

# Gerontology Student Association

## Newsletter

November, 2004

### “Be Bold!” Advises Percil Stanford As He Opens Series In His Honor

#### **Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil’s Nov. 9 Lecture Cancelled; Alzheimer’s Topic Instead**

A regular GSA program featuring a discussion of Alzheimer’s Disease will substitute for the second E. Percil Stanford lecture on Nov. 9. Dr. Torres-Gil, who has assumed the acting Deanship of UCLA’s School of Social Policy, has a conflict relating to his new duties. He will reschedule for a lecture during the spring semester.

On Nov. 9, at the same time (5:30 pm), a panel of local experts will convene in Room 100, Nasatir Hall. The panel will consist of Cathy Stein Greenblat, author of the recently published *Alive With Alzheimer’s*, Kathleen McCarthy, Community Ambassador for Silverado Senior Living (and a member of the Board of the SDSU Gerontology Alumni Association) and a senior representative from the San Diego Area Alzheimer’s Association.

All Gerontology students are invited to attend. The talk is sponsored by GSA.

The SDSU gerontology community welcomed back its own academic pioneer on Tuesday, October 19, for the opening of a lecture series named in his honor. Dr. E. Percil Stanford, now the Western Regional Director of AARP, is Professor Emeritus of Gerontology at SDSU, having served here from 1972-2002.

Dr. Stanford’s lecture, “Aging Populations in Crisis,” outlined conflicts in the rapid growth of older adults, including issues of diversity and independent living. He spoke of new social understandings among older adults about people with disabilities, homosexuals, non-nuclear families and other previously overlooked social constructs.

But when it comes to meeting the challenges of Baby Boomer cohorts, Dr. Stanford intoned his own vision for the future. “Be bold,” he said. “Be creative. There won’t be room for business-as-usual.” There is little time to prepare, he mentioned, because the first Boomers will start to arrive in 2011.

In 2005 there will be a White House Conference on Aging. “People here should be a part of that,” he said.

## 2005-6 CPRS SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION INCLUDES GERONTOLOGY STUDENTS

The Aging Section of the California Parks and Recreation Society recently distributed scholarship applications throughout the State advertising a deadline of December 17 (5:00 pm) for submissions. The scholarships, unspecified in amount or number of awards, are designed to encourage students, graduate or undergraduate, who are enrolled as full-time students "...with a major in Gerontology, Recreation/Leisure Services or related human services field with verifiable courses completed in Gerontology..."

Applicants must show an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, work or volunteer experience with supporting documentation, leadership and professional "attitude" and a need for financial assistance. Also, two letters of reference, to be returned with the application packet, are required. Applications can be downloaded from: <http://aging.cprs.org/> or the CPRS web site: <http://www.cprs.org/about-student.htm>. Application forms are also available by contacting Department of Gerontology Chair Mario Garrett at 203 Hepner Hall (619-594-6765).

Award announcements will be made at the CPRS Awards and Installation luncheon to be held at the 2005 CPRS annual conference in March. For more information, contact Shelley Hellen, Co-Chair of the CPRS Aging Section Scholarship Committee (562-570-3504) or [shelley\\_hellen@longbeach.gov](mailto:shelley_hellen@longbeach.gov)

### Accident Sidelines Professor Paula Usita

*How can an innocent camping trip turn into a freak accident that developed into a trauma? Professor Paula Usita has a story to tell: the recent storms in southern California took an unexpected toll.*

*On a sponsored camping trip in Riverside County, Professor Usita pitched her tent under the cover of what seemed to be a welcoming tree. During the ensuing storm that night, however, a big branch broke from the tree and crashed down on top of her as she slept. She suffered severe damage from the blow sustaining broken bones throughout. She was taken to Riverside County Hospital where she underwent four operations and casts were put on her shoulder and arm. Transferred to rehabilitation, she was told that she will be sidelined for at least four months. Later, she moved to a Kaiser Hospital in Orange County to be near members of her family.*

*Department Chair Mario Garrett has been in constant touch with Professor Usita's family (her parents have flown in from Hawaii). Her family reports that she is in "good spirits" and understands the "freak" nature of such an accident.*

*Ray Valle, Professor Emeritus of Social Work, and Dr. Joaquin Anguera have assumed duties in Professor Usita's classes for the balance of this semester. The entire SDSU Gero family wishes Professor Usita well during her recovery!*