



**SOUTHERN  
GERONTOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**  
Bridging Aging Research & Practice

# THE SOUTHERN GERONTOLOGIST

VOLUME 31

**SPRING/SUMMER 2024**

ISSUE 1

## Greetings

from the incoming President of the Southern Gerontological Society, Dr. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson hailing from Yorktown, Virginia. Gerontology is a field of study and service that is important to me for many reasons. The importance of bridging research and practice is the key to addressing health disparities for older adults as we approach the next century.



*Dr. Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson*

I currently serve as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA focusing on Alzheimer's research and holds appointments as adjunct professor at Old Dominion University School of Nursing in Norfolk, VA, and Norfolk State University School of Nursing. From August 2019 until January 2023, I served as an associate professor at Hampton University's School of Nursing and Inaugural Director for the Center for Gerontology Excellence and Minority Aging.

I hold a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing in Cleveland, OH, a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing. I am a Victor W. Marshall Fellow in Applied Gerontology conferred by the Southern Gerontological Society.

I have practiced nursing for over 40 years to include clinical and administrative positions and am a proud veteran having served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps on active and reserve duty; retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

My platform for the first year 2024-2025 will focus on the following:

1. Membership recruitment and retention
2. Increased partnerships across the region with a focus on the following states (AL, MS, LA, TN, TX)
3. Launching “new” conferences – to build partnerships & address education needs of regional partners
  - a. 2025 – Birmingham, AL
  - b. 2026 – San Antonio/Dallas, TX (tentative)



**2025 SGS ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**APRIL 3 – 6, 2025**

***IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UAB  
HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM***

**MIHERC**  
UAB  
MINORITY HEALTH & HEALTH EQUITY  
RESEARCH CENTER  
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

## MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

We want to celebrate your achievements - professional or personal! Please send any news you want to share to Amanda James at [admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org](mailto:admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org).

*Congrats!*



Karen Appert  
recognized as a Face  
of Caregiving by AARP  
[Read More](#)



Georgia State University's Gerontology  
Institute Celebrates 50 Years

[Read More](#)

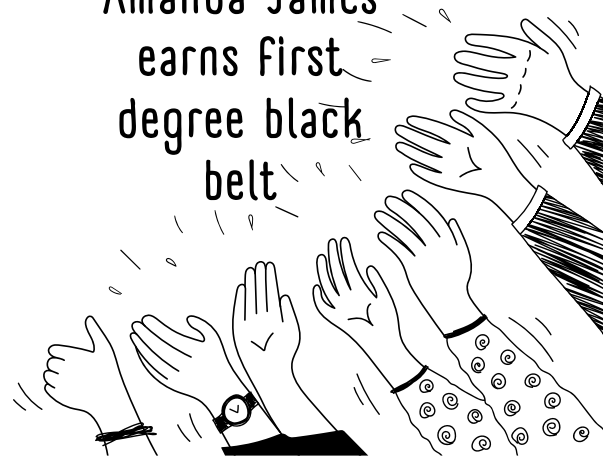
**WELL  
DONE**



Amanda James  
earns first  
degree black  
belt



USF receives international designation as  
'age-friendly'  
[Read More](#)





## ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE RECAP

Greenville, SC played host to our last Annual Meeting & Conference where attendees networked with their friends and colleagues, shared best practices and research, and enjoyed the local hospitality.

We received 218 registrations and had at least 20 additional attendees who participated as presenters only, exhibitors only, companions, and guests.

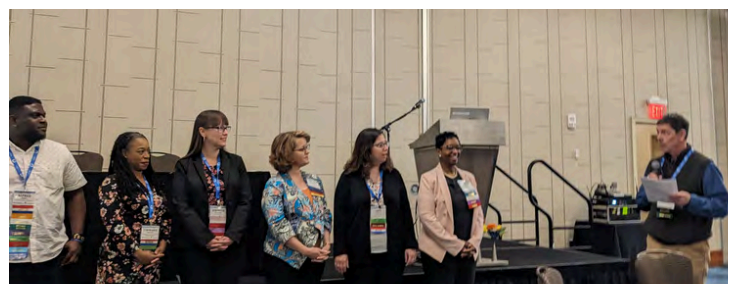
In addition to great attendance, this year's Annual Meeting & Conference also received great reviews!

“The conference was excellent. It had a good balance between professional and being personally enriching.”

“It was my second year at this conference and each time I am left impressed at the forward-thinking messages and information being shared via this wonderful conference.”

“So much about this conference is excellent. Leaders and attendees come across as warm and welcoming, the conference is jam-packed with highly relevant, and important content and research.”

“The SGS annual conference is more than home to me. I am blessed to have been introduced to it.”





## 2024 SGS AWARD WINNERS



### GRITS AWARDS

Candace Kemp  
Not Pictured  
Donna Wagner



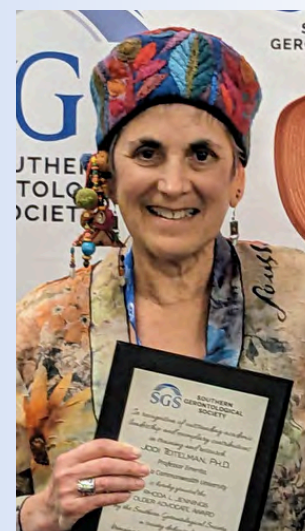
### GORDAN STREIB ACADEMIC GERONTOLOGIST AWARD

Bert Waters



### APPLIED GERONTOLOGIST AWARD

Denise Scruggs



### RHODA L. JENNINGS OLDER ADVOCATE AWARD

Jodi Teitelman



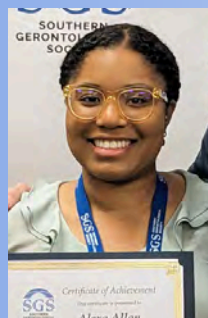
### STUDENT PAPER AWARDS

1st Place - Sarah Tesar  
2nd Place - Yun-Zih Chen



### STUDENT POSTER AWARDS

1st Place - Gracie Ellington  
2nd Place - Sarah Cho  
3rd Place - Tejan Mansaray



### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP TRAVEL AWARDS

Alexa Allan, Ebenezer Martey, Christian McLaren, Jaminette Nazario & Sarah Tesar



## 2024 SGS AWARD WINNERS



### VICTOR MARSHALL FELLOWS

Kyle Bower, Elisabeth Burgess, Sandi Lane, Molly Perkins, Abby Schwartz & TimMarie Williams



### MEDIA AWARDS

Positive Aging Sourcebook

The Engage Curriculum for Age-Friendly Care



### BEST PRACTICES AWARD

Angela Sardina - Mobile Health and Resource Fairs

## 2024 SERVICE ACTIVITY

SGS partnered with Senior Action for our 2024 service activity. Under the direction of Andrea Smith, Executive Director/CEO, Ann Peart, Director of Lifestyle Programs, and other fantastic staff, Senior Action is a vibrant, growing organization that serves close to 5,000 seniors throughout Greenville County.

Conference Attendees had the opportunity to visit Senior Action and learn more about their innovative approaches for funding. How is this a service activity? In planning with Andrea Smith on what would be most helpful during our time in Greenville, she discussed the need for more gerontologists to understand the work of local service providers and the need to advocate on their behalf. This site visits helped inspire conference attendees to engage with their local providers.

In addition to the site visits, Dr. Cynthia Hancock provided a free training for local senior service providers on trends in gerontology. Dr. Hancock was able to help spread our SGS message of the importance of research to practice.

Lastly, SGS conference attendees were graced with the wonderful talent of the Carolinians Senior Jazz Band during our Awards Luncheon. SGS made a donation to support this wonderful music program for older adults.





## THANK YOU 2024 CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

### PLATINUM SPONSORS



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Gerontology

College of Health Professions



UMBC

THE ERICKSON SCHOOL  
OF AGING STUDIES

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INSTITUTE

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Center

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*Part of the Riverside Health System Network of Care*

### BRONZE SPONSORS

**Mom's Meals**

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**ECU Social Work / ECU Office of Healthy Aging**

# What's On The Horizon for SGS

## **2024 Endowment Awardee**

### **IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN VIRGINIA BY PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER ADULTS THROUGH DEVELOPING A WEB-BASED ENDING VIOLENCE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (EVAL) BYSTANDER TRAINING**

*Michelle D. Hand, PhD | [mhand2@gmu.edu](mailto:mhand2@gmu.edu)*

Sexual violence and resulting psychological trauma are preventable yet ongoing public health crises, with substantial and enduring impacts on physical and mental health, life satisfaction, and lifespan. Older adults remain vulnerable to sexual violence and related posttraumatic stress yet have been largely excluded from sexual violence prevention and intervention efforts, owing in large part to ongoing needs for practitioner awareness that sexual violence occurs in later life. This project will involve the collaborative development of a bystander approach to address sexual violence, by conducting focus groups with at-risk older adults, practitioners who serve older adults, and with practitioners who serve victims. The bystander intervention will then be implemented in long-term care and sexual violence agencies, and analyzed, using pre- and post-intervention surveys. It is anticipated that this project will yield an in-depth understanding of sexual violence in later life, prevention and intervention among an under-researched ageing population. The development of this training is also anticipated to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among practitioners who work with older adults and those who serve sexual violence survivors, bridging a key gap in current prevention efforts.

## **BE ON THE LOOKOUT**

The 2024 Advocacy in Aging Virtual Forum dates will be held in October. Exact dates will be announced soon.

Be on the lookout!

The SGS Priorities Survey was introduced at the SGS Annual Meeting & Conference. You will be receiving an email soon to complete the survey and share with your colleagues. Stay tuned!



# What's On The Horizon for SGS

## **SGS Funds Disaster Preparedness Program**

### **LEVERAGING COMMUNITY BASED ASSETS OF NORTH CAROLINA'S COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE (CERT) TEAMS TO IMPROVE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR OLDER AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: A TRAIN-THE-TRAINER INITIATIVE**

*UMBC Erickson School of Aging Studies*

Funds received will be utilized for the purpose of developing a pilot training program which will be delivered to Community Emergency Response Trainers (CERT) across the state of North Carolina. The contents of this program will be developed to train CERT program trainers to better understand the specific disaster preparedness needs of older adult and vulnerable populations. CERT trainers will be supported in establishing connections with already existing community-based assets to encourage improved implementation of all hazards household disaster preparedness. Upon completion of this training, CERT trainers will then be given support to identify community-based partners (i.e., churches, senior centers, auxiliary units, etc.) with whom they can then share the training. By the end of the grant period, the goal of this project is to train a minimum of twenty (20) North Carolina CERT program trainers in all hazards disaster preparedness (as it relates to the needs of older adults and vulnerable populations) and to help each of those trainers hold a minimum of one (1) community training within their CERT region.

This pilot program is being designed with the expectation that the results could be replicable in any CERT association and to become considered as a best practice in connecting older adults to vitally important disaster preparedness strategies through reliable and accessible CERT program trainers and established CERT associations. One of the most significant benefits to utilizing established CERT associations and program trainers is that these trainers are highly familiar with their respective CERT areas and the resources available within them. They are often familiar with members of the community and have a commitment to emergency response services. Training conducted by trusted members of a community may aid in enhancing trust of the training material and preparedness recommendations. Utilizing community liaisons (lay persons) through community based participatory approaches has been shown to be a highly effective way of gaining the trust of marginalized and vulnerable groups (Ali et al., 2023). In addition, and an added value, community members who are able to incorporate improved all hazards preparedness actions, ultimately provide relief when disaster does strike by possibly needing to rely less urgently on formal disaster response.

This programming is being developed and will be delivered with the assistance of partners at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Office of Partnership Engagement

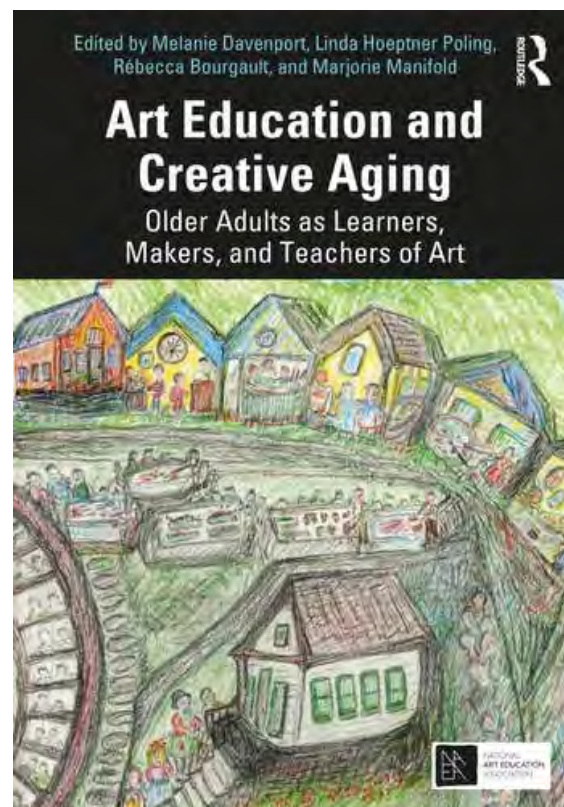
# What's On The Horizon for SGS

## **WEBINAR - Art Education and Creative Aging Older Adults as Learners, Makers, and Teachers of Art**

Edited By Melanie Davenport, Linda Hoeptner Poling,  
Rébecca Bourgault, Marjorie Cohee Manifold

**July 24, 2024  
12 PM - 1 PM ET**

This text explores how art education can meaningfully address the needs of older adults as learners, makers, and teachers of art in formal and informal settings. It combines perspectives of museum educators, teacher preparation professors, art therapists, teaching artists, and older artists on what is meant by Creative Aging and the ways art education can support the health and well-being of this population. Most importantly, the book discusses what the field of art education can gain from older adult learners and creators. Join SGS as we host a webinar with the editors to learn more!



**FREE FOR SGS MEMBERS  
\$25 FOR NON-MEMBERS**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



# Member Announcements



## **North Carolina Proactively Plans for Older Population Growth**

North Carolina's Multisector Plan for Aging (MPA), called "All Ages, All Stages NC", is a 10-year plan to enhance existing endeavors to make North Carolina a truly age-friendly state. The MPA was proposed by the state Division of Aging and endorsed via Governor Roy Cooper's May 2023 executive order. Here is a link to an overview of the MPA.

An official MPA progress report was delivered to Governor Cooper May 2, with a final report, containing over 100 recommendations, to be submitted this Summer. North Carolina is now one of eight states to have developed/implemented an MPA. An evolving plan, the MPA is mandated to be annually reviewed by the NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

SGSers who played roles in North Carolina's MPA include:

- Mary Bethel, co-chair of the All Ages, All Stages NC steering committee and who currently chairs the NC Coalition on Aging board of directors and serves on the NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, received the Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award in 2017;
- Helen Mack, an AARP-NC volunteer who contributed to the MPA as a member of the Age My Way team, received the Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award in 2020;
- Bill Lamb, former executive director and board chair of Friends of Residents in Long Term Care and a member of the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature, served as an MPA steering committee member and received the Rhoda Jennings Distinguished Older Advocate Award in 2015;
- Ed Rosenberg, an MPA steering committee member and chair of the NC Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, is an SGS past president (2008-09), recipient of the Gordon Streib Distinguished Academic Gerontologist Award (2006), and a Victor Marshall Fellow (2023).

You can learn more about the national MPA initiative at <https://multisectorplanforaging.org>.

# Member Announcements

LIFE COURSE, CULTURE & AGING VOLUME 10  
GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS



## Voices of Long-Term Care Workers

Elder Care in the Time of COVID-19  
and Beyond

ANDREA FREIDUS AND DENA SHENK

### **Voices of Long Term Care Workers: Elder Care in the Time of Covid-19 and Beyond**

by Andrea Freidus and SGS member, Dena Shenk

Now available in hard copy for purchase and open access on the [publisher's website](#). It is Volume 10 in the series on Life Course, Culture and Aging: Global Transformations. It is appropriate for a broad audience and select chapters can be assigned for students. It is available as Open Access with support from Knowledge Unlatched.

The book is based on a qualitative rapid assessment conducted during the early stages of the pandemic in central North Carolina, USA. It is based on extensive zoom interviews and focus groups with workers providing care across the long-term care continuum as we all tried to understand and respond to Covid. Each chapter also includes a first-person essay by an individual sharing their experience.



**The INSPIRE Study** is actively recruiting assisted living communities and informal caregivers (assisted living residents' family members and friends) for a five-year study funded by the National Institute on Aging within the National Institutes of Health (NIH/NIA).

The focus of this five-year multilevel study is on investigating the involvement of informal caregivers (family and friends) in the end-of-life care of assisted living residents with moderate-to-advanced dementia with a goal of learning ways to improve caregivers' experiences and residents' care outcomes. Findings will provide important information needed to guide policy and practice, including developing recommendations for training and education of assisted living staff and families.

Under the direction of Dr. Molly Perkins, the INSPIRE study is led by a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology at Emory University and the Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University. For more information about the study and to learn about opportunities to participate, please visit the INSPIRE website at [emoryinspirestudy.org](http://emoryinspirestudy.org) or contact Dr. Jeffrey Lentz, a post-doctoral fellow and SGS member helping lead recruitment efforts at [jeffrey.g.lentz@emory.edu](mailto:jeffrey.g.lentz@emory.edu).





## INSPIRE

IMPROVING ASSISTED  
LIVING FOR ALL INVOLVED

# We are Seeking Participants

## We are recruiting family members to participate in our new research program!

We are currently partnering with assisted living communities and caregivers of residents with dementia to learn about their experiences. Caregivers' insights are invaluable for better understanding the caregiver experience and this study may contribute to a positive impact on quality of life for assisted living residents.

- Contact free interviews (Zoom or phone)
- Flexible times and dates for interviews
- Up to \$250 in compensation

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Lentz, our Post-Doctoral Researcher, at 470-493-3621, scan the QR code, or [inspire.study@emory.edu](mailto:inspire.study@emory.edu)



EMORY

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE  
DIVISION OF GERIATRICS  
AND GERONTOLOGY

# SGS Mentorship Program

## Calling all Students, Junior Faculty, Early Career Professionals, And More!

Are you looking for a mentor? If so, complete our [mentorship interest survey](#). This brief survey aims to assess the need for a mentoring program for members of the Southern Gerontological Society (SGS). The mentoring is specifically designed for, but not limited to, students, junior faculty, and practitioners. The goal is to pair SGS members who feel they'd benefit from mentoring with a senior SGS member who has significant experience in your desired mentoring area.

The information from this survey is confidential unless you choose to provide your name and contact information so a potential mentor can contact you.

There is no fee or other obligation on your part for mentoring service.



### *Thoughts from a SGS Mentee*

*Despite our reduced meeting frequency, largely due to my schedule, my interactions with Dr. Taylor Jones remain highly productive and meaningful. As my dissertation and post PhD plans take shape, I'm increasingly grateful for her guidance and support, which has helped me navigate the challenges of becoming a doctoral candidate. Her unwavering encouragement and reassurances have been a constant source of comfort, helping me stay focused on the opportunities ahead and mitigate the anxiety that comes with embarking on this new chapter.*

**- Joy Catherine Birabwa**





***SGS recognized as a sponsor of the Alter Dementia Summit***



***Denise Butler attends the 2023 Positive Approach to Care Conference***

## SGS AROUND THE REGION

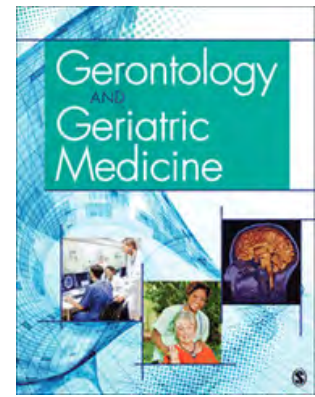


***Amanda James, Jennifer Craft Morgan, and Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson attend the American Public Health Association Conference***





# WRITING A PAPER?



**Journal of Applied Gerontology (JAG)** provides an international forum for information that has clear and immediate applicability to the health, care, and quality of life of older adults. Published monthly, it brings you comprehensive coverage of all areas of gerontological practice and policy, such as caregiving, exercise, death and dying, ethnicity and aging, technology and care, long-term services and support, mental health, and sexuality. [Submit your paper](#)

**Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine (GGM)** is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, open access journal focusing on the psychological, behavioral, social, and biological aspects of aging. The journal addresses a wide variety of topics in gerontology and geriatrics, including health economics, health services research, health outcomes, public health, medicine, biology, equity, social science, epidemiology, demography, and nursing. GGM reflects the global importance and interest in this subject area and its particular relevance to countries that are experiencing an exponential growth in older population. SGS members receive a discount on publishing fees. [Submit your paper](#)

The Sage [Journal Author Gateway](#) provides a variety of [How to Get Published](#) resources (including a how to get published webinar series) and [Promote your article](#) guidelines to support authors.

·[SAGE Author Services](#), powered by Editage, offers high-quality professional language editing and manuscript formatting services for pre-peer review manuscripts.



## INTERESTED IN BEING A REVIEWER, REVIEWER IN TRAINING, OR EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER FOR *JAG*?



The *Journal of Applied Gerontology* (JAG) depends on volunteer peer reviewers to evaluate manuscripts and recommend revisions in order to publish innovative and practical applied gerontology research. We are looking for new reviewers and reviewers in training. Learn more about reviewer awards offered by Sage [here](#). Please contact Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Debra Dobbs, if you are interested in learning more at [jag-sage@usf.edu](mailto:jag-sage@usf.edu). Interested in joining the Editorial Board? Contact Dr. Debra Dobbs for more information.

## WELCOME!

**We are happy to welcome the newest members of the JAG team.**

***New Associate Editors:***

Hongdao Meng  
Ishan C. Williams

***New Editorial Board Members:***

Raj Minakshi  
Cassandra L. Hua  
Jane Lowers

## Sage Perspectives

The Sage Perspectives blog focuses on highlighting topical and interesting research published in Sage books and journals. The blog includes posts from authors across a wide range of subject disciplines and research areas. Authors published in JAG have contributed blogs on a variety of topics within the field of gerontology. Explore the blogs and associated articles [here](#).

*A Supplement of the Southern Gerontologist provided by the Student and Early Career Committee*

Virginia Center on Aging

**AGING FOR ALL**

<https://bit.ly/AgingForAll>

**LISTEN NOW**

**Morgan Alexander**  
Trauma-Informed Care  
and  
R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

Jen Yañez Pryor  
Co-Host

Andrea Price  
Co-Host

### **R.E.S.P.E.C.T. and Trauma Informed Care**

May 1, 2024 by Jennifer Yanez Pryor

In this episode we are joined by Licensed Master Social Worker, Morgan Alexander whose work is centered around overlooking power dynamics in healthcare and human services. Power disparity and inequity silence the voice of those being served and strip their autonomy. Morgan utilizes the RESPECT Model to demonstrate how we can all advocate for and deliver better trauma-informed care in long term care settings and the community.



# Making the Most of Your Membership

## **Contribute to the *Southern Gerontologist***

SGS is excited to bring back the *Southern Gerontologist* to our membership. Our next issue will be released in the fall, and we invite SGS members to submit articles on issues.

What's New(s)?

- Please send your professional accomplishments (i.e. promotions, job changes, awards, grant work, scholarships, graduation notices) and newsworthy personal events such as weddings, anniversaries, births, etc.
- Have you published a video, article, or podcast you would like to have liked into the newsletter? We can do that! Just send us a link to the material and a description, along with any information you need us to include to help promote the great things you are working on!
- Also, we would like to remember those who have been influential to SGS. Should you know of anyone who may have passed away, please let us know. We welcome the opportunity to publish "In Memoriams" written on the behalf of SGS members who are no longer with us.
- And if you need to brag on one of your fellow members, that's okay too!
- If you have any upcoming events you'd like other members to put on their calendars, please be sure to send the dates and details!

Please limit articles to 250 words with no more than two photos. Send content to Amanda James at [admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org](mailto:admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org).

## **Join a Committee**

Are you currently on a SGS committee? Joining a committee is one of the best ways to influence the work of SGS and meet other SGS members. You can read about all of our committees at <https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/committees.html>.

## **Update Your Profile**

Did you know that all SGS members have access to our Member Directory? The Directory can be a wonderful tool for networking with other members, looking for resources, and identifying potential mentors. In order for our Directory to serve its purpose, we need all members to make sure their profile includes helpful information. Our [SGS Member Directory Profile Guide](#) guide will walk you through how to update your profile as well as suggested items to include. If you would like help updating your profile, please reach out to Amanda James at [admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org](mailto:admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org).

## **INCOMING SGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024 - 2025**

**President:** Dr. Ethlyn Gibson, DNP, MSN, RN-BC

**President - Elect:** Dr. Abby J. Schwartz, MGS, MSW, FSGS

**Secretary:** Jennifer de la Cruz, MMSc, PA-C

**Treasurer:** Sandi Lane, Ph.D.

**Treasurer-Elect:** Lee Ann Steffen Ferguson, Ph.D.

**Past-President:** Leland "Bert" Waters, Ph.D.

### **Member - at- Large (Year 2 of 2)**

Glenna S. Brewster Glasgow, Ph.D., RN, FNP-BC

Sarah Marrs, Ph.D.

Lindsay Peterson, Ph. D

Kim Stansbury, Ph. D.

### **Member-at-Large (Year 1 of 2)**

Noelle Fields, Ph.D., LCSW

Heath Harllee, Ph.D, MHA

Tracy McClinton, DNP, AGACNP-BC, APRN, HGET-C, EBP-C

TimMarie Williams, Ph.D., MCG

### **Encore Representatives:**

Jodi Teitelman, Ph. D.

Graham Rowles, Ph. D.

### **Student Representative:**

Alfred Boakye, MA, MPhil, BA

### **Student Representative-Elect:**

VACANT