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Program in Gerontology

Fall 2002

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Gerontology Times

Volume 18, Number 1

St. Cloud State University

Fall 2002

Notes from the Director

Another new school year starts with shorter days, falling snow ???, and an ever-growing list of things to do! Fall is always a busy time for the Gerontology Program. We have lots of new faces—welcome new gradate students and undergraduate minors! This year we have three new graduate assistants: Kenndy Lewis, Annie Casey and Jeanne Erkens. Stop by Steward Hall 342 to say hello! Also, please note that the phone number to the gerontology graduate assistant office has changed. The number is 255-4183.

As always, there are many Gerontology Program activities to add to our "to do list" this fall. Our fall potluck will be held October 22 at 5pm. Also, Sigma Phi Omega will be holding their Fall meeting on November 11th in Stewart Hall 332 at 5:00. If you have been thinking of joining Sigma Phi Omega (National Honors Society in Gerontology) or would like to learn more about it, see me for an application and more information. Better yet, come to the fall meeting and help us welcome new members,

(Continued)

renew old friendships, and help plan our upcoming events!

Finally, even though fall has just begun, it is already time to start thinking about registration for Spring Semester (See Page 2 for a "sneak preview" of the Spring offerings). Don't forget to check with your advisor (Dr. Phyllis Greenberg –Masters and Certificate Students; Dr. Rona Karasik- undergraduate minors) to make sure your program is on track. We look forward to seeing you!

Rona Karasik, Ph.D.



Director, Gerontology Program

Professor, Community Studies

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*If I'd known I was going to live this long,
I'd have taken better care of myself
-Eubie Blake (On his 100th birthday)*

Spring 2003 Schedule

*Schedule subject to change

Undergraduate level

GERO 208-Introduction to Gerontology- Tues/Thurs 11:00 to 12.15

or Monday 6:00-8:45 p.m.

GERO 415/515 - Women and Aging – Wednesdays 5:00 to 7.45 p.m.

GERO 435/535 - Aging and Housing Options -Tues/Thurs 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

PSY 345-Psychology of Aging, Death and Dying-Tuesdays 5:00 to 7:45 p.m.

REC 439 - Therapeutic Recreation - Tues/Thurs 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

PSYC 443- Psychology of Adulthood – call psychology (extension #4157) for day/time.

SW 430- Social Work Practice of the Aging - call social work (extension #3139) for day/time

CMTY 333 – Studying Communities – Tues/Thurs 11:00 to 12.15 p.m

Graduate Level

GERO 620-Advanced Policy Issues-Monday 5:00 to 7:45 p.m.

PSYC 543 – Psychology of Adulthood -call psychology (extension #4157) for day/time.

SOC 679 – Advanced Research Methods – Tuesday 6:00 to 8:45 p.m.

CEEP 678-Introduction to Graduate Statistics- Monday 5 to 7:45 p.m.

or Thursday 2:00 – 4:45 p.m.

ED 615- Introduction to Research – Tuesday 6:00 to 8:45 p.m.

SW 530 – Social Work Practice of the Aging –call social work (extension #3139) for day/time.

GERO 415/515 - Women and Aging – Wednesdays 5:00 to 7:45 p.m.

GERO 435/535 - Aging and Housing Options -Tues/Thurs 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Area

***Good Shepherd Community** - Nursing Home /Assisted Living Community in Sauk Rapids. Contact Jodi Kraemer or April Meyers at 252-6525 extension #2124 or call 259-3494

***Heartland Hospice** - St Cloud - Contact Jackie Cvancara (Volunteer Coordinator) at 654-1136

***Whitney Senior Center** - St. Cloud - Contact Genevieve deGonior at 650-3081 or call 255-7245.

***St. Benedict's Center** - St Cloud - Contact JoEllen Johnson (Volunteer Coordinator) at 252-0010.

***Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center** - St Cloud - Contact Patricia Aljets at 255-6365.

***Greater St. Cloud RSVP** - St. Cloud - Contact Jennifer Wucherer or Lisa Braun at 255-7295 or 650-3122

Sigma Phi Omega News

Rona Karasik was elected to the SPO National board as a member at large for 2002-2005

SPO Upcoming Meeting and Events: General Meeting November 11th, Stewart Hall 332 at 5:00

Faculty Notes

Rona Karasik (GERO/CS)

Dr. Karasik is involved with three conference presentations, including:

Karasik, R. (2003). Breaking the Time Barrier: Helping Students "Find the Time" to do Intergenerational Service-Learning. Resource Exchange to be presented at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education's 29th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, St. Petersburg, FL.

Karasik, R. (2002). So That's What it's Like to be Old! The Impact of Intergenerational Service-Learning on Undergraduate Attitudes Toward Aging. Poster to be presented at the 55th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Boston, MA.

Berke, B., Sheer, S. & Karasik, R. (2002). I Got Tenure and I'm Still Married! A Look at Lessons Learned Five Years Later. Paper to be presented at the 64th Annual Conference of the National Council on Family Relations, Huston, TX.

Dr. Karasik is also continuing her research on housing for older adults, as well as working on several manuscripts regarding intergenerational service-Learning.

Phyllis Greenberg (GERO/CS)

Exciting things have been happening over the summer and will continue throughout the year. I am now on the Board of Directors for The Institute of Health Care Innovations, which received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Human Services for the development and implementation of a Nurse Managed Care Center. The center will be responsible for innovative health care delivery to older adults and their families. The Institute will be examining issues related to chronic health, caregiving and other health related concerns with a focus on older adults. In addition to this I am working with Senior Helping Hands/Recovery Plus at St. Cloud Hospital, who also received a 3-year grant from the Department of Human Services for expansion of their chemical Dependency Treatment program. I will assist them with the program evaluation, which will focus on dual diagnosis. And one last thing: I had an article accepted in the "Encyclopedia of Marriage and the Family" on "Sexuality Throughout Adulthood." Hope everyone has a productive and fulfilling semester!

Judy Litterst (SPC)

Drs. Judy Litterst and Jeff Ringer, Professors of Communication Studies, are collaborating on research on intergenerational communication patterns in Japan. Dr. Ringer is currently teaching at Akita University. Dr. Litterst has done previous intercultural/intergenerational research with Ugur Demiray from Anadolu University in Eskisehir, Turkey. They have recently submitted their research to the *Hallym International Journal of Aging*.

Dr. Litterst is also starting naturalistic inquiry research on family caregiving within the nursing home contest. This was motivated after her mother's stroke this summer and subsequent move to a nursing home in Illinois. The experience will definitely enrich the CMST 431/531 Communication and Aging course Dr. Litterst will offer in Fall 2003. [The course is offered every third semester.]

Linda Havir (SOC/ANTH)

Dr. Havir has now taught at St. Cloud State University for 30 years! She has enjoyed regularly teaching the course, Sociology of Age and Aging, which she developed in the 1970's. Dr. Havir likes the challenge in teaching this course, as she must keep up with the changes in the field and the constantly changing numbers (which, she says, she will never remember very well)! She has had a number of research interests including working with the central Minnesota Council on Aging on needs assessments as well as a study of successful senior centers which was given as award by the National Institute of Senior Centers (NCOA).

Last summer Dr. Havir published an article on older people and gambling, co-authored with Janet Hope from St. John's University/College of St. Benedict. They plan on continuing to work on this topic, as there is little research that actually asks older people directly about their gambling activities. They have also expanded their research interests to looking at risk taking among older adults.

Dr. Havir has been active in promoting service-learning in her aging classes. Many students have had little contact with older people and her course gives them experiences that many of them would not otherwise have. Dr. Havir will present a paper in Albuquerque in November on university-community linkages at a conference for service providers in the southwest.

She looks forward to many more years in which she will work with SCSU students and the St. Cloud community to promote a better understanding of older adults.

FALL INTERNSHIPS

Amanda Julius

Amanda is currently an intern at Good Shepherd Community in Sauk Rapids. Amanda is working with the Housing Department, where she performs yearly HUD assessments and helps with tenant meetings. Amanda says she enjoys working with the staff at Good Shepherd and would be interested for it to turn into permanent employment.

Becky Fordyce

Becky is completing her internship at Saint Benedict's Center, in the Pastoral Care Department with program alumna Sister Susan Rudolph. Becky's tasks include performing faith assessments and life reviews. Becky states that she loves it because she gets to meet a wide variety of people. Becky's goal is to begin Seminary next fall.

Gerontology Times Newsletter **Staff**

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