and enhancement of a coordinated and unified network on aging in the Southeast, one that provides a unified group of voices to advocate for the aging population of our region. Member states include: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Workshops at this year's event will include Senior Center/Focal Points; Nutrition/Transportation; Elder Rights; Long Term/Caregiver Support; Agency Management/Professional Development; and Promoting Healthy Aging. There will also be a mobile workshop tour of the National Civil Rights Museum.

Sponsors of the conference include the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability, Oxford HealthCare, Help at Home, Inc., HUMANA, Valley, United Healthcare, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Tennessee Development District Association, Golden Cuisine, peerplace, MERITAN, Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies, GA Food Service, Inc., Amerigroup, and Bateman Senior Meals.

Go to the SE4A website to register for the conference, [se4a.org](http://se4a.org)

Kathy Whitaker  
[kwhitaker@ftaaad.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ftaaad.org)  
423-722-5102

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2011 North Carolina CONFERENCE ON AGING IS NOW OPEN!!!**

The PREPROGRAM/REGISTRATION BOOKLET is NOW AVAILABLE on line at:

<http://www.aging.unc.edu/ncco>

The PreProgram/Registration booklet contains the preliminary conference schedule and a listing of events, as well as a description of all plenary sessions, area attractions, INFORMATION ON LODGING (page 10), and the CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM (page 11).

Abstracts for workshops, papers, symposia, roundtables and poster presentations will be available on the Conference web site late summer.

\*\*\*If you are interested in attending this year's conference, be sure to send in your registration form and make your hotel reservation AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, as we expect space to fill quickly.\*\*\*

Questions??? Call: Diane Wurzinger [\(919\) 966-9444](tel:9199669444) or email: [diane\\_wurzinger@unc.edu](mailto:diane_wurzinger@unc.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*

We look forward to seeing you in Charlotte, North Carolina, October 18-20, 2011!



# 2011 Arkansas Gerontological Society Symposium

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 • 8:30 A.M. – 1 P.M.  
Sherwood Forest • 1111 West Maryland Avenue • Sherwood, AR

**REGISTRATION: \$25**

*(Includes two CEUs and lunch!)*

**SPEAKERS:**

**Chad Stover**, Deputy Branch Chief, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**Bernie Quell**, Program Manager, Arkansas Department of Human Services,  
Division of Aging and Adult Service

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National Gerontological  
Nursing Association

Arkansas  
Chapter

**BECOME  
A MEMBER  
OF AGS  
TODAY!**

In addition to the registration fee, a \$25.00 membership fee, if paid at this meeting, entitles you to membership until the annual Spring conference in 2012!

Go to [www.agsociety.org](http://www.agsociety.org) for the registration form.

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## **Welcome to New Members**

Elizabeth Friberg - VA  
Jon Sanford - GA  
Christine Churchill - NC  
Dawn Carr - NC  
Caitlin Faas - VA  
Rhonda Smith - NC  
Farah Gilanshah - MN  
Deborah Farmer - NC  
John Watkins - KY  
Leanne Greskovich - NC

Karen Moldt - NC  
Jyoti Nunna - NC  
Rigley Linder - NC  
Ting Zhang - MD  
Shannon Matthews - NC  
Betty Brown - AZ  
LaQuetta Sanders - NC  
Cathy Barton - NC  
Shawn King - NC  
Laura Capranica - NC

Lavonia Graham-Dixon – SC  
Anna-Maria Koranteng - NC  
Sarah Johnson - NC  
Linda Fuller - NC  
Joseph Gaugler – MN  
Glenda Avery - AL  
LaKisha Johnson - AR  
Victoria Foster – VA

## **Calling all Gerontologists!**

Please commit to helping support SGS by agreeing to sponsor, exhibit, or advertise during the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee from April 19-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. An example of how your donation might be used would be to provide scholarships to help students attend the annual meeting. Every donation amount is significant, whether it be \$25 or \$500. Donors will be recognized in the 2012 annual meeting program. You may donate by mailing a check to:

The Southern Gerontological Society  
Attn: Lora Gage, Executive Director  
PMB # 144  
1616-102 W. Cape Coral Pkwy.  
Cape Coral, FL 33914



*Don't forget to share the Southern Gerontologist with your friends and prospective members!*

<http://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/sgs/newsletter/index.asp>



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