

GERONTOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
San Diego State University

NEWSLETTER

September, 2004

FALL GERO ENROLLMENT LARGEST EVER

***Careers and Jobs:
First GSA Program of Year***

With Baby Boomers coming down the track, what are the career opportunities in the field of aging?

This will be the topic of the first general meeting of GSA for the 2004-5 academic year. The speaker will be Professor Joaquin Anguera, recently retired as the principal Division Chief at San Diego County's Aging and Independence Services (AIS) where many Gero students have done internships.

*Date: Wednesday, Sept. 8
Where: 204 Hepner Hall
When: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Refreshments will be served.
Officers and Board will be elected.*

The GSA Board

GSA officers are looking for volunteers to be on the Board of Directors. Board members usually participate in GSA events and help guide yearly activities, including the Recruitment Luncheon in the fall, the speakers' program and the Annual Dinner in the spring. Board meetings are once a month.

SDSU's Department of Gerontology opened its doors this fall to the largest student enrollment in the 30-year history of the University Center on Aging. Department officials predict that the enrollment will exceed 150 in all classes combined after including adds and subtracting drops. The full-time equivalent (FTE) count will exceed 30 – five higher than the target set by the University. Individual FTE targets for graduate (15) and undergraduate (10), set by the College of Health and Human Services, will be surpassed as well.

“Interest in the study of human aging is growing right along with the exponential growth of the older adult population,” said Department Chair Mario Garrett. “Students who study gerontology can expect to move on to rewarding careers, not just jobs – and they are showing they understand that potential by enrolling in the courses that will lead them into the aging network.”

The fall enrollment projections do not yet count students who sign up for courses through the College of Extended Studies (or Open University). These students are not part of the FTE count.

Enrollees include students taking Gero 101 as a GE requirement (80), students registered in the Certificate Program and Minor, Major and Masters candidates.

ANNUAL FALL RECRUITMENT LUNCHEON SET FOR SEPT. 30

GSA will continue the tradition of hosting the Recruitment Luncheon this fall. Scheduled for Noon, Thursday, September 30, the luncheon will host student advisors and counselors from San Diego area community colleges and high schools. SDSU campus student advisors also attend to learn more about the Department of Gerontology and the University Center on Aging. The luncheon will be held at Scripps Cottage on the SDSU campus (down the hill from Hepner Hall).

The “target” of the luncheon is to attract students to enroll in one of the Gerontology programs (Certificate, Bachelors or Masters) as a result of advice provided by informed counselors. This is one occasion where the “student” association is able to assist the Department by showcasing what the Department offers and advertising the Department’s achievements. This year the attendees will meet Mario Garrett, who assumed the chairmanship of the Department in January (after last year’s recruitment luncheon).

With SDSU student enrollment in Gerontology at its highest level, Department speakers will be able to use the luncheon as a “boost” to recent achievements. Enrollment may be at its highest, but there is always room (and community need) for more.

GSA MEMBERSHIP – A TEN DOLLAR INVESTMENT

Membership in GSA is **only \$10** for the 2004-5 academic year. Membership forms are available at the Gero Office (203 Hepner Hall). Karla Gerardo, the Department’s Administrative Assistant, will welcome you (and collect your dues).

GSA membership is open to all students taking Gero courses, not just those who are majoring or minoring in Gero. In addition, candidates for Masters degrees may join. GSA is a social organization that plans functions supportive of SDSU’s gerontology offerings. Events include:

- the annual recruitment luncheon (usually in the fall)
- a periodic speakers program (local aging network providers)
- co-sponsorship (with the new Gerontology Alumni Association) of the E. Percil Stanford Lecture and Seminar Series
- information tables at InfoFairs and conferences
- the Annual Dinner (usually in the spring)

Join Us!