Notes from the Director

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! New this year, a “make your own sundae” ice cream social with our “Careers in Aging Panel of Alumni” (April 6th) is one of the featured events of our Careers in Aging Week 2016 (April 3-9). We are so very excited to have some of our amazing alumni share their stories of putting their gerontology education to work!

You can also find many of our alumni among our ever growing circle of community partners who so generously provide our students and faculty with valuable hands-on experiences ranging from internships and service-learning to community-based research and advocacy projects. Thank you to all of our community partners – your work and support means so much to us!

See you all soon (with ice cream in hand)! Happy Careers in Aging Week and have a wonderful spring!

Rona
Rona J. Karasik, Ph.D.
Professor & Director, Gerontology

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 
https://www.facebook.com/ScsuGerontology

Notes from the Gerontology Graduate Coordinator

Spring is in the air – my nose knows – allergy season is early this year. I bought a new snow blower – the main reason I think we have had a relatively light amount of snow this season and yes you’re welcome and it’s someone else’s turn next year.

What is brand new for the fall? SCSU Gerontology Program will be offering its first on-line course!! Have you seen the T.V. Show – What Would You Do? Then you will love GERO 440/540 Ethics in Gerontology and Geriatrics! Ever wonder how you would/should handle a situation? Then take this course!! If you haven’t seen the show, still take this course! It will prepare you for the situations that aren’t in the “book” but you can still respond by the “book” or, maybe even more important, think outside the box. This is a class for students, professionals and consumers.

In addition to the on-line course, there are several amazing opportunities for Graduate Students: GERO 630 Aging and Community – a must-have course for all grad students; GERO 525 Dementia and Aging; GERO 505 Diversity and Aging. And if you haven’t done your internship GERO 644 (by permission – see Rona) or culminating work GERO 699 and GERO 697 (by permission – see me). Any questions about courses for graduate students please contact me!
It’s time to Register for Fall Classes!
Now is a great time to start thinking about registering for Fall classes (see page 8 for a preview of the Fall offerings).

Remember to check in with your advisor:
Dr. Phyllis Greenberg – Master’s and Certificate Students;
Dr. Rona Karasik – undergraduate minors

Make sure your program is on track!

New Online Course!
**Ethics in Gerontology and Geriatrics**
(GERO 440/540) - Fall 2016

What would you do, what should you do in difficult situations?
Who would you call? Who should you call?

Gerontology’s first on-line course Ethics in Gerontology and Geriatrics (GERO 440/540) is designed to help you find some answers and develop strategies for the everyday challenges of working in gerontology and geriatrics. Some of the topic areas we will be covering are: Models of Ethical Decision Making, Working with Professionals from other Disciplines, Best Interest of the Client/Patient/Participant and Current Ethical Issues in Gerontology and Geriatrics.

For more information contact Dr. Phyllis A. Greenberg 320-308-3156 or pagreenberg@stcloudstate.edu

Thinking about an Internship?
If you are interested in pursuing a summer or fall internship in Gerontology, please contact Dr. Rona Karasik (karasik@stcloudstate.edu) as soon as possible!
SPO/GERO CLUB NEWS

Have you joined yet?

The SCSU Gerontology Program hosts two student/professional organizations: Sigma Phi Omega (the National Academic Honors and Professional Society in Gerontology) and the SCSU Gerontology Club.

Sigma Phi Omega “seeks to promote scholarship, professionalism, friendship, and services to older persons, and to recognize exemplary attainment in gerontology/aging studies and related fields.” Students, faculty, and community professionals are encouraged to join! https://www.sigmaphiomega.org/become-a-member/

Also, all are welcome to join “The Gerontology Club” which was formed in conjunction with our local Sigma Phi Omega chapter. Contact gerontology@stcloudstate.edu for more information.

Now is a great time to get involved!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

Move the Mall Walk for Volunteerism
Supporting RSVP and the Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program

When: Saturday, April 23
Registration: 7 AM—8 AM
Walk: 8 AM—10 AM
Where: St. Cloud Crossroads Mall Food Court Entrance

Register at: http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/rsvp

Collect a minimum of $25 in pledges to participate!

GERO Program Alumni, we want to hear from you!
Let us know how you are doing. Send us an email and, even if you have done so before, take a minute or two to fill out our online GERO Alumni survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J2TZJRK.
Graduate Coordinator’s Notes Continued

From posters and presentations to awards, faculty and students have been making their mark on the University Campus, the larger community, regionally and nationally. Congratulations to Reenu Bajracharya for winning one of the Excellence in Leadership Awards. Reenu is working on her culminating project on infusing gerontology into nursing curricula – well done Reenu!! Rona and I have worked with the Aging Network Association on diversity and staff and we both presented at the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) Conference in Long Beach, California. Rona and I conducted a resource exchange on empathy building through simulation exercises in the classroom and community. In addition, Ona Lawrence (M.S. ‘15) did a resource exchange on interviewing techniques with residents in assisted living facilities. I continue to be very involved in the Minnesota Gerontological Society and AGHE. This year’s MGS conference is April 22nd and will be amazing – you should join us.

A new group of students have completed the certification for Advance Care Planning Facilitators, and Dr. Patty Bresser and I are proud that more than 100 students have completed the course!! We hope to teach the course again in spring 2017! We hope the students learn as much from us as we do from them.

Be sure to catch all the excitement for Careers in Aging Week – April 4-7. This year for our Careers in Aging Panel we are having an Ice Cream Social – check page 6 of the newsletter for details.

If you have any questions about the Masters or Graduate Certificate or anything about graduate courses, please don’t hesitate to contact me. Have a great remaining Spring and a fantastic Summer!

Phyllis

Phyllis A. Greenberg, PhD M.P.A.
Coordinator Graduate Studies, Gerontology
Associate Professor, Gerontology Program
School of Health and Human Services

New Graduate Assistant

It’s been a pleasure studying and working in Saint Cloud State University. After having a dual undergraduate degree in Nursing and Sociology from Nepal, working in hospital and community settings & dealing mostly with older people’s health issues, I realized that besides clinical knowledge and experience with elderly people’s health, I should get knowledge on different other aspects of older adults. So, I decided to pursue my Graduate degree in Gerontology. As my country did not have any graduate course in Gerontology, I decided to study abroad. Studying Gerontology in SCSU has been my best academic decision ever. Being a graduate assistant and working with the faculty and friends, it never felt like I am far away from home, every day is something new and exciting. After graduating I am interested in working on mental health aspects of older adults, changing the attitude of people towards mental health issues of older adults, especially in the developing countries like mine, and advocating for older people’s needs.

Pramila Basnet
Presentations & Publications


Congratulations to Natasha Meed (GERO Minor) and Reenu Bajracharya (GERO MS), Excellence in Leadership Award Winners!
Join us in Celebrating Careers in Aging Week 2016!

April 4: Career Info and Hands-on Experience with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
10:00 am-2:00 pm AMC Main Lounge
Find out about the broad range of jobs available in the field of aging! Learn about Environmental Accessibility!

April 5: Brown Bag Webinar and Discussion
12:00-1:00 pm AMC Alumni Room
Bring your lunch and learn about the impact hoarding can have on aging in place for some older adults.

April 6: Careers in Aging Community Panel & Ice Cream!
1:00-3:00 pm AMC Alumni Room
Hear about diverse career options from some of our program alumni—now experts in the field of aging—while enjoying a “make your own” ice cream sundae.

April 7: Career Info and Advance Care Planning
10:00 am-2:00 pm AMC Main Lounge
Talk with students who have received certification as advance care planning facilitators. Advance Directive forms will be available.

Thank you to the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) for their generous support!
MGS 40th Annual Conference

**What:** As We Age: Trends. Transitions. Triumphs.
**When:** Friday, April 22
**Where:** Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
**Registration:** 7 AM – 8 AM
**Program:** 8 AM – 4 PM


**Attention GERO Club and SPO Members:** If you did early bird registration, email Dr. Phyllis Greenberg at pagreenberg@stcloudstate.edu to find out how you can get your registration fee reimbursed!

We look forward to having a large student turnout again this year!

MGS Free Webinar

Wednesday, April 6th, 12:00—1:00 PM

“Living Well / Dying Well: Empowering Communication for End of Life Care”

- Review the most important aspects of end-of-life care,
- Learn the importance of effective communication for care at end of life,
- Understand the value of exploring goals of care and planning for end of life,
- Identify self-care strategies and ways to enhance the care environment

Register at: [http://www.mngero.org/conferences-seminars/webinars/](http://www.mngero.org/conferences-seminars/webinars/)

Keep in touch with SCSU Gerontology for more gerontology news.

[https://www.facebook.com/ScsuGerontology](https://www.facebook.com/ScsuGerontology)

[https://twitter.com/SCSUGerontology](https://twitter.com/SCSUGerontology)
Gerontology Program  
Fall 2016 Courses
Fall Registration begins April 11. Classes begin August 22.

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**Permission Required

The Gerontology Program offers an Undergraduate Minor, Masters Degree and Graduate Certificate. For more information visit the program website at [www.stcloudstate.edu/gerontology](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/gerontology) Contact Dr. Rona Karasik at [rjkarasik@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rjkarasik@stcloudstate.edu) (undergraduate) or Dr. Phyllis Greenberg at [pagreenberg@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:pagreenberg@stcloudstate.edu) (graduate students)