



## Minnesota Gerontological Society

*Bridging the gap in Minnesota between research and practice in the field of aging, with special emphasis on developing and supporting tomorrow's leaders*

### News Bulletin

*Offering updates in the field of Gerontology and information about MGS for its members*

July 2010

#### **MGS Board Conducts Strategic Planning Session**

The MGS Board recently completed a strategic planning session. The session reaffirmed MGS' mission to bridge the gap in Minnesota between research and practice in the field of aging, with special emphasis on developing and supporting tomorrow's leaders. Reflecting on the 35 year history of MGS as well as input from past presidents and award recipients, Gary Kelsey facilitated a strategic planning session focused on MGS' goals, branding, and future. Keep your eye out for information on action steps in which members can help!

#### **Twin Cities Public Television Embarks on National Effort**

Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) in partnership with PBS and American Public Television is working with the Gerontological Society of America on a new project called Next Avenue. This unprecedented media initiative is designed to reach and engage older adults on a number of topics. The multi-faceted initiative includes targeted programming across high-profile shows, a major new online destination through [nextavenue.org](http://nextavenue.org) and the multitude of social media options, and community events locally across the US. As a partner in *The Love of Car* initiative, MGS congratulates *tpt* on their national successes!

#### **2010 MGS Keynote Honored with Robert L. Kahn Award**

Masterpiece Living recently awarded the Robert L. Kahn Award to Harry "Rick" Moody, PhD, director of academic affairs for AARP. Dr. Moody served as the 2010 MGS keynote speaker. This distinction was given for his outstanding achievements at AARP and throughout his career.

#### **MGS Member's Book Given 2010 Caregiver Friendly Award**

Today's Caregiver magazine has awarded MGS member Rita Goldhammer and her business partner Margery Pabst a 2010 Caregiver Friendly award for their book "Enrich Your Caregiving Journey." The Caregiver Friendly awards celebrate products, services, books and media created with the needs of caregivers in mind. The book presents more than 130 tips for effective care-giving, weaving practical advice in engaging, easy-to-read stories about three families that are based on real life experiences. For more information visit [www.pivotalcrossings.com](http://www.pivotalcrossings.com).

#### **MGS Members Conduct Session on Social Networking**

Social networking is still a relatively new phenomenon, but already deeply ingrained into personal and professional lives. Facebook alone surpassed 300 million users at the end of 2009. The implications of

personal and professional social networking on social work practice are far reaching. MGS members Rajean Moone, Ph.D., and Gretchen Scheffel, MSW, LGSW, will explore the various social networking sites and discuss the professional implications, opportunities, and ethical dilemmas of utilizing such sites. For social workers as well as business owners! The session will be on Thursday, July 15 from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. For more information visit [www.circleoflifemn.com](http://www.circleoflifemn.com) and click in the upper right corner.

### **MGS Board Member Reappointed to Minnesota Board on Aging**

Governor Pawlenty reappointed MGS Board Member and Moorhead State University faculty member Dr. Susan Humphers-Ginther to the board of the Minnesota Board on Aging. The governor also announced the appointment of Leonard Axelrod, Norby Blake, Sylvia C. Garcia, Larry K. Houk, and Jeanne Lukas and reappointment of Michael R. Klatt and Mary Jane Thompson to the board.

### **Nominations Solicited for Shelley Joseph-Kordell Awards**

The Shelley Joseph-Kordell Award Steering Committee invites nominations for two Shelley Joseph-Kordell Awards. Shelley made professional advocacy and service for seniors her life's passion, helping them retain their independence and make life transitions more seamless. To honor those who, like Shelley, have demonstrated a record of service to older people, Hennepin County established the Awards to annually recognize individuals or agencies who have consistently shown a passion for serving seniors and who have had a broad impact in the community or an individual "unsung hero" in the community who is working directly with seniors and whose work has made a significant difference in the lives of those around them. Nomination forms are available at [www.sjktribute.org](http://www.sjktribute.org).

### **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Careers in Gerontology**

Sunday, March 21, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), which President Barack Obama signed into law on Tuesday, March 23. This comprehensive health care reform bill previously was passed by the Senate on December 24, 2009, and contains a number of provisions which affect older adults. Included in these provisions are the following items that relate to careers in gerontology:

- Expand the Geriatric Academic Career Awards to advanced practice nurses, clinical social workers, pharmacists, and psychologists, and create a parallel Geriatrics Career Incentive Award program for Master's level candidates (\$10 million over 3 years);
- Establish federal traineeships for individuals who are preparing for advanced education degrees in geriatric nursing, long-term care, and gero-psychiatric nursing;
- Provide grants to foster greater interest among health professionals (advanced practice nurses, clinical social workers, pharmacists, and students of psychology) to enter the field of geriatrics, long-term care, and chronic care management;
- Authorize \$10 million over three years to establish advanced training opportunities — such as tuition support for obtaining a nursing degree or specialized training — for direct care workers (certified nurse aides, home health aides and personal/home care aides) who already are employed in long-term care facilities.

### **Victory for Alzheimer's Advocates**

The Social Security Administration announced that it has added early-onset Alzheimer's disease to the list of conditions under its Compassionate Allowance Initiative. This will streamline the application process for benefits for people living with the disease and hopefully decrease wait time to receive

benefits. This is a major victory for Alzheimer's advocates as individuals with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias face challenges when applying for Social Security benefits.

### **Falls Prevention and Management Video Conference**

The Minnesota Department of Health will conduct a video conference on Thursday, July 15, that highlights a falls prevention and management project in Otter Tail County. The project used an interdisciplinary approach to successfully address the fall risk factors of vision, environment, lower body strength and balance, and medications. Presenters for the program are Karen Shirer, University of Minnesota-Extension and Diane Thorson, Director, Otter Tail County Public Health. There is no fee to participate but pre-registration is required. To register visit <http://agingtraining.dhs.state.mn.us>. Registration closes on Monday, July 12.



The Minnesota Gerontological Society (MGS) offers this free Bulletin to its members. To submit items contact [mgs@mngero.org](mailto:mgs@mngero.org). Inclusion in the newsletter does not necessarily mean endorsement by MGS staff or Board. MGS' Bulletin is edited by Rajean P. Moone, PHD.