

Sigma Phi Omega

National Academic Honor and Professional Society in Gerontology



Volume XXIV, Number 3

May 2007

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Submit SPO news by:

- September 1, 2007
- December 1, 2007
- April 1, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the AGHE annual meeting in Portland in March 2007. An unprecedented number of SPO students presented this year: 2 papers, a session on mentoring, 8 posters and a resource exchange. The second annual SPO Presidential award was awarded to Lorilene Cuevas for her poster on "*Portrayals of Older Women in Children's Picture Books and Associated Intergenerational Learning/Impact*", including a cash prize of \$200!

The SPO Presidential Symposium "*Transformative Experiences in Gerontology: Effective Community Service-Learning Strategies*" considered how service-learning could be integrated into aging courses within a variety of disciplines, including sociology, health sciences, nursing and psychology. Presenters identified ways to respond to community needs, develop partnerships, and evaluate learning outcomes.

The SPO business meeting provided highlights from the board meeting, student sessions and awards, and the Presidential symposium. The slate of officers for 2007-08 was presented. Rona Karasik provided an update on SPO finances and a five-year plan to pay our AGHE debt.

A new finance committee will provide oversight and procedures to ensure finances are monitored closely in future years. Members also shared ideas on recruiting and chapter activities including Careers in Aging week. Recently SPO Chapters approved seven changes to the SPO bylaws, including:

1. **Annual renewal:** Memberships will be changed from a rolling membership to a fixed annual renewal date running from October 1 through September 30.
2. **Taking Office:** New officers will take office immediately at the conclusion of the annual business meeting rather than taking office on July 1.
3. **Newsletter Editor:** The SPO newsletter editor is now an official member of the SPO Board for the term of his/her position.
4. **Committee Chair:** Board members were assigned to chair various standing committees and are assigned as follows:
 - President: Annual Program Committee and Awards Committee
 - Past-President/President-Elect: Nominations and Elections Committee
 - Secretary: Membership and Marketing Committee
 - Treasurer: Finance Committee
 - Student Rep: Student Committee
5. **Student Committee:** Established as new standing committee
6. **Committee records:** Committees must maintain a notebook with records that include an annual calendar of scheduled activities, minutes documenting committee conference calls or meetings, etc.
7. **Committee Responsibilities:** Roles and responsibilities for each standing committee are described.



By early summer the SPO website will be redesigned and updated to add many new features. You will be able to renew your membership easily online. An e-store will offer a variety of SPO merchandise including honor cords, medallions, and t-shirts. Try out these new features and show your association pride by purchasing SPO gear! Healthy growth in membership and revenues allow more effective membership support.

New SPO brochures are also on the way. They will be printed and distributed to chapters to help with your marketing efforts as soon as we can begin using our new address. A membership campaign is planned for Fall 2007 using the annual membership cycle, which begins October 1.

Congratulations to those who are graduating. Wishing each of you a summer of renewal and relaxation!
~ Submitted by Debra Sheets, SPO President, Delta Epsilon Chapter (CSU, Northridge, CA) 818-677-2344
debra.sheets@csun.edu



SPO Award winners (standing L to R)

Lorilene Cuevas, Northeastern Illinois University
Kaori Mitsui, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston
Echo Chang, Univ. of Southern California
Debra Sheets, PhD, RN, SPO President, CSU Northridge



SPO Board Members (sitting front)

James Peacock (Member-at-Large), Debra Sheets (President)

Back Row: (L to R)

Rona Karasak (Treasurer), Jennifer Kinney (Past-President), Dawn Carr (Student Rep); Jan Wassel (Newsletter Editor), Althea Taylor-Jones (Member-at-Large); Scott Wright (Secretary)

SPO PRESIDENT'S AWARD TO LORILENE CUEVAS

The second annual SPO President's Award was presented to Lorilene Cuevas at the SPO Business Meeting during the 2007 AGHE Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon for her poster session "*Portrayals of Older Women in Children's Picture Books and Associated Intergenerational Learning/Impact*". Lorilene co-authored her paper with Dr. Lisa Hollis-Sawyer at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). She completed her BA in Psychology with a minor in Gerontology and plans to pursue a doctorate degree in Developmental Psychology/Gerontology and to become an academic in a university setting.



Cuevas' poster summarized findings of portrayals of double jeopardy in children's picture books. Content analyses (images, text) were conducted of children's picture books since the late 1800s in order to determine the number and nature of stereotypical representations of older women, and whether there has been a marked decrease of portrayals of stereotypes throughout the years as awareness in these fields grew. Findings indicated that although there has been an increase of older female portrayals through the years, double jeopardy in portrayals still exists. Her research suggests that stereotypes influence many aspects of children's lives, especially acting as a model of ability and self-fulfilling prophecies. She notes that infusing gerontology into current early education curricula should include many diverse issues, such as educating young readers about the possibly limiting

portrayals of older women in children's books, which could improve their understanding of personal aging as well as strengthen intergenerational bonds.

SUPPORT THE SPO PRESIDENTS AWARD

Please consider a donation to support the SPO President's Award, which recognizes an outstanding SPO student paper at the annual AGHE meeting. The SPO President's Award is funded solely by contributions from SPO members. Your generous donation will help ensure this award can be offered in 2008. Please mail your check payable to SPO to: Sigma Phi Omega, 1030 15th St. NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20005



Alpha Alpha Chapter, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA



Our chapter and the Student Gerontology Association (SGA) hosted a seventh annual USC Gerontology Student and Alumni Dinner in March 2007 to encourage alumni and student interaction at USC; a great opportunity for current Gerontology students to network with practitioners.

Our chapter raised almost \$2,000 through a silent auction at the dinner to fund a scholarship for future USC Gerontology students. ~ Submitted by Courtney Wise 323-571-9000 courtnrw@usc.edu



Alpha Gamma Epsilon Chapter, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

In March, we held our annual induction ceremony for 3 undergraduate students, 16 graduate students, and 2 faculty members inducted into Sigma Phi Omega. Several members are volunteering at a local 50-bed nursing home, Woodland Manor, visiting with, reading to, and actively engaging with residents. Other students volunteer with respite care at the Knolls of Oxford, a local continuous care retirement community. Students also helped with Miami University's annual Green Tea Day, a community-wide event designed to raise awareness of global issues in health and aging. ~ Submitted by Jennifer Bulanda bulandjr@muohio.edu, Christine Caffrey caffrec@muohio.edu, and Mary Ellen Stone stoneme@muohio.edu

Alpha Zeta Chapter, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

In January, Professor Bo G. Eriksson of Göteborg University, Sweden lectured in 3 gerontology classes and spoke on "Aging and Volunteer Leadership" at the Area Agency on Aging and presented "Interdisciplinary Longitudinal Studies on Aging in Sweden and the U.S." for members of our faculty and staff. Professor Eriksson instituted the first university course in gerontology in Sweden and has generated landmark studies on aging in both Sweden and the U.S.

Matthew Richards and Phyllis Tartt are new SPO initiates. At our awards and honors ceremony in April, Matthew Richards received the Outstanding Gerontology Undergraduate Student Award, Pamela Pittman Brown received the Outstanding Gerontology Graduate Student Award, and Frank R. Willis III received the USA Programs in Gerontology New Professional Award. Gerontology faculty member, Dr. Denise McAdory, received the Donald R. South Service Award. The Sigma Phi Omega and USA Programs in Gerontology 2007 Vision Award went to Bill Shanahan and *BoomerBear*, a mascot of the Mobile Bay Bears AA Baseball organization, for "updating the face of maturity" by the addition of *BoomerBear* to the BayBears mascot lineup. *Boomer* joins *BayBear*, *Bay B Bear*, and *BeachBear*. The Vision Award was donated by Dothan Glass Company, Inc. of Dothan, Alabama.

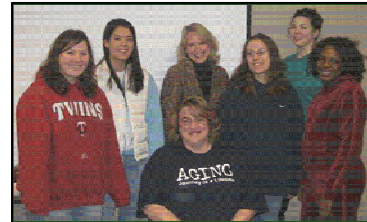
The first Harley Jersey Night was also conducted at the stadium with an auction for the Harley Player Jerseys with all proceeds benefiting Senior Citizen Services. Senior Citizen Services also benefits from the "Turn Back the Clock" Mobile Oyster Grabber jersey auction on Memorial Day.

Our members received other honors and awards this spring. Melissa Moody graduates Magna Cum Laude this spring with a B.A. in Psychology and was recognized at the Psychology Awards Ceremony for her 4.0 this academic year. Pamela Brown was recently inducted into the Gold Key Chapter of Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society and is working on her second B.A. and M.A. simultaneously. ~ Submitted by Pamela Brown 251-776-2755 and Roma Hanks, Ph.D. 251-460-6020 rthanks@usouthal.edu

SPO CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ...

Beta Zeta Chapter, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

Meeting every month, the chapter is busy designing a new t-shirt for fundraising. Six new members, Stephanie Liesch, Lesa Riedel, Naomi Eden, Jennifer Habben, Jolene Denn, and Caitlin Voss were inducted this year. We hosted the spring potluck and, in conjunction with National Careers in Aging week, co-hosted the annual Gerontology Open House with food, locally donated door prizes and a special guest speaker. Chapter President Abby Smith is in D.C. for an internship with the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). Naomi Eden & Steph Liesch are acting presidents for the semester in her absence. ~ Submitted by Naomi Eden & Steph Liesch list0601@stcloudstate.edu



Delta Epsilon Chapter, California State University at Northridge, Northridge, CA

For Careers in Aging week, Delta Epsilon members staffed a campus display table to distribute promotional literature and share information about gerontology courses and professional opportunities. Chapter members also participated in the organization and management of the Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Wellness Day, an annual day of renewal, resources, and support for family caregivers held at CSUN. A community-campus screening of the award-winning documentary "*Surfing for Life*" included guest speakers and a Q&A session on healthy aging.



Chapter member Edward Rappaport completed his 2nd marathon (26.2 miles in 9:19 hours) in the City of Los Angeles Marathon, an hour faster than his previous best time! Edward is an inspiration, completing his MS degree and 1st marathon in 2006 following a quadruple bypass heart surgery in 2005. He is a lifelong advocate and role model for a healthy lifestyle and recently celebrated his 84th birthday.

Committee members Maneshka Perera, Mary Kirby, Maria Bratly and Katherine Terry all completed their CSUN studies this semester. Connie Chavarria and Carol Sue Selinger assume Chapter leadership. ~ Submitted by Debra Sheets, RN, Ph.D. 818-677-2344 debra.sheets@csun.edu

Delta Gamma Chapter, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

Members of the Delta Gamma chapter volunteered many hours helping organize and staff all aspects of the Southern Gerontological Society 28th Annual Conference hosted in Greensboro in April. To encourage networking and career opportunities among students in the Southeast, we organized a successful SPO Careers in Aging Networking Luncheon Roundtable Discussion and dinner, well attended by students from the Southeast Region. Our most recent undertaking is fundraising by selling UNCG Gerontology Program t-shirts for \$15.00. Profits from sales help students present and attend professional meetings. ~ Submitted by Janice Wassel, Ph.D. 336-256-1019 jiwassel@uncg.edu

Delta Kappa Chapter, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV



We participated in Bingo Night at a local nursing home and a Memory Walk to support the local Alzheimer's Association in Morgantown, WV, raising over \$1,500. For our 6th annual event in celebration of Careers in Aging week we organized the "WVU Aging Roundtable & Networking Night". Thirty students attended, enticed with wine and hors d'oeuvre pairings, and 4 speakers each hosted a career table to facilitate professional development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and increased networking for graduate and undergraduate students. This successful event was jointly sponsored by the WVU Department of Psychology, the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, WVU Student Organizations Services, and many of our Chapter's officers, members, and faculty advisors R. Turner Goins, Ph.D. and Amy Fiske, Ph.D. ~ Submitted by Eric Goedereis 304-293-2001 X31665 Eric.Goedereis@mail.wvu.edu and Emily Bower Emily.Bower@mail.wvu.edu

SPO CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ...

Delta Omega Chapter, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Wilmington, NC

Our third initiation ceremony, April 19, welcomes two new undergraduate members and one new graduate member. Our spring chapter project facilitates, supplies, and implements Senior Games and Activities at Elderhaus, a local adult day care facility, and coincides with county-wide Senior Games. ~ Submitted by Elizabeth Fugate-Whitlock 910-962-7816 whitlocke@uncw.edu

Epsilon Chapter, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA

Along with the VCU School of Art, we collaborated in a community service art project at Southerland Place Assisted Living and sponsored a volunteer appreciation reception for Elder Friends. Fund-raising activities continued with scrapbooks and elder recipe cookbooks. Dr. Kimberly Taylor, Assistant Professor in the Department of Gerontology, and other members ran the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K Walk/Run. Dr Taylor was selected for the Cingular Dash for Cash participant and finished with a terrific race time.



Three officers attended the AGHE Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon. During April we celebrated Careers in Aging Week with a newspaper article, NPR FM radio announcements, and an Aging Week Banner placed on campus. The Annual Department of Gerontology and School of Social Work Spring Symposium in Careers in Aging focused on learning who impacts our aging society and how to get involved. Our officers attended the SGA Conference in Greensboro, NC. Spring activities completed with the School of Allied Health Semi-Formal Dance. Submitted by Katherine A. Young 804-828-1565 youngka@vcu.edu and Beverly Morgan 804-371-0360 beverly.morgan@dmhmrsas.virginia.gov

Epsilon Alpha Chapter, Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC



Seven new members were inducted into the chapter in April. Members collaborated with the Gerontology Club on campus and with community service activities including: service as companions to terminally ill elders, managing displays at the First Annual Region I Aging Conference, serving as greeters and display managers for the Gerontology Program at the spring Open House, and serving as greeters and activity assistants for the Mayor's Physical Fitness Day, the latter two events held at Winston-Salem State University in observance of Careers in Aging week.

Planned activities for Older Americans Month include volunteer service at the Annual Spring Fling Health and Wellness Expo for senior adults, and collaborative efforts with the Forsyth Chapter of AARP at the BestHealth Health Fair at Hanes Mall.



~ Submitted by Dr. Althea Taylor-Jones
336-750-3231 taylorjones@wssu.edu

SPO CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ...

Epsilon Zeta Chapter - Assumption College, Worcester, MA



Assumption College is pleased to induct three founding members: Lindsey Harcovitz, Kristin Doucet, and Kim Kontrimas. These three dedicate impressive amounts of time and effort bringing gerontology-related activities to Assumption College's campus and they will be greatly missed upon graduation this spring!

In April we collaborated with other Assumption students and other Colleges of Worcester Consortium schools to hold an Intergenerational Social. The event brought local students and elders together for an afternoon of music, dance and fun.

~ Submitted by Heather Connors 508-767-7357 hconnors@assumption.edu



Gamma Beta Chapter, University of Missouri-Kansas City, MO

Following the induction of new chapter president Sara Pedrum and secretary/treasurer Karen Meisenheimer, our chapter is focusing on monthly practicum seminars sponsored for gerontology certificate students. Students bring practicum challenges and discuss practical solutions. Each month a featured student reports on his/her progress, and a speaker from a community agency discusses his/her work and gives students a sense of career possibilities. We are linking gerontology certificate alumni with current students as mentors, providing advice, counsel, and encouragement through telephone and interpersonal contact. The chapter will sponsor a fall essay contest for local elementary school students to write stories about their favorite older adult. ~ Submitted by Linda Breytspraak, Ph.D. 816-235-2514 BreytspraakL@umkc.edu

Gamma Iota Chapter, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

In February, Hofstra University hosted its second Gerontology social of the academic year where Gerontology students met with peers and faculty members. The chapter also invited a speaker to discuss careers and opportunities available in the surrounding communities.

Our spring speaker was Sara Sadin who holds a M.A. and M.Ed. in Human Development and Gerontology. With 25 years of experience working in skilled nursing facilities, advocacy groups, and as Director of a corporate eldercare program, Sara has a private practice in geriatric care management. Plans call for another social and guest speakers/lectures throughout the academic year. ~ Submitted by Rosemarie Messana 631-275-5977 Rmess1@pride.hofstra.edu

Gamma Omicron Chapter, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI



The Gamma Omicron Chapter held their first "Careers In Aging Day" at Kapiolani Community College in April to inform students and attendees about the wide variety of jobs in the workforce that deal with aging and gerontology. In addition to 25 job vendor booths were two panel discussions led by experts on the topic of "Why Study Aging?" Attendees received information about gerontology-related careers, certifications, and courses offered at all colleges on Oahu.

An adapted version of E. Palmore's *Facts on Aging* quiz was given to attendees and those who answered all questions correctly were entered in a drawing to win two \$25 gift cards. The survey results showed that even those currently working with the elderly have common misconceptions about aging. Of nearly 100 surveys collected, the top two misconceptions which nearly 70% of respondents answered



SPO CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ...

Incorrectly were: 1) Most older adults have no desire or capacity for sexual relations and 2) The majority of older adults say that they are lonely. Both statements are false! ~ Submitted by Michelle Sagucio and Samantha Tsoi spo.hawaii@gmail.com

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

Several service and educational chapter activities promoted the infusion of intergenerational issues and programming within the greater Ann Arbor community. We co-sponsored a monthly documentary series to bridge issues between student groups on campus - selecting films addressing issues of privilege, diversity, oppression, and social justice. Anticipating Older American's Month, we are gathering stories of inspirational older adults, to display on colorful posters in the School of Social Work. We are currently involved in Racing 4 Your Memories, a fundraiser sponsored by the local Alzheimer's Association, in which our SWUM (Social Workers at U of M) team will compete in a 5K run in May. We continue to meet regularly and participate in group social activities, building cohesiveness and solidarity in our commitment to social work with older adults. ~Submitted by Shannon Andrzejewski shanliz@umich.edu



Gamma Upsilon Chapter, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

In March, the SPO and Gerontological Student Organization (GSO) joined the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) for a technology learning event. Approximately 40 participants enrolled in the OLLI program to study technology and internet security, digital picture editing, on-line entertainment as well as how to utilize e-resources. Student volunteers enjoyed working with these seniors to help them gain access to available and fun technologies. As one SPO member volunteer said "They are so enthusiastic about learning, it is really refreshing to work with them." A participant noted: "I have been wanting to learn more about the internet, and you have *much*

more patience than my children!" Following a buffet luncheon, the group enjoyed a salsa dancing workshop! The event was coordinated and organized under the direction of Wichian Rojanawon, Ph.D., M.S.W, Director of OLLI; Judith Poey, SPO Chapter President; Kathy Wilson, SPO Chapter Treasurer, and Ngai Kwan, SPO member and GSO President. ~ Submitted by Judith Poey judith.poey001@umb.edu

Kappa Chapter, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

In March, several members presented research at the 18th Annual Southeastern Student Mentoring Conference in Gerontology and Geriatrics in Atlanta, Georgia. Students Ben Anderson, Li-Kuang Chen, Yuan Gao, Dawn Hayes, Sara Hendrix, Young Sek Kim, Linda Samuel, and Tamar Shovali presented research and received feedback from researchers in the field of aging.

Kappa chapter and the Institute of Gerontology are organizing the 2nd annual Student Recognition Celebration for students in Gerontology at The University of Georgia, providing an opportunity for gerontology students and faculty to meet and recognize students completing their graduate certificate in gerontology. New SPO members will be initiated and recognized for achievements. Planning is underway for a full social and philanthropic calendar for 2007-08. ~ Submitted by Benjamin Anderson benjim@uga.edu

SPO CHAPTER NEWS CONTINUED ...

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



Chapter members carried out research in conjunction with a service learning project that engaged four community organizations, each of which serves a different group of elders – African American, American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic. Each focus group evaluated effectiveness of public information about the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Research findings to date were presented at the 2006 annual scientific meeting of GSA, at the annual conference of the Midwest Consortium for Service Learning and Higher Education, and to the university and community through in-service settings. SPO members conducted pedagogical research in conjunction with service learning and reported results at the 2007 AGHE conference.

On the **Lincoln** campus, the Upsilon Nu Chapter formed a new interest group to bring together faculty from different disciplines engaged in aging research. Lincoln Campus Careers in Aging week events featured an interdisciplinary gerontology colloquium highlighting the effects of age stereotypes on intergenerational communication.

On the Omaha campus, the Upsilon Nu Gerontology Interest Group relocated to the newly renovated UNO Library facilities with state of the art equipment for sharing information about ongoing research and career opportunities. Programs included presentations from nationally acknowledged experts (Kyle Kercher, Ph.D. on *Self-Rated Health and Depression*, and Jerome Deichert on *Profile of the Home Care Workforce*) as well as from community leaders (Shandalee Ramet, a founder of the Omaha FIRST program *Fall Intervention: Reaching Seniors Together*) and from doctoral candidates (MaryBeth Hersinger on dissertation research concerning reaction of nursing home residents to forced relocation). Careers in Aging week events on the Omaha campus included a “Meet and Greet” display table with games and prizes and our first University of Nebraska at Omaha Careers in Aging Fair with more than 20 research and creative projects from a variety of disciplines and departments on topics ranging from biomechanics to legal economics (e.g., econometric estimates of the value of a human life lost through negligence).



On both campuses Careers in Aging promotional materials supported interest in both the Gerontology Interest Group and membership in SPO. ~ Submitted by Lynn M. Holley 402-554-4814 lmholley@mail.unomaha.edu

SPO CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JUNE 30, 2007

SPO chapters are encouraged to submit an annual report summarizing chapter activities and accomplishments for the previous academic year. These reports track the success of SPO chapters. Annual reports often fall through the cracks due to summer vacation and transitions in officers. However, without this report, your chapter will not receive it's **\$5 rebate** for each of your current memberships. So keep your memberships current and submit your report, then enjoy a substantial rebate to support chapter activities!

SPO MENTORING SESSION

Sigma Phi Omega sponsored a session on mentoring from the student perspective at AGHE this year, organized by Dawn Carr, doctoral student in gerontology at Miami University and the SPO board's student representative. Six panelists (Steven Cutler, Jon Hendricks, Debra Sheets, Dana Burr Bradley, Suzanne R. Kunkel, and Kelly Fitzgerald) responded to four organizing concepts about mentoring: the different levels of mentoring (from formal to informal), time (knowing how, when and how often to interface with one's mentor), crossing the line (from professional to personal), and letting go (moving on and becoming independent). Panelists brought into context the concepts of successful mentoring, provided advice for students and their mentors, and gently reminded us to seek “mentoring moments” throughout our professional careers.

SPO Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday • March 3, 2007 • Portland, Oregon

Agenda Item	Report/Reaction/Discussion	Action Step(s)
1. Call to order/Welcome (Sheets)		
2. Introductions of Officers & Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Fitzgerald & Eric Goedereis (ESPO) • * (National Association of Professional Gerontologists) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 2008 AGHE meeting ESPO and SPO will host a cocktail hour rather than the traditional breakfast. • Business cards and brochures were made available to interested individuals.
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2006 Annual Business Meeting (Sheets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes were not available. 	
4. Committee Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations (Kinney) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinney presented the slate of officers for 2008: President-Elect, Jan Wassel; Secretary, Scott Wright; Treasurer, Rona Karasik; Member-at-Large, Althea Taylor-Jones. • Board members would like to present multiple candidates for each office for the 2008 elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within a month of AGHE, brief biographies of the officers on the slate will be emailed to SPO chapter contacts, followed by a ballot.
5. President's Report (Sheets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheets major efforts have been devoted to documenting and institutionalizing SPO's activities and tasks. • Beginning this year, annual reports are due in April (rather than the prior October), and rebate checks will be mailed to chapters in the spring. • Sheets secured funding for new SPO brochures from AARP; the only thing preventing them from being printed and distributed is that we are waiting for the chapter contacts to respond to the proposed by-laws changes that were distributed via email in a Zoomerang survey. Fewer than half of the chapters (37) voted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheets will follow-up with chapter contacts. • Pending the result of the votes, the new brochures will be printed. • Annual reports will be due in April 2007; rebate checks will be distributed based on these reports. Chapter contacts are reminded that they must submit their report in order to receive their rebate check.
6. President's Award and Recognition of Student Presenters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year's President's Award was presented to Lorilene Cuervos. She was presented with two certificates and a check; other student presenters received certificates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Peacock encouraged individuals to make contributions to the President's Award; checks should be made payable to SPO, and include "President's Award" in the memo line.
7. Administrative Director's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A staff person was unable to attend the meeting; no report given. 	
8. Membership Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A staff person was unable to attend the meeting; no report given. 	

SPO Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday • March 3, 2007 • Portland, Oregon (continued)

<p>9. Committee Chair Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer (Karasik) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karasik explained that SPO is in the process of paying down debt it owes to AGHE/GSA (the 5 year payment plan agreed to last year is "on track"). • SPO board members are taking more responsibility for the organization (including its financial dealings); the Memorandum of Understanding with AGHE/GSA has been reduced to reflect this increase in responsibility. • SPO needs to increase its revenues via new memberships, membership renewals, and merchandise sales. • A finance committee consisting of Rona Karasik (chair), Joanne Fassbinder, Jennifer Kinney, Alice McDonnell, and Debra Sheets has been formed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The finance committee will begin corresponding via email and conference calls.
<p>10. Committee Chair Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter (Wassel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wassel expressed her pleasure in editing the newsletter the past three years, and encourages submissions for future newsletters. She will step down as newsletter editor later this year. • Currently the newsletter is distributed electronically and via approximately 700 print copies; it takes approximately 50 hours of person time for each edition; we need to market ads in the newsletter as a cost-effective way to reach a broad audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember the newsletter is a cost-effective vehicle for disseminating information. • Applications for the newsletter editor position are being accepted until March 15, 2007.
<p>11. Introduction of all present</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of "What keeps your chapter healthy and active?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are encouraged to attend the regional gerontology conference at UNC-Greensboro April 11-14, 2007; networking sessions will be available for SPO and non-SPO members.
<p>12. Input from General Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Business • New Business 		
<p>13. Adjourn</p>		

Respectfully submitted,
 Scott Wright, SPO Secretary

Meet SPO Board of Directors 2007-2008

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(2007-2008)
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CONGRATULATION TO INCOMING SPO BOARD MEMBERS!

President-Elect Jan Wassel, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Secretary Scott Wright, University of Utah
Treasurer Rona Karasik, St. Cloud State University
Member-at-Large Althea Taylor-Jones, Winston-Salem State University

OUR GRATITUDE TO OUTGOING SPO BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

Past President Jennifer Kinney, Miami University
Member-at-Large Doug Reed, University of Central Oklahoma
Student Representative Dawn Carr, Miami University
Newsletter Editor Jan Wassel, University of North Carolina at Greensboro



SPO NEEDS YOU!

SPO is a volunteer organization and needs your *energy* to function effectively.
Please consider serving on the following or any SPO committees:

Finance Committee: Rona Karasik 320-308-5224 karasik@stcloudstate.edu
Membership/Marketing: Scott Wright 801-585-9542 scott.wright@nurs.utah.edu

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This newsletter is published as a membership benefit of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) with a circulation of 1,600. 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 **new** SPO Newsletter Editor Katie Young by **April 1, September 1, and December 1.**

SIGMA PHI OMEGA CALL FOR PAPERS BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

Sigma Phi Omega, the national academic honor and professional society in gerontology, actively encourages students to participate in the AGHE annual meeting by submitting abstracts to the SPO office (dstepp@aghe.org). All abstracts must be submitted by **September 30, 2007**. A minimum of ten SPO abstracts will be accepted as either paper or poster presentations at the AGHE annual meeting. Additional abstracts will be accepted if space allows. **Criteria for Review of Abstracts:** Appropriateness for SPO, originality of ideas and methods, specificity of methods and findings, clarity of theoretical and/or applied implications, quality of writing, and presentation appropriate to the format. **Notification, Attendance & Registration.** By early November, students will be notified regarding the status of their submission. If accepted, the student is required to register and pay the registration fee for the AGHE meeting.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD AND COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATIONS

Students whose abstracts are accepted are invited to submit a completed scholarly manuscript (25 page maximum) to SPO (dstepp@aghe.org) by **December 1, 2007**. The SPO Awards Committee will review the student papers and select four papers to receive complimentary registration for the AGHE annual meeting. The author of the top rated paper will receive the SPO President's Award. Presented annually during the SPO Business Meeting, the award consists of a cash prize of \$200 and a certificate. Funding for this award is provided through donations from SPO members. (Please see page 2 of this newsletter.)

NEXT SPO NEWSLETTER ...

Katie Young generously volunteers to be our next SPO Newsletter editor! She will solicit your news in August 2007. Until then, if you have questions about submissions please contact Katie Young, M.S., Education Coordinator, Department of Gerontology, Virginia Commonwealth University, PO Box 980228, Richmond, VA 23298. Phone 804-828-1565 Fax 804-828-5259 youngka@vcu.edu. The UNCG Gerontology Program faculty and staff enjoyed our time as SPO newsletter editors and share our thanks with Katie Young for stepping up to the plate to edit future issues.