Hello, Great Plains IDEA students. It is so hard for me to believe that the semester is coming to a close. There were so many things on my to-do list!!! One of the things I can cross off is the annual Gerontological Society of America Conference. It was in Washington D.C. this year (Orlando next!). I love this meeting. I always enjoy being in the company of thousands of people all committed to better understanding aging to improve the world for older adults. One thing that never ceases to make me jealous is the fact that many other professors have a lot of students with them. I wish you all could be there so make a bucket list and put Orlando on it for next November. Registration is much cheaper for students and you can volunteer to help at the conference to make it even more affordable. You’ll have the opportunity to network, learn about current and trending research, and experience aging at a different level.

Just a couple of announcements. Don’t forget that I’m teaching the Seminar in Long-Term Care during Intersession. It’s a quick way to earn 3 credits and gives lots of good information about leadership in aging services. Our enrollment is down as competition for online gerontology programs grows. We continue to be one of the best values in online instruction with costs typically less than most while maintaining excellent course instruction and content. Tell all your friends. We have room for as many as ten more students in the K-State cohort.

Happy Holidays one and all.

Gayle
In several of your classes you have probably learned about, discussed and researched person-centered care or culture change. Did you know that person-centered care is one of the Center on Aging’s focus areas? The center has a long history with the movement, including the development of education modules on person-centered care that have been accessed by providers and stakeholders across the nation.

Most recently the Center on Aging contracted with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services to administer PEAK 2.0 in Kansas Nursing homes. The Center on Aging was involved with PEAK when it was an award and recognition program to promote person-centered care initiatives. In 2012, Secretary on Aging, Shawn Sullivan (a K-State gerontology graduate) felt that Kansas had not seen the deep implementation of person-centered care that he desired. He initiated the redevelopment of PEAK and launched PEAK 2.0. Now, PEAK 2.0 is a Medicaid pay-for-performance program to promote the implementation of deep systems change to support person-centered care.

Homes enroll in the program and receive incentive payment for work toward and achievement of person-centered care. Homes work on practices within 4 domains: Resident Choice, Staff Empowerment, Home Environment, and Meaningful Life. Homes that are just beginning their journey towards person-centered care participated in a year of structured education to begin developing the organization infrastructure for change such as leadership and team decision-making. As homes demonstrate engagement and implementation of practice areas, their incentive payment increases. Homes that demonstrate comprehensive adoption of all the practices and mentor other homes receive the highest incentive payment. On the next page of the newsletter, there is a diagram that explains how the incentive levels and payments work.

The Center on Aging’s role with the program is to work directly with the homes on education, action planning and evaluation. One of the things we are most proud of with our work with this program is the shared definitions around person-centered care that are being established in our state. In addition, we are proud of the resources we have developed through this work. If you’d like to learn more about the program and the resources, please check out the PEAK 2.0 webpage: [http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/outreach/peak20/](http://www.he.k-state.edu/aging/outreach/peak20/)

Article by: Laci Comelison
The Center on Aging & Person-Centered Care: PEAK 2.0

Foundation: 50¢

Level 1: 50¢
- Evaluation / Assessment
- Implementation
- Action Plan

Level 2: $1
- Evaluation / Assessment
- Implementation
- Action Plan

Level 3: $2
- Evaluation / Assessment
- Sustaining Actions

Level 4: $3
- Bi-Annual Evaluation / Assessment
- Begin Mentoring Others Sustaining Actions

Level 5: $4
- Bi-Annual Evaluation / Assessment
- Documented Mentoring Sustaining Actions

Note: All incentive dollar amounts noted above indicate a per Medicaid resident, per day rate.
Scholarships

The Center on Aging will be announcing scholarship opportunities in February for the 2015-16 academic year. Below are the scholarships available for graduate students:

The Maggie Higdon Scholarship -- Awarded to a graduate student enrolled in the College of Human Ecology with an emphasis in Gerontology at KSU.

The Lucille E. Reitz Scholarship in Gerontology -- Awarded to a student enrolled in the College of Human Ecology with an emphasis in gerontology at KSU.

R.C. and Eva Finley Center on Aging Scholarship -- Awarded to an undergraduate junior or senior properly enrolled in the Secondary Major in Gerontology or the Long-Term Care Curriculum through the Center on Aging; OR a graduate student accepted to the Masters Degree in Gerontology. Preference given to students planning to devote their careers to working in the field of gerontology.

Look out for more information in February!

Spotlight: Vivian Nolte

From her origins in Hiawatha, KS, to attending college at Nebraska Wesleyan at age 16 and embarking on careers that took her to Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Arizona and Washington, D.C., Vivian Nolte has lived many lifetimes in her 91 years. Just last year, it was a visit to the Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community in Manhattan where she was introduced to students at a presentation by the K-State College of Human Ecology’s gerontology program that inspired her to establish the R.C. and Eva Finley Center on Aging Scholarship. The scholarship, which was established with $446,967 through a charitable gift annuity (CGA), is named in honor of her parents, who originally instilled in her the importance of charitable giving. "I was entranced by the young people in the program," Nolte said. "I was really impressed with everything they're doing at K-State to train young people how to take care of an aging population and how it can make a difference in the lives of both the caregivers and the people they're helping." To Nolte, setting up the scholarship through the CGA provides shared benefits to both her and K-State, and she's pleased that she'll be able to provide assistance to students interested in the program. "I think it's great that students want to get into this field," Nolte said. “It’s a wonderful way for me to give to somebody else." Sadly, in April of 2013, Vivian Nolte passed away. Ms. Nolte's generous contribution will help us provide students with an additional edge and empathy for older adults so they can make a difference in their lives and in the community.
**Geronotological Society of America (GSA)**

GSA is an interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education and practice in the field of aging. It is “home” for gerontologists like us and a membership organization where we can connect with other gerontologists and learn the latest and greatest in the field of aging. This year Gayle, Migette, and I (Laci Cornelison) had the opportunity to go to the GSA annual conference in Washington D.C., which is one of the major events GSA hosts each year. We try to make a habit of attending this conference because there are so many benefits.

At the conference, we did a poster presentation on PEAK 2.0 (see the article in this newsletter to learn more). Gayle and Migette also serve on several committees within the GSA organization and were able to connect with peers working in similar research/interest areas. GSA is where Gayle connects with GPIDEA faculty at other universities where you take classes. They use this time to connect in person and hold a business meeting for the program. One of the most exciting aspects of the conference for me is to see the results from the latest research and talk to the researchers behind the work face-to-face. I used to think that research was something only really smart people did, but somehow talking to researchers in person helps me understand that they are people just like me. It motivates me to keep curious and pursue research as the opportunities present themselves.

Gayle and I hope that you consider becoming a member and maybe even attend a conference. We’d love to have some conference buddies and connect you with fellow gerontologists across the country. To learn more visit:

[https://www.geron.org/](https://www.geron.org/)

For membership information: [https://www.geron.org/membership/membership-levels-benefits](https://www.geron.org/membership/membership-levels-benefits)

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**Want to join a MOOC?**

What is a MOOC anyway? A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. We just learned of a MOOC: Living with Dementia. If you are interested in testing out a MOOC, this might be just the one to get you started. Here is a link to learn more:

[http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=43173ef4bf5b01f954f1bc204&id=c60df9a87&e=4bebd8fc36](http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=43173ef4bf5b01f954f1bc204&id=c60df9a87&e=4bebd8fc36)