



SSA Bulletin

Winter 2007



February 2007

SSA Welcomes Dr. Patricia Brownell as 2007



President

I am pleased to serve as President for the State Society on Aging of New York (SSANY) in 2007. As a professor of social work and gerontology at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar, and a representative to the United Nations for the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), I know the critical importance of interdisciplinary education and practice to ensure the best possible services and outcomes for older New Yorkers and their families as we continue our move into the new millennium. I look forward to an exciting and productive year!

SSANY is a professional membership organization for academics, agency based and independent practitioners, students, government workers, leaders in the field of aging, and interested people of all ages. As one of several important New York State aging membership organizations, SSANY has the unique mission of representing interdisciplinary gerontological and geriatric professional communities and members in New York State who engage in education, scholarship, practice, and information sharing on best practice models, workforce and service needs, and social policy issues.

Each president has the opportunity to propose a theme for the year in which they serve, and this year's theme endorsed by the SSANY Board of Directors for 2007 is: **Addressing The Opportunities And Chal-**

lenges of Aging: Local Responses To Global Issues. This is adapted from the title of the review that is being undertaken in 2007-8 by the United Nations Commission for Social Development on the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)**. This bottom-up review (from locality to nation to global community) examines progress made in implementing the MIPAA, which was approved by member nations of the United Nations during the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, Spain, in April 2002 (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing>).

We also partner with the New York State Office for the Aging (SOFA) on many initiatives. On behalf of SSANY, I welcome with great pleasure Michael Burgess, incoming Director of the SOFA, and extend warm best

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wishes to Neal Lane, former Director of the NY-SOFA. SSANY has enjoyed a productive working relationship with SOFA for many years, and I know this will continue for many more years to come.

As a State professional organization in New York that represents members from the fields of gerontology and geriatrics, SSANY partners with SOFA on many initiatives. These include the development of an inventory of gerontological programs in higher education across disciplines in New York State, pre-White House

conferences on aging, and Project 2015. SSANY is currently collaborating with SOFA on a state-wide dialoguing initiative to foster greater understanding of the workforce needs of the future to both serve and support the productivity of diverse older New Yorkers.

During my year as President, SSANY will continue to represent universities, colleges and institutions that develop curricula in gerontology and geriatrics; collaborate on studies of the needs of older New Yorkers and the workforce serving them;

and conduct studies, research and educational programs relating to problems of and services to older New Yorkers. We also sponsor several conferences annually, including this year's state-wide gerontology conference in Albany, New York, in October 2007, and two university-based student conferences in gerontology: one at Alfred University and one at Fordham University/ Lincoln Center Campus. I look forward to seeing you at these important events!

Members Of The Social Policy Committee Speak Out:

Thomas V. Caprio *by Maria Yagual*

Dr. Thomas V. Caprio is Co-chair of the Social Policy Committee along with Ann Brownhill Gubernick. The Social Policy Committee has two primary goals. The first goal is to have an annual meeting, which is an open forum for discussion of policy topics. Here different professionals also known as "content experts" participate and share their perspective on a specified topic. For instance, this past fall the policy makers discussed transportation and how it has an impact in N.Y.

The second goal is to take the topic that was discussed and develop it into a policy statement. A policy statement consists of an introduction, background, discussion points that are relevant to the topic, community based programs, finances and recom-

mendations. For example, a lot of brainstorming went into developing the policy statement for transportation: who, what, where, when, and how were discussed to try to determine if this topic can be beneficial in the field of geriatrics. Along with developing the policy statement for transportation, Dr. Caprio and colleagues are simultaneously thinking about topics for the next fall conference. Some topics that are of interest are elder abuse and housing.

A combination of personal experiences inspired Dr. Caprio into the field of geriatrics. Now that he is involved in the field, he finds geriatrics to be a rewarding population and enjoys what he does. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Public Health in Clinical Investigation and Dr. Caprio

is the first participant in the University of Rochester Research Training Grant in Geriatrics and Gerontology funded by the National Institute on Aging. His professional and research interests are in palliative care education, comprehensive geriatric assessment, and physician practice in nursing homes. We'd like to thank his mentor, Dr. Jurgis Karuza for encouraging Dr. Caprio to participate in SSANY!



Dr. Thomas V. Caprio
Social Policy Committee
Co-Chair

Social Policy Committee

From left to right: Michael Danziger, Ann Brownhill Gubernick, Woody Goldberg, James O'Neal, Patricia Brownell, Martha Bial **Not in Picture:** Thomas Caprio (Upstate)



SSANY BOARD APPROVES ISSUE PAPER ON LONG-TERM CARE



By Ann Brownhill Gubernick

At the January 2007 meeting, the SSANY Board of Directors approved **Long-Term Care**, a social policy issue. Ann Brownhill Gubernick, Chair of the Social Policy Committee stated that issues papers were an outgrowth of the Town Hall Meetings that are held annually at the SSA Conference and **Project 2015, The Future of Aging In New York State**, a joint partnership with the New York State Office for the Aging in 2000. Thomas V. Caprio, MD, Co-Chair of the Social Policy Committee with Jurgis Karuza, Ph.D. and Paul R. Katz, MD updated their 2015 article on Long-Term Care. Dr. Karuza is SSANY past-president, director of evaluation and research at the Finger Lake Geriatric Education Center and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the State University College at Buffalo. Dr. Katz is director of the Finger Lake Geriatric Education Center and Chief of the Geriatrics & Aging Division at University of Rochester. The 2000 article was written with Jennifer Rosenbaum and Marcus Harazin of the State Office for the Aging.

The goals for the Social Policy Committee in 2007 are to continue developing and vetting social policy issue papers for Board approval and to organize and develop the Town Hall meeting at the annual SSANY conference to be held in October 2007. The Social Policy Committee, with members from Rochester/Upstate and the New York City area, meets four times a year via tele-conferencing. Participation in the Committee is open to all current or prospective members of SSANY. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Ann Brownhill Gubernick at abrownhill@nyc.rr.com or Thomas Caprio at Thomas_Caprio@urmc.rochester.edu for more information about the Social Policy Committee and upcoming meetings.

The detailed version of the summary of the Long-Term Care. The Issue Paper can be located in its entirety on the SSANY website at www.ssany.org

Member's In The Spotlight

Dr. T. Frank Williams *by Maria Yagual*

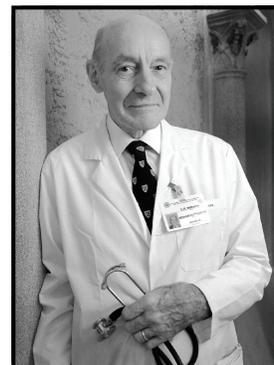
Dr. T. Franklin Williams is a Professor of Medicine Emeritus at Monroe Community Hospital. What inspired Dr. Williams and still resonates with him in the field of geriatrics is the opportunity to care for other people. As an inspirational mentor, Dr. Frances Peabody once said, "The secret of the care of the patient is caring for the patient." Dr. Williams has used this philosophy in working with people.

Beginning in 1968, Dr. Williams helped develop a geriatrics program at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, where he served as professor of medicine as well as professor of preventive and rehabilitative

medicine. This program helped to teach and train people about the clinical care of the geriatric patient, assessment, long-term care and chronic illness, diabetes, and research and health services for the elderly. Within this program great mentors have evolved. Just to name a few: Mary E. Tinetti, M.D., head of geriatrics at Yale University; Mark E. Williams, M.D., head of geriatrics at University of Virginia; and R. Knight Steel, M.D., head of geriatrics at University of New Jersey.

Dr. Williams served as the second Director of the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health from 1983 to 1991. This was a great opportunity to support

research on active and productive aging, as well as to investigate aging related diseases, in particular Alzheimer's and creative aging (maintaining active lives through artwork, writing etc.) Along with all his honorary awards, Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center of Upstate New York just recently gave a tribute to Dr. Williams in spanning the continuum of care. Presently Dr. Williams remains an active scholar and leader. In 2006, SSANY recognized his remarkable contributions to the field of aging by presenting him with the President's Award. (see awards on page 8)



Dr. T. Frank Williams

An Interview with Dr. Judy Howe *by Dr. Kapena Kanguatjivi*

Dr. Howe, can you tell me a little bit about the things you are doing within the SSANY?

Dr. Howe: I had the pleasure of serving as SSANY president in 2005. Currently, I am serving as the Facilitator of the SSANY Past President's Circle, as well as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Board.

What does the immediate past president do exactly?

Dr. Howe: The immediate past president chairs the Nominations Committee under SSANY By-laws. Beverly Horowitz, 2006 SSANY President and other board members identified a need to formalize the involvement of past SSANY Presidents. So, with Board approval, we reestablished the Past Presidents Circle which I agreed to facilitate. We began

to hold conference calls in early 2006 during which we decided to focus our energies on a specific project: workforce and training issues in gerontology.

What exactly were you focusing on in terms of workforce issues in gerontology?

Dr. Howe: With the New York Office on Aging, we are looking at issues related to preparing the work force to serve older adults. In particular, we are addressing the following:

- How do we assure that workers have the skills and knowledge for effectively interacting with older adults? Are there minimum competencies that need to be considered?
- How might education and training opportunities be de-

veloped and implemented for staff and others working in various settings, especially those in which there is direct interaction with older people (health and long-term care services; housing and libraries; retail industry; insurance industry; and auto industry.

- How can training and educational opportunities be designed to include information about older adults across disciplines?
- How do we infuse gerontology into college curricula? Provide continuing education opportunities across many disciplines?



Dr. Judith Howe

An Interview with Dr. Judy Howe (con't)

How did you propose to get colleges to add gerontology into their programs?

Dr. Howe: We sponsored the first of a series of listening sessions throughout New York State at the Annual meeting of SSANY in October 2006 in Saratoga Springs. We invited a variety of stakeholders throughout the State, including employers, practitioners, and educators.

What exactly did you do during the listening sessions?

Dr. Howe: Following a delicious brunch hosted by the New York State Office on Aging, Dr. John Krout and Dr. Robert Maiden reported on a recent SSANY-SOFA survey of gerontology courses and pro-

grams. The results were very disappointing, with over half of the schools reporting no programs or coursework in gerontology. Laurie Pferr, Executive Deputy Director of SOFA, reinforced the need for a prepared workforce in her talk, "Working with Older Adults: The Need for Workforce Training and Education." Following the presentations, attendees participated in a dialogue about training and educational opportunities for employees, core competencies in academic and continuing education programs, and creative solutions for ensuring that all workers have the skills and knowledge to effectively interact with older adults. Three more Listening Sessions are planned for the spring of

2007 in New York City, Alfred and Ithaca.

What is the next phase of the plan after you complete all of the listening sessions?

Dr. Howe: We will produce a report on our findings and make recommendations for ways to re-vitalize and add gerontology curricula to universities and colleges and training programs for workers in aging services.

Is any of your SSANY work related to what you do for a living?

Dr. Howe: Most definitely yes. I work voluntarily for SSANY but gerontology has been a passionate interest of mine since I was at graduate

school at Syracuse University. I have my PhD in Social Welfare with a concentration in gerontology and am a faculty member at Mount Sinai School of Medicine of Geriatrics and Adult Development. I am also the Associate Director of Education at the Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center based at the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join The New SSANY Listserve!

Introducing a new email list serve group for the New York State Society on Aging. The Yahoo group is called: "State Society on Aging." The SSANY Yahoo group has been established to maintain contact with and facilitate dialogue between members of SSANY. Discussion of topics associated with SSANY or related to SSANY's mission are strongly encouraged.

Instructions on how to join:

To join the SSANY Yahoo list serve, you must click the above link to the web page. When you arrive at the web page there will be a big blue button on the right hand side that says "Join this group." Click that blue button with your mouse. You will be asked to sign in with your Yahoo ID. If you don't have a Yahoo ID, you can sign up for one by clicking the blue "sign up" label on the screen that will appear after you have clicked on the "join this group" button on the previous screen.

Kapena Kanguatjivi of the SSANY Electronics Committee maintains this group. If you have any additional problems please contact Kapena. She can be reached via email at kapenahelen@yahoo.com

Members In The News:

A New Book Authored By Lisa Curch



Author **Lisa Curch**

Food and Eating Experiences of Older Women in a Retirement Community: A Sociological Study is the culmination of a qualitative research study that examined dietary-related experiences in the lives of elderly women who resided in an independent living retirement complex.

The following is an abstract of the book:

This research explored how social milieu influences the development and progression of dietary behavior throughout life, the potential of life course transitions to modify dietary behavior, and how a retirement community environment shapes current dietary behavior. The investigation utilized a life course perspective and an ethnographic approach that centered on in-depth interviews of older women residing in a retirement community. The interviews probed current dietary experiences and practices, and constructed histories of dietary behavior. Four levels of influence on dietary behavior were identified: 1) personal factors; 2) interpersonal relationships and social interaction; 3) social roles and statuses; and 4) contexts, particularly environmental, community policy, and political economic contexts. Analysis additionally revealed four major food-related themes in the lives of the women: dietary morality, dietary wellness, dietary sociability and dietary duty. Interpretation of the findings contributed to the development of a theoretical model. The research findings and model of life course influences on the nature of dietary behaviors of older women provide a more holistic understanding of dietary practices of older women and have implications for future research and practice, particularly as related to quality of life issues. This work will be of interest to scholars in gerontology, sociology, nutritional sciences, and dietetics.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT: GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

WHEN: MARCH 21st

WHERE: FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

For details please visit the SSANY website at www.ssany.org

Dr. Zvi D. Gellis receives the Outstanding Practice Research Award



News Release

On December 14, 2006, Dr. Zvi D. Gellis received the Outstanding Practice Research Award for his paper titled: "Randomized Controlled Trial of Problem-Solving Therapy for Late Life Depression in Home Health Settings" at the 5th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health, in Hong Kong, China. Over 1400 papers were presented by representatives from 30 countries.

The paper has been accepted for publication in the premier social work research journal "Research on Social Work Practice" in 2007.

Dr. Zvi Gellis is Director, Center for Mental Health and Aging and Associate Professor in the School of Social Welfare at the State University of New York at Albany. In 2002, he was selected as a national Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar. In 2003, he was selected as Summer Research Fellow at the National Institute on Aging. In 2005, he was the recipient of a 5-Year National Institute of Mental Health Research Career Development award to develop and evaluate geriatric mental health screening and treatment services in home care. His research is focused on screening of mental health problems in later life including: depression and anxiety in home health care and primary care settings, and testing the efficacy of cognitive-behavioral treatment for medically ill homebound older adults.



A Look Back at the 2006 SSANY Conference...

SSANY Awards:

Walter M. Beattie, Jr. Award

This award honors a distinguished gerontologist for outstanding contributions in to the field of aging. This past year's honoree Was **Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN.**

President's Award

This award recognizes distinguished service in the field of aging to a leader from New York State. This past year's recipient Was **T. Franklin Williams, MD.**



**Gideon Putnam Resort:
Saratoga Springs, NY**

Student Paper Awards



Doctoral Level Award:
Diane M. Price



Master's Level Award:
Rhonda Rosenberg



Student Attendance Award:
Dalia Husband

Conference Pictures!!!



Edwin Mendez Santiago, Dr. Marianne (Mimi) Fahs, Louis Vazquez
 NYC Commisioner Director Of Research Executive Director
 DFTA Brookdale Center on Aging R.A.I.N



David Emanuel, MD representing Isabella at the Warner Symposium.



Kristin Bergfeld places her bid at the Silent Auction



Jean Moore, Beverly Horowitz, David Emanuel, Carol Rodat, Jennifer Rosenbaum

SAVE THE DATE!

What: 2007 Annual SSANY Conference

When: October 17-19th

Where:



**DETAILS POSTED ON
www.ssany.org**



State Society on Aging of New York

Founded in 1972 as the New York State Association of Gerontological Educators
(NYSAGE)

www.ssany.org

Patricia Brownell, PhD, LMSW	President
Deborah Heiser, PhD	President-Elect
Christine R. Klotz, MHA	Secretary
Carmen Morano, PhD	Treasurer

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James O'Neal, MA	Planning and Development
Patricia Maiden, PhD	
Cherly Boyson, RN, MS	2007 Conference Program
Louis Vasquez, MSW	Membership
Jacquelin Berman, PhD, LMSW	Education
Ann Brownhill Gubernick, LMSW	Social Policy
Thomas Caprio, MD	
Deborah Heiser, PhD	Publications
Janna Heyman, PhD	Awards
Judith L. Howe, PhD	Education
	Past Presidents
Beverly Horowitz, PhD, OTR/L, LMSW	Immediate Past-President
	Nominating
Logan Jamison	Student Representative
Carol Hunt, MUP	Special Advisor

A Message From Beverly Horowitz, Immediate Past

2006 SSA President Beverly P. Horowitz is currently a Clinical Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy in Stony Brook University's School of Health, Technology and Management and core faculty member with the Long Island Geriatric Education Center at Stony Brook University. In addition she maintains a private practice in occupational therapy and as a geriatric care manager. She received her PhD from Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, her Master's degree from Columbia University in Occupational Therapy, and her bachelor's degree from Stony Brook University. After a successful year as President, Beverly men-

tioned several areas she focused on during her presidency that she would like to see carried on into 2007. These areas include:

- Promoting SSA among interdisciplinary NY State colleagues including health and human service practitioners, policy makers, educators, researchers and other stakeholders.
 - Maintaining communication with colleagues and stakeholders.
- Continue relationship with NY State's 3 GEC's
- Continue collaborative work with the NY State Office on Aging to address the needs of older New Yorkers and their families.

- **Project 2015:** Established under Pataki Administration to help promote the wellbeing of older NY'ers. Project 2015 also provides a forum to support discussions on gerontology and workforce issues, specifically the problem of a shortage of professionals knowledgeable in elderly care.



WANT TO BE IN THE NEXT SSANY NEWSLETTER??!

Please send any articles/updates/news releases about yourself or issues you would like to see featured to Deborah Heiser or Meredith Morris of the Publications Committee:

Deborah Heiser: Editor
dheiser@isabella.org

Meredith Morris: Co-Editor
mmorris@isabella.org

Maria Yagual and Kapena Kanguatjivi: Contributors



Publications Committee
Kapena, Deborah, Meredith and Maria



To become a member of the **SSANY** visit our official website www.ssany.org/Home.asp to fill out an application or

Send in the attached Membership Application Form to:

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