



ANNUAL REPORT

2016



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2016: A Year in Review

The Georgia Gerontology Society saw changes and continued progress in 2016. As a Society and as a Board, we have continued to work towards our vision of being the principal network of educators, professionals and businesses that serve older adults in Georgia.

This year saw a change in leadership as Abby Cox became the Director of the Division of Aging Services. GGS was happy to have such a strong leader and partner in a pivotal role. Amanda James, a program specialist with the Division of Aging Services Forensic Special Initiatives Unit, was hired to be the new Executive Director of GGS.

Over the past year, your Board has made great progress in implementing a strategic plan to move GGS forward. Action Planning Sessions were conducted for Workforce Development and Membership. The board continued implementing suggestions from the 2015 Action Planning Sessions for Education/Training and Advocacy.

The 2016 Annual Conference was held at the beautiful Jekyll Island Convention Center. The theme of the Annual Conference was "Riding the Wave of Opportunity: Advancing Person - Centered Care". We were challenged to consider person-centered care within our own work from multiple perspectives. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with the diversity and quality of presentations, networking opportunities and beautiful location being the highlights. We incorporated aspects of our strategic plan into the conference by including sessions on advocacy and by securing a national key note speaker.

The Education/Research Committee joined with the Conference Program Committee to ensure our Spring Symposium and our Annual Conference complimented one another. Walter Coffey and Kim McRae provided a Person Centered 101 crash course to professionals in April which set the ground work for individuals interested in digging more deeply into this relevant topic during the conference. This webinar was sponsored by GGS, the Culture Change Network of Georgia and the Division of Aging Services.

GGS partnered with the Thanks Mom & Dad Fund ® and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging to present "Learn. Work. Repeat: Reimagining the Work Cycle". As the aging population grows, so do the needs in the workplace. Are we hiring the right talent? Are we mixing disciplines? Equally important, have we designed the right mechanisms to recruit and mentor the next generation to sustain the workplaces once the Boomers retire? This collaborative event brought experts from business and non-profit leaders to begin discussing these important questions.

GGS partnered with LeadingAge Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology for the 2016 Technology & Aging Summit. The Summit featured information on the latest in technology innovations for older adults and adults with disabilities. Rapid-fire breakout sessions allowed participants to work in smaller groups alongside older adults and adults with disabilities to address various challenges while students were available to help develop concept solutions.



GGs saw a reduction in total memberships from 2015; however, we are engaging new members. Through the hard work of the Membership Committee and your Board, 51 new members joined GGS in 2016. The GGS board is hopeful that we will continue to gain new members while also doing a better job of retaining current members. Implementing the actions steps outlined during the Membership Action Planning Session in 2017 should help us expand our membership benefits, engage and retain current members, and recruit new members for the betterment of our Society.

The By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee provided a thorough review of the GGS By-Laws and presented several changes which were approved and enacted by GGS members during the Annual Conference. An overview of these changes can be found in this report.

The Advocacy Committee continued its long standing partnership with the Georgia Council on Aging and CO-AGE to support the 2016 priorities. GGS sent out advocacy alerts to assist Co-Age in recruiting advocates to reach out to legislators on timely issues. Through the hard work of CO-AGE, GGS, and other partners, we saw many successes during the 2016 legislative session.

Budget Wins

- \$2.3 million in CCSP funding for FY 2016
- \$2.055 million in Non-Medicaid HCBS funding for FY 2017
- \$500,000 in meals funding for FY 2017
- Transitions Funding
- Adult Protective Services Funding
- GBI Forensic Analyst
- Adult Day Care Rate Increase

Legislative Wins

- HB 1037 – CNA Registry Expanded
- HB 954 - Uniform Guardianship
- HB 768 – ABLE Act



About the Georgia Gerontology Society

GGS is the largest state organization of multidisciplinary professionals in the field of aging.

- GGS enhances public awareness of the needs, rights and continuing contributions of older persons.
- GGS promotes efforts to meet the needs of older persons through innovative and state of the art approaches to service.
- GGS provides student scholarships and promotes career development in gerontology.
- GGS collaborates with other organizations in expanding services, programs, education and research in aging.
- GGS serves as a focal point for Senior Advocacy relating to public and social policy within the State of Georgia.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	
<i>For Year Ended December 31, 2016</i>	
INCOME	
Annual Conference	\$65,432.78
Memberships	\$9,087.59
Scholarship Fund	\$2,821.34
Other Income	\$4,741.35
TOTAL INCOME:	\$82,083.06
EXPENSES	
Payroll	\$18,082.86
Annual Conference	\$38,474.43
Administrative	\$7,922.56
Other Expenses	\$5,696.02
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$70,175.87
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION*	
Starting Balance:	\$293,507.70
Ending Balance:	\$297,052.64

* The Community Foundation is used exclusively for Student Scholarships. The Scholarship Fund is used for the registration and travels costs for Scholarship winners to attend the Annual Conference.



GGG Annual Conference Summary

The theme for the 2016 GGS Annual Conference was “Riding the Wave of Opportunity: Advancing Person-Centered Care”. Through this conference, we brought together various disciplines in aging. In addition to the call for presentations, we solicited scholarly work for inclusion in our poster sessions. Poster submissions from all disciplines and on diverse topics of relevance to aging were welcomed.

A total of 175 attendees registered for the conference. The silent auction brought in \$2,821.34. These funds support student scholarships winners by providing for their conference travel costs.

Our conference began with an optional pre-intensive entitled “All Hands on Deck for Person-Centered Care: A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats” provided by Walter Coffey with LeadingAge Georgia. This session provided an overview about the current “state” of person-centered care and culture change in our country; how we can move from a medical, institutional focus to a more holistic philosophy and approach that is about comprehensive well-being and quality of life; how we are all preparing to implement person-centered care in our own spheres of influence, and how we can all connect to break down the silos and create a community of caring; and the philosophy of community includes partnering with outside organizations to create environments that support active aging and “aging in places.”

As outlined in our strategic plan, we wanted advocacy to be intertwined throughout the conference. This began in the opening session with an overview of the successes and losses of the 2016 Legislative Session with regards to the aging population and their caregivers by Kathy Floyd, Director of the Georgia Council on Aging. Abby Cox, Director of the Division of Aging Services, and Robyn Crittenden, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, discussed the state of aging in Georgia and how their departments are working to address these issues.

Our key note speaker was a recognized national leader in helping organizations implement person-centered care. Michael Smull has been working with people who use long term supports and services for the past 44 years. He is the senior partner in Support Development Associates (www.sdaus.com) and the founder and Chair of The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices (www.learningcommunity.us) Mr. Smull is the co-developer of a person centered thinking curricula and of essential lifestyle planning. Mr. Smull has provided training and consultation in 48 states, and 6 countries. In his key note address, Michael Smull described the approaches he and his colleagues have developed to address issues related to understanding and implementing person-centered care.

The annual President’s Reception provided a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to network and relax. Music was provided by Eve Anthony’s talented husband, Neal. Nine posters were presented on a variety of topics which highlighted innovative practices and recent research throughout Georgia.



An additional general session was added to the conference on the second day. Continuing a focus on advocacy, this session provided participants an opportunity to learn about advocacy efforts in Georgia from 3 leading advocacy agencies and learn how to get more involved in advocating around specific issues in Georgia.

Workshop sessions began the second day. Person-centered care was approached from different disciplines and perspectives in a variety of workshops. This conference showcased a diversity of topics showcasing promising initiatives, collaborations, and innovations throughout Georgia.

Our annual awards lunch was a highlight, as always, as deserving individuals received awards, passionate students received scholarships, and new officers and board members were inducted.

Our closing session included the viewing of the film “Being Mortal” with a facilitated discussion. The film delves into the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness. The film investigates the practice of caring for the dying and explores the relationships between patients and their doctors. It follows a surgeon, Dr. Atul Gawande, as he shares stories from the people and families he encounters.



GGG Awards

The Georgia Gerontology Society annually acknowledges the outstanding achievements of individuals in the field of Gerontology through the presentations of awards during its annual meeting and conference. The Georgia Gerontology Society established an early tradition of recognizing significant achievement and contributions to the field of aging. Since 1966, the Annual Meeting and Conference has included an Awards Ceremony as a particular highlight. During the first years, awards were given in a variety of categories - Individual, Professional, Distinguished Service, and area of service. With the passage of time, the number and type of awards have become more established. Several awards have been named for individuals who have been significant to the Georgia Gerontology Society and to gerontology in the state of Georgia - John Tyler Mauldin, Elsie Alvis, Louis Newmark, Robert P. Wray, Marietta Suhart, Dan Hickman and most recently David Levine.

The **Elsie Alvis Award** (Formally the Professional Award) is given to the outstanding professional in gerontology with a minimum of 15 years of service. The Award was first given in 1970 as a Professional Award and was named in honor of Elsie Alvis in 1980. This designation honors an early GGS member who received the Individual Award in 1966, the first year Awards were made. She served as the Director of the Governor's Commission on Aging, later the State Commission on Aging, beginning in 1960. She served well past the age of 70 and directed statewide study to develop Georgia's Story of Her Aging, published as the official Georgia report to the 1961 White House Conference on Aging.

2016 Recipient: Wallace White, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission

The **John Tyler Mauldin Award** is given to an older individual in Georgia who exemplifies a positive role model of outstanding Achievement in the field of Aging. First given to Dr. Mauldin in 1967 as the First Annual Outstanding Achievement Award, it was named for the first recipient the next year. Dr. Mauldin, a prominent Atlanta surgeon and also an early GGS activist, was appointed in 1959 to Chair the newly established Governor's Commission on Aging, later the State Commission. He directed the planning of Georgia's participation in the 1961 White House Conference on Aging.

2016 Recipient: Patricia Baker, Gwinnett County, Health and Human Services

The **Louis Newmark Award** is presented to an individual providing at least 10 years of service to aging, with particular attention to the Georgia Gerontology Society. The Award was first given in 1982 to Louis Newmark, the Society's first President, in recognition for his nearly three decades of service to gerontology in Georgia and to the Society. Louis Newmark also won several GGS Awards for his social service and service to the Society and was the Society's historian for the first three decades of its existence. He was also a founder of the Georgia Conference on Social Welfare.

2016 Recipient: Gwenyth Johnson, Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services



The **Marietta Suhart Award**, established in 1993 shortly after Marietta's death, is given to the individual with demonstrated ability to educate para-professionals, professionals and other persons working with older adults; proven leadership and vision in gerontology by development/expansion of educational programs and services; and recognized ability to touch as well as to teach learners. A long-time GGS Board member, hardworking committee member, and enthusiastic educator who fit the description of the Award established in her name, Marietta Suhart was the Gerontology Specialist with the University of Georgia Continuing Education program.

2016 Recipient: Melany Sattler, SimpleC, LLC

The **Dan Hickman Award** is presented to the person who has shown excellence in the profession of Care/Case Management and who exhibits leadership in the profession by providing exceptional direct services, training fellow Care Managers, and/ or advocating for improvements in care management. The Award was established in 1998 and first presented in 1999 in memory of Dan, who was the Community Care Services Program Manager with the Georgia Division of Aging Services. He helped to define case management as a profession in Georgia, and he exhibited great spirit, zest, and integrity in support of the profession.

2016 Recipient: Jamie Cramer, Gwinnett County, Health and Human Services

The **David L. Levine Legislative Award**, established in 1993 as the Legislative Award, is given to the legislator who has sponsored or co-sponsored legislation that would improve the quality of life for older adults; has consistently supported aging issues; and has been willing to listen to the concerns of Georgia's elderly. This award has now been named to honor Dr. David L. Levine, who devoted his adult life advocating for those who could not advocate for themselves.

2016 Recipient: Representative Chuck Martin R - Alpharetta (District 49)

Certificates of Merit may also be chosen and presented, by the Awards Committee, to special individuals who deserve recognition because of achievement, service, exemplary living, and/or commitment to aging.

2016 Recipients: Chairman Charlotte Nash, Gwinnett County Government; Jennifer Thilo, Delmar Gardens



GGS Scholarships

The Georgia Gerontology Society provides scholarship opportunities to outstanding graduate and undergraduate students who are committed to pursuing a career in the field of aging.

Two scholarships are awarded each year. The Robert P. Wray Scholarship of \$2,000 is awarded to one undergraduate student, and the Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship of \$3,000 is awarded to one graduate student to promote students' interest in age-related issues and to promote professional development in gerontology.

ROBERT P. WRAY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: Leila Collins

College/University: Georgia State University

Leila Collins is working towards her Bachelor of Business Administration in Managerial Sciences from Georgia State University. Her professional goals include managing a large scale Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) that builds on the beauty of enhancing the lives of older adults as they age and helps them maintain a sense of connectivity and self-worth.



VIRGINIA M. SMYTH GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

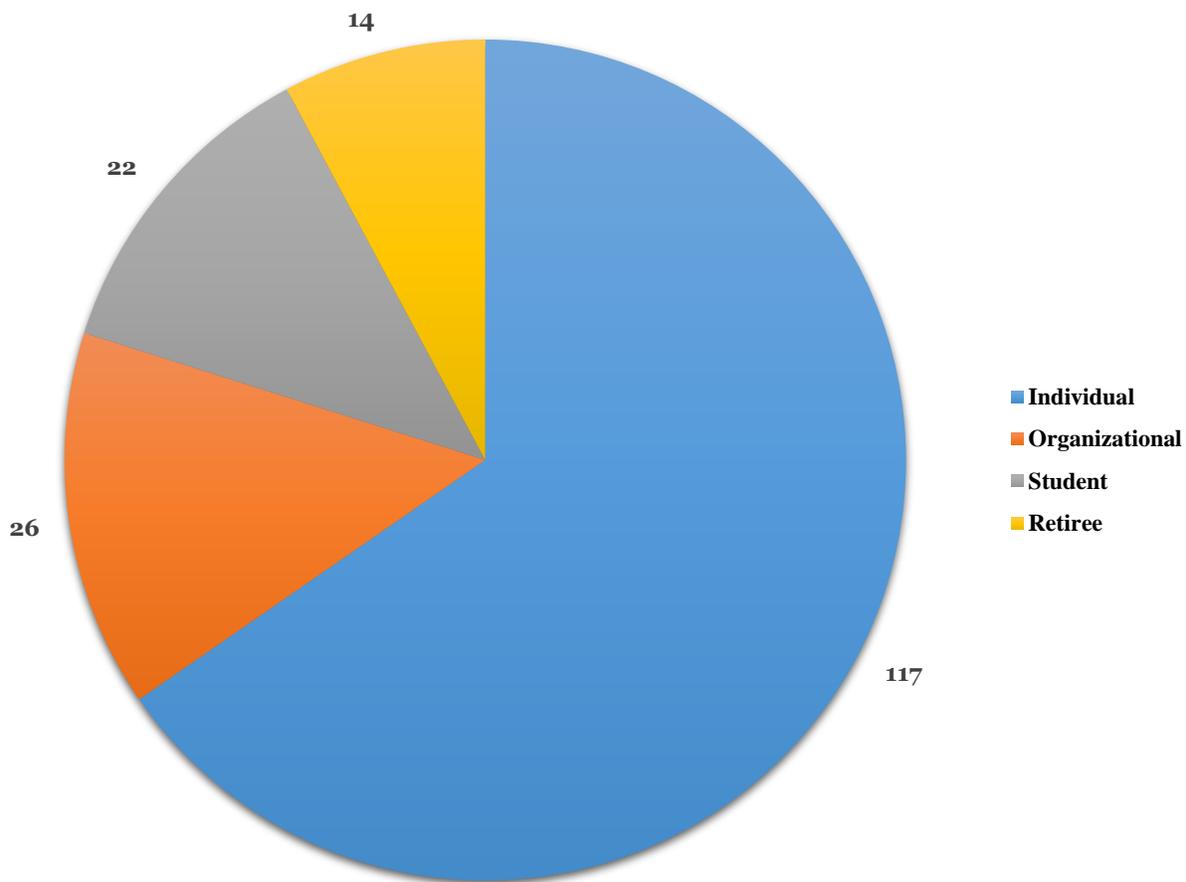
Recipient: Sean McGlynn

College/University: Georgia Institute of Technology

Sean McGlynn is working towards his PhD in Engineering Psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research focuses on what people can do throughout life to promote a successful aging process and how technology can be best designed to facilitate aging successfully.



2016 GGS Membership



Total Memberships: 179



GGG Board of Directors

Officers:

- President: Eve Anthony, Athens Community Council on Aging
- Vice President: Jennifer Beamer, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA
- Secretary: Jami Harper, SOWEGA AAA
- Treasurer: Lois Ricci, Educator
- Immediate Past President: Wallace White, CSRA AAA

Board Members Term Ending 2016:

- Eve Anthony, Athens Community Council on Aging
- Sue Burgess, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA
- Jamie Cramer, Gwinnett County Senior Services
- Ellyn Jeager, Mental Health Association of Georgia
- Dionne Lovett, Coastal AAA
- Matthew Malok, Retired
- Melany Sattler, SimpleC
- Donald Strong, Sabea Care, LLC
- Gail Thompson, Heart of Georgia AAA
- Ann Williams, Retired

Board Members Term Ending 2017:

- Arlene Fitts Winfrey, Retired
- Babs Hall, SOWEGA AAA
- Deborah Cotton, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA
- Ilona Preattle, River Valley AAA
- Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University
- Kay Hind, SOWEGA AAA
- Lisa Howard, Legacy Link AAA
- Lori Ann Walden, Bateman Community Living
- Michele Kelley, NE Georgia AAA



Board Members Term Ending 2018:

- Beth East, Three Rivers AAA
- Carol Rowe-Jones, Gwinnett County Health and Human Services
- Ginny Helms, Alzheimer's Association, GA Chapter
- Jennie Deese, Wesley Woods
- Kim McRae, Have a Good Life
- MaryLea Boatwright Quinn, Alzheimer's Association, GA Chapter
- Melanie McNeil, Georgia State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- Pat Baker, Gwinnett County Health and Human Services
- Scott Courson, Southern AAA
- Steve Neff, The Neff Group, LLC

Executive Directors:

- Abby Cox, January – March
- Amanda James, April – December



GGG By-Laws Revision

Revisions to the GGS By-Laws were adopted on August 9, 2016. A summary of the changes is included below.

Article I – Name: no changes

Article II – Purposes: consolidated the purposes from the 12 we had to make a total of 6.

Article III – Board of Directors:

1. Moved the means of voting to this article and modernized the method of voting to include telephonic and electronic means
2. Removed the section relating to representatives of chapters and sections
3. Added authority for the Board to hire and fire staff, including an Executive Director and other staff
4. Changed failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings to failure to attend any two (2) Board meetings within a year.
5. Added a notice provision that will be used throughout the By-Laws as a modernized means for communicating Society business. Such means include U.S. mail, private carrier, telephone, facsimile (fax), e-mail or other form of wire or wireless communication. The idea is to allow the Board and the Society as much flexibility as possible for communicating.

Article IV – Membership:

1. Added Individual to the category of general membership and added Caregiver to the category with retiree
2. Sections 5 and 6 were combined.
3. Eliminated the reference to section and chapter membership

Article V – Society Structure was removed. Moved Officers and Their Duties to this article.

Article VI – Committees:

1. Added the Annual Conference Committee to the committees and included their task
2. Renumbered the subsections to accommodate the additions
3. Added to the Development Committee description that it would assist with implementing strategic plan goals and objectives approved by the Board
4. Added the Research, Education and Training Committee
5. Renamed the Student Affairs Committee to the Scholarship Committee

Article VII – Society Elections:

1. Removed the subheading Section 1; added letters a and b to distinguish the two paragraphs relating to elections.
2. The method for providing a ballot was changed to say that it would be provided in the same way that notice is provided.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Society:

1. The annual meeting section was changed to allow the Board to hold a meeting each year and to determine the time and place. Written notice was changed to conform with the notice provisions of the By-Laws.



2. The special meeting section was changed to provide for notice in accordance with the By-Laws
3. The same notice provision was inserted in the Board of Directors meetings section

Article IX – Foundation:

1. The description of the section was updated to allow for a foundation.
2. The reference to the Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee was removed. This reflects the current committee structure that includes a Scholarship Committee.

Article X – Amendment or Repeal: The heading “Section 1” was removed.