



Fall 2003 Newsletter Research - Instruction - Outreach



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Director . . .

On April 3, 2003, the Center for Gerontology celebrated 25 years as a university research center. Over 100 guests, including current and former administrators and faculty members, faculty affiliates, students and alumni, advisory board members, and other friends of the Center attended a luncheon celebration and evening program honoring the graduate certificate recipients and award-winning students and faculty. At the luncheon, President Charles Steger and College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Dean Jerry Niles offered very positive comments on the Center's accomplishments over the years. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Toni Antonucci from the University of Michigan, provided much food for thought as she spoke about the importance of gerontology at a research university, and the significance of the Center's research focus on family, health, and policy issues.

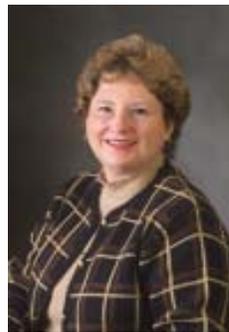
The Center achieved another significant milestone in 2003. Every five years, the university's research centers participate in a mandated review. After a thorough examination of the Center's activities and achievements, the Review Committee and the university's Commission on Research unanimously recommended that the Center for Gerontology be re-authorized for another five years.

Participating in anniversary and evaluation activities provided numerous opportunities to reflect upon our accomplishments and future plans. I am grateful to each of you for your support of the Center's mission, and will continue to rely on your individual contributions to scholarship, instruction, and outreach to further advance the Center's status, nationally and internationally.

~Karen

Congratulations Renee!

In July, Renee Chandler accepted a new position as Grants Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Renee has worked at Virginia Tech for 27 years, and served as the Administrative Assistant for the Center for Gerontology from 1980 until 2003. We sincerely appreciate Renee's hard work and dedication over the years, and we are especially pleased that she will still be working closely with the Center, reviewing and signing off on all of our research proposals.



Welcome Karen Mabry!

The Center for Gerontology warmly welcomes Karen Mabry, who joined the Center in September 2003 as Administrative Assistant to Dr. Karen Roberto. She previously worked in the Dean's office at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Karen came to Virginia Tech in March 2001, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



Celebrating a “Quarter of a Century”

The Center for Gerontology celebrated its 25th anniversary this past April. The celebration consisted of two big events, including a luncheon and an evening ceremony for the awardees of the Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and their families. As seen in the following photos, it was a great day . . . enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Dr. Rosemary Blieszner, Ms. Renee Chandler, and the Center for Gerontology graduate students for their hard work in preparing for this special event.



University President, Dr. Charles W. Steger, recognizes the Center's accomplishments at the celebration luncheon.



Dr. Blieszner welcomes back Dr. Oh-Jung Kwon, Associate Professor of Housing at Konkuk University in Seoul Korea, and alumna of the Center's Graduate Certificate Program.



Founding dean, Dr. S. J. Ritchey, and founding faculty member, Dr. Martita Lopez, discuss the growth of the Center.



Dr. Roberto thanks former director, Dr. Jim McAuley, for his contributions to the Center.



Five of the 2003 graduating Certificate students, Jeremy Yorgason, Dawn Viers-Yaun, Christina Gigliotti, Denise Love-Norris, and Rashida Madraswala, gather for a snapshot during the festivities.

*25 Years . . . and
Preparing for the Future!*

CfG Newsletter Goes Electronic

Beginning with our Spring 2004 edition, the Center for Gerontology's newsletter will move to an electronic format made available on our webpage, www.gerontology.vt.edu. As new issues become available, email alerts will be distributed providing direct links to the newsletter. To ensure receipt of the next issue, please forward your email address to Karen Mabry at kmabry@vt.edu or call (540) 231-7657.

Special thanks to Graduate Assistants Christina Gigliotti and Audrey Kemp for their help in preparing this final paper issue of the newsletter.

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