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Program in Gerontology

Spring 1999

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Gerontology Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 2

St. Cloud State University

Spring 1999

SPRING OPPORTUNITIES IN GERONTOLOGY

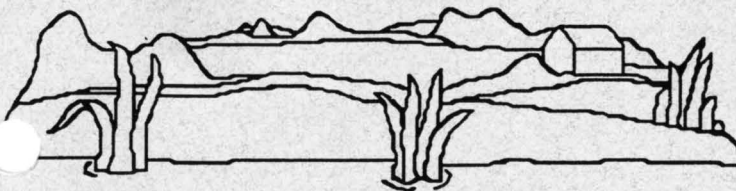
SPO'S Annual Conference

On Tuesday March 23, 1999, SPO is again sponsoring a conference titled "**Healthy Aging in the Community**". This year's theme is "**A Patchwork of Diversity**". This conference is for the general public, professionals who work with older adults, and members of Sigma Phi Omega Academic/Professional Society for Gerontology. This seminar will explore the theme of diversity and its impact on aging. Through panel discussions and speakers you will have the opportunity to learn what issues aging minorities face in their lives and the challenges and obstacles faced in obtaining services. This exciting conference will be held at the Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud from 1:00-4:30. Check your mailbox for flyers with more information and registration slips or call (320) 255-3899. Registration costs are \$15 for non members and \$10 for SPO members. There are a limited number of scholarships available if you are interested.

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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring semester is well under way and its shaping up to be a busy one! The GERO program has a number of upcoming events that I would like to invite you to, including the GERO open house on April 13th (from 4-6 p.m. in the Herbert room at Atwood), followed by the SPO Spring meeting (6-7:30 p.m. in the same room). Last year's open house was quite the event with record attendance and *fabulous* door prizes. This year's open house promises to be just as exciting! Hope to see you there.

Also coming up on March 23rd at Whitney Senior Center is Sigma Phi Omega (SPO's) 3rd annual "Healthy Aging in the Community" conference. This year's theme "A Patchwork of Diversity" promises to be timely and thought provoking. I highly recommend it!

If you have been thinking about joining Sigma Phi Omega (National Honors and Professional Society in Gerontology) or would like to learn more about it, now is the time. Come see me (or graduate assistants Cari, Pat, Greg, or Amber) for an application and more information.

Finally, the time for Summer and Fall registration is fast approaching. Don't forget to check in with your advisor (Dr. Phyllis Greenberg-undergraduate minors; Dr. Rona Karasik-Master's and Certificate students) to make sure your program is on track. We look forward to seeing you. Have a great Spring!

Rona Karasik, Ph.D.,

Director, Gerontology Program

GERONTOLOGY OPEN HOUSE AND SPO SPRING MEETING

You do not want to miss this exciting opportunity to meet new people, enjoy good food, and possibly win a fabulous door prize. Come and join us on Tuesday April 13th from 4:00-6:00 for **Food, Folks, and Fun** in the Herbert Room in Atwood. The spring SPO meeting will follow the open house.

THE HEART OF AGING IN THE HEARTLAND

The Mid-America Congress on Aging is holding its 26th annual conference in Chicago, Illinois on April 23-25, 1999. The theme of the conference is relationship building, as the "heart of the heartland is the courage of all persons who are aging in diverse cultures and settings as they develop meaningful relationships to last a lifetime". If you are interested in attending this conference contact Margy Ryan at (420) 477-7357 or email MargyRyan@aol.com for more information. You can also check out their website at:

www.mcs.net/~grossman/maca.htm



The Share-A-Home Program brings Central Minnesotans together who are 55 and older, disabled, or single parents with other people who have housing needs, such as students. This program offers participants the opportunity to share companionship, household chores, yard work, and living expenses. Each Share-A-Home match strives to be mutually beneficial, and often enables older home owners to remain in their homes. Call Barb Ludwig at (320) 252-1848 for more information.

FALL SCHEDULE

***Check Official course Bulletin for Possible Changes**

Graduate Courses

APSY 678 Introduction to Graduate Statistics W 6-8:45

CDIS 540 Communication Disorders of the Aged T
11-12:50

FIRE 579 Social Insurance TTH 12:30-1:45

GERO 511 Aging Policy and Programs TTH 3:30-4:45

GERO 525 Dementia and Aging TH 6-8:45

GERO 630 Aging and Community T 5-7:45

GERO 644 Internship

GERO 699 Thesis

SOC 679 Advanced Research Methods W 5-7:45

Undergraduate

CDIS 440 Communication Disorders of the Aged T
11-12:50

FIRE 479 Social Insurance TTH 12:30-1:45

GERO 208 Introduction to Gerontology TTH 2:00-3:15

GERO 411 Aging Policy and Programs TH 3:30-4:45

GERO 444 Internship

GERO 425 Dementia and Aging TH 6-8:45

SOC 350 Sociology of Age and Aging T 6:00-8:45

Spotlight On A Course

**Aging and Community: Current Issues in
Social Gerontology, Culture and Diversity
Fall 1999: Tuesday 5:00-7:45**

Dr. Greenberg-Instructor

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;

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FACULTY NOTES

Shelley Brundage (CDIS):

Dr. Brundage presented at the American Speech Language Hearing Association Convention in San Antonio. She gave two presentations, one about treatment outcomes for persons with head injuries, and the other on measuring premorbid IQ in brain damaged adults. She is currently involved in researching head injury treatment outcome, stuttering measurement, and the use of the internet to improve student learning in neurology

Linda Havir (SOC):

Dr. Havir will be presenting at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting on "Seniors Gambling-Who has the problem" with Janet Hop, St. Johns/St. Benedict College. She is also continuing to research this issue by broadening her interest and looking at risk taking behaviors. Another interest is crime and older people.

Rona Karasik (CS):

Dr. Karasik has organized a roundtable panel "The Community as Classroom: Integrating Community Experience Into Gerontological Curriculum" presented with (graduate students) Stephanie Hanson, Amber Carlsgaard and Cari Terrio at the 25th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) in St. Louis, MO Feb. 25-28, 1999.



Spring 1999 Internships

Linda Bettison	Whitney Senior Center
Stephanie Hanson	Oak Meadows, Oakdale
Lori Prokott	Foster Grandparents
Jaime Renner	Share A Home
Colleen Schact	St. Cloud HRA
Vanessa Sjodin	Country Manor
Nichole Vreeland	Options, Inc., Big Lake

"Spotlight on a Course" Continued From Page 2

Introduce student 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 related to later life; Provide students a cohesive and realistic view of the world's rapidly aging population.

As Families Age

By: Pat Tamowski

The graying of America is bringing almost unlimited opportunities to people willing to go into the field of Gerontology. One option to consider is counseling older people and their families. Often families need to aid their aging relatives in choosing health care, housing, and other support systems. However, this assistance can be met with resistance. Issues such as independence vs. interference, communication, caregiver stress and guilt, and depression all bring about a great need for therapy for elderly persons as individuals as well as the whole family. Students and professionals in Gerontology, Applied Psychology, and other helping fields take note: now is the time to find and create career possibilities to meet the needs of our aging population and their families.



WHO IS STUDYING GERONTOLOGY?

Greg Page is a Master's student in the Gerontology Program and lives in St. Paul, Mn. He earned his BS degree in Art and Interior Design from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Currently he works as a PCA at United Hospital in the neurology and epilepsy unit. He hopes to someday to combine his undergraduate and master's degrees and design housing for elderly that is aesthetically pleasing and functional. In his free time he likes to rollerblade, workout, travel, and paint.

Laura Boeckers is a second year undergraduate student with an undecided major and Gerontology minor with plans to pursue a Master's in Gerontology. She moved to St. Cloud from Grey Eagle, MN and lives with an elderly woman through

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Considering a Summer Class?

These courses will help fulfill Gerontology requirements:

APSY 678 Intro to Graduate Statistics-1st and 2nd term (MTWTH 12:30-2:25). The first term may be restricted to counseling psychology students, but the second term is open to all departments.

PSY 345 Psychology of Aging, Dying and Death MTWTH 12:30-2:25. 1st Term.

Attention Prospective Internship Students!!

There will be an informational meeting for students who are planning an internship in the Fall of 1999 or Spring 2000. If you are interested, mark your calendars for Friday March 26th from 12:00-1:00 in Stewart Hall 330 (Gero resource room). You are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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The Share-A-Home Program. Laura spends much of her time with older persons working at St. Benedict's in the Benedict court apartments as a home health aide, and also volunteering at Good Shepherd Nursing Home. When not working or studying she enjoys music, playing the piano, movies and talking with people.

Gerontology Minors

Are you wondering what classes to take? What you can do with a Gerontology minor? Questions about the field? You can talk to someone with experience and knowledge. Contact Dr. Greenberg at 255-3156 or stop by her office in Stewart Hall 334.

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