



Sigma Phi Omega

*National Academic Honor and
Professional Society in Gerontology*

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From the President Rona J. Karasik, PhD



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My fellow SPO members:

A new school year is upon us – full of promise and opportunity! I challenge all of you to think about how you, as members of Sigma Phi Omega – the National Honors & Professional Society in Gerontology, can make a difference in the field of aging, in your community, and in the lives of older adults.

Throughout the year I am privileged to hear about the various activities our chapters and individual members undertake – ranging from service-learning and fundraising walks to community service projects and research. I want to encourage you all to keep sharing your successes with us through e-mails to me spopresident@hotmail.com and to our newsletter editor SPOnewsletter@sigmaphiomega.org. Deadlines for newsletter submissions are April 1, September 1 and December 1.

I'd also like to remind students who applied for the Presidential Paper Award that if you submitted your paper abstract to AGHE and also indicated you would like to be considered for the award, you should be hearing soon from AGHE about whether your abstract has been accepted. Following notification of acceptance, students must submit the full-text manuscript via email to SPOPresident@sigmaphiomega.org with the subject line: **SPO President's Award**. Remember, the deadline for submission of the manuscript to the SPO president is October 1! Go to <http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/awards.html> for more details.

You can also stay in touch via our SPO Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=110110235014> and our website www.sigmaphiomega.org. On our website, you can always find the latest SPO information, including the most up to date forms for membership and renewal. Speaking of membership and renewal, please remember that we need **your** help to keep our membership information up to date. Membership renewals happen annually in the Fall and Spring. If you were initiated in the Fall, your renewal is due each September. If you were initiated in the Spring, your renewal is due each March. Chapter advisors – it is important that you also keep your membership status up to date! If you have questions about membership, e-mail our membership administrator Lori Kerr at spomembership@yahoo.com or check out our website at <http://www.sigmaphiomega.org>. Remember that our primary form of contact is via e-mail – so keep us up to date if your e-mail changes – this is especially important for graduating students!

Have a wonderful fall!

~Rona

Rona J. Karasik, PhD

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ΣΦΩ Chapter News

Gamma Nu Chapter, Ithaca College

The Gamma Nu Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega at Ithaca College inducted eleven students and one honorary community member at a ceremony held on Friday, March 25, 2011. The ceremony was organized and conducted by the SPO officers: President Marissa Levenson, Vice President Victoria Centurelli, Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Cicalese and Volunteer Coordinator Corey Corsaro. The students inducted were: Natalie Ceva, Julie Ann Conserette, Gina D'Addario, Christine M. Evans, Sarah E. Furie, Gina Marie Monk, Melanie Morrison, Brittany Elisabeth Palmer, Keiran M. Raupers, Anna Schrader, and Shelby Katrina Smith. The honorary community member was Valerie VanAmburg, Program Coordinator at the Clare Bridge Memory Care Facility in Ithaca, NY. Pictured are new members (l to r) Brittany Palmer, Sarah Furie, Shelby Smith, Valerie VanAmburg, Keiran Raupers, Melanie Morrison, Gina Monk, Gina D'Addario, and Julie Conserette.



~ Submitted by Christine Pogorzala, pogorzal@ithaca.edu

Omega Gamma Chapter, York College of Pennsylvania

The Omega Gamma Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega is off to a great start at York College of Pennsylvania this year. The leadership of this Chapter set a goal of having each member contribute at least three hours of community service per month—12 hours per semester. As such, the chapter has developed new avenues for attaining this goal. In addition to some of the tried and true service activities that have been done in the past, such as participation in the Memory Walk and Christmas Caroling in LTC facilities, this year, members have been encouraged to become official volunteers at two skilled care facilities within walking distance of the college.

According to Chapter president, Crystal Bastress, “We are hoping to have dedicated members who will want to visit residents even when it is not their scheduled week to visit. In addition to visits we hope to do group activities with the nursing homes like holiday, birthday celebrations, transportation aids for bus rides/fairs, etc. They are open for new ideas, and we are hoping to bring our own creativity and activities to the table to break up the typical routines of a nursing home. Facilities also will let us decorate bulletin boards and volunteer within the clerical aspect of business including following up with families regarding bereavement and healing as well as one on one resident visits. Volunteering efforts will be aimed specifically towards members’ major/minor and interests to benefit them with experience as well as the facility and to initiate connections within the field.” ~ Submitted by Mary Ligon, mligon@ycp.edu

Delta Mu Chapter, University of Indianapolis

The Delta Mu Chapter of Sigma Phi Omega at University of Indianapolis held the annual SPO Induction & Awards ceremony on the evening of March 25, 2011. A total of forty new members were inducted into the chapter including nine professionals, six UIndy faculty, fifteen graduate students in the master’s and certificate programs, and ten undergraduate students. Chapter Advisor, Tamara Wolske, facilitated the ceremony that included a buffet supper. Student chapter president, Emily Austin, sent a video greeting (recorded from her home in Idaho) to be viewed by the attendees and student chapter vice-president, Paul Arthur, was welcomed back from his military tour of service in Iraq and he addressed the group with a brief speech. Additionally, the five graduate students who received scholarships and the three graduate assistant positions for the academic year 2010-11 were recognized and congratulated. (con’t on page 3)

For this year's Careers in Aging Week, the Delta Mu Chapter will host and sponsor a variety of fun and informative activities. The week of April 11th will begin with an exhibit table in the university's student center. The exhibit will seek to promote the undergraduate and graduate programs in aging studies offered at the University of Indianapolis, as well as possible careers within the field of aging. The Chapter will host the table over two days and will have drawings for prizes from the UIndy bookstore.

A documentary, "Aging in America" will be offered for viewing on Thursday evening April 14 to broaden exposure to aging issues and different perspectives on aging. This event will be opened with a short, informational 'Aging Q&A' session and closed with a "Myths on Aging" quiz for participants. Refreshments and CIAW hand-outs will be shared and SPO members will be available to answer students' questions.

The Delta Mu Chapter will close the week with the inaugural "Arts & Aging Contest" event that solicits artistic submissions from undergraduate students in the form of art, photography, music, and writings (essay, poetry, etc.). The submissions must depict or express a *positive* aspect of aging through the artistic medium of choice. A \$100 prize will be awarded to the contest winner and the works will be displayed in the student center. ~Submitted by Tamara Wolske, wolsketl@uindy.edu



ΣΦΩ Special Announcements

NSF-funded doctoral training in aging:

Oregon State University has been awarded a five-year IGERT (Interdisciplinary Graduate Education and Research Training) grant for interdisciplinary training in aging sciences. The program is designed to address key themes of: 1) understanding mechanisms of aging from molecular to societal levels; and 2) engineering social and built environments to optimize aging. Students will participate in research training in two out of four research cores established in the Oregon State University Center for Healthy Aging Research:

1) Diet and Genetic Factors; 2) Musculoskeletal Factors; 3) Psychosocial Factors; and 4) Gerontechnology.

Students will earn an interdisciplinary minor in Aging Sciences in addition to a Ph.D. in a disciplinary department. Faculty leading this program: Karen Hooker, Carolyn Aldwin, Tory Hagen, Ron Metoyer and Michael Pavol, along with 40 faculty members who are associated with the Center for Healthy Aging Research.

NSF stipends of \$30,000 per year are available along with tuition support, health insurance, and funds for research and travel! Students from underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. For more information go to: <http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/igert/> or email Program Coordinator, Anne Hatley at Anne.Hatley@oregonstate.edu

SPO President's Award:

This award is *funded solely by donations* from SPO members and other interested parties. Anticipating the SPO President's Award will be offered for years to come, we appreciate your generous donations toward recognizing outstanding, 'up-and-coming' students in gerontology. To contribute to this worthwhile cause, **mail your check made payable to Sigma Phi Omega and note "For SPO President's Award" to:**

Sigma Phi Omega
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
Washington, DC 20005-4018

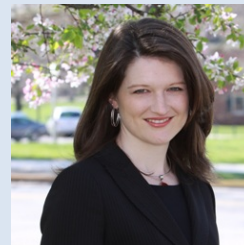
Board of Directors 2011-2012



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Open Call for Board Positions

Nominations for the positions of **Secretary, Student Representative, and Member at large** are due **November 15th**!
More information and a link to the nomination can be found on the SPO website homepage:

<http://www.sigmaphiomega.org>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updated Bylaws now available on SPO website

<http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/files/Documents/SPOBylawsRevised2011.pdf>

Society Medals and Honor Cords!

Remember, cords and medals are available any time of the year. You'll want to wear them with your cap and gown! Medals are embossed in blue and gold with the SPO emblem. Honor cords are two-cord sets in the Society's colors of blue and gold. Buy yours now for only \$15.00 each plus shipping. If you or your chapter purchase 10 or more, you'll get a 10% discount. You can mix your order to include both medals and cords. Shipping is \$3.00 for the first item with additional shipping \$1.00 per item. **Orders must be received by November 15th for Winter graduations and March 15th for Spring graduations.** Any order received after these appointed dates are considered a "rush order" and subject to extra cost for shipping. No credit cards accepted.



Advertise With Us!!

The Sigma Phi Omega newsletter is published and distributed electronically 3 times a year.

Visit <http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/news.html> to learn more about submission deadlines, prices and details of paid advertisements!

Membership Reminders

Please send us your updated contact information when it changes. We enjoy staying in contact with you! Also, SPO is looking for past members whose contact information and dues are not updated. If you are aware that SPO does not have your current contact information, please contact Lori Kerr with updated information at spomembership@yahoo.com. Once we have your updated information, be sure to filter your email to allow emails from SPOMembership@yahoo.com and SPOMailings@yahoo.com. Filtering helps SPO work more efficiently as we will not need to ask permission for email to be sent to members, specifically. Many emails are sent from the mass email database and when the request does not work, members are unable to receive email updates.

Send Us Your News!

We love to share your chapter news, pictures, ideas, and events. Please send your submissions to the newsletter editor, Candace Brown, at SPONewsletter@sigmaphiomega.org. Please include your chapter name, college or university, submitter's name, email, and phone. Looking forward to hearing your chapter news!

Professional Page Corner!

SPO is excited to present the opportunity for our professional members to be recognized! The first "Professional Page Corner" will be available in our Winter 2011 newsletter. Our professional members are encouraged to write the newsletter editor, Candace Brown, at SPONewsletter@sigmaphiomega.org and tell the society what you are doing in the field of Gerontology!

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