



# State Society on Aging of New York

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NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

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## President's Message

Greetings everyone. I am excited to bring SSA's annual conference to Ithaca College this year. Ithaca College is a residential, primarily undergraduate institution of about 6,000 students in the Finger Lakes region of the state. We have a major and a minor in Aging Studies and a collaborative relationship with Ithacare, a senior housing facility across the street from the college. We are coordinating conference sessions with the class schedule to maximize student and faculty attendance at our conference sessions. We will also provide an opportunity for conference participants to enjoy a walk through the Ithaca College Natural Lands and to sign up to enjoy one of our local restaurants.



This year we are partnering with the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center on a Rural Summit on Wednesday, October 26. The FLGEC will be planning sessions focusing on the needs of older New Yorkers in rural areas. Other program highlights include a Past Presidents' Symposium at lunch on Thursday focusing on older immigrants and a presentation on the Music as Medicine project at Ithaca College at Wednesday's dinner. And yes, on-site meals are included in your registration: all breakfasts and lunches, receptions Wednesday and Thursday, and Wednesday dinner.

We are also happy to announce that we will have four sessions available for CEUs for social workers. Each 3 hour session will carry 3 CEUs; while the sessions are included in the conference registration, CEUs will be an additional \$25 per session. The workshops include:

- Skilled Listening and Writing for Story: From Reminiscence to Story-Work with Elders' Stories (Terry Lee, Ph.D., Christopher Newport University)
- Expressive Arts in Counseling Psychotherapy (Lourdes Barche-Tabar, Ph.D.)
- Attachment-Focused Integrative Reminiscence (Life Writing): Theory, Methods, Skills, and Phenomenological Experience (Myra Sabir, Ph.D., Binghamton University)
- Making Peace with the Past: The Impact of Emotional Trauma on Elder Well-Being and the Importance of Trauma-Informed Care (Lisa Kendall, LCSW-R, CSW-G)

We are looking forward to providing an outstanding forum for sharing research and practice and for networking with colleagues across the state. See you in October!

Mary Ann Erickson, PhD  
SSA President

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference – October 2015

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference was held in October 2015 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn, NY, with over 150 persons attending sessions organized around the theme “Mind, Body, Spirit: Holistic Approaches to Aging.”

The keynote address by Lucia McBee was on “Mindfulness-Based Elder Care” and the Town Hall Meeting on “Older Adults and Inequality” was led by Bob Blancato, MPA, Corinda Crossdale, MSW, and Donna Corrado, PhD.

Honorees at the conference were:

- Janna Heyman, PhD, recipient of the Walter M. Beattie Award
- Susan Perlstein, CSW, recipient of the President’s Award
- Robert Blancato, MPA, recipient of the Advocate for Older Adults Award



Dr. Mark Brennan-Ing (left) presenting the Beattie Award to Dr. Janna Heyman at 2015 Conference.

### SSA and Hostos Community College Partner on New York City Immigration

On March 31, 2016, SSA Diversity and Student Committees, with the collaboration of the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs, and Hostos Community College in the Bronx, held a panel discussion on social service needs and programs available to immigrant older adults in New York City. Panelists included: Evelyn Laureano, PhD, President and CEO of Neighborhood SHOPP, the Latino community; Lakshman Kalasapudi, Program Director at India Home; and Marc Frederic, AVP at RiverSpring at Home speaking about the Haitian community. Christian Gonzalez-Rivera, SSA Board Member and Senior Researcher at the Center for an Urban Future, delivered background information and statistics that show that immigrant older adults will soon become the majority of NYC’s older adult population.

### Former Presidents Continue Their Leadership Activities

**James C. O’Neal, MA**, Past President (2003) of SSANY, coordinated the collaboration between SSA, DFTA, The Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Affairs and Hostos Community College in presenting a Forum on the Social Service Needs of the Aging Immigrant Communities in NYC on March 31, 2016. He is currently working diligently on a collaboration among SSA, DFTA, The Fund For New York, Bronxworks, and United Neighborhood Houses to present a Food Insecurity Forum that is scheduled for September 20, 2016. Earlier this year, he was appointed as a Member of Governor Cuomo’s Advisory Committee on Aging with a term expiring on July 5, 2018.

**Judy Howe, PhD**, Past President (2005) of SSANY, has spearheaded the development and implementation of the Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training (RITT) program through her work with the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers at the Veterans Health

Administration (VHA). RITT promotes collaborative team-based care in addressing the complex needs of older patients and their families through an all-day accredited educational program delivered to primary care and administrative staff at rural VHA clinics. By the end of July, RITT will have been delivered to 80 clinics throughout the US, reaching 1250 participants. Dr. Howe and her colleagues have expanded and modified RITT to include providers and staff at Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Clinics. In February 2016 the first RITT training was held at the S'Klallam Tribe in Port Gamble, WA. In August, she and a co-trainer will deliver RITT to 4 IHS clinics in New Mexico, and in September RITT will be held at two Seneca Nation healthcare facilities in Salamanca and Irving, NY.

**Patricia Brownell, PhD**, Past President (2007) of SSANY is currently the President of National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), an association of researchers, practitioners, educators, and advocates dedicated to protecting the safety, security, and dignity of America's most vulnerable citizens. This year, Dr. Brownell and NCPEA honored Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee with Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Award. Ms. Greenlee is a former keynote speaker for SSANY.

**Mary Beth Morrissey, PhD**, Past President (2014) of SSANY coordinated a large statewide conference on “Changing the Conversation About Serious Illness: The Future of Palliative Care.” Her leadership has brought into the forefront issues on palliative and end-of-life care. She is a Fellow of Fordham University’s Global Healthcare Innovation Management Center and directs the Gabelli Schools of Business Health Care Management Certificate Program in Public Health, Palliative Care and Long-Term Care.

44th Annual Conference  
**SAVE THE DATE**



**Changing the Landscape:  
Creative Approaches to Healthy Aging**

Wednesday, October 26 - Friday, October 28, 2016  
Ithaca College, Ithaca NY