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Gerontology Newsletter

Program in Gerontology

Spring 1998

Gerontology Times [Spring 1998]

St. Cloud State University

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Recommended Citation

St. Cloud State University, "Gerontology Times [Spring 1998]" (1998). *Gerontology Newsletter*. 61.
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GERONTOLOGY NEWSLETTER

ST CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 1998

VOLUME 13 , NUMBER 3

Social Justice and the Sustainable Community:

On Thursday, April 30, the Center for Community Studies will be sponsoring a conference on sustainable communities. The keynote speaker will be Annie Young, Associate Director of the Green Institute in Minneapolis. Her presentation will focus on the complex interactions between environment, economics and social equity.

There will also be panel presentations and discussions on:

- *Social (In)Security
- *Transportation and social equity
- *Developing a racially diverse community
- *Housing and homelessness in St. Cloud
- *Being Jewish in a small town
- *Multi-cultural women

For more information and registration, contact the Center for Community Studies at (320) 255-3947.

ATTENTION ALL CONTINUING GERONTOLOGY GRADUATE & UNDERGRAD STUDENTS

You MUST come in for Semester Conversion Advisement!

Please Schedule an Appointment with
Rona Karasik (654-5224)

(seeing all students)

OR Stephanie Hanson (255-3899)

(Office hours: T/W 10-1)

(seeing undergraduates only)

**Planning an Internship?
Informational Meeting
May 1st
12 noon - 1pm
Stewart Hall Room 330**

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring Greetings! This past year has been very busy and productive for the Gerontology Program. November left us a bit short-handed as we wished Dr. Eleanore Stokes well in her retirement. (Stay tuned for information on our new faculty addition--coming soon!)

Our external review is now complete (we await the consultants' report). Thank you all for your support. It was GREAT to see so many people at our open house April 2. Thanks to Stephanie for the "fabulous" door prizes. Let's do it again next year!

The Gerontology Program has also co-sponsored two conferences this spring. The first was Sigma Phi Omega's 2nd Annual "Healthy Aging in the Community" Conference held March 27, 1998, at Whitney Senior Center. Thanks to all those who worked so hard on the conference, it was a success!

Still to come: Community Studies, the home of Gerontology, is sponsoring a conference "Social Justice and the Sustainable Community." The conference will be held on campus April 30, from 9am to 4pm. Sessions focus on diversity, Social (In)Security, transportation, homelessness, and environmental justice.

Finally, don't forget: Semester conversion is coming! Those not graduating before fall **MUST** come in for advising! Don't delay!!!

Have a Great Spring Quarter!

Rona J. Karasik, Ph.D.
Director, Gerontology Program
Center for Community Studies

The Gerontology Surf

By Stephanie Hanson

Someone once told me that the internet is like one big magazine, and you can spend hours browsing through it. Somebody else told me that the only limitation on the internet is your own imagination. While those are both true statements, it is necessary to have a place to start your search. I went to the Open Computer Lab in Room 326 of Stewart Hall to access the internet and also so I could ask questions of the staff on duty there. Since websites are connected through addresses I have provided a list of just some of the interesting sites that are related to the field of gerontology. Many of the sites have links to other interesting sites and news stories:

National Institute on Aging: www.nih.gov/nia

AARP: www.aarp.org

Senior Sites: www.seniorsites.com

Third Age: www.thirdage.com

Senior Frolic: www.geocities.com/Heartland/4474

National Aging Info. Center: www.ageinfor.org

National Institutes of Health: www.nih.gov

Gerontological Society of Amer.: www.geron.org

In future issues of this newsletter, we will attempt to publish other websites of interest to gerontologists. Happy Surfing!

We're Doing Our Spring Cleaning And We Need Your Help!

If you have been receiving the Gerontology newsletter and would like to remain on our mailing list, please fill out and return the attached postage-paid postcard within **two weeks** of receiving this. Please indicate any name or address changes. If we **do not receive** a postcard from you, your name will be **removed** from our list. If you have any questions, please contact the Gerontology Program at (320) 255-3899 or (320) 654-5224. Thank you.

SPRING 1998 INTERNS

Kim Beckman	Catholic Charities Share-a-Home
Marge Mair-Hansen	Whitney Senior Center
Marcy Mickelson	Senior Helping Hands
Anne O'Keefe	Country Manor
Rebecca Rockwell	Woven Hearts
LaVonne Schackmann	Carefree Living & St. Benedict's Center
Marci Wicklund	St. Benedict's Court

HERE TODAY - WHERE TOMORROW?

**MID-AMERICA CONGRESS ON AGING
ANNUAL MEETING**

JUNE 14-17, WICHITA, KANSAS

The keynote speaker will be Jeanette Takamara, new Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration on Aging. The conference offers 2.5 days of workshops on topics such as health & wellness, continuum of care, ethics, legal issues, and community services. The conference addresses issues of interest to policy makers, administrators and practitioners in the Midwest.

Cost of conference is \$175 for members, \$200 for non-members, \$100 for students and \$65 for one day only. For more info call Mid-America Congress on Aging at 816-229-5078 or write to 1105 Main, Box 99, Blue Springs, MO 64013.

FACULTY NOTES:

Shelley B. Brundage (CDIS):

Winter and spring are the busiest quarters for me as the CDIS graduate director; this year we had 90 applications for 15 openings. I coordinate the admissions review and notification processes, and do a lot of student recruitment.

I am a member of a team presenting at the state-wide MN Speech-Language-Hearing Assn. conference this April; our topic is ethical decision-making with patients who have swallowing problems.

Rona Karasik (GERO):

In December, Dr. Karasik presented "Coming to Our Senses: Myths and Realities of Aging" to the Minnesota Senior Federation, Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud, MN. In April, she will be moderating two sessions at the "Social Justice and the Sustainable Community" Conference (Social (in)Security: A Look at Social Programs for the Elderly and the Issue of Generational Equity" and "Building Community: Being Jewish is a Small Town"). In May, she will be leading a discussion session on Sylvia Fishman's "The Way of Women: Finding Jewish Models of Aging" at the Hadassah Upper Midwest Regional Conference.

Linda Havir (SOC):

In April, with Janet Hope, College of St. Benedict, I presented "All Aboard for the Casenior Center" at the Midwest Sociological Society meetings in Kansas City. This presentation was one of several papers in a session on "Active Aging".

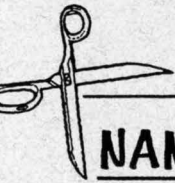
NAME THE GERONTOLOGY NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Here's what you need to know:

Rules: Simply fill out the form below with your idea. Contest is open to all. A panel of experts will judge the entries based on creativity, originality and applicability as the name of an academic newsletter.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted to Stewart Hall Room 365, by Friday, May 1, 1998, 3 PM. (Mailing address is Community Studies, SCSU, 365 Stewart Hall, 720 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498)

Prize: The winner of the Name the Gerontology Newsletter Contest will receive a Fabulous Prize Package including items from the Campus Bookstore, Crossroads Cinema, and La Casita.



NAME THE GERONTOLOGY NEWSLETTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Your Entry: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY MAY 1ST, 3PM, TO ROOM 365 STEWART HALL!

FALL SEMESTER 1998

Undergraduate Courses

GERO 208 Intro to Gero. M,W,F 10-11am

GERO 411 Aging Policy & Programs T,TH
3:30-4:45pm

GERO 425 Dementia & Aging M,W 3-
4:15pm

GERO 440 Seminar: Aging & Diversity TH
6-8:45pm

SOC 350 Sociology of Age & Aging
T,TH 12:30-1:45pm

Graduate Courses

APSY 678 Intro to Grad Statistics
T 5-7:45pm or W 5-7:45pm

CDIS 540 Communication Disorders of Aged
1st 1/2 of term T,TH 10-12noon

GERO 511 Aging Policy & Programs
T,TH 3:30-4:45pm

GERO 525 Dementia & Aging
M,W 3-4:15pm

GERO 540 Seminar: Aging & Diversity
TH 6-9pm

GERO 620 Adv. Policy Issues in Aging
W 5-8pm

GERO 630 Aging & Community M 5-8pm

SOC 650 Sociology of Aging:
Theory & Research T 5pm-6:45pm

FUTURE GERO INTERNS....

**Don't Forget to Put Friday, May 1st
on your Calendars!**

**Internship Informational Meeting
from 12 Noon to 1 pm
Stewart Hall 330**

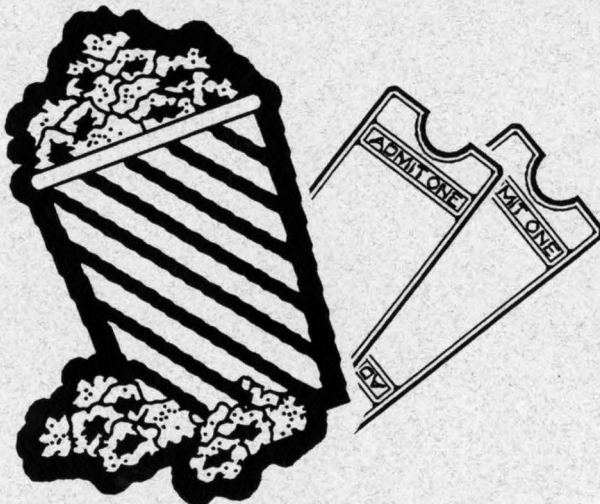
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We are tomorrow's past. -Mary Webb (1881-1927)

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Reminder...

**Please return the attached
postage-paid postcard so
you will get the next issue of
this newsletter!**



**Enter the Name the Gerontology
Newsletter Contest to WIN a
FABULOUS PRIZE PACKAGE!
See details on the reverse of this page.
Open to all! Enter more than once!**

WHO IS APPROACHING GRADUATION?

MEET JIM DOSTAL

Jim is anxiously looking forward to graduation in May with a Master of Science in Gerontology. Armed with a 20-year-old undergraduate degree in Social Science and Mathematics, Jim came to SCSU in 1994 to pursue some additional undergrad studies in business and gerontology. He decided to stay and work toward his Master's degree. Having started work at the Good Shepherd Community in Sauk Rapids as a Resident Services Assistant in 1995, Jim has continued working there while pursuing his graduate studies.

The focus of Jim's graduate work has been on housing issues of older adults. He interned at the Office of Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans in St. Cloud where he worked on research in housing and advocacy issues. His thesis is a qualitative study on assisted living in Minnesota, looking at residents' understanding and satisfaction with their environment. Upon graduation, Jim plans to seek work in the planning, development, and management of housing for older adults.

MEET LAVONNE SCHACKMANN

Study at SCSU has proven to be an interesting and challenging experience. As a nontraditional student, I am living proof that one can master the modern academic scene and survive. Graduation time will come at the end of this Spring Quarter.

I have enjoyed the Gerontology Program, my fellow students and the professors who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Some of the courses which I have found personally most helpful are: Aging and Housing Options, Dementia and Aging, and Aging Programs and Policies.

The research and statistics courses, also, are invaluable when it comes to writing the thesis. The thesis topic I am researching is "The Effect of Chronic Illness on Life Satisfaction in Aging Women Religious."

After graduation, I hope to pursue work in either management of senior housing or in Pastoral Care in a continuum-of-care setting. My professional background includes nursing, chaplaincy and administration.

MEET MARY BAUER

The past two years have gone by in a flash. After driving more than 26,000 miles, through glorious sunshine, freezing rain, blinding blizzards, and horrifying tornadoes; watching the trees along I-94 turn colors, turn bare, and grow green again; after drive-dining on French fries, pretzels, popcorn, McNuggets, and burritos washed down with diet cokes, shakes and water, I *expect* to *finally graduate* with my Master's degree this spring. Yes, time has flown!!!

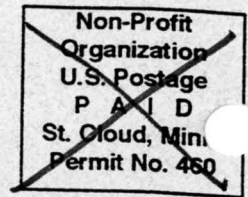
When I began this program, I had no idea what I would do with the degree (let alone the knowledge!) I was to earn. Does that sound familiar? Yet I knew direction would come. As happens for many, my internship became my career. For now I am employed as a research assistant at the Geriatric, Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

For the near future, I hope to work as a research project coordinator at the VA and the University of Minnesota. Beyond this well, who knows? Perhaps I might try to sneak a doctoral program into the plans!

NEW! Graduate Course: GERO 630
Aging and Community: Current Issues in Social Gerontology, Culture and Diversity
Fall 1998: Mondays 5-7:45pm

This course will explore the diverse experience of human aging in the U.S. and globally, with a primary focus on the interpersonal and instrumental concerns related to aging within different communities. Objectives of the course include: Introduce students to current issues and research in gerontology within the context of community; Provide a baseline of gerontological background for students pursuing graduate work in gerontology and/or fields that interact with diverse aging communities; Introduce students to the diverse concept of community, the impact aging has on communities, and the influence communities have on age-related issues; Enrich students understanding of culture and ethnicity as it relates to later life; Provide students a cohesive and realistic view of the world's rapidly aging population.

St. Cloud State University
Gerontology Program
Center for Community Studies
365 SH 720 Fourth Ave South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498



CONGRATULATIONS GERONTOLOGY MINORS

Nicole Ulrich Hall

Kimberly Renae Hart

Heidi Allyce Wacholz

For Winter Quarter Graduation!!!

NAME THE GERONTOLOGY NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Win a **FABULOUS PRIZE PACKAGE!**

Look for Details and an Entry Blank in this
newsletter and then put on your Creative
Thinking Caps and You Could **WIN!**

Gerontology Newsletter Staff

Editor: Marge Mair-Hansen

Editorial Staff: Stephanie Hanson

Amy Palm

Director of Program: Rona Karasik

Technical Assistance: Brenda Tritz

CONSIDERING A SUMMER CLASS?

These courses may help with GERO needs:
APSY 678 Intro to Graduate Statistics-1st
and 2nd Term (MTWR 11:40-1:00pm)
HURL 409/509 Ageism-2nd Term (TW 6:00-
9:20pm)
PSY 345 Psych of Aging, Dying & Death-1st
Term (MTWR 9:35-11:30am)
SOC 679 Adv'd Research- 1st Term (MT
6:00-9:20pm)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 1998-99 SPO OFFICERS!!!

President: Annette Greeley

Vice President: Wendy Pikus

Sec/Treasurer: Stephanie Hanson

Board of Directors: Shelly Brundage

Gail Bias & Rebekah Wilson

**If you are interested in a Graduate
Assistantship for Fall Semester 1998,
please see Rona Karasik in Stewart Hall
Room 339, or call 654-5224**