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Submissions due **September 15, 2005**
for November 2005 publication.

From the President

On Sigma Phi Omega's 25th anniversary, we reflected on past accomplishments and implemented initiatives to guide us over the next 25 years. Two initiatives already implemented are resurrection of the newsletter and the President's Award for student presenters at AGHE. New initiatives in process include:

- Implementing a committee structure similar to AGHE. The board welcomes your involvement in two important committees. A **Membership Committee** (Patricia Kricos at pkricos@csd.ufl.edu) recruits new SPO chapters and recommends member services. A **Resource Development Committee** (Rona Karasik at rjkarasik@stcloudstate.edu) oversees SPO publications and resources and the SPO website. Contact Patricia or Rona to serve on either committee.

- Reviewing SPO's mission and goals to make SPO more responsive to members' needs. Soon, members will be asked to provide feedback on members' needs. The SPO Presidential Symposium at the 2006 AGHE is an interactive session on re-visioning SPO. Please plan to join us!

Autumn is a time of academic renewal. Colleagues and students return and new faculty join our communities. I hope your autumn is an energizing one. Channel some of that energy toward Sigma Phi Omega, where we fuel our own passions and, at the same time, learn with and from future generations of Gerontologists. ~ Dr. Jennifer Kinney, kinneyjm@muohio.edu

From the Editor

Jeffrey Chesky, Professor Emeritus of Gerontology & Biology at the University of Illinois at Springfield shares reflections (*below*) on the power of our roles as teachers and mentors. My fifth grade teacher taught my father, my mother, my older siblings, and delayed retirement in order to teach my younger brother. Her teaching career spanned nearly five decades. When I went to thank her for the gifts she had given my family and I, she had dementia. I was too late. ~ Janice I. Wassel, Ph.D., Director, UNCG Gerontology Program, jiwassel@uncg.edu

"Last year when I attended my 40th reunion several of us asked, "Who was the best teacher you ever had?" Whether talking about high school, college, graduate school, or professional school, members of our class now physicians, judges, professors, or business owners all had the same response. Without hesitation all said ... "Mr. Petty, of course!" our high school chemistry teacher.

After the reunion, I decided to track him down. I learned that Mr. Petty had not done well in college and he blamed his high school teachers. Determined to be a better teacher, he made us learn. Never did I work as hard or take as much pleasure in doing well as in Mr. Petty's class. Many of us were inspired to study science because of Mr. Petty's dedication to teaching. He left Florida because of some problems with his certification, perhaps short some hours in education, and took a position at an inner-city school where students didn't like how he made them work or appreciate his efforts in teaching. He then took a position in industry. What a loss that such a great teacher left education, to work in industry, feeling he had failed as a teacher.

I learned all this when speaking with his widow. Mr. Petty had died not long before my call. Mrs. Petty could hardly wait to call his children and relay that even four decades later he was remembered fondly by so many. For weeks I asked

Sigma Phi Omega thanks
the following members for
recent contributions.

Elizabeth Chandler
Meldrena K. Chapin
Joseph F. Cimini
Alice Dunstan
Izaro Elorduy
Elizabeth Ann Flournoy
Elsa Gonzaga Heath-Walsh
Mr. Morris Jenkins
Marjorie F. Mair-Hansen
Sonia Michelson
Nancy Badalucco Olson
Gari-Anne Patzward
Kati Rainey
Carolyn C. Rizza
Alicia Denise Scott
Judith B. Sellers
Ernestine C. Smith
Sandra J. Todd-Atkinson
Susan Wang
Daniel G. Wenger
Jonathon A. Wey
Sharon J. Whalen
Barbara Whitlatch
Rebecca Wild-Wesley
Midori Yamanouchi-Rynn

**New Contribution to SPO
Presidents Award from
St. Joseph College!**

myself, why in the past 40+ years hadn't any of us called Mr. Petty and told of the mark he'd made on our lives? We spoke of him at our 20th, 25th, and 30th reunions, but never picked up the phone to make the call. If you have a favorite teacher who really inspired you or had a major influence upon you, call him or her. Call today. It will be the best thing you do in a long time." ~ Submitted by Dr. Jeffrey Chesky, Professor Emeritus of Gerontology & Biology, University of Illinois at Springfield, chesky.jeffrey@uis.edu



Welcome New SPO Chapters!

Coastal Carolina University • Louisiana State University • Univ. of Arkansas at Fayetteville
Delta Tau Delta Upsilon Delta Sigma

SPO Chapter News From ...

Gamma Nu Chapter, Ithaca College Gerontology Institute, Ithaca, NY

On March 18, 2005 we inducted ten new student members: Allyson Benvenuti '05, Christina Berger '05, Joy Ilsa Bostrom '05, Kristen Fredriksen '06, Heather Henebery '05, Sylvie Anna Kamlet '05, Rebecca D. Knauer, Stacy Kuzmick '06, Joanna Claire Meinhart '07, and Julie Savage '06, and our first community member, Irene Stein, Ph.D., current director of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

Stein, our featured speaker, told chapter members "It makes good economic sense that many of you have chosen to focus on gerontology or in other fields where seniors represent a large percentage of your clients. Demographic trends suggest there will be a great many of those clients." ... "Focus on expanding your knowledge as widely as possible, regardless of where your first job takes you. The broader your vision, the more opportunity you will identify, and the more you will tailor your career choices to your own needs and talents. But never, never forget that it is the whole individual, not someone with housing repair needs, or cancer, or stroke, or income assistance needs, but a whole individual who presents a unique opportunity to help maintain independence and a good quality of life." This is good advice for all of us.
~Submitted by Terry Beckley, tbeckley@ithaca.edu



Alpha Epsilon Chapter, North Texas University, Denton, TX

Our annual project was a fundraiser for the Denton County Alzheimer's Association yearly memory walk. We raised \$950, nearly doubling our goal, and were recognized as a main contributor for the 5K walk. Our Vice President led the race from start to midway! After the walk, chapter members picnicked to celebrate. When a rainy downpour began, we ran for shelter, which only encouraged celebrations and camaraderie among our chapter's participants.
~ Submitted by Carol Larkin, Carole_Larkin@comcast.net

Beta Phi Chapter, University of Nevada, Reno, NV

During the 2004-2005 school semesters, the Beta Phi chapter participated in the Veteran's Oral History Project with the Library of Congress. Oral histories were obtained, through video recordings from several veterans in the Reno/Sparks area. We interviewed and documented experiences of a number of women who served in WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. From this project, we selected video clips and prepared a celebration for UNR's annual Celebration of Aging with members of the community meeting participating veterans. Shelley Von Berg, Ph.D. is now our faculty mentor.
~ Submitted by Kayla Nebeker, nebekr@unr.nevada.edu

Delta Pi Chapter, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IA

Delta Pi Chapter held our first meeting with dinner and an informative talk by Dr. Oluwole Oluwola, a geriatric psychiatrist. Charter members were recognized with pins and certificates by President, Iris Phillips, and David Coursert, Chairman, Social Work Department. The meeting was hosted by the Carver Community Organization that provides services to local older adults with a tour of the facility provided by Yolana Reed-Young, RN, Director of Nursing. A brief meeting was held to discuss our Chapter's focus: education of students, older adults, providers and caregivers to improve the system of care delivery for older adults, along with networking opportunities for members. The next meeting of the chapter is September 2005 at Newburgh Healthcare Center in Newburgh, IN. ~ Submitted by B. Renée Dugger, rdugger@usi.edu

Epsilon Chapter, Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, VA

Members participated in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk-a-thon, enjoyed six socials, and sponsored "Careers in Aging Week". New 2005-06 officers are: President Cynthia Burkhardt RN, VP Publicity & Activities Mary Beth Carpenter, VP Membership Bonnie Nemeth, Treasurer Bert Waters, Secretary Suzanne Thibault, and our Advisor is Associate Professor E. Ayn Welleford PhD, Interim Chair Department of Gerontology assisted by Katie Young MS, Education Coordinator and former SPO president 2003-04. We are grateful to past president Katie Lyles and officers for their hard work.

The year's highlight was a retirement celebration honoring Gerontology Department Chair Iris Parham, PhD, Professor Nancy Osgood, PhD, and Professor Stephen Harkins, PhD. Dr. Parham founded the Department of Gerontology at VCU MCV and the Virginia Geriatric Education Center, served on the Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's disease, and held offices on numerous boards and committees. Her interests are psychological adjustment to LTC and curriculum development/innovation. She received the University Award for Distinguished Service. As a retirement tribute, a beautiful quilt signed by department members, SPO members and many guests was presented to Dr. Parham.

Nancy Osgood PhD, Professor of Gerontology and Sociology, is well known for her research and publications on suicide in later life. She has published several books on the elderly and retirement, leisure, recreation and alcoholism in aging. Dr. Osgood participates in creative arts therapy and is accompanied by her beloved parrots as pet therapy assistants.

Stephen Harkins, PhD. is a Professor of Gerontology and co-founder of the Dementia and Memory Clinic at VCU MCV. His research interests include age changes in sensory, attention and memory processes. Dr. Harkins received numerous grants for his work including those from NIH, NIMH and private companies. The Department of Gerontology faculty, students, alumni and SPO members wish all of these renowned educators a healthy, happy path through the next phase of their life's journey. ~ Submitted by Cynthia Burkhardt, RN BSN, sayscin@aol.com

Gamma Omicron Chapter, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Our main activities for 2004-05 were Christmas caroling with older residents at the Kuakini Medical Center, and a "paper goods drive" at a Safeway store. We collected over \$1,000 worth of paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and other goods from shoppers, then distributed to low income elders served by Project Dana, a nationally recognized interfaith volunteer organization. The Chapter also made a donation for renovation of the University's flood damaged Hamilton Library and began development of a website linked to the UH Center on Aging website.

For 2005-06, the Chapter is planning a number of exciting activities including: a visit to an elder care facility; a Christmas caroling party; two paper goods drives; speaking to high school students about careers in gerontology; collaborating with other organizations for lectures; and fund raising to honor a graduating gerontology student.

2004-05 Board members were re-elected for the coming year. They are: Tony Lenzer, President; Dayna Minotadani, VP; Jodi Shaw, Secretary; Michelle Sagucio, Treasurer; Carmen Young and Lori Wells, Program Co-chairs; Dawn Urabe, Membership Chair; and Carolyn Ballou and Cullen Hayashida, Members-at-Large. Kathryn Braun continues as Chapter Representative. ~Submitted by Tony Lenzer, tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com

Gamma Sigma Chapter, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Students assisted in the ground-breaking ceremony for the first Green House in Michigan at Presbyterian Villages, a senior living community in Redford, Michigan. (Photo shows from left: Gamma Sigma President David Majors; Geriatric Fellows Student Morgan Metzger; Dr. William Thomas, President of Eden Alternatives; Gamma Sigma member Morgan Gable; Gamma Sigma Vice President Shoshanna Joss.) Other summer events include a lunchtime movie "Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100". Ruth was a Detroit resident believed to be the oldest living-out African American Lesbian. She passed away in October of 2000 at age 101.

Geriatric Social Work Students and members of the Gamma Sigma Chapter will attend a major league baseball game at Comerica Park on July 22 when Detroit Tigers host the Minnesota Twins. ~ Submitted by David Majors, davidm055@yahoo.com



Iota Sigma Upsilon Chapter, Iowa State University, Ames, IO

Last fall, faculty and students in the Iowa State University Gerontology Program chartered the Iota Sigma Upsilon Chapter. Seventeen members were initiated into our chapter during April.

The theme for this year's meetings and events focused on Successful Aging. The chapter hosted a panel discussion on successful aging that involved several older adults from the Ames community. This unique experience allowed the panel to share their life experiences and the students to interact on a personal level. Other activities included discussing the movie "On Golden Pond" and a recent research article entitled "Psychosocial development in the elderly: An investigation into Erikson's ninth stage."

In the spring, we were delighted to have a 93-years-young community member share stories from his lifetime, including his prominent career in journalism and the surreal experience of listening to his WWII live broadcasts! Chapter members engaged in several fundraising events for Heartland Senior Services and for our chapter.

~ Submitted by Jamie K. Bennett, jameskay@iastate.edu



Upsilon Nu Chapter, University of Nebraska, Omaha & Lincoln, NE

Our chapter sponsored and participated in several activities and events on both the Omaha and Lincoln campuses. These include research, service to the community, promotion of interest in the field of Gerontology, and participation in the annual "Careers in Aging" program. We completed a study for VSA Arts Nebraska, the Alzheimer's Association, and the House of Hope care facility to evaluate the impact on residents of participation in five arts activities. Systematic observer ratings of residents' pleasure, interest and engagement suggested that the arts activities were at least as effective as activities routinely included in resident schedules.

Upsilon Nu also formed a Gerontology Interest Group, meeting monthly, to provide students, faculty, and community leaders serving elders the opportunity to share information about programs, services, ongoing research, and community needs, and to exchange information and views. Recent meetings featured Patty Adams, Executive Director of the UNO-based Program for Women and Successful Aging, and Paul Falkowski, the founder of Dessert Ministries, a growing ministry of over 70 community volunteers who visit nursing home residents. In support of "Careers in Aging" week, our faculty held an information session on the Lincoln campus for students interested in pursuing a career in aging. Posters were hung in high traffic areas, and students, enrolled in two sections of an introductory course in Gerontology on each campus, were provided with information about potential jobs in the field and educational opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate levels. ~ Submitted by Tripp Moore, trippmoore@aol.com

Meet SPO Officers & Staff for 2005-2006 ...

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Career Reflections

We encourage SPO members to reflect on their careers and introduce students to a myriad of opportunities! Below we share the second of three presentations from the AGHE 2005 closing plenary session.

Career Reflections: Public Policy and Aging Career, by Design, or by Chance?

"We're not surprised," they say, "that you have taken the path of public health and aging." Some say it was by design, others say it was by chance. As the **Senior Advisor for the Aging Initiative at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, I have come to this place partly by design and partly by chance. Those who know my father, Jim Sykes, long time advocate for older adults, are not surprised. Policy issues surrounding health and aging have been woven into the fabric of my life and work.

While studying public policy and health services administration in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I learned, informally, from leaders in the field over breakfast strategy meetings pertaining to the Wisconsin Board on Aging action agenda. Later, in Washington DC I was invited to sit at the table of the National Council on the Aging's Policy Committee where I met Jack Ossofsky, Bernice Neugarten, Paul Kershner, Powell Lawton, among others. I am convinced that were Dr. Lawton alive, he would embrace the Aging Initiative of the EPA. I have a long time friend and mentor, the late Paul Offner, to thank for encouraging me to pursue a graduate certificate in health services administration. By design, my future was taking shape.

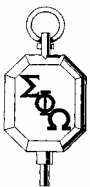


By chance, while in graduate school, I was invited by Katie Morrison, Administrator for the State Division of Health to draft her speeches. But it was not by chance that my first professional position was with Mount Sinai Hospital in Milwaukee as a planning coordinator on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant on hospital initiatives in long term care. In 1989, I came to Washington, DC to work as professional staff for the Senate Special Committee on Aging. Over breakfast at the Hay Adams with Arthur Flemming, I was counseled to work on policies important to frail elders, including those in nursing homes. At his suggestion I volunteered as an ombudsman while working for the Senate Special Committee on Aging. I learned to communicate with those who could no longer speak and to care about their welfare.

The next three positions I held were by chance and by design. Congressman David Obey hired me as an associate staff member on aging, labor and health issues. During that time I learned about the complex appropriations process. After valuable experience on the Hill, I was asked to take on responsibilities of the Associate Director for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. In 1998, I moved to the Environmental Protection Agency to assist with the agency's budget appropriations. In 2002, then EPA Administrator, Christie Todd Whitman, decided that the EPA should address environmental issues impacting the health of older adults. With her leadership and commitment, I was able to launch a fairly major effort, thanks to public health leaders, gerontologists, and broad public support to raise awareness of environmental hazards that adversely affect the quality of life of our nation's elders.

Thanks to the many leaders in the academic and policy arenas who mentored me, and thanks to numerous opportunities presented to me, I have been able to move forward with my commitment to public health and older adults. I have in fact capitalized on my chances and designed a career that is both challenging and satisfying.

~Submitted by Kathy Sykes, Senior Advisor, Aging Initiative, Office of Children's Health Protection of the EPA.
Sykes.Kathy@epamail.epa.gov who invites you to visit www.epa.gov/aging



Sigma Phi Omega Marketing and Advertising Opportunities!

Interested in advertising/marketing to SPO members?
Visit <http://www.aghe.org> > SPO > Marketing & Advertising for an order form to purchase the SPO mailing list or to submit ads for upcoming SPO newsletters.



This newsletter is published as a membership benefit of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) with a circulation of 1,350. SPO offices are located at 1030 15th Street NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC, 20005. Faculty, faculty advisors and students are encouraged to submit news, meeting reports, club activities or studies underway to the **SPO Newsletter Editor Dr. Janice I. Wassel** (above) preferably via email by **Sept. 15, Nov. 20, Feb. 20, and Jul. 20**.

Coming Attractions

September 10-11, 2005

Rancho Mirage, CA. Geriatrics Symposium and Pain Management / Palliative Care Conference. By SCAN Health Plan and St. Mary Medical Center of Long Beach. Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage, CA. Contact: Miriam Smith (562) 997-3152 or email msmith@scanhealthplan.com or Hazel Freer (562) 997-3180. or email hfreer@scanhealthplan.com.

September 12-13, 2005

Washington, DC. Public Policy Conference presented by The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 543-1771. <http://www.chci.org>.

September 26-29, 2005

San Francisco, CA. 2005 Autumn Series on Aging, presented by American Society on Aging. Contact: (800) 537-9728 ext. 9675 or <http://www.asaging.org/autumn-series>.

September 30, 2005

Submit abstracts for *Outcomes of Gerontological and Geriatric Education*, the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) meeting February 9–12, 2006, in Indianapolis, IN. For more information or an abstract application form, contact meetings@aghe.org. AGHE now offers online abstract submission! Visit www.aghe.org.

October 7, 2005

Baltimore, MD. "The Bare Bones: A Symposium on Bone Health and Osteoporosis," Eleventh Annual Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research Symposium. Sponsored by The University of Maryland School of Medicine. Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. Contact: (410) 706-2866 or email whrg@epi.umaryland.edu or <http://medschool.umaryland.edu/womenshealth/whrg/boneconference.html>