

NAPG NEWS

FALL 2020, ISSUE 4



A DIFFERENT KIND OF AUTUMN

SPOTLIGHT



*This is the fourth article in a series of "features" on the leadership of NAPG. We are also looking forward to "featuring" NAPG members in future issues of NAPG NEWS. The third article "features" **Pauline Abbott**, Vice President of NAPG, and begins on the third page.*

For many, fall is a time of new beginnings as vacations end and classes resume. Professionally, we plan continuing education, travel and participation in exciting conferences following the end of summer. NAPG often hosts small networking gatherings of our members and friends at professional meetings around the U.S. and Canada. This year is totally different. Like many, we are working from home, adjusting to dramatic changes in our lives,

and worrying about the future. Some of you have lost jobs; others are juggling work while schooling children at home and caregiving for older relatives. NAPG wishes to support you as we face the months ahead. We want to share resources and ideas for coping with COVID and its consequences. Send us links to articles and websites that address your needs, and give us suggestions for topics to explore in future issues of NAPG NEWS.

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NA PG FAST FACTS

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NAPG Organization:

Incorporated: 2005

Membership: 387 members in 40
states and 6 foreign countries

IRS Status: Not-for-profit 501c3,
Public Charity

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PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF PROFESSIONAL GERONTOLOGY

The Past: Over the last 40 years efforts have addressed formalizing Gerontology careers. The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) formulated a Program of Merit (POM) to recognize academic programs that met AGHE's *Standards and Guidelines* published in the 1980s. However, issues remained.

First, the Older Americans Act recognized various professions as eligible for hiring, but never Gerontology. This frustrating omission persists.

Second, the graduates of Gerontology programs work in a wide variety of settings. The breadth of the field created a dilemma about identifying the specific skill set possessed by Gerontologists.

Third, the logistics of licensure are complex and must be undertaken on a state-by-state basis, thus inhibiting efforts to license Gerontologists.

In response to these dilemmas, NAPG created the Credentialed

Professional Gerontologist (CPG) designation in 2005. By providing a credential that recognized the depth and breadth of individual academic preparation, and that required continuing education for its members, the legitimacy of our expertise was recognized.

The Present: Significant changes have taken place in the field that now shape our current situation.

The AGHE *Standards and Guidelines* have been augmented by a set of specific skills, or competencies, that identify and define what a Gerontologist knows and can do. They are contained in *Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education*, AGHE (2014).

The Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council (AGEC), was established in 2016 with the authority to accredit academic degree programs and uses the competencies as the student-learning standard.

As the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education transitioned into the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) within the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), it is likely that regional organizations, such as the Southern Gerontological Society (SGS) and the California Council in Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG), will assume a more prominent role in gerontology education along with AGHE.

A change has also occurred in the scope of NAPG, growing from a national organization to one with an international reach.

The Future: There is still a lot to do. Gerontology graduates need to continue to professionalize the field. Employers need to be educated on the skills that Gerontology graduates bring to the job. The Older Americans Act needs to include “Gerontology” as a professional category. The news media need to become more knowledgeable about Gerontology and Geriatrics to better inform the public and shape its expectations.

Gerontologists need to network with one another and other professionals to make us more visible and our voices better heard. Licenses for Gerontologists may be an ultimate goal, but in the meantime there is a lot those with Gerontology degrees can do to take the next steps and own the field.

Featuring: Pauline Abbott, EdD, MPA, CPG

Vice President of NAPG

This is the fourth article in a series of “features” on the Leadership and Membership of NAPG.

During her forty-year career in academic gerontology, Pauline Abbott held various roles at the University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology and then became Director of the California State University Fullerton Institute of Gerontology.

As an undergraduate student in Psychology at USC, she was encouraged to explore Gerontology. It took only one course and she was convinced of the value of the aging services field! Before returning to USC for graduate study with Gerontology pioneers James Birren and David Peterson, she spent time in the field working directly with older adults in a senior meals program and as a community college instructor in an older adults program.

She has been involved in the creation and development of a number of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, has taught, researched and published in areas such as elder housing, older adult education, public policy, and *Guided*

Autobiography. She even contributed to a documentary for the Red Hat Society!

Pauline has served on the boards of several Gerontology and community organizations. She represents NAPG at the California Council for Gerontology and Geriatrics, of which she is a past president. She served as the Sigma Phi Omega National President and has received recognition for her work from the State of California, the Federal Legislature, and the Board of Supervisors of Orange County, California. Pauline has been a representative to the White House Conference on Aging and was named Woman of the Year by the regional Red Cross.

Currently she is Board Treasurer for Community Senior Services, a multi-faceted non-profit, and a Board member for Gerontology programs at Chaffey College and the University of LaVerne.

Pauline is one of the original founders of NAPG in 2005

Pauline enjoys a large extended family spread across several states that gives her a chance to travel with her husband and small multipoo.

NAPG Working from Home!

Professional Development Opportunities from your Computer

In this space we previously featured professional conferences. We now focus on virtual training opportunities. Send us information and links that we can share here.

ASA – www.asaging.org American Society on Aging offers an array of web seminars on various topics through Dec., 2020. Previously recorded web seminars can be accessed.

GSA – www.geron.org Gerontological Society of America is streaming symposia, lectures and discussions from Nov. 4-7, 2020, for its GSA 2020 annual scientific meeting.

SGS - www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org Southern Gerontological Society offers “Wednesday Webinars” on various applied topics. Previous (nine) videos are free to members or can be purchased for \$10 each by non-members.

Center for Age Friendly Excellence www.cfafe.org/af-covid-19 provides a list of issues and solutions for aging in a time of COVID. Data are organized per the eight domains of Age-Friendly Communities.

NAPG NOTES

Visit our new Website

We have a newly designed website! Please visit it at:
www.napgerontologists.org

Remember to Renew:

If you have not renewed your membership in the last two (or more) years, be sure to do so. Check the NAPG website for acceptable professional development documentation and send it with a check for \$50 to:

NAPG
808 Samantha Ct.
Healdsburg, CA 95448.

MEMBERS' Corner – *This section is about you.*

Cassandra Hill (credentialed in 2015) wrote an article for *Fresh Lifestyle Magazine* www.freshlifestylemag.com/healing-your-mind-and-body-with-aromatherapy.html.

Jordan Lewis (credentialed in 2013) and his co-authors have published “We raise our grandchildren as our own children: Alaska Native grandparents raising grandchildren in Southwest Alaska,” in the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, 33(3), 265-286 (2018). They also contributed a chapter “Working with American and Alaska Native Families in Dementia Care,” in *Ethnicity and the Dementias* (2018), Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

Luanne Mullin (credentialed in 2017) has been elected for a second year as the Council President of the Emeritus Students of the College of Marin (CA), a 2,000 member organization serving the unique needs of older adults dedicated to the principles of quality of life, life long learning, and personal growth.

Trina Saucedo (credentialed in 2008) recently completed service as a 2017-2018 County of Orange (CA) Grand Jury panel member. She and her fellow grand jurors issued eight reports, all of which appeared in national news.