



State Society on Aging of New York

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

Dear Members of the State Society on Aging of New York

I am very pleased to be serving SSA as its 44th president at such an exciting time in the field of aging! Older New Yorkers are living longer, healthier lives than at any time in the state's history and are driving the growth in the state's population. There are now more adults age 65 and above in the state than there are children in the state under the age of 13.



Sweeping demographic changes have also changed the face of aging in New York. Today, 28 percent of the state's older adults are immigrants, including half of older residents of New York City. In addition, 31 percent are people of color, compared to 26 percent just ten years ago. In New York City and in many cities and counties outside the city, immigrants and people of color are driving the growth in the older adult population.

I have spent several years documenting these and other trends about New York's older adults at the [Center for an Urban Future](#), an independent, nonprofit think-tank based in New York City. My research has elevated the needs of older adults in front of policymakers and the media through reports that combine traditional policy analysis with investigative journalism. SSA provided me one of the first platforms to discuss the needs of diverse older adults, and I am now excited to help provide a forum for sharing practice, policy and research through SSA's annual conference and events throughout the year!

Aging is often presented as a challenge. Indeed, there are many challenges for the medical, social service, and other fields to tackle. But an older society can also be full of opportunities. I hope that this year SSA can be a powerful platform for sharing innovative solutions to those challenges as well as effective policies and practices that allow New Yorkers across the age spectrum to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

We look forward to seeing you at our events across the state and at our conference this October!

Respectfully,

christian gonzález-rivera, M.U.P.
President, State Society on Aging of New York

Fresh Ideas for the Old New Age: Our 2019 Annual Conference

Our 47th SSA Annual Conference is October 29th to October 26, 2018 at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs, NY. This theme of the conference is “**Fresh Ideas for the Old New Age**” and will focus on new strategies and solutions to help individuals, organizations, and communities work together to build a healthier and more equitable and age-friendly society both locally and globally.

We invite you to submit proposals for presentations, posters, and artwork on subjects in the field of aging, including but not limited to gerontology, geriatrics, public policy, service practice, and elder law. We welcome proposals from academics, researchers, service providers, administrators, policymakers, clinicians, private practitioners, students, older adults, and others working in the field.

Topics for this year’s conference include:

- Technology
- Community-based services
- Older workers
- Human rights of older persons
- Education and training

Abstract submission is due June 20, 2019. To submit an abstract, please visit [our website](#) or click on [this link](#).

Highlights from our 2018 Conference

The **Town Hall** last year spotlighted the legislators, practitioners, and other leaders who are working to serve a growing, increasingly diverse older adult population.

From left to right, **Greg Olsen**, Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging; **Katherine Martinez**, President & CEO of Neighborhood SHOPP, an organization serving older adults in the Bronx; **Porsha Hall**, Assistant Director of Health Promotion Services & Evaluation at SAGE, an organization serving LGBT older adults; **Robert Blancato**, Director of the D.C.-based Elder Justice Coalition; **Assemblymember Ron Kim**, who represents District 40, one of the state’s most diverse places. Moderating the panel was **Christian González-Rivera**, SSA’s current president.





President's Award: Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD

Dr. Tina Maschi, 2018 SSA President (right), presented Dr. Morrissey with the award. The President's Award recognize a leader in the field for outstanding service.



Walter M. Beattie Award: Mary Ann Erickson, PhD

The Walter M. Beattie Jr. award honors a distinguished member of SSA for outstanding contributions to the Society's work and for commitment to its goals. This year we honored Dr. Mary Ann Erickson, who is an Associate Professor of Gerontology at Ithaca College.

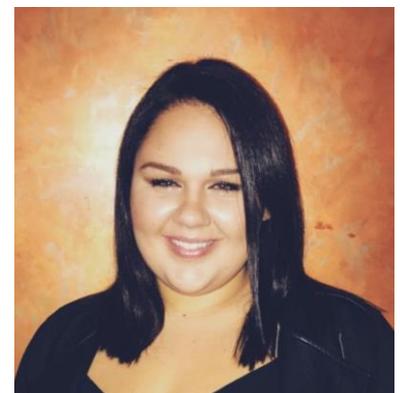


Advocate for Older Adults Award: Greg Olsen

The Advocate for Older Adults Award recognizes a record of planning, policy development and advocacy work. This year we honored Greg Olsen, the acting director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA).

SSA Undergraduate Award: Francesca Petruzzella, Monmouth Univ.

Francesca Petruzzella won last year's Undergraduate Award for her paper, "LGBT Youth and Elders Perceptions of Aging," which she presented at the conference. She is currently a student in the Master of Social Work program at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ. She has previously interned with the LGBT Older Adult Project and is currently interning with Garden State Equality. For the past two years, she has conducted research and outreach with the older LGBT community. She has facilitated intergenerational events with older LGBT adults and LGBT youth, and trained local health and social services providers about the needs of older LGBT adults.





SSA Graduate Award: Elizabeth Anderson Young, Romina Calderon Kramer, Kristen Gualbert, Emily May, Jaclyn Hugh, and Amanda Izzo, Stony Brook University.

These third year students in the Occupational Therapy program at Stony Brook University in Southampton, NY won last year's Graduate Award for their poster, "Dementia, Parkinson's Disease and Other Illnesses: Analysis of Differences in Stress and Strain of Caregivers." Their paper was completed as part of their Research & Design course under the advisement of their professor, Dr. Ghenet Weldeslassie. All group members

have experience working with the aging population in settings such as skilled nursing facilities, mental health community programs, and outpatient rehabilitation. This experience combined with their passion for geriatric occupational therapy influenced this study on caregiver stress and strain.

RAISE Teach-In

On January 11, 2019, SSA collaborated with the Westchester Public Private Partnership, New York State Office for the Aging, Statewide Senior Action Council, Bronx Regional Interagency Council on Aging (BRICA), and Caregivers Collaborative to present a teach-in on the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregiver Act.

RAISE, which has the support of AARP and many community family caregiver groups, provides a national strategy to support family caregiving. RAISE requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain, and update an integrated national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers.

The event was held at the Ambassador Scarsdale, an upscale Assisted Living Facility in White Plains, New York. Janna Heyman and James O'Neal, on behalf of SSA, assisted in planning and made brief remarks at the event. John Cochran, deputy director of the executive division of New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) spoke about the history of family caregiver support policy and Maria Alvarez, executive director of the Statewide Senior Action Council presented the teach-in.