



NEWS

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Spring 2009

www.ccg.org

President's Column Nancy Hikoyeda, DrPH, MPH



This is my last article as President of CCGG. For me, the past two years have whizzed by. In that time, CCGG has implemented many

changes and experimented with innovative ideas to increase our capacity and relevancy in these exciting and challenging times. You will read about these projects and progress in other parts of this newsletter. However, I would like to acknowledge the people who have made all this possible.

First, my sincere thanks to the CCGG staff for their countless hours of work and effort. Jolene Fassbinder has been a capable and enthusiastic Executive Director. She has brought energy and a new perspective to CCGG work. Brian Manning and Victoria Murlavenko have provided invaluable support for myriad day to day details. Brian's meticulous organizational and conference planning skills have helped us to have efficient and productive meetings. Victoria has been a cheerful and competent organizer as well, whether arranging conference calls, summarizing minutes, or keeping committee chairs on track. Thank you all very much for your hard work and dedication.

My appreciation is extended to the CCGG Board of Directors for your advice and direction. The Executive Committee consisting of Barbara White (Pres. Elect); Debra Secord (VP); Debra Sheets (Treasurer); and Susan Kornblatt (Secretary) have been wise counselors. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members, Gloria Cavanaugh, Janet Frank, Rosalie Gilford, Patricia Housen, Linda Jones, Susan Kornblatt, Brason Lee, Sang Lee, Marie Mayen-Cho, Thomas McKay, Helen Miltiades, Carl Renold, Mark Robinson, Allison Ruff, and Laura Trejo. CCGG is deeply indebted to you all.

Our hard-working committees met via numerous conference calls this past year. My deepest appreciation to the 2008-2009 Committee Chairs: Janet Frank (Nominations); Allison Ruff (Policy); Debra Secord (Membership/Marketing); Monika White (Awards); and Barbara White (Education). Due to the efforts of these committees, CCGG has a new website; CCGG (Dixon Arnett) wrote and found a cosponsor (Patty Berg) for AB 2543 (which was vetoed at the last minute by our governor); we recognized outstanding individuals at our annual awards ceremony for their contributions to gerontology/geriatrics education; and another very successful conference was held last spring. CCGG also created a new committee for Fund Development — Janet Frank graciously agreed to serve as

interim chair of this vital committee. CCGG's accomplishments and visibility are due to the efforts of all of these people.

CCGG faces many challenges in the years ahead. Fund development for infrastructure support commands our attention and action now that we have lost Archstone funding. We welcome any suggestions regarding ways to maintain self-sustainment. We are also charged with the task of growing our membership and deciding how to meet their needs and interests — faculty (experienced and junior), students, providers, and others. In the policy arena, federal, state, and local funding are formidable obstacles to providing adequate gerontology/geriatrics training in the post-secondary educational systems. We will need to educate policymakers and others about the benefits of a trained workforce to accommodate the needs and preferences of older Californians and their families. In summary, CCGG still has a lot of work to do.

Thank you all for your interest, dedication, and support. My best wishes and appreciation to Barbara White, who will assume the presidency in April. I look forward to serving CCGG in other ways in the future.

From the Desk of the CCGG Executive Director



**Jolene Fassbinder, MSG,
MACM, CCGG Executive
Director**

This past membership year, albeit challenging, has also been a fulfilling year for CCGG. We are fortunate to have and thankful for our dedicated members, who

have contributed to another year of accomplishments for CCGG.

Our new website, www.ccg.org, thanks to the unwavering devotion of Debbie Secord, PhD, CCGG Marketing Committee Chair and Sutep Laohavanich, is launched. Suffice is to say this was no small undertaking. Sutep, a University of Southern California (USC) gerontology student, came to CCGG with an interest in doing a project where he could learn about gerontology. We gave him first-hand experience in developing a website for a gerontology and geriatrics nonprofit organization and the opportunities for learning this presents.

Other student contributions this past year include a two-semester internship by Jacquelyn "Jacque" Lentz, USC. During her internship Jacque supported student marketing and outreach using online tools to market CCGG to gerontology and non-gerontology students throughout the state. Jacque also helped kick-off the Student Ambassador Program designed to recruit students into gerontology and to promote CCGG on their campus.

Students from various campuses also served on the CCGG Education Committee to plan our April 2009 annual meeting, and California State University Fullerton student Trina Saucedo presented on "Careers in Aging: Reaching Beyond the Obvious" in 2008. Inci-

dentally, Trina has been named the CCGG 2009 David A. Peterson Student Achievement awardee.

CCGG provides a great opportunity for students interested in gaining program and association management skills, as well as marketing and nonprofit experience. If you or your students are interested in an internship or working on a special project, please contact me at jfassbinder@mednet.ucla.edu.

The Education Committee chaired by Barb White, DrPH, RN, continued their "Dollars for Scholars Campaign" for Northern and Southern California students to attend CCGG's annual meetings. This year the Education Committee expanded its campaign efforts to include scholarships for junior faculty, and they've included a poster session to offer students and faculty the opportunity to present aging research at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

The CCGG Policy Committee chaired by Allison Ruff, MSG held a Policy Forum in February where invited speakers Michael Herald, Western Center on Law and Poverty, and Ernie Powell, AARP, spoke to CCGG on the impact of the California budget cuts on aging programs and services. This event was hosted at AARP, Sacramento, CA.

Most recently CCGG was invited to submit a three-year, \$150,000 proposal to the California Wellness Foundation (CAWF) for core operating support to serve and strengthen the underrepresented minority network within the CCGG. Another initiative, "Promoting the Gerontology Field" through revitalizing gerontology competencies and developing school and employer promotional materials.

CCGG will also receive \$4,000 a year for three years to serve as the advisory committee for the Wein-

berg Foundation Family and Informal Caregiver Support Program Evaluation, under the leadership of Deb Sheets, PhD, MSN. As a consultant, the CCGG Board will review evaluation tools for their effectiveness and feasibility, and provide consultation on the analysis and Foundation reports. CCGG will provide additional consultation or technical assistance via conference call as needed.

CCGG and Sigma Phi Omega will also sponsor a Gerontology Boot Camp hosted by Debra Sheets, PhD, MSN, to be held at California State Northridge (CSUN) on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The Boot Camp will offer students an opportunity to learn how to translate their education and interest in older adults into a successful career in the field of aging.

Looking ahead to the 2009-2010 membership year is both exciting and scary. We are faced with demanding economic times; however, we are not alone in this challenge. We can look forward to the leadership and vigor of our newly appointed CCGG Board of Directors, and guidance and continued support from our members going off the board. Together we can face these challenging times.

In the coming year we will continue to address the gaps identified through our strategic planning process funded by the Archstone Foundation, and we will continue to focus on our organizational goals. In addition, we are hopeful to receive support from the California Wellness Foundation that will contribute to our missions, to promote the quality of life of California's diverse aging population by informing and integrating educational programs, work force development and public policy.

Policy Corner

New Data on Economic Security Gives Policymakers the True Picture of Poverty among Older Californians

By Allison Ruff, MSG

New data on the staggering number of older Californians unable to cover the cost of their most basic needs have been released by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development.

The Elder Economic Security™ Index (Elder Index) is a county-specific benchmark that shows how much it costs retired older adults living independently to cover their most basic needs, including food, housing, health care, and transportation. First time policymakers can use the Elder Index to quantify how many older adults are struggling and illustrate those who are the most vulnerable by age, race, gender, and housing type.

In counties across California, the data clearly shows that elders living alone are having a tough time making ends meet, and that some are struggling more than others. Almost three-fourths of older renters are trying to survive on incomes below the Elder Index. While those who own their own homes outright are doing better, more than one-third are still unable to meet their basic needs.

For elders of color, the statistics are grimmer. Over 7 of every 10 elderly Latinos and African Americans, and over 6 of every 10 Asian elders are unable to cover their basic costs of living. "These numbers — as shocking as they are — give us a better picture of who's hurting where," said Bonnie Lowenthal, D-Long Beach,

who chairs the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care. "While we can't devote new resources to this problem, we can be more strategic in the way we allocate the limited resources we have. And this kind of research can help us do that."

In response to the data, Assemblymember Jim Beall, Jr. (D-San Jose) has introduced AB 324, the Elder Economic Dignity Act of 2009. AB 324 will do the following:

- Require California Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to use the Elder Index to determine poverty in preparing needs assessments and developing local area plans;
- Require the California Department of Aging (CDA) to include compilation of local Elder Index data in the state area plan;
- Require any new state needs-based program to use the Elder Index in determining eligibility. This requirement would also apply to any current program that is modified to become needs-based;
- Require the CDA to annually update the Elder Index for each county of California and annually calculate the number and demographic profile of seniors living below the updated Elder Index; and,
- Require intake forms for the statewide Linkages program to include use of the Elder Index to identify seniors in economic need, and to refer them to other resources and programs

According to Assemblymember Beall, "The Elder Economic Dignity Act of 2009 would ensure that we use this new tool to the fullest extent. If this many seniors weren't making it in 2007, imagine what the numbers will look like for 2008 after the stock market crash robbed so many of their retirement savings."

AB 324 is currently pending its first legislative hearing in the Assembly. A separate resolution, AJR 6 (Beall), would request the President and Congress ensure the nation is working to achieve the economic security of the aging population by modernizing how poverty among seniors is calculated through use of the Elder Index instead of the Federal Poverty Level.

Resources

For more information on the Elder Index, visit www.insightccd.org

To read the UCLA policy brief, visit www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu

For information on state legislation or to contact your representatives, visit www.legislature.ca.gov

News From Campuses Across the State

San Diego State University: Gerontology Enrollment

By Dixon Arnett, PhD (Hon)

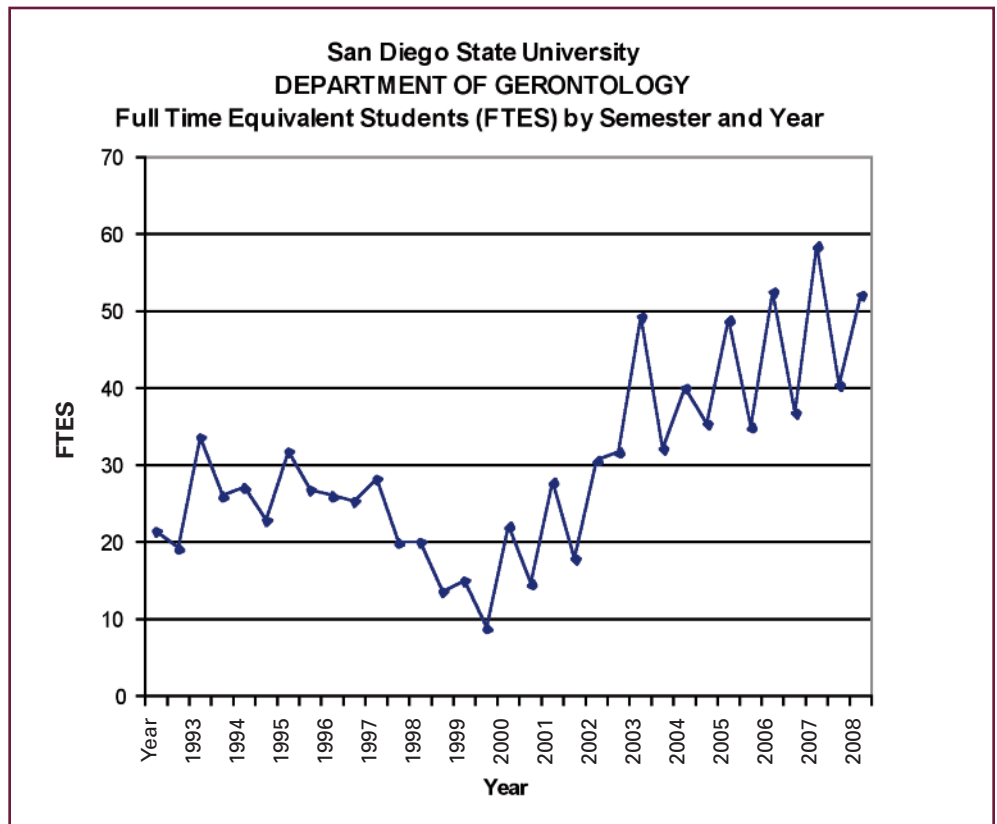
Interest in gerontology continues to trend upward at San Diego State University (SDSU), with more than 100 Full Time Equivalent Students (FTES) enrolled in courses offered through the Department of Gerontology in the spring, summer (not included in figure) and fall.

SDSU offers a Master of Science Degree in Gerontology, an undergraduate major and minor, and a certificate program. Presently, there are six master's candidates (many have completed their course work and are working on a thesis). The undergraduate major and minor programs have an enrollment of 24 and five, respectively, and two students are pursuing certificates.

Despite budget cuts, SDSU's Department of Gerontology embarked on an active recruitment program that included designating three undergraduate courses as general education and moving two courses into distance education. In addition, Department Chair Dr. Mario Garrett sought outstanding lecturers to teach part-time, so that the offerings advertised in the SDSU catalog would be presented in a timely manner with instructors whose credentials are recognized.

Students responded.

At 130 classroom and on-line students, lecturer Saman Yaghmaee's Gerontology 101 has the largest enrollment. Lecturer Joaquin Anguera's Gero 370 (Images of Aging) had to limit the class to 67 students. Both are



general education courses and utilize guest lecturers from the community who bring professional experience from the real worlds of gerontology and geriatrics into the classroom. In addition, a full range of courses are taught so that undergraduate and graduate degrees can be obtained.

The Department generates far more per-student revenue than it receives for its instructional budget. "We are proud of our achievements against the odds," said Garrett, "but I know that I am part of a discipline that is battling for just being on the radar screen of administrators and organizations throughout California higher education. Here we are in a time of an exponentially-growing older adult population, with study-after-study highlighting workforce issues in gerontol-

ogy and geriatrics, and we have an uphill battle getting administrators to recognize what students are already choosing to study on their own."

A veteran in the field of gerontology, Garrett sees the problem as one of structure. "Our real and imminent challenge, that gerontology as a discipline has not had the courage to address, is the need to have accreditation and licensure." Garrett argues that this is the next stage for the maturation, or coming of age of gerontology. "We need recent graduates to be able to compete with other disciplines and they need a license," he said. "In addition we need to combat the ability of administrators to willy-nilly change the content of our program, without any concern for the integrity of the program."

News From Campuses Across the State (continued)

Diversity and End-of-Life Care Teleconference

By Debra Sheets, RN-BC, PhD, MSN

The Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) will be holding its 16th Annual National Bereavement Teleconference, "Diversity and End-of-Life Care," moderated by Frank Sesno, professor of media and public affairs at The George Washington University and special correspondent with CNN. The program will be broadcast Wednesday, April 29, 2009 from 10:00am-1:30pm.

HFA's 2009 teleconference will examine how diversity influences end-of-life decision making, and the impact that culture has at the time of death and during bereavement. One of the goals of the teleconference is to increase sensitivity by helping professionals acknowledge how their own cultural values and assumptions influence the delivery of care. Challenges that may occur when culture considerations cause ethical concerns or moral distress will also be discussed.

Mr. Sesno will lead a panel of noted authorities that includes: Samira K. Beckwith, president and CEO of Hope Hospice and Community Services; Sandy Chen Stokes, executive director, Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care; Kenneth J. Doka, professor of gerontology, Graduate School of the College of New Rochelle; Wanda H. Jenkins, bereavement services manager, Vitas; Richard Payne, director, Institute on Care at the End of Life, Duke University; Paul Rosenblatt, professor, College of Education and Human Development,

University of Minnesota; and Carlos Sandoval-Cros, reverend, St. Simon's Episcopal Church and psychiatrist, private practice.

Continuing education credits are available for a wide range of professions. To learn more about this satellite and webcast teleconference, visit the Hospice Foundation of America web site at www.hospicefoundation.org

For more local information about the teleconference in your community, contact Dr. Debra Sheets at debra.sheets@csun.edu or call (818) 677-2344].

Jumpstarting Your Career in Aging

By Debra Sheets, RN-BC, PhD, MSN

A Careers in Aging (Re)Boot Camp will be held at CSU Northridge on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The goal of the workshop is to provide students who are stuck in their career development efforts with practical guidance to reboot and discover how to translate a passion for older adults into a successful career in the field of aging. The all-day workshop will provide students with a toolkit for managing their careers in aging and identifying a niche. A career management model will be used to help students inventory their assets; narrow their job search; do market research to identify wages, demand and other crucial issues; and identify campus resources that support their employment efforts.

For more information, contact Dr. Debra Sheets, debra.sheets@csun.edu or call (818) 677-2344

Stanford GEC Webinar Series in Ethnogeriatrics

By Gwen Yeo, PhD

Stanford Geriatric Education Center (GEC) is presenting a webinar series in ethnogeriatrics this spring. One webinar per month for six months is included in the series. Each webinar is 90 minutes long and carries continuing education units (CEUs) for nursing, LCSWs, and marriage and family therapists.

The following is a calendar of remaining topics in the series:

Emergency Preparedness: Cultural Considerations when Working with Older Adults with Sensory and Motor Disabilities, presented by Melen McBride, RN, PhD and Jon Rose, PhD on April 24, 12-1:30 p.m.

Centenarians, Palliative Care and End of Life by Leonard Poon, PhD, Ann Glass, RN, Marita Grudzen, MHS, and Melen McBride, RN, PhD on May 20, 10-11:30 a.m.

Aging and Spirituality Among Chinese and Japanese Americans by Ron Nakasone, PhD and Edmond Yee, PhD on June 17, 12-1:30 p.m.

Cost for each webinar is \$15 without CEUs and \$25 with CEUs. For more information about the series and enrollment, please go to <http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html>.

News From Campuses Across the State (continued)

Bernard Steinman Receives University-wide T.A. Award



Bernard Steinman

USC Davis School Ph.D. candidate Bernard Steinman has been selected to receive one of the University Outstanding Teaching

Assistant Awards for 2009.

"In my almost 30 years of teaching at USC, (Bernard) has been the most creative, committed and resourceful TA with whom I have worked," wrote Jon Pynoos, Ph.D., Steinman's nominating advisor. "He is commended by students for his enthusiasm and communication skills."

The award, which consists of a citation and \$1,000, will be made on April 14 at the Academic Honors Convocation ceremony.

From Hospital to Home Care

By Athan Bezaitis



Susan Enguidanos

Susan Enguidanos, assistant professor at the USC Davis School of Gerontology, was awarded a three-year grant worth \$573,514

from the American Diabetes Association.

Her research will help Latinos with diabetes transition safely from hospitals into community settings.

Shifting back from hospitals to homes is often a critical turning point for older adults. A few models of care have been developed to address these concerns, but none have focused specifically on Latinos with diabetes.

Tuck Finch Wins Faculty Recognition Award



Dr. Caleb Finch

Professor Caleb (Tuck) Finch, holder of the ARCO/William F. Kieschnick Chair in the Neurobiology of Aging, has received the 2009 Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award for his book, *The Biology of Human Longevity*.

The award will be presented at the Academic Honors Convocation on April 14.

Ranked in the top half-percent of the world's most cited scientists, Finch, a University Professor, studies the genes that control aging in mammals.

Synthesizing research from gerontology, genomics, neuroscience, immunology and nutrition, Finch asserts that as humankind shifted from herbivore to a meat-rich diet, the gradual transition extended longevity by reducing levels of inflammation.

Walkability Audits Kickoff California's First Fall Prevention Awareness Week

By Caroline Cicero, MSW, MPL

Local Culver City residents of all ages joined USC and Cal State Fullerton gerontology students, and staff from the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence (FPCE) to survey the neighborhoods surrounding El Marino Language School, and Farragut and Linwood E. Howe elementary schools.

The FPCE, headquartered at USC's Andrus Gerontology Center, organized the walkability audits to promote awareness about the growing public health problem of falls.

Participants dubbed "sidewalk sleuths" assessed the neighborhoods for overall pedestrian friendliness. They looked for sidewalk cracks, uneven pavement, holes, and other potential hazards.



Jon Pynoos (right), UPS Foundation Professor of Gerontology and co-director of the FPCE, talks with a reporter at the Fall Prevention Awareness Week celebration in Culver City.

Special Interest

Is Marketing Important in Gerontology?

By Ellen Wong, MS, BA

As a recent graduate of the Master of Science in Gerontology program at California State University, Long Beach, I evaluated awareness about gerontology and the need for professionals with aging expertise in the financial services, travel, and housing industries.

In this project, I interviewed nine professionals to explore their opinions and perceptions about gerontology, and the knowledge and skills they felt were necessary to work with the aging population. Eighty-nine percent of the participants said that the ability to market services and products to older adults, as well as understand the needs, abilities, attitudes, and values of the mature market were important. As gerontologists, it is essential for us to market our knowledge of the biological, psychological and social aspects of aging to assist businesses with the creation of appropriate products and services for aging consumers.

According to the participants, marketing opportunities exist with large corporations, government programs, insurance companies, and nonprofit organizations. One of the professionals from the financial services industry stated, "Marketing is a valuable place for someone with a background in aging. If you are thinking of business, time spent in marketing is useful. Once you have that, you could be a senior marketer and go into any number of industries."

As students and emerging professionals, we should explore how we can demonstrate our competence and develop a stronger professional identity with business and industry. We need to answer these questions: What does a gerontologist do? What knowledge and skills

does a gerontologist possess? How can we assist businesses with addressing the concerns and desires of the aging population?

Marketing matters in gerontology. It enables us to define who we are as professionals and to examine opportunities we may not have considered.

2008 California Guideline for Alzheimer's Disease Management

By Debra Cherry, PhD

Currently, there are an estimated 5.2 million people living with Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the United States. With the aging of the baby boomers, this number is expected to double by 2030 (Alzheimer's Association, 2008). In fact, baby boomers who reach the age of 55 have a one in eight chance of developing AD in their remaining lifetimes (Alzheimer's Association, 2008).

People with cognitive impairment are expensive to our health care delivery systems. They cost Medicare an average of three times as much as enrollees without cognitive impairment (Bynum et al, 2004). Yet, these individuals are under-diagnosed and often do not receive appropriate post-diagnostic medical care (Boise et al, 2004).

A growing body of evidence suggests that an integrated approach to care that blends medical intervention with education and support not only improves quality of care, but it may also save money (Bass et al, 2004; Austrom et al, 2006; Vickrey et al, 2006).

The recently updated *California Guideline for Alzheimer's Disease Management* (2008) is an evidence-based practice guideline for primary care providers emphasizing the psycho-social aspects of this disease. It focuses on post-

diagnostic care and clearly delineates roles for dementia care managers such as social workers, nurses and gerontologists. The goal of the *Guideline* is to inform decisions about the post-diagnostic management of AD, including periodic assessment of the patient with AD, treatment recommendations, education and support recommendations for the patient and family, and legal considerations for the practitioner. The updated *Guideline* is designed to be an educational resource to help establish a standard of care, to improve continuity of care, and to raise consumer awareness.

For a copy of the full *Guideline for Alzheimer's Disease Management* report or the two page summary document, go to www.alz.org/californiasouthland or contact the California Department of Public Health, Alzheimer's Disease Program (916) 327-4662.

For more information please contact Dr. Debra Cherry at Debra.cherry@alz.org or 323-938-3379 ext. 225. Dr. Debra Cherry is Executive Vice President of the Alzheimer's Association in Los Angeles and member of the California Workgroup for Alzheimer's Disease Management Guidelines.

The Challenge of Faculty Development

By Diane Katz, MPH

The UCLA Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC) is one of six centers administered by the regents of the University of California as part of the Academic Geriatric Resource Program (AGRP), authorized in 1984 by the California State Legislature.

The AGRP mandate is to address the health needs of older persons in California by developing and implementing programs to educate

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Special Interest (continued)

and train geriatric health care providers in the multiple disciplines that care for older persons, and by advancing public service and research in this area.

For the 2008-2009 academic year, the UCLA AGRC committed to a focus on faculty development.

Our choice is in keeping with the recent report presented by the Institute of Medicine, *Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce*. This document makes a forceful and compelling presentation of something we all know, that we do not have enough well-trained health care workers to meet the needs of both current and future older persons. According to the report, "A well-recognized barrier to geriatric education and training of all health

care providers is the inadequate number of available and qualified academic faculty."

The center decided to accept the challenge of this barrier on our campus, and surveyed existing opportunities that might be appropriate for faculty of the health science disciplines. In 2008, the center funded one faculty member from the health science disciplines to attend the nationally-renowned Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine. The course is sponsored by the UCLA Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology (MPGMG).

The MPGMG is also home to the Donald W. Reynolds Faculty Development to Advance Geriatric Education (FD~AGE). FD~AGE provides three-day mini-fellowships to

train participants in basic geriatric content as well as enhance teaching skills. The center worked with FD~AGE to create a customized track for center faculty members at the February 2009 mini-fellowship.

Finally one faculty member from each discipline was offered the opportunity to attend the 7th Annual Leadership and Management in Geriatrics Workshop (LMG) that will be held in Long Beach, CA, April 3-4, 2009.

The three AGRC faculty development programs were carved out of already existing programs, allowing us to maximize limited resources while providing essential faculty growth in geriatrics and gerontology.

Member News

Success In Aging TV™ Wins 2008 GOLD National Mature Media Award

By Diane Patterson, MSG

Success In Aging TV™ was a winner in the 17th annual National Mature Media Awards Program. The program, presented by the Mature Market Resource Center, a national clearinghouse for the senior market, recognizes the nation's finest advertising, marketing and educational materials designed and produced for older adults.

Policy Makers Speak received a Gold Award for TV Category in the MEDIA Division. Those involved with the design and production of *Policy Makers Speak* are Diane Patterson of Success in Aging TV™ and Craig Nelson of American Senior TV™.

"We were delighted to take part in the Mature Media Awards Program, and were honored to be selected as a winner," said Diane Patterson, MSG, CPG.

Nearly 1,000 entries were judged by a distinguished panel of mature market experts from across the United States for overall excellence of design content, creativity and relevance to the senior market.

Success in Aging TV™ (www.succesinagingtv.com) is a web-site designed to educate, motivate, and inspire people of all ages to act now for their own success in aging. SATV offers a variety of entertaining and informative tele-

vision programs relevant to the interests, experiences and vital issues of men and women ages 50 and above. Success in Aging TV™ seeks to encourage people who are aging, people who care for the elderly, and people who care about aging issues.

Success in Aging TV™ brings together gerontologists and geriatricians on a website platform in written and streaming video formats to talk about successful aging principles that will address the aging of all generations.

The 2008 National Mature Media Award winners are listed at: www.seniorawards.com

Students Corner

Featured Student: Jenny Waller

By Rose McCleary, PhD and
Shirley Krohn



Jenny Waller is one of those vibrant young students who quickly distinguished herself as a

leader. In her undergraduate program, Jenny was the president of her sorority and as a graduate student she serves as the secretary of the CSU Bakersfield Social Work Club. Beyond that, one of the best things about Jenny is her desire and commitment to work with older adults.

Currently Jenny is working with California Senior Legislator Shirley Krohn on research that will inform a future white paper on mental health issues of persons with dementia. Shirley believes for persons with dementia there are no simple solutions and "When I realized that many low income seniors were being turned away from receiving both diagnosis and treatment for dementia, I was outraged." "Something needs to be done," said Krohn. With the dedication and commitment of graduate student Jenny Waller, and the knowledge and expertise of Senior Legislator Shirley Krohn, something is being done.

Jenny received a stipend from the Archstone/CalSWEC Aging Initiative program in her first year of graduate studies and in her

second she was chosen to participate in the Gerontology Intensive Fellowship Training sponsored by the John A. Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

Jenny interned at Kern County Aging and Adult Services last year, and this year she is with the Kern County Mental Health Department's Wellness Independence and Senior Enrichment and Long-Term Care programs. She intends to work as a geriatric social worker when she graduates in June 2009.

USC Students Past, Present, and Future:

By Caroline Cicero, MSW, MPL

The Davis School of Gerontology at USC is working to prepare California's gerontology work force. This May six students will receive their bachelor's in gerontology degrees and nine will earn certificates in gerontology. A total of 21 will receive master's degrees, including dual degrees with urban planning and social work, and four students will be training future gerontologists after they are hooded for their PhDs.

We look forward to seeing all past degree recipients and current students at our Annual Student-Alumni Dinner at 5:00 on Saturday, April 18th at USC Davis School's Stever Courtyard. This year's event, entitled "Our Big Fat Gero Dinner," will be a family-friendly event with traditional Greek food, music, dancing, a wine reception and awards ceremony. In addition, the student Student Gerontology Association (SGA) has several other exciting events planned for the spring,

including participation in Careers in Aging Week and the Relay for Life, two blood drives, Movie Night, and the unveiling of the Gerontology license plates and our new SGA logo.

USC Davis School Debuts New Master's Degree in Aging Services Management

The USC Davis School of Gerontology will introduce a new Master of Aging Services Management program in fall of 2009. One of the first of its kind, the professional degree will provide leadership training for careers that supply services to the rapidly increasing population of older adults.

"Aging services is a tremendous growth area worldwide and there's a huge demand for high-level positions," said Gerald C. Davison, Dean of the USC Davis School of Gerontology. "Administrators and managers must be knowledgeable about multi-payer systems, government regulation, and policies and programs, as well as the needs and preferences of the people they serve."

The Master of Aging Services Management targets both on-campus and distance learning students seeking careers in residential care facilities, retirement communities, assisted living facilities, hospice care, and home-care services. While many of these organizations are for-profit, others operate in a non-profit environment.