Notes from the Director and Advisor

This summer I attended a Pioneer Conference in Kansas City. The theme was person-centered care and one of the keynote speakers called the women in the audience to be entrepreneurs in the future of long-term care. He noted that women are the primary caregivers and know what must be done. He challenged the audience to overcome the fear of incompetence to risk finding the next great innovation. Most of you have already taken that step—you’ve gone back to school because you want to figure out how you can participate in making life better for elders. Our demographic information says that many of you have made this decision at mid-life, meaning that you truly had to conquer that fear of the unknown. You should be commended for that. Your master’s program is preparing you to think about the future of aging but you are the one to take the next step. Think innovation and share your ideas with your fellow colleagues. They are all of like minds and together you might be able to combine your efforts to change the world. Now get back to work and post to that message board!

-Gayle

Another year is underway. Campus is changing colors before our eyes and students are quickly falling into their semester routines. I hope this newsletter finds you in a nice academic routine and closer to your goal of completing your Master’s degree. With every step closer to graduation, the more you will begin thinking about the job world. This edition of the newsletter covers several potential job fields. From entrepreneurial ideas to past student’s current jobs, it is all in here to help you explore a path that might be right for you. Career counseling and exploration is one of the many campus services, even at a distance. Check out their services http://www.k-state.edu/ces/students/studentsgraduate.html

-Laci
Where Are They Now?

Kelly Mortenson

Kelly Mortenson, a graduate of K-State's Gerontology Master's program, has recently began working with the State of California, Department of Aging. There, she will be working as a Survey Analyst, as well as inspecting PACE centers and other outpatient nursing home-type facilities. She will travel between the 244 centers in California while also balancing work in the office. Congratulations, Kelly!

We'd love to hear from you

Have you recently started a job or gained a new position? We want to keep up with our students and graduates, so let us know what you've been up to!

KSU Gerontology Alumni Receives College of Human Ecology Public Advocacy Award

Shawn M. Bloom
President and CEO
National PACE Association

Shawn graduated from K-State with a degree in biochemistry and a secondary major in gerontology. While in college he worked as a certified nurse aid in a nursing home and developed a passion for care for the elderly. He received a master’s in long-term care administration from North Texas and went on to be the CEO of the Missouri Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. In 2000 he became the President and CEO of the National PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) Association.

PACE has grown exponentially in the last several years because of the demands by the federal government to find the most acceptable form of care at the least expense for Medicaid and Medicare eligible populations. This organization develops programs that provide home support services for vulnerable older adults. Shawn has served as a member of our long-term care alumni advisory committee, has made monetary commitments to our excellence fund and has hired a summer student intern each of the past two summers. He has suggested that he may take two interns for summer 2015. These students are given an opportunity to understand public policies related to aging, provide support services for the PACE program, visit PACE program sites and conferences and to develop a better understanding of aging services from the national administration level.

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Imagine approaching the point in your life where you must decide whether or not to part from the place you’ve called your home for many years. How will you manage your belongings, finances, choices in care, or even the loss of a sense of self? What about the transfer from a hospital where you have been cared for back to your home where you must recover on your own? As some of these transitions can be more difficult to cope with than others, our support systems may not be equipped to handle all of the responsibilities. One of the many focuses within the field of gerontology is finding ways to make these transitions easier on both elders and their families. Fortunately, many organizations are developing processes to make these adjustments as comfortable and smooth as possible. New jobs in the field of gerontology are emerging every day that provide the opportunity to assist in even the most challenging transitions.

One way to aid older adults is through the work of a transition coach. These coaches assist recently hospitalized elders with the return to their home setting while striving to reduce the risk of re-hospitalization. Because nearly one in five Medicare patients return to the hospital within a month of release, transition coaches focus on being proactive by placing themselves in a position of support. They attend to goals that elders have as they are recovering, as well as listen for symptoms that may signal an issue that would require medical attention. These coaches give elders and their families more confidence by giving them the option to “bother the doctor” with any concerns.
For those who are making the transition from their home into a retirement facility, Seniors Real Estate Specialists assist with everything from financial to emotional challenges that coincide with the moving process. Because it can be a difficult time for both older adults and their families, the agents work through many of the responsibilities that family members would commonly manage. For those adults who choose to stay at home, moving management companies such as Mavins Group provide assistance in making living arrangements more accommodating to their needs.

Due to the ever-changing needs of older adults, more options are opening up every day for careers in the field of gerontology. Combining these degrees with other specializations provides new opportunities to help those entering transitional stages in their lives. By keeping focus on assisting in the best way possible, we can continue to help older adults live a life they wish to live.


Membership Benefits
- Online subscriptions to scholarly publications
- Reduced registration rates to the Annual Scientific Meeting
- An annual subscription to Gerontology News
- Networking Opportunities
- And more!

For more information check out https://www.geron.org/membership/membership-levels-benefits

Already a member? September is Membership Month!
For each new member you refer to the society, GSA will reward you with a $25 Amazon gift card.

Upcoming Conferences

2014
- **November 4** National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Leadership Conference
- **November 5** 2014 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- **December 5** Geriatric Orthopedic Fracture Conference

2015
- **February 26** AGHE’s 41st Annual Meeting & Educational Leadership Conference
- **March 23** Aging in America Conference
- **April 15** Southern Gerontological Society Annual Meeting

Important Dates at KSU

**September 26**—Spring 2015 Course Schedule
Available Online

**October 27**—Spring 2015 Enrollment Begins

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