

# **GSA Gerontology Students**

## **Association Newsletter**

Mid-Feb., 2005

**San Diego State University Department of Gerontology  
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### **Dr. Barbara Du Bois Retires; Will Concentrate on Research**

Professor Barbara Du Bois, popular with gerontology students at SDSU since 1989, has announced her retirement, which was effective November 16, 2004. Dr. Du Bois will now focus on current and future gerontology and health-related research projects, including those recently announced by Department Chair, Dr. Mario Garrett (see *GSA Newsletter*, February, 2005). By consulting on Department grants Dr. Du Bois will maintain her association with her colleagues.

"I love teaching," said Dr. Du Bois, "but the opportunity to make new and different contributions to the field of aging is a challenge I can't set aside. The time for me is now." Students of Dr. Du Bois know her devotion to gerontology. Her classes are rated as "demanding" and "rewarding". While Dr. Du Bois' teaching repertoire has been varied, she has become known especially for her expertise in "healthy aging".

Dr. Garrett had high praise for Dr. Du Bois: "Her contributions to our Department are legion. The fact that we achieved 'department' status is, in great part, due to her work. Not only is she a respected teacher, she was instrumental in getting our Masters' degree curriculum approved and, during the period between department chairs, her guidance and leadership was vital."

The Department has begun the process of advertising for a new tenure-track faculty position – a process to be completed in time for the new faculty member to start teaching at the beginning of the Fall semester, 2005. In the meantime, Professor and Lecturer Karen Ross, who has taught at SDSU previously, has agreed to share some time away from her post at Sharp Medical Center to teach the spring course in "Healthy Aging" and to make guest appearances in other gerontology classes.

## **Stanford Lecture Series**

### **Torres-Gil's Global Outlook Favors U.S.**

The demographics of aging societies is not just a function of people growing older and living longer, it is accompanied by declining birth rates, making the expansion of older populations exponential. At the fourth lecture in the E. Percil Stanford Lecture and Seminar Series on February 8, UCLA's Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil took attendees on a worldwide tour of the phenomenon of aging populations which, he said, "has never happened before in the history of the planet".

Torres-Gil, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging in President Clinton's first term, focused on the impacts to retirement programs in a number of countries. Western European nations seem to be in major trouble, he said, because of aging populations, declining birth rates, comparatively generous retirement benefits and political opposition to immigration and diversity.

The U.S. and Canada, even with similar features, are better prepared to meet the onset of the Boomers. While we face actuarial problems with our Social Security system, those dilemmas are solvable without individual private accounts, he suggested. And he pointed to U.S. and Canadian traditions on immigration: "How many here are below 40 years of age and an ethnic minority?" he asked. "Those here over 50 ought to hug these students before leaving, for ethnic minorities have higher birth rates than Caucasians and they will produce the children who will become the work force that will support you in your retirement."

### **Moody Will Examine A 122-Year-Old Man**

On Wednesday, March 16, Dr. Harry "Rick" Moody, currently Director of Academic Affairs for AARP, former Executive Director of the Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College, New York, and former Chairman of the Board of ElderHostel, will probe the extreme – a full life span. His lecture entitled, "The 122-year-old Man in the Year 2067", is a mixture of staging and analysis. The drama will begin at 5:30 pm in CHHS's Little Theater 161. Dr. Moody's will be the fifth in the series of six Stanford lectures this academic year. The series is sponsored by the Department, the Gerontology Alumni Association and the GSA and is supported by a generous donation from AARP.