

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGEC NEWS

Call for NAGEC/NAGE Nominations

The Nominating Committee is now accepting recommendations for the following National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC)/ National Association of Geriatric Education (NAGE) positions:

President

Elyse Perweiler, MPP, RN, Associate Director of the New Jersey GEC has accepted the nomination.

President-Elect

Ed Olsen, MBA, JD, Project Director for the Miami Area GEC has accepted the nomination.

Board of Directors (three positions are available)

Before you recommend someone for a position, please contact him/her to verify interest in serving as a Board Member for NAGEC/ NAGE. All nominations must be received by Monday, November 3, 2003. For nomination forms, please contact Patti Swager at: pswager@unr.edu. You may also reach Patti by phone at: 775-327-2285 or by fax at: 775-784-4207.

CONSORTIUM OF NEW YORK GECs

Joan Dunbar, MBA, MSW, Borough Coordinator

GEC Symposium on Implementing Best Practices in Nursing Homes

This symposium at GSA in San Diego presents four different, best-practice approaches taken by four GECs from diverse parts of the country, each addressing a different aspect of the environment of caring in Nursing Homes. GEC presenters will describe their program's origins, methods, and outcomes of programs involving collaborative partnerships between nursing homes and GECs. Programs come in different guises: stress reduction, spiritual care, education and information. All programs share the belief that a caring environment, where best practices are the standard of care rather than the exception, must build on informed and empowered residents, families, and staff.

GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS: IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICES IN NURSING HOMES

Date: Sunday, November 23

Time: 10:30am

Place: Room 31, Mezzanine Level A, Conference Center

Discussants: Elyse Perweiler, MPP, RN, President – NAGEC, New Jersey GEC,
Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP, Bureau of Health Professions

Presenters: Joan Dunbar, MBA, MSW, Consortium of New York GECs (Back to the Future: Basics Revisited)
Marita Grudzen, RT, MHS, Stanford GEC
Anne Kane, MPH, Minnesota Area GEC
Eileen L. Yates, MPA, Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center

Please come and support your colleagues.

40-Hour Geriatric Scholar Certificate at the Consortium of New York GECs

Like all GECs, the CNYGEC offers a 40-hour Geriatric Scholars Certificate. In 2002/2003, 145 participants earned the certificate by completing three days of core training and two days of electives. The Core training topics for Day 1 – *Introduction and Overview to Aging, Physical Aspects of Aging, Culture and Aging, and Communication and Aging*; Day 2 – *Geriatric Assessment, Palliative Care, Caregiving and Bioethics/Legal & Financial Issues*; and Day 3 – *Elder Abuse, Nutrition and Aging, Dementia and Depression and Creativity and Aging*. We repeat the program six times a year in New York City and the overwhelming majority of the faculty are seasoned practitioners. Every year, participants have 15-20 electives from which to choose. Topics are varied and this year and include: *Falls Prevention, Mental Health, Teamwork, Assisted Living, Sexuality and Aging, Disaster Preparedness, and Living with Diabetes*.

Challenges:

It's hard to know why a program does not do well, but our experience suggests the following:

- 1) Program descriptions should be brief and catchy
- 2) Training locations should be accessible
- 3) In order to schedule coverage, participants should have at least 4-6 weeks lead time on any given training event.

Reasons for the success of the program:

- 1) We strive to have the core trainings in different agencies in different boroughs so that participants do not have to spend an inordinate amount of time commuting. By offering scholarships to staff at the host facility in exchange for use of the facility, we constantly get new participants.
- 2) We target our marketing to people who might benefit from our training programs.
- 3) Exit surveys after every training day provide feedback that allows us to constantly fine-tune the curriculum.
- 4) Interesting and relevant presenters and presentations.
- 5) Practical, relevant and up-to-date handout materials.
- 6) Interdisciplinary professional networking opportunities.

For more details, check out our website, www.nygecc.org.

WASHINGTON DC AREA GEC CONSORTIUM

Patricia J. Villani, MPA, PhD, Executive Director

Online Geriatric Syllabus: Learners' Explorer

To complement WAGECC's continuing education programs and provide educational tools for the website – www.wagecc.gwumc.edu - we have created an online geriatric syllabus called The Learners' Explorer. The WAGECC Learners' Explorer was developed to connect students and professionals with the finest online resources in the field of geriatrics and gerontology. The Explorer covers several key disciplines in the field, offering an enriching interdisciplinary experience for learners seeking knowledge of a variety of aging issues.

The objectives of the Explorer are to:

- Learn where to look for information on a specific aging issue
- Be able to use information found on the Explorer for teaching and handouts
- Update themselves on important topics and best practices
- Brief themselves on important aging topics not normally encountered in day to day work experiences

The WAGECC *Learners' Explorer* is divided into sections, and the sections are organized into Fundamentals, Current Research, and Additional Resources. In each section, links are provided to articles, charts, question-and-answers, and bibliographies from established sources of health and medical information. Whenever possible, the Learners' Explorer sections also link to NIH consensus statements, which are the product of independent panels of experts convened by NIH to encapsulate the current state of scientific knowledge.

To use the WAGECC Learners' Explorer, individuals click the link to the section they wish to explore, and then click the links to reach the various web pages on which the Learners' Explorer resources are located. Current Explorer subjects include: Creativity and Aging; Palliative and End of Life Care; Geriatric Assessment; Geriatric Case Management; Geriatric Dentistry; Geriatric Social Work; Grief and Loss; Home-Based Primary Care; Integrative Medicine; Interdisciplinary Care Teams; Older Adults and Dementia; Older Adults and Depression; Older Adults and Mental Health; Older Adults and Pain Management; Osteoporosis and Older Women's Health; Overview of Geriatrics and Gerontology; Pharmacy and the Elderly; Quality Improvement; and Red Flags and Aging.

Note that the Explorer is a work in progress. We recognize that each subject area does not include “everything out there” of interest. When developing the Explorer, we wanted to keep the size of the subject information pages manageable to provide individuals with a reasonable, not overwhelming, Explorer encounter. We are piloting and evaluating the first phase of this project, and will be adding more subject areas soon. Among the outcomes we are anticipating are that learners report that the Explorer is a user-friendly means to brief themselves on a variety of aging topics, and that faculty report that the Explorer helped them easily locate current handouts and other materials for teaching purposes. We welcome your feedback on your experience using the WAGECC Learners’ Explorer. Please email us with your comments and suggestions at wagecc@gwu.edu, or call Dr. Pat Villani, WAGECC’s Executive Director, at 202-895-2635.

FINGER LAKES GEC

Taking Geriatric Training to Rural Communities

The rural counties in which the Ithaca College Gerontology Institute conducts geriatric training are diverse. However, when it comes to geriatric training needs a university priority is voiced by community health care and aging services providers, which centers around the health care staffing shortage and its impact on the quality of care. Everyone agrees that being able to recruit and retain capable staff is a key ingredient to providing good care. In each county FLGEC Community Partners from health care and aging services organizations have recognized that training which helps to prevent burnout ultimately benefits the care receivers as well as the care givers.

Community Partners identified the handling of difficult behaviors, particularly those related to dementia, as a source of high staff stress and burnout. Since October of 2002, eight workshops on Understanding Dementia Related Behaviors & Practical Interventions for coping have been presented by Deborah Scholes, Executive Director of Creative Solutions for Eldercare Planning.

Stress management was also a priority emphasized by Community Partners. Two workshops have been presented on Taking Care of Yourself: Managing Your Stress as a Care Provider. Yvonne D. Stephens, PhD., CHES, was the presenter. Dr. Stephens is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Human Movement at Ithaca College.

A total of approximately 364 people attended these workshops. The majority were professional and paraprofessional staff from skilled nursing facilities and home care programs. A small percentage were family caregivers. Evaluations indicate that these workshops were very well received.

Two to three months after the workshops a usefulness survey was mailed out to workshop participants asking just how useful the workshop information has been in their day-to-day work. The majority of responses indicate that the information gained from the workshop has been applied in the work setting. Attendees state that the information from the workshops increased their confidence in working with older clients/patients and that they have shared the information with others.

In addition to the above workshops, a day long conference on Mental Health Issues in Long Term Care was co-sponsored by the FLGEC with Chemung County Office for the Aging. Susan Wehry, M.D., Associate Professor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine was the presenter. She spoke on dementia and psychiatric disorders as well as sexuality. Approximately 60 people attended the event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
November 2 nd	Life Review & the Arts for the Elderly	Fort Greene Senior Citizens Center New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
November 5 th	Falls Prevention & Quality of Life Care	Florence Nightengale Nursing Home New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
November 6 th	Intensive Geriatric Training: Podiatry Module – Principles of Trauma and External Fixation	Barry University Miami Shores, FL	Julie Dotson 305-899-3266
November 6 th	Geriatric Mental Health Teaching Day	Syracuse, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618

November 8 th	Caregiving: From Desperation to Inspiration	VA Palo Alto Health Care System Palo Alto, CA	Jillian Dubman 650-494-3986 jdubman@stanford.edu
November 9 th	Meeting the Many Needs of Grandparents as Parents	Fort Greene Senior Citizens Center New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
November 12 th	Geriatric Potpourri	Syracuse, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
November 12 th	Understanding & Managing Parkinson's Disease: A Program for Healthcare Professionals	Videoconference Various Sites	Kathleen Watson kdwatson@vcu.edu www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology/UMPDVIDconference
November 13 th	Implementing Age Sensitivity in your Facility: A Train the Trainer Program for Sensitivity to Aging	Fitzgerald's Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
November 14 th -15 th	The Provider's Certificate of Specialization in Aging Mini-Conference	Fitzgerald's Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, NV	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
November 21 st	BHPr Day at GSA	San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Hotel and Marina San Diego, CA	Barbara Broome Bbroome@HRSA.GOV
November 21 st -25 th	GSA's 56 th Annual Scientific Meeting	San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Hotel and Marina San Diego, CA	202-842-1275 meetings@geron.org
November 23 rd	Geriatrics Programs at BHPr, HRSA, Allied, Geriatrics, and Rural Health Programs Branches Presentation at GSA	Marriott Hall 4 San Diego Convention Center and Marriott Hotel & Marina San Diego, CA	Joan Dunbar joan_dunbar@nygec.org
December 4 th	Intensive Geriatric Training: Podiatry Module – Surgical Correction of Pediatric Deformities	Barry University Miami Shores, FL	Julie Dotson 305-899-3266
December 4 th -6 th	International Conference on Aging, Disability, and Independence	Washington, DC	www.asaging.org/icadi
December 11 th	Interdisciplinary Teamwork & Quality of Life Improvement	Cobble Hill Nursing Home New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618