

Gerontology Students' Association
Department of Gerontology
San Diego State University

NEWSLETTER

February 3, 2004

Gerontology's New Chair:
Mario D. Garrett, Ph.D.

On January 8, 2004, Health and Human Services College Dean Dolores Wozniak announced the long-awaited appointment of the new Chair of the Gerontology Department, Dr. Mario D. Garrett. (And, yes, we mean "Department" because, with this appointment and in accord with a previously approved Faculty Senate resolution, the Gerontology Program graduated to "Department" status).

Dr. Garrett brings to SDSU vast international credentials and experience. Born and raised on the Island of Malta, he migrated to England for his higher education. His Bachelors of Science in Psychology (with honors) was awarded by the University of East London, and he earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from Bath University. His empirical thesis was entitled, "Loneliness among Elderly People". He then began what became over 20 years experience in large data management, manipulation and analyses. He coordinated the digitizing of one of the largest longitudinal databases in England and has worked with all three longitudinal from-birth databases sponsored by the British government.

Subsequently, Dr. Garrett became a team leader for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which sponsored a five-year project in the People's Republic of China evaluating support for the elderly. Dr. Garrett collaborated with Chinese scientific institutions to develop and implement a fact-finding mission and to establish Chinese in-house capacity to collate, digitize and analyze a national study in urban and rural China.

More recently, with the Minority Aging Research Institute at the University of North Texas, Dr. Garrett was responsible for coordinating a statewide study in all the nineteen pueblos in New Mexico. He has also designed and implemented training/educational courses in pueblos and reservations in the State of New Mexico as the Director of an educational program at the Center on Aging, University of New Mexico.

Dr. Garrett established a for-profit company (Data Analysis Service), which specifically implemented applied research with the foremost advocacy organization for American Indians and Alaska Native populations in the country, the National Indian Council on Aging, developing the most comprehensive data bases on American Indian and Native Alaska aging.

As Chair of the SDSU Department of Gerontology, Dr. Garrett aims to further enhance the focus on minority aging populations by developing stronger applied research and policy initiatives.

The Gerontology Students' Association joins Dean Wozniak and the entire SDSU gerontology family in welcoming to our midst a distinguished and accomplished academic leader.

Coming Events – Save the Dates!

This Spring Semester is already filled with major events:

The InfoFair (Information on careers in Gerontology):
Friday, March 26 (near Hepner Hall on the Walkway)

SDSU's Annual Open House: **Saturday (all day),**
March 27 (Special events for the College of HHS and Gerontology)

The Annual Gerontology Alumni Dinner:
Friday, April 23, the Radisson Hotel, near Hotel Circle.
Featured Speaker: Dr. Mario Garrett, Chair, Department of Gerontology, introduced by Dr. Percil Stanford, former Director, University Center on Aging, SDSU.