

GEORGIA GERONTOLOGY SOCIETY



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT THE GEORGIA GERONTOLOGY SOCIETY

– Mission –

The Georgia Gerontology Society (GGS) is a statewide multidisciplinary professional network that educates, serves, and advocates for older adults and their families.

– Vision –

GGS will be the principal network of educators, professionals, and businesses that serve older adults in Georgia.

– About –

Since 1955, GGS has been a tradition for professionals in aging as a membership organization of people with a common interest in the field of aging. GGS is the largest state organization of multidisciplinary professionals in the field of aging.

- Through collaborations, GGS gives voice and guidance to aging issues at the state and national level.
- By providing quality education and training opportunities, GGS enhances professional and personal development.
- GGS supports students pursuing careers in gerontology through networking, mentoring, and scholarships.

– Board of Directors –

The Georgia Gerontology Society has a Board of Directors which directs the business of the organization. The GGS Board of Directors are elected by the membership and comprised of the officers, past president, sections and chapter representatives (if applicable), and members at large.

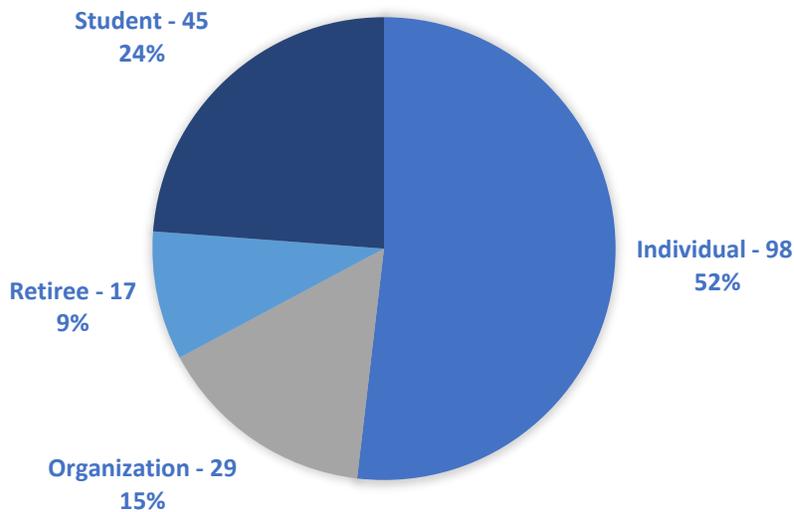
2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

2020 began in eager anticipation of celebrating our 65th Anniversary, but like every organization, 2020 did not go as planned. GGS is proud of the work it was able to accomplish despite the challenges of a nationwide pandemic. More importantly, GGS is proud of the amazing way that the aging network stepped up to protect and advocate for older adults. We are proud to serve you.

MEMBERSHIP

The Georgia Gerontology Society ended 2020 with 189 memberships representing 280 people. GGS ended 2019 with 200 memberships representing 301 individuals. We anticipated a loss due to the financial challenges of COVID-19 and organizations having to make difficult decisions about how to spend their funds. We are happy to report that we gained 49 new memberships in 2021.

2020 MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN



The GGS Mentor Program continued in 2020 with 6 mentorship matches. The GGS Mentor Program pairs a student or professional new to the aging network with a professional who has been in the field of aging for 10 years or more. The mentorship lasts one year and involves one face to face meeting and a minimum of two additional phone contacts a year. The goal of the GGS Mentor Program is to provide new professionals and students in aging a means to get plugged in to the

aging network. Mentors serve as a sounding board, a resource, and a friendly face at GGS events. The Mentor Program Application was revised, and a Year-End Participants Survey was developed. GGS also conducted a membership survey to learn more about ways members would like to get involved, which GGS benefits they found most useful, what webinar topics they would like to see in the future, and additional ways GGS can improve.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee continued the development of a GGS Marketing Plan. In coordination with the Membership Committee, several membership recruitment documents were created. In addition, GGS vamped up its social media presence and revised the GGS website. GGS is continuing to develop new tools to help members share the benefits of GGS with others.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



GGS has had an in-person annual conference for 64 years. To say we were disappointed that we could not celebrate our 65th Anniversary in-person would be an understatement, but you do not make it to 65 years without being able to adapt to the environment and the safety of our members was the most important consideration.

The 2020 Conference Theme was *Elect to Age Your Way: From Vision to Action*. In place of a 3-day in-person conference, GGS made the decision to provide a series of webinars over 2 months. GGS also decided to provide free access to our virtual conference to our members as a thank you for their continued support. We had 152 register for our virtual conference. Attendees were given

the option to attend live or view a recording. No silent auction was conducted so half of all registration income was transferred to the scholarship fund account.

List of Conference Sessions -

- August 4, 2020, Vision without Action is Only a Dream, *Walter O. Coffey & G. David Sprowl*
- August 6, 2020, Keys to Community Engagement – What Happens When It’s No Longer Safe to Drive?, *Thom Snyder, Elizabeth Head & Cheryl Herrington*
- August 11, 2020, Intimate Connection & Sexuality in the Context of Dementia Disorders: Benefits, Risks, and the Role our Own Values Play, *Dr. Regina Koeppe*
- August 13, 2020, The Peach State’s Dementia Plan: What’s on Georgia’s Mind?, *Miles Hurley*
- August 18, 2020, Wisdom Project 2030 –Promoting Meaningful Engagement and Well-Being, *Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, Carol Hanlon, Susan Cook Lahey & Jerry L. Butler*
- August 20, 2020, Building Resources for Person-Centered Care in Georgia's Nursing Homes, *Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Dr. Elisabeth Burgess, Kim McRae, Walter Coffey, Rose Marie Fagan*
- August 25, 2020, Why Evaluate? The Importance of Evaluation and Using Data to Tell Your Story, *Alice Prendergast & Kristi Fuller*
- August 27, 2020, How to Be a Super Ager, *Sharon A. Matthew*
- September 1, 2020, Lifelong Neuroplasticity: As Simple as Child’s Play, *Dr. Jaami Rutledge & Sandy Bramlett*
- September 3, 2020, Developing Age-Friendly Healthcare Providers to Optimize Health Outcomes for Older Adults, *Dr. Susan W. Miller & Dr. Leslie Taylor*
- September 8, 2020, Your Piece of the Puzzle – Person-Centered Planning for Persons Living with Dementia, *Aline Stone, Thom Snyder & Rebekah Davis*
- September 10, 2020, Learning by Listening: Service-Learning in Medical Education to Assess Community Needs, *Eve Anthony, Julie K. Gaines, Megan Chesnen & Lauren Slarks*
- September 15, 2020, Supported Decision Making: Autonomy for All, *Dana Lloyd, Devon Orland & Becky Kurtz*
- September 17, 2020, Supporting Struggling Caregivers who are Caring for Family Members who have been Toxic or Abusive, *Dr. Wendy Haus Hanevold*
- September 22, 2020, Technology in Aging: Combined Session, *Brad Culp, John Butler & Jeffrey Hill*
- September 24, 2020, Nebraska: How to Have “The Good Life” with Dementia, *Kelley Napier*
- September 29, 2020, Providing Care for the Dyad: MCI or Early-Stage Alzheimer’s Patients and their Care Partners, *Mary Caldwell & Bailey Collette*
- October 1, 2020, Alzheimer’s Up Close and Personal: Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias from the Care Partner Perspective, *Brian LeBlanc*

We would like to thank our conference sponsor – AARP Georgia for their support of our virtual conference. We would also like to thank the Georgia State University Gerontology Institute and the Culture Change Network of Georgia for their joint sponsorship of our opening and closing keynote presentations.



EDUCATION/TRAINING

In addition to the Annual Conference, GGS hosted several webinars and also partnered with other organizations to provide training opportunities.

GGG Hosted Webinars -

- February 25, 2020 – *Dementia Friendly Communities in Georgia*
Did you know there are several communities in Georgia working towards becoming dementia friendly? Come hear from 2 communities that received GGS grants on what they were able to accomplish during their grant period, their continued work towards becoming dementia friendly, and lessons they learned that can help you if you are interested in your community becoming dementia friendly.
- June 11, 2020 – *Caring for the Caregiver: How a Faith Community Can Respond*
Pat Baker, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Older Adult Ministry
Caregivers often need to be reminded to take care of themselves when they take on the role of family caregiver for a spouse, parent or other member of their family. This webinar will provide a general view of what caregivers face today and how they respond to the challenges and rewards of this role. We will look at stress and burn out- identifying it and

preventing it as well as some problem-solving techniques. We will also explore the role of the faith community and how to accept help and give help.

Topics Covered:

- Who are caregivers?
 - Situations creating need for care
 - Pat's responsibility chart/self-assessment
 - Caregiver roles and responsibilities
 - Caregiver involvement- When is it time?
 - Emotional aspects of caregiving
 - Problem solving
 - A faith communities' response
 - Resources
- July 16, 2020 – *GGS: 65 Years and Counting*
Have you heard of the Georgia Gerontology Society but don't really know what it is? Are you interested in becoming a member but want to learn more about GGS? Are you a member but don't know much about the history of GGS? Since 1955, GGS has been a tradition for professionals in aging as a membership organization of people with a common interest in the field of aging. As we celebrate our 65th Anniversary, we invite you to listen to this webinar as we look at where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.
 - July 28, 2020 – *Cooped Up During COVID-19: How Older Adults are Coping and How We Can Help*
Dr. Kerstin Gerst Emerson, UGA Institute of Gerontology
Since March 2020, many older adults have been adhering to the CDC recommendations to shelter in place and socially distance, and so many have been at home with minimal outside contact for an extended period of time. This webinar will address how older adults have been managing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presenter will summarize recent research results on how older adults are coping with the extended distancing. We'll focus in particular on loneliness and social isolation and discuss the impact of loneliness on mental and physical health. Finally, the webinar will highlight some interventions and existing community efforts. Resources and links will be provided.
 - November 11, 2020 – *The Alter Program: Creating Dementia-Friendly Faith Villages*

Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University

We believe that churches are important sources for providing health related information and offering connections to services, particularly for African Americans. Historically, churches have been a haven for African American families; however, many churches do not currently have programs to support families/congregants living with dementia. The goal of the Alter program is to partner with churches anchored in African-American communities to better support families affected by dementia. The Alter program assists churches in meeting the needs of these families and becoming a viable resource for them. A dementia-friendly faith village is one that (a) accepts and values people regardless of cognitive abilities; (b) ensures that people living with dementia and their caregivers/care partners are supported through their journey; (c) makes sure that people living with dementia and their caregivers/care partners are spiritually and pastorally supported and nurtured; and (d) is supportive to what people living with dementia have to offer so that they may participate in their faith community.

- December 3, 2020 – *An Uncertain Future: Aging Parents Caring for their Adult Disabled Children*

Lois Shingler, Peter and Paul's Place, Inc

As individuals with disabilities live longer, older adult caregivers are facing an emerging crisis. This presentation will describe the needs of older adult parents raising adult children with disabilities and the lack of resources currently dedicated to serving these needs. This presentation will end with possible solutions to address this service gap.

- December 17, 2020 – *Recognizing Mental Health Issues in Older Adults*

Jocelyn Chen Wise, LCSW, MPH, Fuqua Center for Late-Life Depression

Dementia, depression, and delirium are among the most common mental health disorders seen in older adults. These conditions have similar and overlapping symptoms that can make them difficult to recognize and quickly take steps toward appropriate care. Very real impairment and negative outcomes can be caused by these conditions, decreasing the quality of life of older adults or possibly even resulting in death. Health and social service professionals play a powerful role in noticing symptoms of these conditions, educating and

guiding families to seek treatment, and maximizing opportunities for long-term wellness of older adults.

Partnered Events -

- GGS assisted the University of North Georgia in conducting their *Disrupting Aging Symposium* on March 6-7, 2020. GGS served on the planning committee to recruit presenters and to assist with CEU applications.
- GGS partnered with The Southern Gerontological Society to provide *Safe Use of Opioids by Older Adults* on March 31, 2020. This webinar was presented by Dr. Michael Crooks, PharmD., Medication Safety Technical Advisor for Georgia's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization. As the 'Opioid Crisis' in America has gained increasing attention among clinicians and the public we have seen both prudent limitation on opioid prescribing practices as well as unnecessary, even harmful, restrictions of patient access to safe and necessary pain management. While older adults may be more prone to some enhanced risk with the use of opioids, they are also less likely to be candidates for alternative treatments. Health outcomes data show they are not among the demographics at highest risk for opioid-related harm or death. Recent guidelines and recommendations promote cautious use of opioids but have been shown to be misapplied as blanket-restrictions on new prescribing, forced dose reductions or shifting pain patients away primary care without continuity of treatment by an available specialist.
- GGS had planned to partner with the Mental Health America of Georgia to provide a QPR Training focused on Older Adults on April 16, 2020. QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer - three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. Due to COVID-19, this training was canceled by GGS was able to share online QPR training options with its members.
- GGS partnered with The Southern Gerontological Society to provide *Treatment Options for Opioid Use Disorder and Special Considerations for Older Adults* on April 28, 2020. This webinar was presented by Dr. Alexis A. Bender, PhD, Assistant Professor Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatric. As recognition of problematic opioid use has risen, the need for evidence-based treatment also has increased. Over the past decade, the average age of clients in substance use treatment

also is increasing, which can create unique challenges for treatment providers. Until recently, issues related to substance use and treatment have primarily focused on younger people and the needs of older adults have received little attention. Research has shown there are differences in treatment outcomes depending on timing of onset (early v. late) of use, age, and gender. The use of medication for opioid use disorder (e.g., methadone, suboxone) has high efficacy and is the gold standard for treatment, yet barriers exist to accessing and remaining in treatment.

- GGS provided CEU application assistance for the Georgia Southern University *Social Gerontology Community Conference* on October 15-16, 2020.
- GGS partnered with The Southern Gerontological Society and The Carework Network to provide *Women's Rights, Care Work, and Policy during COVID* on November 2, 2020. This webinar, moderated by Dr. Mignon Duffy, brought together Dr. Nancy Folbre and Dr. Maria Nieves Rico to represent North and South American experiences of COVID-19 and how it has adversely and disproportionately impacted women. The role of current policies and suggestions for future policy directions in response was also discussed.

Recordings of GGS webinars are available to GGS members on our [Webinars & Newsletters](#) page.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)



The Georgia Gerontology Society is a statewide multidisciplinary professional network that educates, serves, and advocates for ALL older adults and their families. As the state of Georgia's largest organization of multidisciplinary professionals in the field of aging, GGS is committed to

advocating for all older adults and their families to have equal access to services and supportive community resources. We will continue to support decisive actions that address longstanding inequities and eliminate social injustice. We will also work to amplify diverse voices in our field and recruit professionals from underrepresented groups for leadership positions to ensure that we are working effectively for all older adults in Georgia. As part of our commitment to this work, the GGS Board of Directors voted to develop an Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall:

- Develop and propose a definition for what DEI mean in the context of the GGS mission and membership.
- Serve as a resource to ensure that all GGS communications reflect appropriate messaging with regard to this definition of DEI.
- Engage GGS Board and membership to assess areas of interest and opportunities for improvement with regard to DEI in GGS programming.
- Serve as a resource for all standing and conference committees to consult and assist in identifying and measuring goals for increasing DEI within the scope of each committee's charge.

In addition to providing guidance on marketing materials developed and social media content, the committee also developed a DEI section in the monthly newsletter and a [DEI resource page](#) on the GGS website.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

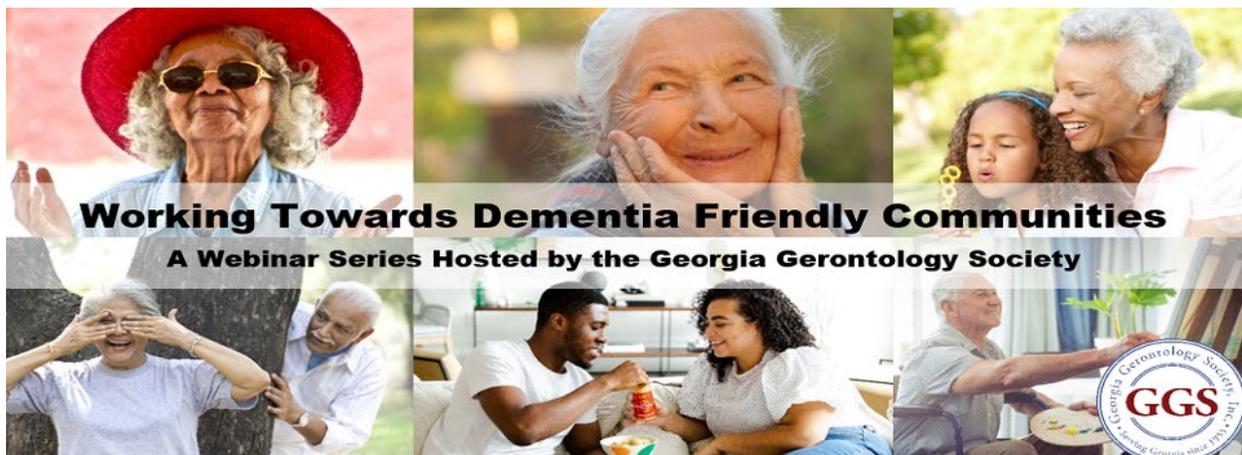
GGS continued its work in supporting and promoting Dementia Friendly initiatives in Georgia. What is Dementia Friendly? Led by the Dementia Friendly America (DFA) initiative, communities across the nation are taking action and becoming Dementia Friendly. A Dementia Friendly community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with dementia and their families and provides supportive options across the community to foster quality of life. DFA communities are working across sectors (such as with partners in health care, business and banking, legal and financial, faith communities, local government and more) to ensure they are friendly places for people with dementia and their caregivers to live. Every part of the community has a unique role in a Dementia Friendly community. DFA communities are building on a model developed by Minnesota's ACT on Alzheimer's and the Dementia Friendly communities in Minnesota.

Dementia Friendly America is made possible by a national collaborative with over 35 national organizations. Dementia Friendly America is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and was launched at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Learn more at <https://www.dfamerica.org/>.

In November 2019, five additional grants of \$2,000 were awarded to fund five organizations leading the Dementia Friendly effort in their communities.

- Caring Together in Hope/Amy's Place (Roswell, GA)
- Cobb Senior Services (Cobb County, GA)
- Legacy Link, Inc. (GA Mountains region)
- Three Rivers Regional Commission AAA (Heard County, GA)
- Valdosta State University/Alzheimer's Daycare Program (Valdosta, GA)

These grants were made possible through funds provided by the GA Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services. The grant period was scheduled to end on September 30, 2020; however, the grant period was extended to April 30, 2021 due to challenges from COVID-19. The final report for these grants will be published in 2021 and will be available on our [Dementia Friendly](#) page.



As part of a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services, GGS planned to conduct 4 events in targeted areas across the state which would focus on Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly education. Due to COVID-19, it was not safe to gather people together for these events so a webinar series was developed. As part of this project, we interviewed people living with dementia and their care partners and developed a video series on different aspects of their lived

experience. Videos were developed from these interviews that can be used in future trainings and education. A new “5 Key Messages” video was also developed for Dementia Friends Information Sessions highlighting individuals living in Georgia. In October 2020, GGS hosted a webinar series of 4 webinars. The first 2 webinars showcased the different videos that were created. The 3rd webinar was a Dementia Friends Information Session. The 4th webinar discussed how to initiate Dementia Friendly initiatives in your community. These videos and webinars are currently housed on our [Dementia Friendly](#) page.

ADVOCACY



GGS continued to support the Georgia Council on Aging and CO-AGE (Coalition of Advocates for Georgia’s Elderly) with their identified advocacy issues during the 2020 Legislative Session. Thank you to all GGS members that took part in Advocacy Alerts and to all the advocates across the state that

worked towards the following successes during the 2020 Session.

The following recap is provided by the Georgia Council on Aging.

Budget Priorities:

- FY 2021 Budget Wins: Two surveyor positions added to HFR
 - \$147,575 for HealthCare Facility Regulation to hire 2 new surveyor positions to support the annual onsite inspection of nursing homes, personal care homes, and other living arrangements monitored by the department.
- FY 2021 Budget Wins: Over \$4.6 million funding RESTORED funding for aging services
 - \$2 million for Home and Community Based Services - The Conference Committee restored the non-Medicaid home and community-based services funding that was originally added in the FY 2020 budget.
 - \$1,406,232 for Meals - The Conference committee restored this meals funding by \$1.4 million after it was offered up as part of the DHS budget cuts.
 - \$1 million for Nursing Home Transition program - This funding was restored in the FY 2021 budget to move eligible individuals from nursing homes back into community settings.

- \$247,200 for the Georgia Memory Net was restored by the Conference Committee to fund this statewide program dedicated to the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

CO-AGE Legislative Priorities:

- Personal Care Home Requirements – House Bill 987 was introduced by Rep Sharon Cooper, R- Marietta, to provide additional measures to safeguard elderly persons in long-term care facilities, increase maximum fines for violations, provide increased staffing requirements and training, and provide COVID-19 safety measures. This bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor on July 1, 2020.
- Older Adult Transportation – House Bill 105, introduced by Rep Sam Watson, R- Moultrie, provides a new excise tax on ride-hailing trips to supply added flexibility to public agencies in providing transportation options for older adults. HB 105 was signed into law by the Governor on August 5, 2020.
- Options for Senior Living – The House Study Committee on Innovative Options for Senior Living released their recommendations to address the obstacles faced by older Georgians needing affordable housing. The recommendations included DCH reviewing the resident caps for Medicaid community-based waivers and a review of the 24-resident bed cap that currently limits licensed care providers from delivering non-institutional high quality care. Rep Jesse Petrea also submitted a proposal to save GA Medicaid funds by providing Medicaid waived memory care units.

Other bills of interest to seniors:

- Sick Leave: Senate Bill 408, introduced by Sen Brian Strickland, R- McDonough, extends the sunset provision for an additional three years on the statute that allows the use of accrued sick leave for care of an immediate family member. Extends unemployment provisions allowing some Georgians to collect benefits for longer than the previous 20-week limit.
- Surprise Billing: Rep Lee Hawkins, R-Gainesville, introduced House Bill 888, the balanced billing consumer protection act which puts patients ahead of the status quo and provides a fair process for billing that medical providers and insurers can agree on. House

Bill 789 introduced by Rep Mark Newton, R- Augusta, creates a surprise bill rating system based upon the number of certain types of hospital based physician specialty groups within a health insurer's network.

GGG also partnered with GCOA to provide a webinar on October 5, 2020 titled *Partnering for Change: A Review of the 2021 CO-AGE Issues and How GGS Members Can Get Involved*.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For Year Ending December 31, 2020

Income

Department of Human Services (DHS) Contract: \$20,600.00

Membership Dues: \$12,350.32

Annual Conference: \$6,233.62

Scholarship Fund: \$871.96

Other Income: \$708.01

Total Income: \$40,763.61

Expenses

Annual Conference: \$790.00

DHS Contract: \$12,000.00

Payroll Expenses: \$18,540.00

Administration: \$4,677.76

Committee Expenses: \$2,193.12

Other Expenses: \$6,635.86

Total Expenses: \$44,836.74

Community Foundation Fund Beginning of 2020*: \$351,689.74

Community Foundation Fund Beginning of 2020: \$368,510.44

Available Assets End of 2020: \$78,294.19**

* The Community Foundation is used exclusively for Student Scholarships.

** Available Assets include our Checking/Savings Account and Money Market Account.

GGGS 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, David Levine, and most recently, Kay Hind.

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.

2020 Recipient: Mike Patton, Augusta University

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.

2020 Recipient: Jerry "Pops" Barnes. River Valley AAA Advisory Council

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.

2020 Recipient: Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Gerontology Institute, Georgia State University

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.

2020 Recipient: Christy Skinner, Gordon State College

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.

2020 Recipient: Debra Minor CSRA Regional Commission

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.

2020 Recipient: Senator Matt Brass, District 28

The **Kay Hind Change Agent Award**, established in 2017, is awarded to an individual who is a driving force in creating change that improves the lives of older adults in Georgia. Kay Hind provided 49 years of exemplary service to Georgia's aging population. Her vision, persistence, patience, expertise, advocacy, and collaborations cemented the foundation for change in southwest Georgia and beyond.

2020 Recipient: Carleton Coleman, DHS Division of Aging Services

Citations 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.

2020 Recipients:

Fran Kinchen, Leroy Rogers Senior Center

Lynn Platt, Pierce County Senior Center

GGG 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.

The Robert P. Wray Scholarship – Robert P. Wray was an active GGS member, a founder of numerous service programs in Pennsylvania and Georgia and was the first Director of the University of Georgia Gerontology Center. He was first posthumously honored in 1989 by designation of the Wray Legislative Award. However, Society members quickly realized that this educator's memory would be best honored through naming of the annual gerontology scholarship award.

The Virginia M. Smyth Scholarship – The Virginia Smyth Scholarship is presented annually to offer financial support to persons seeking to advance their careers in aging. The fund, established in 1998, provides scholarships for graduate study in gerontology and promotes leadership development in the field of aging to include a broad knowledge base, strong organizational skills and a vision for the future. The Scholarship was first awarded in 2004 and named for Virginia Smyth, a founding member of GGS and the spirit behind the establishment and endowment of the GGS Scholarship Fund.

Older Adults Scholarships – As a network that educates, serves and advocates for older adults and their families, GGS sponsors an annual gerontology scholarship award program for older adults. This program provides a scholarship opportunity to attend the GGS Annual Conference for older adults in Georgia. By sponsoring this award, we aim to promote continued interest and involvement in aging-related issues across the lifespan.

ROBERT P. WRAY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



Shari Jackson

Georgia Gwinnett College

Human Development & Aging Services

“There is a sense of comfort I get when engaging with the elderly. Their wisdom and what they have to offer is something that I believe is often overlooked. To have lived a life of numerous decades through wars, depressions, activism and epidemics is an enormous fete and should be celebrated. Their lives matter and they deserve to live a life of dignity until their end of days. In accepting an internship at King’s Bridge Retirement Community where I assist the director of assisted living, I am increasing my knowledge in the field of gerontology. Ultimately, I hope to establish a company to provide affordable housing alternatives while providing person-centered care for the elderly regardless of income.”

VIRGINIA M. SMYTH SCHOLARSHIP



Andrea Hill

Georgia State University

Gerontology

“My ultimate goal is to pursue a doctor of Public Health degree. It is my aim to contribute to the field of aging by developing and evaluating nonpharmacological evidence-based interventions and health initiatives to improve everyday life and overall wellbeing for those living with and affected by dementia. As a graduate student, I have become particularly interested in understanding the reality orientation of those living with dementia, while finding ways to combat depression, loneliness, apathy, and disengagement. As an extension of this, dementia workforce issues such as, understanding how social and structural workplace factors impact job quality, job motivation, and job satisfaction; and the implications of positive person work on care workers’ identity expression, have become important areas of focus.

OLDER ADULT SCHOLARSHIP



Kimberly Mathis

“My interest in aging related issues are caring for the elderly, so they do not have to worry about things they cannot do anymore and celebrate the things they can. Not only am I interested in supporting them in their care needs, but also providing them with a valued friend and confidant. With proper, attentive, and respectful care, I can ensure that they retain their dignity and independence during the later stages of life. It's a great accomplishment and feels highly rewarding knowing that I have turned what could have been a really difficult day into a great one, full of laughter and fun activities.”

GGG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board Year is from October 1st to September 30th

Officers Ending 9/30/2020:

- President: Babs Hall, GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Vice President: Pat Baker, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries
- Secretary: Cheney Magusiak
- Treasurer: Donald Strong, Quality In-Home Care, Inc.
- Immediate Past President: Jennifer Beamer, Atlanta Regional Commission AAA

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2020:

- Jennifer Almond
- Jennifer Curry
- Babs Hall
- Benaë Hogan
- Lisa Howard
- Doug Lueder
- Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan
- Jocelyn Wise

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2021:

- Pat Baker
- MaryLea Boatwright Quinn
- David Coffman
- Nikki Dukes
- Victoria Helmly
- Bonnie Kin
- Belinda Meadows
- Steven Neff
- Cheney Roper Magusiak
- Carol Rowe-Jones

Board Members Term Ending 9/30/2022:

- Renae Brown
- Kay Graham
- Elizabeth Head
- Denise Jew
- Lisa Livingston

- Debra Minor
- Jennifer Pennington
- Lois Ricci
- Kristie Sharp
- Connie White

Executive Director:

- Amanda James

