

# GEC PIPELINE



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Copy edit & page layout: Julie Murphy, MAPS.

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## ALASKA GEC

*Anne Jache*

### **New Website Available**

The Alaska Geriatric Education Center, directed by Rosellen Rosich, offers statewide training programs from its three consortium sites in Anchorage, Sitka and Fairbanks. A new stand alone website [www.alaskagec.org](http://www.alaskagec.org), designed by Michelle Holloway and Theresa Hanson, provides notices and links about statewide training opportunities and will house curriculum resources as these are developed. By mid March, the site will feature photos of Alaskan elders with a design intended to model accessibility to aging populations.

AKGEC has partnered with the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to leverage resources for training professionals and paraprofessionals in geriatrics. One result of that partnership is a geriatric track at the annual "Full Lives: Paths to Belonging" program, a statewide education, training, and networking opportunity for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Senior Services and Substance Abuse Direct Service. The "Full Lives program will be held April 21-22, 2005, at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Health & Wellness Strategies for Alaska Elders will be held at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, April 23, 2005. Vicki Schmall, Marty Richards, Carol Ballew and Bert Mathieson will speak on strategies for promoting healthy aging. A Certified Eden Associate & Train-the-Trainer program will be held April 25-28 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage for long-term care professionals. AKGEC will hold a Career Fair and community forum during Careers in Aging Week, April 11 -15.

The University of Alaska Anchorage - Summer Institute will feature five on-campus classes and one distance delivered class on aging. Undergraduate students as well as professionals attend these classes. The week of June 6-10 will feature programs and classes for the community and for professionals in geriatrics. The week will culminate June 9th and 10th with a training program for health care professionals with a focus on aging with co-existing conditions in a cross cultural context. The Northwest Geriatric Education Center will provide speakers for a half day CME program June 10th.

AKGEC has provided consultation on three new courses in geriatrics which will be offered through the UA system. These are: *Biology of Aging*, *Geriatric Assessment* and *Geriatric Interdisciplinary Teamwork*. It is anticipated that *Biology of Aging* will be offered in the summer of 2005 and *Geriatric Assessment* will be offered in the Fall of 2005 with the interdisciplinary team work course to follow. These will contribute to the existing minor in gerontology program and the anticipated certificate in geriatrics. Drafts of a curriculum module, researched and written by Shelley Larson under the direction of Ann Jache, wait approval by the Internal Review Process of the Alaska Native Hospital before the module is packaged and made available for geriatric professionals in the Winter of 2005.

## CAROLINA GEC

*Elizabeth Thomas*

### **Faculty Development in Geriatrics Education and Leadership**

In June 2003, the Carolina Geriatric Education Center (CGEC), with leadership from consortium member Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), began a program to foster excellence in teaching among health professionals who teach others about aging and the care of older adults.

The Faculty Development in Geriatrics Education and Leadership program offers multidisciplinary education to health professionals in the 16-county MAHEC region. Program directors select participants who work in health care or academic settings and teach staff, students, and/or the public. The program requires a commitment of approximately 140 hours over a 12-month period and is free to chosen participants.

“We began planning for the project, because health professionals in our region identified the need for an intensive geriatric education and leadership program,” said Jean Hill, CGEC Faculty Development project director and MAHEC director of nursing education. “The program includes six core workshops on a variety of topics related to geriatrics education as well as optional geriatric workshops provided by MAHEC.”

The program continues through 2007 and aims to strengthen participant competencies in innovative teaching strategies, coaching and mentoring, geriatrics, and programmatic leadership. Already in its second year, the program has trained 13 participants in the region.

“We trained six participants in the first year and seven in the second,” said Hill. “Each cohort evaluates the program content and speakers and makes recommendations for subsequent groups. So far, the reviews have been excellent with only a few minor changes suggested.”

The day-long classes, which include topics such as educational strategies, use of PowerPoint, and teambuilding, are taught by experts in each area. “We have found that the professional growth of participants is immense. The workshops have provided a wealth of information about effective ways to reach learners and enable them to provide geriatric care which will impact the care of older adults,” said Hill.

In addition to the classes, the program requires participants to develop a project that they will use in their health care institution. Ella Kidder, program participant and staff development coordinator at Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community in Asheville, said that her project on cultural diversity was beneficial to her staff and residents.

“Our project involved training our staff and residents on cultural diversity. The timing was right for the project as we are expanding our campus, and the expansion will bring many new residents. We were also aware of the diversity issues on the existing campus and felt that our staff and residents would benefit from sensitivity training,” said Kidder. “This project gave me better insight into diversity issues as well as the necessary means to train others in this area.”

As staff development coordinator in a continuing care retirement community, Kidder said she has to think outside the box to make training more effective, interesting and lively. “The tools I obtained from the faculty development program have better equipped me to meet the educational needs of those who care for older adults. I benefited greatly from the exposure to new ideas and training techniques,” she said. “I give the program two enthusiastic thumbs up.”

MAHEC’s mission is to provide education, information, training, and services to meet health needs in Western North Carolina through collaborative relationships. The Center commits its resources and activities toward enhancing the health of its communities through education, direct services, and partnerships with individuals, consumers, agencies, and organizations.

Funded by the Bureau of Health Professions, the CGEC works with North Carolina's health and human service practitioners to develop effective approaches to the care of older people in their communities, including those in rural and underserved areas. With leadership from the Program on Aging, the CGEC is a collaborative effort of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Area L Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Rural Health Group, Inc., Mountain AHEC, Charlotte AHEC, Wake AHEC and Eastern AHEC.

## MEHARRY CONSORTIUM GEC

*Ruth Garrett, PhD, MPH Director*

### **Meharry Medical Gerontology Certificate Program 2005 Special Announcement! “The Third Degree!”**

We are pleased to announce the coming of the “3rd Degree”.

April 1<sup>st</sup>, the third level certificate program will be offered. The format will be the same as the earlier two programs - three consecutive Fridays. The price is also the same, \$25.00 total for all three sessions – April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The subjects being presented result from the feedback from the previous programs; “Total Recall – Maximizing your Memory Power”, “Cognitive Vitality and Nutrition”, “Sensory Awareness”, “Emotions and Personality,” “Ethics and Aging”, “Sexuality and Aging”, and “Religiosity and Spirituality” to mention a few.

In addition ... THIS IS BIG ... on the last Friday of the program you will be present for a presentation from a special guest from Stanford University, Dr. Danielle Lapp, author of: “Don’t Forget”, “(Nearly) Total Recall” and “Maximize Your Memory Power”.

Also, “Brain Recovery? It can happen!” Lynn Lazarus Serper, Ed.D. Brookline, Mass., author of “Brainstorming.” Other local speakers include: Gary Duncan, MD, Vanderbilt U; Fred Allen, DD; Shagufta Jabeen, MD.

For information or to register contact Ruth Garrett at 615-327-6947 or e-mail [rgarrett@mmc.edu](mailto:rgarrett@mmc.edu), [pmiller@mmc.edu](mailto:pmiller@mmc.edu); [cgalvez@mmc.edu](mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu); [gbock@mmc.edu](mailto:gbock@mmc.edu).

## VIRGINIA GEC

*Iris A. Parham, Ph.D., Executive Director*

### **Alcoholism and Older Adults Web Course Now Available**

The Virginia GEC is proud to announce the latest edition to its catalog of web courses, Alcoholism and Older Adults. With estimates of between 2.5 to 3.7 million adults age 60 and over addicted to alcohol, and projections that by 2030, nearly 6 million older adults will suffer from alcoholism, the need for greater awareness and education for healthcare professionals about alcoholism and older adults is imperative. This web course provides a comprehensive overview of the disease and its effects to the body of the older adult. Additionally, it provides information on detecting the problem and potential treatments. The web course consists of 23 slides, two video, and ends with an interactive post quiz to allow you to check your knowledge of the content.

In addition to this module, the Virginia GEC also has available web courses on Breast Cancer, Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment, and Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training. All of these modules can be reached from our homepage at: <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology/>.

*Kathleen Watson, MS, Senior Project Coordinator*

### **“Substance Abuse in Older Adults: The Diagnostic Challenge”**

For the past three years, the Mountain State, Pennsylvania, Western Reserve and Virginia GECs have collaborated on national videoconferences, in concert with the Veterans' Administration's Employee Education Service. We are excited about a new videoconference currently in production with an anticipated airdate of April, 2005.

The title of this videoconference is "Substance Abuse in Older Adults: Diagnosis and Treatment." The conference is a three part program, airing for one hour on three consecutive Tuesday afternoons. Broadcasts will begin at 1:00 pm Eastern time and will be followed by an interactive conference call to allow for Q& A between audience and presenters.

The following is a breakdown of the dates, topics and presenters for each module:

- April 12--Broadcast I: Overview and Prevention  
Fred Blow, Alison Moore, David Oslin
- April 19--Broadcast II: Assessment and Diagnosis:

Fred Blow, Eve Wiseman, Peter Lichtenberg

- April 26--Broadcast III: Treatment  
Fred Blow, David Oslin, Karyn Schoem

We are currently trying to get the word out and continue to line up viewing sites for this program. Please contact Kathleen Watson at 804.828.9060 or [kdwatson@vcu.edu](mailto:kdwatson@vcu.edu) for information about hosting a site or attending the program.

## WISCONSIN GEC

*Julie Murphy, MAPS, Program Coordinator*

### **Dental Professionals and Aging Services**

By utilizing aging healthcare providers and services in the community, the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center (WGEC) has had the opportunity to create a pilot program linking available resources for family caregivers to dental professionals. "Caregiver Identification in the Dental Practice" was developed with assistance from and in collaboration with Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSoD), Greater Milwaukee Dental Association (GMDA) and the Family Caregiver Support Network (FCSN) of Milwaukee County. The premise behind the program is dental professionals as healthcare providers are under-utilized within the aging network and, in particular, to their potential contribution to family caregiver assistance. The dental appointment is ideally suited to the kinds of interactions necessary for effective caregiver identification and support. The average dental appointment tends to be the longest, most personal, and often most multigenerational in all of healthcare. The average dental appointment provides significant time for communication and information transfer while technical procedures are being completed; multiple appointments are often necessary to complete the care providing opportunities for follow-up and reinforcement; and caregivers/family members often accompany elderly patients to the office - providing these individuals an opportunity to become acquainted with office staff on a personal level - facilitating education and referral to community resources. Dentists, more commonly than physicians, often treat entire families, thereby having a more intimate exposure to family dynamics. Dentists and their office staff have simply not been exposed to the notions of caregiver issues and the role that the dental profession can play in helping to address these issues.

With support, advice and involvement from the GMDA and MUSoD, the WGEC with the FCSN of Milwaukee County created a training manual for dental offices on caregiver identification, services available to family caregivers, and resources available in the community. There are currently 20 dental offices in the pilot program and the WGEC will be expanding to other communities throughout the state this year.

Although the program has been well accepted by the 20 dental staffs, changes have had to be made in both the delivery method and training manual. Today's dental offices provide services at varied days and times, thereby creating a problem with available time for trainings. WGEC staff has had to train these professionals within their own offices in the majority of cases. This is time-consuming, but the entire staff then becomes involved in the program. The original training manual exclusively addressed caregiver identification and information, but the questions dental professionals wanted answered was often more relevant to working with their older adult patients. Therefore more information was included in the manual on the increase in older adults as it related to their dental health as well as overall health. A dental student also created a brochure on how to work with a patient with Alzheimer's Disease specific to dental offices, and WGEC Director, Tony Iacopino, developed a booklet on ways to improve a dental practice by removing some of the barriers to treating older adults. Both of these items have been well received by the dental staff. As the program is expanded throughout the state, additional concerns of dental professionals will continue to be met and overcome.

## 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
March 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> 2005	Geriatric Medicine Leadership Training	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>

March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Meeting the Dental Needs of the Fastest Growing Population: When Boomers Become Seniors	Kahala Mandarin Hotel Honolulu, Hawaii	Katherine Kim Pacific Islands GEC (808)523-8462 <a href="mailto:kekim@hawaii.edu">kekim@hawaii.edu</a>
March 10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	ASA – NCOA Joint Conference: The Changing Face of Aging	Philadelphia, PA	800-537-9728 <a href="http://www.agingconference.org">www.agingconference.org</a>
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Advances in Geriatrics XIV “Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias: Early Detection and Interventions”	West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel West Palm Beach, FL	Carolina Avila 305-243-6270
March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	The Biologic Underpinnings of Frailty/Cancer in the Elderly	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Stony Brook, NY	631-444-8279 <a href="mailto:lige@stonybrook.edu">lige@stonybrook.edu</a>
March 31 <sup>st</sup> – April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	29th Annual Gerontology Conference "New Horizons"	Corvallis, OR	<a href="http://www.osugero.org/">http://www.osugero.org/</a>
April 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	CGEC Leadership Academy: Bridging the Gap – Aging Perspectives in the San Joaquin Valley	Fresno, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Spirituality in End of Life Care	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Stony Brook, NY	631-444-8279 <a href="mailto:lige@stonybrook.edu">lige@stonybrook.edu</a>
April 6 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> and May 4 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Training of Trainers: Home Assessment of Vulnerable Older Adults	Los Angeles, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Substance Abuse in Older Adults: The Diagnostic Challenge	Various Sites	Kathleen Watson 804-828-9060 <a href="mailto:kdwatson@vcu.edu">kdwatson@vcu.edu</a>
April 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2005	Full Lives Conference 2005 – Paths to Belonging	Sheraton Anchorage Hotel Anchorage, AK	Beverly Tallman 907-264-6224, <a href="mailto:btallman@alaska.edu">btallman@alaska.edu</a> <a href="http://www.alaskachd.org/fulllives">http://www.alaskachd.org/fulllives</a>
April 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2005	California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG) Annual Meeting: Preparing for California’s Aging Boom – Directions for Higher Education	California State University Northridge	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005	Health & Wellness Strategies for Alaska Elders	Fairbanks Memorial Hospital McGown Room Fairbanks, AK	Denise Daniello 907-456-1380 <a href="mailto:fdldl@uaf.edu">fdldl@uaf.edu</a> <a href="http://www.alaskagec.org">www.alaskagec.org</a>
April 26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Aging with Gusto!...Tools for Living Well	Holiday Inn Bozeman, MT	800-356-6544
April 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Certified Eden Associate & Train-the-Trainer	BP Energy Center Anchorage, AK	Michelle Holloway 907-264-6228 <a href="mailto:afmlhl@uaa.alaska.edu">afmlhl@uaa.alaska.edu</a> <a href="http://www.alaskagec.org">www.alaskagec.org</a>
April 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Establishing Feeding Programs in the Nursing Home	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
April 29 <sup>th</sup> – May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2005	California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Annual Meeting	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
April 29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> and May 5 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Faculty Development: Teaching Students to Work with Elderly Stroke Patients	UC Davis Medical Center Marriott Hotel Davis, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	18th Annual Issues in Aging Conference Mild Cognitive Impairment: State of the Art Diagnosis and Treatment	Management Education Center Troy, MI	313-577-2297 <a href="mailto:ioinfo@wayne.edu">ioinfo@wayne.edu</a>

May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	18th Annual Issues in Aging Conference End of Life Avenues of Mourning	Management Education Center Troy, MI	313-577-2297 <a href="mailto:ioinfo@wayne.edu">ioinfo@wayne.edu</a>
June 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Keeping Elders Health: Aging with Coexisting Conditions in a Cross Cultural Context	BP Energy Center Anchorage Alaska	Ann Jache 907-786-1955 <a href="mailto:jache@uaa.alaska.edu">jache@uaa.alaska.edu</a> <a href="http://www.alaskagec.org">www.alaskagec.org</a>
September 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine/Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005	19th Annual Symposium on Geriatric Medicine "Finding the Balance: Risk vs. Benefit in Treating Geriatric Illnesses"	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI	Jan Yonker, 517-353-7828, <a href="mailto:yonker@msu.edu">yonker@msu.edu</a>
September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	10th Annual Geriatric Rehabilitation Conference "Strategies for a Changing Environment"	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI	Jan Yonker, 517-353-7828, <a href="mailto:yonker@msu.edu">yonker@msu.edu</a>