

Adult Development & Aging News

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20 DIVISION

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President's Message

It is hard to believe that the year is about to culminate in the APA convention to be held in San Francisco. In this newsletter you will see a preview of the Division 20 convention program.

Sue Whitbourne has put together an outstanding program, with invited addresses, symposia, discussion sessions, poster sessions, and conversational hours that represent the broad variety of interests of the division membership. In addition, a number of offerings are co-sponsored by other APA Divisions (2, 5, 12, 21, 35, 38, 40), one sign that Division 20 is very active in interfacing with other APA divisions.

Division 20 has an excellent awards program, and a number of individuals will be recognized with awards at our Business Meeting (Sunday, August 16, from 4:00 to 4:50 p.m. in the Moscone center- South Building, Room 272).

I am pleased to announce that the 1998 winner of the Division 20 Distinguished Contribution Award is Donald H. Kausler. Don is a former Division 20 President. In addition, he

served as Associate Editor of the APA journal *Psychology and Aging* during the first six years of its existence.

Throughout his career, Don made significant contributions to the experimental psychology of aging. He has published numerous excellent research articles, mostly on aging and memory. Also, his classic volumes on the experimental psychology of human aging will certainly be used as reference books for those engaged in cognitive aging for many years to come.

Division 20 makes a number of student awards, which will also be presented at the Business Meeting. There will be a Student Poster Award. Also, Liz Stine-Morrow, chair of the student awards committee, will be announcing the winners of awards that are sponsored by the Retirement Research Foundation (RRF). The RRF awards are given to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral students to fund their



Joan T. Erber
President, Division 20

research. In addition, and for the first time this year, the RRF is sponsoring a Mentorship Award, which will be given to a senior figure who has nurtured the careers of students and junior colleagues.

Also to be announced at the Business Meeting will be the recipient of the Springer Early Career Achievement Award, sponsored by Springer Publishing Company. The Springer Award honors a

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Adult Development and Aging News is published three times a year by Division 20, Adult Development and Aging, of the American Psychological Association.

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Adult Development and Aging News is

edited by Harvey L. Sterns and co-edited by Martin D. Murphy both at the Department of Psychology and Institute for Life-Span Development and Gerontology, The University of Akron. **Deadlines for submissions are November 1, February 15, and June 1.** Please direct mail submissions to Adult Development and Aging News, Department of Psychology, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-4301. Please submit materials via e-mail or on disk to: Harvey L. Sterns, Tel: (330)972-7243, FAX: (330)972-5174, Internet: hsterns@uakron.edu, or Martin D. Murphy, Tel: (330) 972-8374 FAX: (330)972-5174 Internet: mmurphy@uakron.edu.

psychologist (seven or fewer years after receiving the doctoral degree) whose research has made a significant contribution to understanding critical issues in adult development and aging.

At this point I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to members of the Executive Board, whose work throughout the year have resulted in prodigious accomplishments and are the reason why Division 20 has an outstanding reputation. I would like to thank Past-President John Cavanaugh for the advice and guidance given during the year.

My appreciation goes to Secretary Karen Hooker and Treasurer Mary Ann Stephens for keeping up with the demands of the divisional records. To Ellen Ryan for her tireless work as fellowship chair. To Harvey Sterns and Marty Murphy for producing such a high quality newsletter. To Liz Stine-Morrow, with the help of Robin West and Leslie Frazier, for running a

terrific student awards program. To Sue Whitbourne for the excellent program we will all enjoy at the San Francisco Convention. To Cindy Berg for serving as chair of the education committee. To Sara Qualls for her efforts in expanding the continuing education program by interfacing with Division 12, Section II (Clinical Geropsychology). To Lisa McGuire for chairing the membership committee. To Judith Sugar for chairing the elections committee. And to Andy Smith for serving as the Division 20 Council Representative and as our liaison to the Science Directorate. And to Rachel Whitmer as our graduate student representative and Lisa Jenkins as our post-doctoral student representative.

Michael Marsiske has been doing a wonderful job with the division network. Michael is constantly updating the division e-mail list. For those of you who may not be on the network, send Michael (marsiske@

gerserver.iog.wayne.edu) your e-mail address so that you can be added to the list. The e-mail network makes it possible to post and receive information with incredible efficiency.

Michael has also been doing an excellent job maintaining the Division 20 Website (/apadiv20). If you click on the home page and then on APA Division 20, you will have access to general information about the division, as well as information on division awards, newsletter, guide to graduate study, etc.

Click on Division 20 Executive Handbook to read the handbook I recently put together describing the tasks and functions carried out by the Executive Board Members. This handbook is intended as an instructional guide for Division 20 Executive Board

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Message
continued on
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Has your address changed?

If you have moved and are not receiving your Division 20 Newsletter, **please contact the APA office at 1 (800) 374-2721.** Address changes can be effected only by APA; your Newsletter editors must use the addresses APA provides.

Applied Gerontology

This article is made up of selected excerpts from a paper by Harvey L. Sterns, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio and Cameron J. Camp, The Menorah Park Center for the Aging, Cleveland, Ohio that appears in Applied Psychology: An International Review, Special Issue: Applied Psychology in the USA (April 1998), guest editor Wayne Cascio. This issue was prepared in recognition of the 24th International Congress of Applied Psychology to be held in San Francisco August 9 - 14, 1998. Copies of the complete article can be obtained from the authors.

To be an applied gerontologist is to be an interventionist. Baltes and Danish (1980) defined such research in the psychology of aging thus: "Gerontological intervention in psychology, then, deals with programmatic attempts aimed at modification of the course of psychological aging." (p. 50). They noted that such intervention gains a context and meaning in theories of aging and individual development as well as in value judgments about what is a desirable target for intervention.

Aging is not a static event but a dynamic process occurring over time, often accompanied by decreasing levels of functional capacity. A unidimensional view of aging is being replaced with a more multifaceted and less fixed conception of the aging process. Intervention is seen as possible and desirable. One of the major issues in discussions of human aging is the search for the dynamics between growth and decline (Baltes and Graf, 1996). Development is seen as a life-long process. The concept of multidirectionality assumes that throughout life there are positive and negative changes in adaptive capacity. This concept includes the gain-loss dynamic which focuses on the issue that development is always a combination of gains and losses. Investigations into the range and limits of plasticity of behavior have been important as well. Capability, limitations, developmental reserve or competence are part of these explorations.

The last fifty years of gerontological research and theory have led to the following conclusions (Baltes and Graf, 1996): 1. Aging reveals much interindividual variability (heterogeneity) and multidirectionality. 2. There are differences between normal, optimal and

pathological aging. 3. There are opposing faces of plasticity in old age: biological-genetic factors and culture-based learning.

Older adults may experience age-related declines in abilities needed to live independently. Change in sensory and cognitive function may lead to a decline in the ability to carry out everyday activities. There is now an emphasis to develop the interventions necessary to prevent, delay, or reverse the disabilities that affect the functional capacity of older adults (Ball and Rebok, 1994). Intervention can be in the form of expanding and changing the way in which information is collected and how gerontological knowledge can be applied to the design of environments, products and services (Fisk & Rogers, 1997). For example, gerontological interest in consumer behavior and the mature market have spurred research and application of results in these areas. The use both of qualitative research approaches such as focus groups and the use of qualitative data in developing large scale quantitative research studies have led to important new applied information reflecting opinions of older adults themselves, their families and practitioners in the field. Gerontological research and applications in aging and driving draws on both laboratory research, clinical assessment, focus groups and field research. These approaches are often multi-disciplinary drawing on psychology, sociology and anthropology.

Memory Interventions

Examples of interventions recommended for caregivers of persons with AD include: maintaining a routine schedule for the day's activities, keeping frequently-used items in the same place, writing down notes, using a calendar, using printed labels with objects, using name cards, using a large, prominent clock, using a large wristwatch, using a bulletin board to list the day's activities and meal menus, having the person with AD keep a card in his/her pocket with important information on it, etc. (Mace & Rabins, 1991). Such suggestions demonstrate the use of environmental supports as means of compensating for cognitive deficits salient to AD. Even in normal older adults, use of environmental support plays an important role in maintaining

everyday functioning and independence. In addition, memory interventions for persons with AD can take advantage of relatively spared unconscious or relatively effortless learning, as we will describe next.

Camp and his associates (e.g., Camp et al., 1996; Camp & Foss, 1997) refined a technique for enabling persons with dementia to learn and retrieve pieces of new information over extended time periods. The procedure they used is called spaced-retrieval (S-R), and refers to giving persons with memory deficits practice at successfully retrieving items of information over successively longer intervals. The technique seems to access relatively automatic (or implicit) memory processing, and requires little cognitive effort (Camp et al., 1996). Using this technique, they were able to train persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to remember names of objects, face-name associations, object-location associations, and a prospective memory task (remembering to perform a future action). Persons with dementia, trained with S-R, demonstrated the ability to remember new associations over periods of weeks when initially they could not remember new associations after delays lasting a few minutes. How could such a technology be made useful for ecologically valid tasks and settings?

Camp et al., (1996) attempted to maximize the impact of the intervention by training persons with Alzheimer's disease to remember a strategy. In this case, the strategy was "Look at the calendar," which enabled persons to use an external memory aid. At baseline testing, none of the participants were able to use the calendar without S-R training. Of the 23 community-dwelling persons taking part in the study, 87% learned the strategy and could remember it over a one-week delay. Of those who learned the strategy, 75% could put it into action by effectively using the calendar to perform different daily activities. Since the content of the calendar could be changed daily by caregivers, this enabled persons with AD to achieve maximum benefit from the training. They could now perform salient activities each day in spite of their extensive memory deficits through use of this "cognitive prosthesis."

Use of S-R by Caregivers and Other Professionals. In a further extension

Applied Gero. continues on page 7.

Division 20 – APA Program

SATURDAY AUGUST 15

8-9:50 am - Marriott, Sierra Conference Suite E
Division 20 Executive Committee Meeting

10-10:50 am - Marriott, Golden Gate Salon C1
 Invited Address: *Margaret Matlin, Wise and Wonderful or Wrinkled and Wretched? Views of Older Women*

Chair: *Rosemary Blieszner*

11-12:50 am - Marriott, Golden Gate Salon C1
 Symposium: **Intraindividual Variability and Change-New Directions in Personality and Affect**
 Chairs: *Daniel K. Mroczek*

William Fleeson

Presentations:

Intra-Individual Coherence Produces Cross-Situational Consistency and Variability: A Social-Cognitive Analysis:

Daniel Cervone & Julie Weitlauf

Within-Person Structures of Personality: Individual vs. Common Traits:

William Fleeson

An Individual Growth-Curve Approach to Personality Change and Stability:

Daniel Mroczek & Avron Spiro III

Age Differences in Daily, Weekly, and Monthly Negative Affect:

David M. Almeida

Does Depression Increase with Age? The VA Normative Aging Study:

Avron Spiro III, Carolyn M. Aldwin & Michael R. Levenson

Discussant: *Niall Bolger*

2-3:50 pm - Marriott, Golden Gate Salon B3
 Symposium: **Cognitive Intervention Clinical Trial for Older Adults**

Chair: *Jared B. Jobe*

Presentations:

ACTIVE: Background and Study Design:

Jared B. Jobe, Sharon L. Tennstedt & Mary D. Leveck

Functional Outcomes in ACTIVE-- Cognitive Performance and Self-Rated Approaches:

Michael Marsiske, Ann L. Horgas, Cynthia Owsley, Michael E. Sloane, John N. Morris, Steven Littlehale, Sherry Willis & Manfred Diehl

Secondary Outcome and Covariates: Health Resource Utilization and Health Status:

David M. Smith & Ann L. Horgas

Eligibility Requirements for ACTIVE-- A Cognitive

Intervention Clinical Trial:

John N. Morris, Cynthia Owsley & Frederick W. Unverzagt

ACTIVE Training:

Sherry Willis, George Rebok & Karlene Ball

5-5:50 pm - Marriott, Pacific Conference Suite B
Social Hour

SUNDAY AUGUST 16

8-9:50 am - Marriott, Yerba Buena Salon 4
 Symposium: **Victoria Longitudinal Study-Research on Change in Older Adults**

Chair: *David F. Hulstsch*

Presentations:

Longitudinal Profiles of Episodic Memory Performance:

Roger A. Dixon

Six-Year Longitudinal Stability of the NEO Personality Inventory:

Brent J. Small

Retrospective Assessment of Memory Performance in the Elderly:

Carolyn B. Crow

Individual Differences in Age-Related Cognitive Change:

Christopher K. Hertzog

Engaged Lifestyle as a Buffer of Cognitive Decline in Aging:

David F. Hulstsch

Discussant: *Elizabeth M. Zelinski*

11-11:50 am - Moscone South, Rm 226
 Conversation Hour: **Sexual Problem and Concerns of Women Over 50**

Chairs: *Carol Rinkleib Ellison*

Norma L. McCoy

2-2:50 pm - Moscone South, Exhibit Hall B
 Poster Session I: **Health and Mental Health**

Chair: *Steven H. Zarit*

3-3:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 272
 Presidential Address: *Joan Erber*, **Everyday Forgetting - Is Age an Asset or a Liability?**

Chair: *Timothy A. Salthouse*

4-4:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 272
Division 20 Business Meeting

5 pm - ???

Adjourn to Beach Blanket Babylon and dinner

MONDAY AUGUST 17

8-8:50 am - Moscone South, Rm 228/230

Symposium: **Applied Gerontology - Progress and Prospects for Edward R. Roybal Centers**

Chairs: *Neil Charness*

Jared B. Jobe

Presentations:

The Edward R. Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology:

Jared B. Jobe

Nonadherence to Hypertension Medication in a Life-Span Sample of African Americans:

Denise C. Park

Psychological Predictors of Driving Performance in Older Adults:

Renee S. Myers

Improving the Ability of Older People to Perform Computer Tasks:

Sara J. Czaja

Discussant: *Neil Charness*

10-10:50 am - Moscone South, Exhibit Hall B

Poster Session II: **Cognitive and Social Cognitive Processes in Aging**

11-11:50 am - Moscone South, Rm 238

Invited Address: *Darlene Basch*, **Reflections of Holocaust Survivors as Life Review: SHOAH Foundation Testimonies**

Chair: *Susan Krauss Whitbourne*

12-12:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 220

Discussion: **How Will the Baby Boomers Age?**

Chairs: *Carolyn M. Aldwin*

Alex J. Zautra

Participants: *Beth A. Ober, Patricia A. Parmelee, Jacqui Smith, Susan Krauss Whitbourne*

1-2:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 226

Symposium: **Professional Development - A Workshop for Students**

Chair: *Rachel A. Whitmer*

Presentations:

How to Publish:

Timothy A. Salthouse

Grants and Funding:

Ronald Abeles

Life after Graduate School:

Fredda Blanchard-Fields

Discussant: *Susan Krauss Whitbourne*

3-4:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 200

Symposium: **Use of Technology in Teaching Adult Development and Aging**

Chairs: *Rosemary Blieszner*

Kathleen Collins

Presentations:

Promises and Pitfalls of the Interactive Television Approach in Adult Development and Aging:

Rosemary Blieszner & Pamela B. Tester

Applied Gerontological Research: Use of Videotape to Enhance Field Experiences and Classroom Lectures:

Cameron J. Camp & Mary Miller

The Use of Contemporary Movies and Video in Teaching a Course on the Psychology of Aging:

Kathleen J. Collins & Susan Krauss Whitbourne

The Web as a Teaching-Learning Tool:

John C. Cavanaugh

TUESDAY AUGUST 18

8-9:50 am - Moscone South, Rm 208/210

Symposium: **How Elders Use Cognition in Their Everyday Lives**

Chair: *Elizabeth A.L. Stine-Morrow*

Presentations:

Aging and Discourse Processing: What Can Knowledge Do for Us?:

Lisa M. Soederberg Miller

Everyday Problem Solving in Later Life: Emerging Findings:

Michael Marsiske, Jason C. Allaire & Jennifer A.

Margrett

The Social Nature of Everyday Problem Solving:

Cindy Berg, Sean P. Meegan & Frances P. Deviney

Improving Older Adults' Memory for Health

Appointment Information:

Daniel G. Morrow, Von O. Leirer, Lisa M. Carver &

Elizabeth Decker Tanke

Electronic Technology and the Elderly:

Roger W. Morrell, Denise C. Park, Christopher B.

Mayhorn, Katherina V. Echt & Joan M. Bennett

Discussant: *Denise C. Park*

10-10:50 am - Moscone South, Rm 208/210

Division 20 Distinguished Contribution Invited Address:

Anderson D. Smith, **Aging and Memory in Context**

Chair: *John C. Cavanaugh*

11-11:50 am - Moscone South, Exhibit Hall B

Poster Session III: **Social Relationships and Caregiving**

Chair: *Marilyn M. Skaff*

The **Student Award Poster** is listed in this session.

Please stop by and congratulate our winner!

1-2:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 220
Symposium: **Diversity and Complexity in Grandparents' Psychological Experiences**

Chair: *Karen L. Fingerman*

Presentations:

The Perception of Late Transition into the Grandparent Role:

Rosanna M. Bertrand, Patricia C. Griffiths, Katherine Larash & Karen L. Fingerman

Complexity Within and Between Generations: Implications for Grandparent-Grandchild Relationships:

Rosemary Blieszner, Karen A. Roberto & Katherine Allen

An Historical Influence on Grandparent Satisfaction:

Dorothy Field

Diversity in Grandparents' Reactions to Emotionally Salient Grandchildren:

Karen L. Fingerman

Discussant: *Lillian Troll*

3-4:50 pm - Moscone South, Rm 220
Symposium: **Stressful Life Experiences and Adult Development**

Chair: *Karen J. Sutton*

Presentations:

The Role of Critical Life Events in Adult Self-Development:

Manfred Diehl

Age, Stress, and Personality Development in Adulthood:

Karen J. Sutton

Caregiving, Personality Development, and Well-Being in Middle-Aged Women:

Alison Climo & Abigail Stewart

Affect Complexity Across the Life Span:

Gisela Labouvie-Vief

Discussant: *Daniel K. Mroczek*

Other Programs Co-Listed with Division 20: (check APA program for details)

Division 2:

Symposium: **Teaching Clinical Geropsychology to Traditional and Nontraditional Populations**

Division 5:

New Methods for Studying Developmental Changes in Latent Constructs

Division 12:

Individual Response Patterns: Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment with Anxious Older Adults The Beck Anxiety Inventory and Japanese-American Older Adults Childhood Disruptive Symptoms as Predictors of Residual ADHD in Adults

Division 21:

Invited Address: **The What and Where of Cognitive Aging**, *Timothy Salthouse*

Aging and the Workplace

Invited Address: **Applied Gerontology: Enhancing Mobility Outcomes and Driving in the Elderly**,

Karlene Ball

Division 35:

Aging of Ethnic Minority Women

Division 38:

Social Relationships and Health

Division 40:

Living on the Edge: Education, Cognitive Reserve, and Dementia Risk

Neuropsychology of Aging and Dementia

Neuropsychological Assessment of Cognitive and Functional Abilities in Severe Dementia

1998 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Chair

Marilyn McKean Skaff, local arrangements chair

Victoria Bedford

Jane Berry

Rosemary Blieszner

Neil Charness (Program Chair, 1999)

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Martin Murphy

Mary Newman

Sara Qualls

Ellen Bouchard Ryan

Karen J. Sutton

Roni Beth Tower

Barbara Turner

Steven H. Zarit

Open Your Golden Gate, San Francisco, Division 20 is coming!

by Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Div. 20 Program Chair 1998

As you can see from the program, we are planning on a wide-ranging and innovative set of symposia, discussions, conversation hours, roundtables, invited addresses and poster sessions.

The Division 20 Program Committee provided wonderful support in planning this year's program. Together with the help of our membership, many of whom responded to my requests to submit programs in targeted areas, everyone has put in a tremendous effort, which should be reflected in many well-attended and informative sessions.

Division 20 is also involved in a number of co-listed programs and I urge you to check the APA program carefully because they do not appear in this newsletter. Among the co-listed programs are invited addresses and symposia by Division 20 members on topics that I think will be of great interest to our members. Many other divisions have also co-listed our programs (see listing at left). I am hoping that these co-listed programs will give our members the opportunity to communicate about the work of our division with others whose work also touches upon various important topics of relevance to aging. For example, Division 34 (Population and Environmental Psychology) will be hosting one of the two grandparenting symposia involving Division 20 members. Division 2 (Teaching of Psychology) will be co-listing one of our invited addresses. In addition, Division 20 was an active participant in promoting the programs of some of the directorates and will be part of the mini-conventions on HIV/AIDS.

Don't forget another social occasion of the convention, which is the annual Division 20 social hour. This year we have it planned for Saturday at 5 pm, and there will be delicious delicacies as well as a wonderful chance to catch up with your colleagues. I can personally assure you a great time before you head out for an enjoyable night on the town!

To top everything off, we have an evening's entertainment planned which should prove to be at least as memorable as the 1996 Toronto Harbour Cruise. Although I cannot promise that there will be space left by the time you get this newsletter, you may wish to check with Marilyn McKean Skaff. As of this writing, there were still some places left, but they are going fast!

Since this is my last article as program chair, you won't be subjected to any more titles of my articles involving plays on the words of songs about San Francisco. However,

I feel compelled to end this message by wishing that none of you comes back complaining that "I Left My Heart In ..." (you know where). Enjoy the convention and I look forward to seeing you there!

Applied Gero. continued from page 3.

of this line of work, caregivers were successfully trained to deliver an S-R intervention for persons with AD in their care (McKittrick, 1993; McKittrick & Camp, 1993). This is an important next step in intervention research — the ability for persons other than the researcher to apply the intervention. It is often either overlooked or never attempted when applied research is based in more traditional research settings. The need to "give away the technology" is a theme to which we will return.

For example, Brush and Camp (unpublished manuscript, a) demonstrated that S-R could be used by speech-language pathologists to meet therapeutic goals for clients within the contexts of regular speech therapy sessions. Recall trials for S-R target behaviors (e.g., remembering to look at an appointment calendar to know what activities were scheduled for that day and for what hours of the day) were presented at the natural breaks within therapy sessions, i.e., after the conclusions of activities within therapy sessions. Clients with dementia, most in long-term care, were the beneficiaries of the intervention. In addition, S-R has been used by a speech-language pathologist to treat a swallowing disorder (i.e., to provide dysphagia therapy) in a long-term care resident with dementia (Brush & Camp, unpublished manuscript, b).

This leads to another important point for the future of applied gerontological research. In order to have a large-scale impact, an intervention must be viewed as practical by professionals who are to implement the intervention. This means that in addition to eliciting a desired effect, an intervention must be able to be applied within the setting and time frame that the professional normally delivers services. In addition, especially in situations where maintaining a sufficient clinical caseload and generating a targeted income are important (i.e., in most situations), the intervention must be one which can be viewed as a billable procedure.

Applied gerontologists can use gerontological knowledge to improve the quality of life of older adults by designing and making products and services that older adults may need for independent living. Universal design principles make such products desirable for people of all ages with or without disabilities (R. Sterns & H. Sterns, 1995). Assistive devices can help to reduce functional limitations from physical, sensory, or cognitive impairment (Fernie, 1997). Older adults may be able to stay in their homes longer through the use of assistive technology to support activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, and many other activities that increase quality of life. We can expect to see major advances in both low and high technology approaches to supporting independent functioning of older adults (Czaja, 1997).

Applied Gero. continues on page 9.

President's Message continued from Page 2.

members. It should be useful for those new to the Executive Board and also for those who are considering service on the various committees.

Aging has received a great deal of well-deserved recognition within the American Psychological Association this year. Due to the efforts of Division 20 and Division 12, Section II members, APA Council unanimously approved the designation "Proficiency in Geropsychology."

The APA Committee on Aging has been formally established within the APA governance system and is scheduled to meet twice a year (spring and fall) in Washington, DC. This committee, which reports to the APA Council through the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest, will be chaired by Steve Zarit in the coming year. Other members are Michael Duffy, Margaret Gatz, Jacqueline Goodchilds, Manuel Miranda, and Anderson Smith. These are truly exciting times for the field of aging in the American Psychological Association.

In closing let me say that it has been an honor to serve as President of Division 20 this year. I am confident that when I pass the gavel to Tim Salthouse at the division business meeting, the division will be in good hands and will continue to grow and prosper.

Southern Regional Student Convention

The Ninth Annual Student Convention in Gerontology and Geriatrics was held on April 4, 1998 in the Student Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the one-day regional student convention was "Collaboration in Gerontology: Education, Research, and Practice". The convention was jointly sponsored by The University of Georgia Gerontology Center, the Georgia State University Gerontology Center, and Georgia Southern University Department of Nursing. Approximately 100 persons attended the event, representing 21 schools and nine states.

The keynote address "Beyond the Comfort Zone: Boundary Crossing and Other Rewarding Acts" was delivered by Paula Dressel, Senior Fellow, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland, and Professor of Sociology, Georgia State University. Three symposia were also included in the program presented by faculty and students from The University of Kentucky, the Florida

Research Awards in Psychogeriatrics

Researchers from around the world are invited to submit original, unpublished work for the 1999 IPA/Bayer Research Awards in Psychogeriatrics. The awards, presented biennially, are given to encourage and reward important psychogeriatric research throughout the world. They have been sponsored since their inception in 1989 by Bayer AG and the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA).

These prestigious awards carry cash prizes of 25,000 DM (first place), 15,000 DM (second place), and 10,000 (third place). The winners, who will be invited to present their papers at a special symposium at IPA's International Congress in Vancouver in August 1999 will receive a commemorative medallion and a travel and expense stipend to attend the Congress. The papers will also be published in IPA's quarterly journal, *International Psychogeriatrics*.

Entries must be written in English. The deadline for submission of papers is 1 December 1998, and awards will be announced on 1 June 1999. To obtain complete instructions for submitting a paper, interested researchers should contact IPA, 550 Frontage Road, Suite 2820, Northfield, IL 60093 USA (tel 1 + 847-784-1701, fax 1-847-784-1705, email: ipa@ipa-online.org or <http://www.ipa-online.org>).

Policy Center on Aging at the University of South Florida, and the Department of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. A student poster competition was held in addition. First place was awarded to Mixon Ware-Hargis, the University of Tennessee. Second place was awarded to Sharon King, Georgia State University. The third place award was presented to Jodi Engel, the University of Central Arkansas and honorable mention for the poster of Molly Perkins, Georgia State University.

The faculty-students' symposium presentations will be reviewed, edited, and published entirely by the participating students. The University of Georgia Gerontology Center will publish this monograph.

We invite students and faculty to participate in next year's convention. The Call for Papers will be announced in the *Southern Gerontologist*. For information please contact Dr. Roger W. Morrell, University of Georgia Gerontology Center, 100 Candler Hall, Athens, GA 30602-1775, (706) 542-3954, email: rmorrell@omega.geron.uga.edu.

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Aging and Driving

There were approximately 169 million drivers in the United States in 1992. Over 22.5 million (13.4 percent) were drivers 60 and over (Accident Facts, 1992). Older drivers have relatively few crashes when considered on a per person basis. When miles driven are taken into account, the crash risk of drivers 75 years and above is at a similar level as 16-24 year old drivers who are high risk. These crash rates indicate a serious issue since older drivers tend to drive mainly during optimal times, during good weather and on less demanding routes. Older drivers represent the fastest growing segment of the driving population, both in the total number of drivers on the road, and the number of miles driven annually per driver. It is estimated by the year 2024 one of four drivers will be over 65 years of age.

Automobile crashes are the leading cause of injury-related fatalities among 65 to 74 year olds and the second leading cause (after falls) in the over 75 group. Persons 75 and over were admitted to the hospital twice as frequently as younger persons. Case fatality ratios were nearly four times higher for the 75 and over group than for all ages combined. Nine out of ten crashes over the age of 65 involve two or more vehicles. Older drivers at risk for a crash create a risk for themselves but also persons in other vehicles. Seventy-five per cent of the time older drivers receive a moving violation in connection with these crashes (Dobbs, 1996).

A major goal of applied gerontology is to keep capable able older drivers on the road as long as they are able. The development of assessment approaches to evaluate skills related to driving, as well as approaches to retrain skills if needed is part of the current approach. A major concern is whether an older person will voluntarily modify or restrict his/her driving. The role of family and friends concerned about an older driver and what interventions they are willing to do has been part of recent qualitative focus group research (H. Sterns, R. Sterns, Aizenberg and Anapolle, 1997). This research indicated that families are often frustrated by the lack of support they receive from physicians and Department of Motor Vehicles. Physicians and other health professionals report that they do

not have the information that they need to make decisions about whether a person can continue to drive or not. Some family members are willing to take action and assist the older adult driver to modify driving or to cease driving. Some families, however, do not want their older adult relative to stop driving due to the increased caregiving responsibilities that will be placed on the family members. Other families are not able to deal with the changing capacities of their older adult driver and deny the need for intervention. Family members and health professionals need to be able to access alternative transportation approaches and to support the older adult in the transition to reduced or complete cessation of driving.

The driving record for older adults is subject to a number of important influences. Many older adults have always had excellent driving skills and perform well; others may have declining abilities but are able to compensate for this loss by driving more cautiously, at slower speeds, for fewer routes of travel. Still others may have declining capacities, but do not recognize or compensate for them, leading to violations and/or accidents (Sterns, Barrett, and Alexander, 1985).

Some older adults may prematurely stop driving as a result of an accident, a near miss, or family pressure. The problem is that there may be no opportunity for an older adult to undergo special testing and be given feedback regarding his or her driving ability. Traditional license examinations are not designed for this, nor have they been extensive enough to provide such information. More rigorous annual testing for renewal of a drivers license has often been suggested, when some critical age has been reached, and is being carried out by some states. The use of a more extensive testing approach for older adults may be appropriate provided that the tests assess skills known to be relevant to the driving task. Age, per se, does not lead to accidents. Although correlational research indicates a relationship between age and accident rates per mile driven beginning with the age group of 55 to 65, the main factors predictive of motor vehicle accidents are those deficiencies in physical and psychological skills that are essential for carrying out driving tasks. A number of driving evaluation centers have developed clinical assessments, simulator testing, and have developed more extensive testing on road evaluation of driving skills.

Extensive research has been carried out on the evaluation of visual function as it relates to driving skills. Ball and Owsley (1993; Owsley, 1994) have found that many traditional ophthalmological measures may not be predictive of driving behavior. One promising approach from their research has been the development and evaluation of the Useful Field Of View. This measure is able to identify individuals who have higher likelihood of crashes. Results indicated that although eye health was predictive of visual function, neither eye health nor visual function related to crash frequency obtained from state records. Owsley (1994) found that visual function was moderately predictive of the size of the Useful Field Of View, supporting the idea that tests of visual attention would be determined by the quality of visual sensory input. Useful Field Of View and Mental Status Measures were both found to be significantly related to crash frequency. Interventions and training to enhance a diminishing Useful Field Of View, the availability of intelligent vehicle systems and easier-to-see road signs are examples of research applications that may help older adults with declining functional abilities drive longer. At the same time in their lives, many older people may experience a loss of driving ability. If they are to maintain independence, they will need to adapt to other methods of transportation.

Alternative Transportation

As the older adult population increases, particularly in the group aged 85 years or more, older adults will have higher levels of mobility experience and expectations that they wish to maintain, as driving an automobile becomes increasingly difficult for them and they and their families look for alternative ways to travel. Transportation services used by older adults range along a continuum from independent to dependent modes. Private transportation modes include walking and automobile trips, as driver or passenger. Public transportation includes fixed-route and door-to-door services. In addition, taxi companies and social service agencies provide transportation services. Many communities provide formal older adult or special adult transportation with private and/or public funds for specific services, based on the premise that door-to-door transportation service is the cornerstone of the elderly person's access

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Needed: Membership Chair, Grad Student, & Post-Doc Reps.

Division 20 needs a new Membership Chair and Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Representatives.

The responsibilities for these positions are described below. (Thanks to Joan Erber for preparing these descriptions, which are part of the new Division Officers Handbook.) If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions please email Tim Salthouse (President-Elect) at tim.salthouse@psych.gatech.edu.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Chair is responsible for processing new membership applications from members, associates, and affiliates and sending the information to the APA Membership Office. Once these applications are processed, the APA Membership Office is responsible for maintaining the membership database, tracking the members, and billing for dues renewal.

The Membership Chair recruits new members into the Division. Most of this recruitment is accomplished when people have indicated to APA that they are interested in aging. APA, in turn, notifies the Division Membership Chair, who then mails the interested party a letter and an application form. In addition, the Membership Chair makes every effort to make applications available at appropriate conferences and workshops.

The Membership Chair updates the Division 20 Membership Brochure and mails it as requested. As described above, the Membership Chair processes new applications by sending the new member a letter of welcome before forwarding the information to the APA membership office.

The Membership Chair contacts the APA Membership Office on behalf of the President when the President needs the latest updated membership statistics for reports that must be written during the year (e.g., the Annual APA Division Report). Also, the Membership Chair obtains updated statistics from the APA Membership Office for a report at the Mid-Year and Annual Division Executive Board meetings.

The Membership Chair keeps in touch with the APA Membership Office and Division Office regarding strategies and ideas for recruitment. He/she can request that APA send postcards of reminder to unpaid Division members.

In the early fall of the year (as soon after APA as possible), the Membership Chair should plan to check with the APA Membership Office to make sure that individuals who have been granted Fellowship Status in the Division have indeed been recorded by the APA Membership Office as Fellows. This should be done to avoid situations in which APA billing statements have the wrong codes.

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The Graduate Student Representative serves as the contact person for graduate students in adult development/aging. The Graduate Student Representative may work with the Program Chair to organize a symposium for the APA convention on issues relevant to the concerns of graduate students. Also, the Graduate chair can work with the Program Chair to develop programming intended to serve the interests of the graduate student network.

The Graduate Student Representative should plan to contribute a brief article to the Division Newsletter that would be of interest to graduate students (e.g., an article on job and/or post-doctoral opportunities). The article could either be written by the Representative or by someone that he/she contacts.

POST-DOCTORAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The Post-Doctoral Representative carries out activities that serve the interests of post-doctoral students in adult development and aging. This might include coordinating information on job positions, or it could be coordinating information that would be helpful to graduate students in selecting post-doctoral opportunities.

The Post-Doctoral Representative should plan to contribute a brief article to the Division Newsletter that would be of interest to post-doctoral students (e.g., an article on job search or job opportunities). The article could either be written by the Representative or by someone that the Representative contacts.

Is Your Child or Parent a Psychologist?

We are doing research on intergenerational career choice in Psychology. Please contact either Susan Whitbourne (Swhitbo@aol.com) or Harvey Sterns (hsterns@uakron.edu).

**Welcome New
Members of
Division 20**

Barry L. Adams Birmingham, AL	William F. Dowling, Ph.D. Lansing, MI	Martha B. Maer Houston, TX	Deborah Schonitzer, Ph.D. Glenmont, NY
Robert D. Assael, Ph.D. Fort Lauderdale, FL	Ranjana Dutta, Ph.D. Mt. Pleasant, MI	Kenneth Manges, Ph.D. Cincinnati, OH	Sarah Schuster, Ph.D. Los Angeles, CA
Gladys Altieri, Ph.D. San Juan, PR	Howard S. Farkas, Ph.D. Chicago, IL	Patrick Mason, Ph.D., FPPR Oklahoma City, OK	Tanya Schwartz, Ph.D. Kailua, HI
Deborah Barbieri, Psy.D. Brooklyn, NY	S. Norman Feingold, Ph.D. Rockville, MD	Dennis J. McArthur, M.S. Salem, OH	Lauren S. Seifert, Ph.D. Akron, OH
Barbara Baharoglu Orlando, FL	Jan Levinson Gilman, Ph.D. Santa Rosa, CA	Arthur L. McDonald, Ph.D. Lame Deer, Montana	Jeffery G. Shapiro, Ph.D. Bala Cynwyd, PA
Pamela Bradley, Ph.D. Oakland, CA	Frances W. Griffis, Psy.D. Lauderhill, FL	Marsha McKeon, Ph.D. Ventura, CA	Donal G. Slone, Ph.D. Gig Harbor, WA
Carolyn R. Barnes Newark, DE	Ravenna Helson Berkeley, CA	Christopher P. Mulrooney, MPS, Ph.D. Westport, MA	Alan B. Stevens, Ph.D. Birmingham, AL
Doreen M. Brubaker, Ph.D. Houston, TX	Charlotte Hettena, Ph.D. Lynbrook, NY	Marcy Pomeroy, Ph.D. Santa Cruz, CA	Pat Tomasso, Ph.D. Irvington, NY
Dulany Ogden Bennet, Psy.D. Aloha OR	Michael P. Hughes Beloit, WI	Elizabeth J. Rave Seattle, WA	Lillian L. Torre, Ph.D. Coconut Creek, FL
Shari G. Bronsky, Psy. D. Brookfield, CT	Jay Inwald, Psy.D. Bingham Farms, MI	Susan Robinson-Whelen, Ph.D. Houston, TX	Maxwell Twum Fayetteville, NC
Leslie Bryon Hialeah, FL	Arthur I. Kassoff, Ph.D. Hillsbora, VA	Bruce M. Sachs, Ph.D. San Diego, CA	Kimberly S. Van Haitsma, Ph.D. Yardley, PA
Barbara M. Byrne, Ph.D. Punta Gorda, FL	Thomas A. Kindermann Portland, OR	Dullant K. Schmidt, Ph.D. Wichita, KS	David C. Wade, Psy.D. Hood River, OR
Lisa Tabor Connor, Ph.D. Chestnut Hill, MA	Linda K. Krien, Ph.D. Loeveland, CO	Jill Schoen Brookings, SD	Mary Jane Wahl Ambler, PA
Elizabeth Thorpe Davis Atlanta, GA	Gregory Kotlarz, Ph.D. Royal Oak, MI	Carolyn R. Schuman Cape Coral, FL	Teena Willoughby, Ph.D. St. Catherines, ON
J. Timothy Davis Cambridge, MA	Jose LaFosse, Ph.D. Denver, CO	Brent J. Small, Ph.D. Tampa, FL	Michael Wise Skokie, IL
Promila Dhillon, Ph.D. Oakhurst, NJ	John N. Laguna, Ph.D. Willow Street, PA	Lisa Soederberg Miller, Ph.D. Waltham, MA	W. Joy Woodruff, Ph.D. Santa Barbara, CA
Robert Donovan, Ph.D. South Hadley, MA	James R. Logan, Ph.D. Pineville, LA	Karen R. Speier, Ph.D. Baton Rouge, LA	Gerald Young Toronto, ON
	Susan MacNeill, Ph.D. Detroit, MI	Louise Riscalla, Ph.D. Edison, NJ	Cathie Zmachinski, Ph.D. Birmingham, MI

Note from the Editor and Co-Editor

This is our third issue and it marks the end of our first year editing the newsletter. Editor Sterns has had enriching interactions with the United States Postal Service. Co-Editor Murphy plans to devote the rest of his life to deleting hard returns in ASCII files and finding rogue font codes in Word and WordPerfect files.

We thank everyone who contributed to this issue. Special thanks are due to President Erber for her articles and for her skill in prompting other contributors to send their articles this year. We also thank our regular contributors, Sue Whitbourne, Andy Smith, and Sara Qualls, for the quality and timeliness of their work. We thank Sally Miller-Albrecht, Doni Murphy, and Judy Valatka for finding many of our typographical errors.

Our job is easy when there is good content to edit. If you would like to contribute to an upcoming issue, please send the information to Harvey Sterns at hsterns@uakron.edu or Marty Murphy at mmurphy@uakron.edu. Division 20 business is, of course, a priority for publication. Announcements of general interest are very appropriate for the Newsletter; please be sure to include contact persons and deadlines when appropriate.

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to community medical and social services.

Fixed-route transportation services pose disadvantages to older adults due to the infrequency, inflexibility, and complexity of service; the physical design and operating characteristics of the system; the difficulty in reading and understanding schedules, maps, and details of system operation; and the cost of service (Transportation Research Board and National Research Council, 1988). Neighborhood circulators or service routes that permit fixed-route vehicles to deviate from the route to pick up riders at their homes or drop them off at their destination provide older adults with ways to adapt to their changing capabilities.

Conclusion

As the number of older adults increases, the demand for services that are needed by an aging population is creating challenges for public and private agencies to provide services (i.e. public health and transportation services). Environmental press and environmental supports that promote continued independence are determinants for whether aging in place can be successfully accomplished. The ability to maintain the highest levels of independent functioning are directly related to the ability to go grocery shopping, access medical facilities, obtain community services, conduct personal business and socialize.

Adult Development and Aging News

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