This newsletter is published as a membership benefit of Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) with a circulation of over 1,500 members. SPO offices are located at 1220 L Street NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005-4018. Faculty, faculty advisors, and students are encouraged to submit news, meeting reports, club activities or studies underway to the SPO Newsletter Editor, Krystal L. Culler at klculler@gmail.com by December 1, 2014.

Greetings fellow members and welcome to the fall edition of our SPO newsletter. As SPO elections will soon be held for numerous positions, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the open position for the newsletter editor. The newsletter editor is responsible for creating three annual newsletters and works closely with the SPO president. Additionally, the newsletter editor serves as a member on the SPO executive board. The position is open to current professional and student members (graduate or undergraduate) of SPO and the term of this position is for 1-3 years. Personally, this has been a great opportunity to connect with numerous members of SPO, as well as, board members during my term.

I encourage all SPO members interested in any of the following positions: President-elect, treasurer, member-at-large, student representative, or the newsletter editor to contact our immediate past-president, Mary Ligon, at mligon@ycp.edu.

The Association of Gerontology and Education (AGHE) has sent notifications regarding acceptance to their upcoming conference. SPO members are encouraged to consider applying for the different awards we offer at the annual conference. (pgs. 4-6)

Our last newsletter of the year is the winter edition. Consider sharing your chapter news or personal success stories as part of our Member Spotlight section. Submissions are due by December 1, 2014 to klculler@gmail.com.

-Krystal
From the President

Greetings, SPO Members!

Our community of southwestern Indiana, where I live and work at the University of Southern Indiana, was honored to have Diana Nyad speak to over 300 audience members. She spoke to community members and professionals working in gerontology on the closing day of our 7th annual Mid-America Institute on Aging. Nyad shared her inspirational life story and highlights from her historic swim from Cuba to Florida, which she completed a year ago at the age of 64. In a pre-conference interview, she told a local reporter, “Every human being on earth has dreams. And they can be small or they can be large. But, it is important, because tapping one’s potential makes one feel alive, makes one feel purposeful.”

Diana Nyad reached and exceeded her potential in a very compelling way: a 110-mile ocean swim that she had attempted three times previously. But for the rest of us, tapping into our own potential – and encouraging others to tap into theirs – does not have to be so extreme. Tapping into your potential may mean taking on leadership roles in your university or community to promote interests of older adults. Maybe it is offering or participating in an experiential intergenerational learning opportunity. It could be recognizing and utilizing the talents of the retirees in your communities. How about listening and learning from the wisdom of a frail elder who shares his or her story?

Consider tapping into your potential by volunteering for a Sigma Phi Omega (SPO) board position. This is an excellent way to get a picture of the collective efforts of our members who promote excellence in gerontology. Nominations are now open for the following SPO board positions: President-Elect (1-year term), Treasurer (2-year term), Member-at-Large (3-year term), Newsletter Editor, and Student Representative. For more details visit http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/leadership.html.

This is also the time to think about how you and your chapter might apply for the SPO President’s Paper Award, the SPO Service Award, and the newly-created SPO Video Award. For more details, visit: http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/awards.html.

The great author, William Faulkner, once said, “Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Do not bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.” Good luck! As always, keep in touch, and keep SPO up to date on how you are helping yourself and others realize their true potential. Consider sharing your personal success stories with us in our Member Spotlight section of the newsletter.

-Katie Ehlman, Ph.D.

SPOPresident@SigmaPhiOmega.org

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National academic honor and professional society in Gerontology

Photo caption: Diana Nyad during a preconference interview at the University of Southern Indiana on August 13, 2014.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE YOU A CURRENT SPO MEMBER?

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Both the SPO President’s Student Paper Award and the Service Project Award are funded solely by donations from SPO members and other interested parties. Anticipating these awards will be offered for years to come, we appreciate your generous donations.

To contribute to this worthwhile cause, write your check made payable to Sigma Phi Omega and note either "For SPO President’s Student Paper Award", "For Service Project Award", or “For Video Award”, and mail to:

Sigma Phi Omega
1220 L Street NW, Suite 901
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Service Project Award

The Service Project Award recognizes service-learning experiences and projects by professionals, undergraduate or graduate students affiliated with an SPO Chapter. The service projects are designed to positively impact both elders and students. Students can include academic service learning, curricular service learning, and co-curricular service learning or professional contributions. (Descriptions of four types of service learning are listed below.) This award recognizes the faculty, students, and/or professionals who participated in the project. SPO members (faculty, staff, or professionals) self-nominate for the award.

To apply for the Service Project Award, complete the application form and submit with appropriate documents to the SPOpresident@SigmaPhiOmega.org.

The nominee selected for the award is required to present a description of the service project at the 2015 AGHE meeting as well as create a poster highlighting the project to be displayed at the meeting.

The SPO Chapter to which the nominee is a member receives a cash award of $200.

Deadline is December 1, 2014.

Proposals may be submitted for four types of Service Project Awards:

- **Academic Service Learning** is defined as a course-based, credit bearing strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and structured reflection to enrich the learning experience and teach civic responsibility. Nominations should be innovative, inspiring, and show evidence of positive impact.

- **Curricular Service Learning** brings students and faculty from a particular discipline together to work on a community project that allows students to apply their learning and to reflect on what they have learned. Nominations should be innovative, inspiring, and show evidence of positive impact.

- **Co-Curricular Service Learning** involves students in community activities that are not connected with credit courses or structured academic programs but include learning objectives and opportunities for reflection. Nominations should be innovative, inspiring, and show evidence of positive impact.

- **Professional Contribution** recognizes a member in the professional community who has contributed to Sigma Phi Omega and the well-being of older adults. Nominations may be submitted by any active SPO member on the behalf of professionals serving the needs or working with older adults. Nominations should be innovative, inspiring, and show evidence of positive impact.
President's Student Paper Award

Sigma Phi Omega's President's Student Paper Award was initiated in 2005 to recognize outstanding SPO student presentation submissions at the annual AGHE meeting and Educational Leadership Conference. Sigma Phi Omega presented the first annual President's Student Paper Award at the 2006 AGHE Annual Meeting.

Students interested in being considered for this award must complete the following:

* Submit their abstracts to AGHE by the abstract deadline.

Students whose abstracts are accepted for presentation at the annual AGHE meeting are eligible for the SPO President’s Student Paper Award.

* Students must submit the completed manuscript to SPOPresident@sigmaphiomega.org.

The student selected for this award receives a cash award of $200.

Click here for Guidelines for submitting a paper for the President's Student Paper Award.
Get your Sigma Phi Omega chapter together and participate in a video contest sponsored by Sigma Phi Omega! The 2014-15 theme will be a 30-60 second “spot” answering the question, “Why Gerontology?”

**Video Theme:** Why Gerontology?

**Purpose:** Illustrate the positive energy around the field of gerontology.

**Length:** 30-60 seconds

**Submission:** Each Chapter can submit 1 video

Submit YouTube link to the SPO President at: spopresident@hotmail.com

**Due Date:** December 1st

**Award:** $200 for your Sigma Phi Omega Chapter

**Recognition:** Recognition and video to be shown at Spring SPO Business Meeting at AGHE and may be posted on the SPO website.
Board Member Positions

2015 OPEN POSITIONS

Consider a nomination for one of the SPO 2015 open board positions, which include:

* President-Elect (1-year term)
* Treasurer (2-year term)
* Member-at-Large (3-year term)
* Newsletter Editor (1-3 year term)
* Student Representative (1-3 year term)

For more information contact Mary Ligon at mligon@ycp.edu or visit http://www.sigmaphiomega.org/awards.html for the board member application.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EXCITING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION TODAY! CONTACT OUR CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AND ASK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH SPO.
EPSILON

Can you believe the fall semester has started? With the summer behind us and the fall ahead of us, I am thrilled to reach out to update our SPO colleagues. The Department of Gerontology just enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of new student orientation. So many bright faces from diverse backgrounds and all eager to learn how to support optimal aging.

I am most excited to report about our productive summer here in the Department of Gerontology. We enjoyed a daylong departmental retreat where we engaged in a strategic visioning session to reflect on and evaluate our recent growth in community engagement initiatives. We evaluated our current mission statement “Improving Eldercare through Education” and are thrilled to report that we are close to introducing one that is new and improved to support our 80/20 vision for optimal aging.

As always, our recent graduates are off to a brilliant start in their infusion of gerontology into the immediate universe. Organizing regional conferences. Pursuing doctoral degrees and continuing education. Teaching. Entrepreneurial endeavors. Direct service. I could not be more pleased at the daily affirmation I receive from just how wide and deep our reach continues to become.

We have been asked to partner with the School of Medicine on a grant to engage elders in training physicians. We continue making strides with the Greater Richmond Age Wave Readiness Plan (three of our current students were just asked to present to the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission). We are looking forward to being a partner in Active Aging Week with Senior Connections and the Arthritis Foundation (September 21–27) and visit https://www.facebook.com/RVAActiveAgingWeek for more information).

Dr. Cotter and I just returned from presenting the Department of Gerontology’s TIME Award (Theoretical Innovation in Maintaining Evidence-Based Practice) to the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. So many exciting initiatives! Stay in touch through our Facebook page or subscribe to our weekly events calendar and quarterly newsletter by emailing agingstudies@vcu.edu.

Submitted by: Jay White, MSG
We have enjoyed reinvigorating our Alpha Chi chapter of Sigma Phi Omega this year. In conjunction with graduation last spring, we held an SPO induction ceremony. Students, faculty, and alumni were honored. Dr. Graham Rowles was visiting and was able to join us for our ceremony.

This fall, we held a back to school breakfast for our SPO students to elect officers, choose a service project, and brainstorm effective Careers in Aging Week possibilities. This year we are off to a great start! We are enjoying the skill sets and enthusiasm held by our SPO members!

Submitted by: Katarina Friberg Felsted, M.S.

Photo: Alpha Chi members at their SPO induction ceremony.

Delta Upsilon

We have had a busy spring! In the Delta Upsilon chapter at Louisiana State University (LSU) we inducted three outstanding new members from the School of Kinesiology and the Department of Communications Disorders. For our annual luncheon with the Life Course and Aging Center many of our members presented their research and discussed the potential implications for positive and healthy ageing. The Delta Upsilon chapter also had the extreme pleasure of helping with the organization of bringing Ms. Eva Kor to Baton Rouge as a guest speaker. Ms. Kor was a speaker during the luncheon and also spoke at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. She is a survivor of the holocaust and was subjected to human experimentation under Josef Mengele in the Auschwitz concentration camp for many years. She shared her amazing story about learning to heal after so many years of hatred through forgiveness of those that wronged her and her family. The LSU chapter of SPO was proud to take part in such a wonderful opportunity to learn about healthy aging from research and Ms. Kor.

Photo: From left to right: Dr. Lilly Allen (LCAC Vice-President), Ms. Eva Kor, & Dr. Katie Cherry (LCAC President)
DELTA PI

Members of Sigma Phi Omega’s Delta Pi Chapter at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) in Evansville, Indiana, observed Careers in Aging Week by hosting the second annual “Student Scholars Forum on Aging” on April 16, 2014. The event gave students a chance to share academic projects and assignments related to aging, gerontology and geriatrics.

Fifty-eight students from six different disciplines on campus participated, including occupational therapy assistant, health services, nursing, education and psychology.

While there are many opportunities for service in the field of aging, there are few forums on campus for students to share scholarly work, according to Dr. Mary Kay Arvin, director of the USI Occupational Therapy Assistant Program and Delta Pi’s faculty liaison. “The Forum on Aging was planned and led by students interested in sharing what they have learned in their coursework,” she said.

This year’s Forum on Aging took on an “Olympic” theme because USI helped host the 2014 Indiana State Games in May, which were qualifying events for the 2015 National Senior Games. Joe Willis, 78, of Chandler, Indiana, spoke to the students regarding his experiences as a participant in the National Senior Games over the past 15 years. In 1997, he was a member of the first-place basketball team during the National Senior Games in Tuscon, Arizona.

“Listening to someone of that age talk about basketball in a way that he was so passionate about can only inspire us to continue being active, and follow your dreams no matter the age,” said Lexi Leak, senior majoring in Health Services with a concentration in Long Term Care Administration and a minor in marketing. “Mr. Willis continues to inspire us to live healthier lives, and be passionate about the things you do.”

After Joe’s talk, the students watched the Age of Champions, the award-winning PBS documentary that profiles five athletes who triumph over the limitations of age at the 2009 National Senior Games in Sacramento, California.

Submitted by: Mary Scheller,
University of Southern Indiana

Photo caption: From left, Holly Schneider, Area Agency on Aging coordinator of Indiana State Games; Joe Willis, National Senior Games medalist; Lexi Leak, USI student and Delta Pi president; Dr. Mary Kay Arvin, Delta Pi faculty liaison; Claire Stover, USI student and Delta Pi secretary
GAMMA UPSILON

The Gamma Upsilon Chapter at the University of Massachusetts Boston welcomed forty-four new members from their graduate and undergraduate programs this past April. Students were inducted during a ceremony following our Careers in Aging panel, which hosted the following local leaders in aging services: Elissa Sherman, M.A., President of Leading Age; Emmett Schmarsow, program manager for The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Jennifer Warren, executive director of Geriatric Care Management (CARE); and Len Fishman, Gerontology Institute Director at UMass Boston. Panelists offered inspiring stories about the various routes to working in the field of aging, answered questions about past experiences, and discussed career opportunities.

Members are currently raising money for Boston's Walk to End Alzheimer's hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. Donations are being collected until September 28 but total about $1000 to date. We also plan to increase our community involvement by volunteering with the activity's department of a local nursing home. Within our institutional community, we will be co-sponsoring a speaker series, which will bring aging researchers to our university. The series will also be available privately on YouTube for our online gerontology students and off site SPO members. Additionally, our chapter plans to host a monthly film series and discussion featuring popular films with aging themes.

DELTA GAMMA

The Delta Gamma Chapter at the University of North Carolina At Greensboro (UNCG) is excited to begin the fall semester, welcoming many new graduate students and future SPO members into our gerontology program. During our successful spring 2014 Careers in Aging Week events, SPO members engaged undergraduate students during the School of Health and Human Sciences Health fair and hosted a booth in our student center, where we used secure aging kits to encourage the pursuit of careers in aging.

Throughout April we exhibited a fantastic “Careers in Aging” display in the university library, highlighting career goals of two current SPO members: Jamie Foust, M.S. in Gerontology with a Concentration in Nonprofit Management and Okjae Lee, M.S in Gerontology/MBA dual degree program. We also showcased our colorful new “Careers in Aging Map” designed by Assistant Dean, Eileen Miller, M.P.H., and Delta Gamma chapter president, Katie Thompson. (see pg. 12)

As the fall 2014 term commences, we look forward to attending local conferences and engaging local community members to discuss “booming” older adult populations. We are also excited to announce our first “Careers in Aging Tour” through, which newly inducted SPO members and incoming graduate students will tour Senior Centers, CCRCs, Adult Day center and other facilities of our partners and alumni local to the Greensboro area. Later in the semester we will initiate a “Socks for Seniors” holiday fundraiser in celebration with older adults in our community. We look forward to the upcoming events with our SPO chapter members and our local community!

Submitted by: Katie Thompson
# DELTA GAMMA’s Careers in Aging Map

## Specialty Areas
- **Elder Law**
- **Nutrition**
- **Pastoral Care**
- **Estate Planning**
- **Family Caregiving**
- **Financial Counseling**
- **Aging and Business**
- **Non-Profit Management**
- **Social Gerontology**
- **Gerontological Society of America**
- **Alliance for Retired Americans**
- **National Senior Citizen Law Center**
- **The Retirement Research Foundation**
- **The Center for Social Gerontology**
- **National Council on Aging**
- **Alzheimer’s Association**
- **Parkinson’s Association**
- **AARP**

## Recreation & Facilities
- **Assisted Living Center**
- **Respite Care**
- **Travel Agent**
- **Retirement Community Director**
- **Recreation Specialist**
- **Project Manager**
- **Activities Director**
- **Parks and Recreation Manager**
- **Leisure/Cruise Industry**

## Government Agencies
- **HMO/Insurance Administration**
- **Long-Term Care Administration**
- **Aging and Adult Services**
- **National Institute of Aging**
- **Area Agencies on Aging**
- **In-Home Care Services**
- **Veterans Affairs**
- **Product Developer**
- **Marketing Analyst**
- **Retirement Counselor**
- **Intergenerational Specialist**
- **Human Resources Manager**
- **Educational and Medical Website Developer**
- **Health Resources and Services Administrator**
- **Aging-In-Place Specialist**

## Business Professions
- **Social Work**
- **Public Health**
- **Nursing**
- **Education**
- **Kinesiology**
- **Sociology**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Medicine**
- **Business Administration**
- **Recreational Therapy**
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Psychology**
- **Law**

## Academic
- **Project Evaluator**
- **Department Head**
- **Researcher**
- **Center Director**
- **Faculty Member**
- **Program Director**

## Healthcare
- **Hospice and Palliative Care**
- **Patient Educator**
- **Long-Term Care**
- **Inpatient and Outpatient Services Provider**
- **Clinical Trials Coordinator**
- **Patient Advocate**
- **Medicare/Medicaid Liaison**
- **Geriatric Assessment**

## Advanced Degrees
- **Architecture and Interior Design**
- **Social Work**
- **Public Health**
- **Nursing**
- **Education**
- **Kinesiology**
- **Sociology**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Medicine**
- **Business Administration**
- **Recreational Therapy**
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Psychology**
- **Law**

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*Some jobs may require additional training, education, certification, or license in addition to a UNC/MS in Gerontology, MHC in Gerontology, or MS in Gerontology/MBA dual degree.*
Member Spotlight

Share your accomplishments with your fellow SPO members!

- Publications
- Scholarships
- Awards
- Fellowships
- Internship Opportunities
- Career Promotions

The National SPO Board reserves the right to exclude possible conflicts of interest for this column.

Advertising opportunities are available with SPO. Contact us for member and chapter rates!
Meet Debra Dodds—Kappa Chapter

Debra Dodds, a masters student in Gerontology, utilizes her passion for personal technology engagement to provide community-based tablet workshops for individuals suffering from memory loss. Such workshops offer interactive research-based activities that are beneficial to both those suffering from forgetfulness, and their caregivers in a supportive social environment.

Debra has collaborated with government and non-profit community organizations to develop, pilot, support, and deliver unique programming for this aging and at-risk population. The TouchTEAM workshops, are led by trained volunteers, utilize library provided iPads to guide participants through app-based activities that help develop new communication and engagement tools in a normalized community environment.

Debra graduates with a Masters of Gerontology, Aging Services from the University of Massachusetts Boston in December of 2014, and has a B.S., Business Administration from the University of Oregon. Her capstone project chronicles the development and implementation of community-based, adaptive aging tablet technology workshops. The original series is named Tablet Engaged Active Minds and is often referred to as TouchTEAM. The triple aim of TouchTEAM is to (a) harness the power of tablet technology for people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD), (b) support and educate their caregivers, and (c) provide community support for successful and a more connected aging in place.

TouchTEAM workshops were created in partnership with the Santa Cruz Public Library (SCPL). The library volunteer office and their VIP fellows helped to recruit, screen, and schedule the volunteer coaches for the program. During the hour-long group sessions, coaches (trained volunteers) use tablet computers with software applications (apps) and work one-on-one with the older guests and/or with the older guests and caregiver(s). The volunteer coaches provide collaborative, interactive opportunities to experience innovative communication tools and participate in new digital activities that stimulate cognitive involvement and augment social connections.

With the availability of millions of apps, new tablet users often have no idea where to start. To help provide focus for the sessions and to help promote positive outcomes, the apps selected for use are centered in one of four activity quadrants. The TouchTEAM activity quadrant includes apps focused on the following: games, music, images, and life stories.

The first public session of the TouchTEAM project was completed in July 2014. It was considered a successful test of the concept for two primary reasons. First, there was public demand for the class and the attendees were pleased; second, the program met and exceeded the library’s goals. One of the most popular apps quickly became ‘stories etc.’, a simple app designed to allow people to digitally record and share life stories by both video and pictures.

In summary, the TouchTEAM program applies digital innovation to the relationship between caregivers and people living with memory loss through a community-based program. The ability to do more with less will become increasingly important in serving our aging population. Leveraging non-aging services organizations in partnership with volunteers to deliver a scalable, digital engagement program offers an innovative, low-cost, and supplementary approach for helping people with memory loss live well at home.
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Upcoming Newsletter Deadline Date: December 1

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