

Gero Newsletter

Letter from Dr. Emiko Takagi

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First of all, congratulations on the great semester achieved by all of you in our gerontology program! I appreciate everyone's patience and optimism in this transitional period, and I will make sure to keep you all updated about the status of our program, hopefully with good and exciting news.

This year, I got involved in our internship course as a coordinator for the first time. It was great to know that almost all of the supervisors in the field were extremely pleased to have our gerontology students as interns; and that they definitely saw the benefit of having a gerontologist as a professional. At the same time, I have also learned that it is critical to attend every duty and work with your best intent and attitude in order to make your professional entrance to the field successful. It may be the way you take a

phone call from an older client, or the way you assist an older person at your senior center registration desk. It could be the way you take advice from your supervisor or the way you initiate your own small project. Every small performance and interaction of yours at the internship site projects you as a person, and also as a future professional gerontologist; and that is what the supervisors use to evaluate students' performance.

As some of you saw at this year's Careers in Aging event, the field of gerontology encompasses countless exciting working opportunities. It is up to you as a person to make one of such careers your own dream job; and we all should remember that it takes every small and big effort to achieve it. You all know a great deal about aging. The key to

success, I believe, is to find a way to deliver and apply your knowledge with good personal and professional attitudes.



OWL Internship - Laura Frazier

I chose the Older Women's League (OWL) in Washington, D.C. to complete my gerontological practicum after it was recommended to me by the former program director of the gerontology program at Towson University, Dr. Donna Wagner.

The Older Women's League is an organization that focuses solely on improving the status and quality of life for midlife and older women. Unlike other women's advocacy groups, OWL accomplishes this through its national chapter network, with midlife and older women throughout the country being directly involved in its education and advocacy efforts.

Throughout my tenure at OWL, I learned much more about the challenges that women face as they age, the importance of social insurance programs such as Social Security and Medicare, and shaped my literature research skills as I assisted with research for OWL's annual "Mother's Day Report". I also increased my knowledge of organizational development skills such as grant seeking and grant writing, occasionally taking classes at the Foundation Center to increase my skills. I feel that the knowledge I gained throughout this internship has shaped me into a better gerontologist.

Careers in Aging Week: Panel Presentation

Careers in Aging Week is an annual event intended to bring greater awareness and visibility to the wide-ranging career opportunities in aging and aging research. Universities and colleges around the world participate in this annual event.

This year, Delta Rho hosted a panel presentation comprised of alumni from the gerontology and healthcare management programs offered at Towson University. The event was sponsored by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education which awarded Towson University's Gerontology Program with a \$200 grant.

The five distinguished speakers are all currently working in varying roles in the field of aging. The speakers were:

- Colleen Considine- Claims Authorizer- Social Security Administration
- Iris Kafka- Activities Assistant- Oak Crest Village
- Gen Waterman- Research Assistant- IMPAQ International, LLC
- Amanda Weber- Center Director- Ateaze Senior Center
- Russell Weber- Concierge/Move-Out Coordinator- Oak Crest Village

Delta Rho wanted to showcase the vast opportunities that the field of gerontology has with regards to careers. In particular, they wanted to showcase the many opportunities that a degree in gerontology or other related fields can offer. This was a great chance for students to discover how to find jobs in the field of aging, what types of jobs are available, how their internships can help them in their search, etc. The event was also a great networking event which allowed students to interact with and speak with the speakers one-on-one.



Department of Health Science Awards Ceremony and Honor Society Inductions



Gen Waterman, Dr. Emiko Takagi & Andrea Lindemer

Every year, the Health Science department hosts an awards and honor society induction ceremony. This year, Delta Rho was fortunate enough to be included in this wonderful event that showcases the many achievements of our students.

Delta Rho inducted six members into the national academic honor and professional society in gerontology, Sigma Phi Omega. The inductees were Lauren Conigliaro, Laketa Davis, Jennifer Daks, Laura Frazier, Natasha Homes and Kara Lockwood. Inductees were awarded with a pin, certificate, medal and chords.

These newly inducted members exemplify what it is to be a member of Delta Rho/Sigma Phi Omega. Their outstanding academic achievements and their dedication to service in the community on behalf of older adults are true testaments to the goals of the honorary society.

In addition to the induction of Delta Rho members into Sigma Phi Omega, three gerontology students (also Delta Rho members) were awarded Department of Health Science Recognition Awards.

Each semester, the faculty of the Department of Health Science reviews the graduating students at both the undergraduate and graduate level to see who qualifies as a role model for future students of the program. The criteria for which faculty use to review students for awards consist of: 1) growth in understanding of the professional role; 2) leadership within the department in classes and undergraduate student activities; 3) exemplification of ideals of a professional in the field of study; 4) adherence to ethical principles in the practice of the profession; and 5) demonstration of a spirit of civility and cooperative learning.

This year's awardees from the Gerontology Program were Jamie Cooney (Undergraduate Award), Gen Waterman (Graduate Award) and Andrea Lindemer (Graduate Award). Dr. Emiko Takagi presented each awardee with a plaque with their name on it and their names will also be added to the plaque hanging in the Health Science Department administrative office, along with previous award winners.

Congratulations to all of our outstanding students!!!



Dr. Emiko Takagi and Jamie Cooney



Natasha Holmes, Laketa Davis, Laura Frazier & Lauren Conigliaro

Delta Rho

Delta Rho had another wonderful year! As stated earlier, we inducted six new members into Sigma Phi Omega and have grown tremendously as a group in all. This semester we continued our dedication to serving the community through our efforts in volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association in the Shamrock 5k and the Memory Ball.

This year's Memory Ball raised thousands of dollars for the Alzheimer's Association and it was our honor to be part of such a great event. Delta Rho even managed to have a few celebrity spottings (i.e. Governor Martin O'Malley and Olympic gold medalist, Dorothy Hamill). Our continued support for the Alzheimer's Association has been recognized by the organization and they have been in touch with members of Delta Rho to recruit for their planning committee for the Walk to End Alzheimer's (formally known as the Memory Walk).

We also participated in Senior Home Repair Day with NADIV (Neighbors Assisting Directly in Volunteerism) and CHAI (Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.). This event always proves to be one our favorite events even though it's a lot of hard work. Our dedicated Delta Rho members managed to mow, trim, and weed an entire yard back to beauty. It is always so wonderful to see the impact that our help has on the home-owners and they are always so appreciative. Overall, it was an incredibly rewarding experience.

I'd like to take this time to personally thank all of the dedicated members of Delta Rho for a wonderful year. I'm so grateful for the honor to have been President for this past year (2010-2011). It has been an incredibly rewarding experience. A special thanks goes to Emily Frank, Delta Rho's Vice President, for all of the support that she offered myself and the group. Emily will be the new President of Delta Rho and Lauren Conigliaro will be the Vice President for the 2011-2012 school year. These two dedicated members will be great leaders and will help to support Delta Rho.

Andrea Lindemer



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Laura Frazier, Jen Young, Gov. Martin O'Malley, Jen Daks, Emily Frank, Andrea Lindemer & Victor Martinez.