

Gerontological Society of America (GSA) – Student Chapter

Overview:

The Gerontological Society of America was founded in 1945 and it's the oldest and largest national multidisciplinary scientific organization devoted to the advancement of Gerontological research. Its members include some 5,000 researchers, educators, practitioners, students, and other professionals in the field of aging. The student sector of GSA was established in 1960, giving students full range of benefits to being a member, but at a discounted rate. Here at San Francisco State University, with the help of Dr. Darlene Yee, over 7 years ago students formed the student club, GSA.

Purpose:

- To promote the conduct of interdisciplinary research in aging by expanding the quantity of and improving the quality of Gerontological research, and by increasing its funding recourses.
- To disseminate Gerontological research knowledge to researchers, practitioners, and to decision and opinion makers.
- To provide a vehicle for constructive student involvement, recognition and representation in the research and aging field.
- To gain exposure to professionals in the community as well as throughout the United States.
- To inform students and the community of GSA's purposes, goals and programs and benefits.
- To provide faculty and students in the aging and research field a forum for professional dialogue.

Benefits:

- Official recognition by your fellow professionals as committed students in research and aging.
- Educational programs that will help prepare you for the aging field.
- Exposure to professionals in the field.
- Monthly mailings of professional journals.
- Student newsletter from GSA national.
- Participation in a pre-professional organization.

Student Officers:

President: Sarah Carmichael

Vice President: Christina Miyawaki

Treasurer: Matt Schultz

Correspondent:

Meetings: Club meetings are held once a month during the fall and spring semesters. Meetings are held with the student group of American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA). Together with ACHCA we share an agenda and co-hosting club events. The exact meeting times are set up at the beginning of each semester based

on when the majority of members can attend. This Fall 2004 semester, meeting times are October 13, November 3, and December 1. All meetings are held in HSS 322 at 7 p.m. and usually last an hour or two.

Events/Projects:

Newsletter: Annually in the fall semester we work together with ACHCA to produce a newsletter. Typically, it includes an introduction from our advisor, Dr. Darlene Yee, information on upcoming events, spotlights on current and graduated students in the Gerontology Program, and other community resources. The newsletter is distributed to current students, alumni and community members.

Spring Forum: For the past nine years the GSA student club co-hosts with ACHCA, the Spring Forum & AIT Reception. The Spring Forum allows the two clubs to work together with a specific theme, a panel of speakers relating to that theme, and a recognition ceremony for the Administrators in Training Program.

Conferences: The GSA national organization hosts an annual conference that our members have attended in the past. Student scholarships are available to members to help cover the costs.

Membership: Even though members are not required to be GSA members to belong our student club, we strongly encourage members to join. For a student membership the annual cost is only \$65, which includes 2 journals, in print and on-line. Checks can be mailed to GSA, 1030 15th Street, NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20005-1503. Membership forms (link to www.geron.org) and more information can be found on their website.

Contact: For more information about the student club and how to get involved, stop by the Gerontology Department at HSS 242 or call (415) 338-3558.