

GSA 2024 Election Guide

This document contains biographical sketches, candidate statements, and diversity statements for 2024 officer candidates in the following categories:

- Board of Directors
- Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE)
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) Section
- Biological Sciences (BioSci) Section
- Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO)
- Health Sciences (HS) Section
- Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP) Section

GSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Society is to cultivate excellence in interdisciplinary aging research and education to advance innovations in practice and policy.

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 11:59 PM EDT, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

Check your e-mail for voting instructions.

Who is entitled to vote?

- All members of the Gerontological Society of America who have designated a primary section are entitled to vote for officers of that section and for Board of Directors positions.
- All members who are Academy Representatives with the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education are entitled to vote for officers of AGHE as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.
- All student and early career members are entitled to vote for officers of ESPO as well as for officers of their primary section and for the Board of Directors positions.
- Members who have not affiliated with a section are entitled to vote for Board of Directors positions.

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Board of Directors Elections
Vice President – Select One
(Three-year term beginning January 2025)



Tamara A. Baker, MA, PhD, FGSA

Dr. Tamara Baker is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She received her MA in Clinical/Community Psychology from Norfolk State University (Historically Black College and University [HBCU]), a PhD from Penn State in Biobehavioral Health, and postdoctoral training in Public Health at the University of Michigan. She is an appointed member of the United States' Department of Veterans Affairs' Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee, a member of NIH's Interagency Pain Coordinating Committee, Editor-in-Chief of Ethnicity & Health, Editor Emeritus of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, and a member of several editorial and advisory boards. Dr. Baker has served as GSA's Secretary, BSS Chair, and Chair of the Committee on Minority Issues in Gerontology (formally the Task Force on Minority Aging). She is a GSA Fellow and co-convenor of the HBCU Collaborative Interest Group. Her background in Gerontology, Psychology, and

Biobehavioral Health has evolved into an active research agenda that broadly focuses on understanding the behavioral and sociocultural predictors and outcomes of chronic pain among older Black adults; and health disparities and inequities in pain management, access and availability of pain management resources, and social determinants of health.

Candidate Statement: GSA's vision, to cultivate excellence in interdisciplinary aging aligns with my commitment to mentoring the next generation of scholars; fostering an inclusive environment; and promoting cross-disciplinary collaborations. GSA has the strategic alliance to drive meaningful change in the discipline and broader community. This happens with strong leadership, a clear vision, and collective innovative ideas. Serving as GSA's secretary and Chair of the BSS section, I've been very strategic to make sure that new initiatives are created to serve the needs of the organization, its members, and the larger community. From starting the Concept Coffee, hosting Conversation Cafes, to establishing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Collaborative Interest Group and joining efforts to host the HBCU Aging Conference, I recognize that these initiatives were successful because a need was met and because of collegial and society-wide collaborations. To continue progress, we must 1) work together, 2) appreciate and advocate for change, 3) be creative/innovative, and 4) support early-stage investigators. I'm prepared to continue GSA's mission in promoting interdisciplinary research, expanding the movement for global collaborations, and fostering collegial alliances; while continuing my leadership, mentoring, and outreach efforts in developing initiatives acknowledging the accomplishments of and supporting my fellow colleagues.

Diversity Statement: My scholarly work, teaching, mentoring, and commitment to the discipline have always focused on creating a space and learning environment that are equitable and inclusive. I'm a firm believer that representation matters. When fairly represented, we can appreciate a diversity of voices that bring unique perspectives to the conversation. Embracing a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and viewpoints allow us to foster innovation, while appreciating the value of others. This has always been my focus, when my colleagues and I started the HBCU Collaborative Interest Group. This interest group provides a platform to recognize the scholarly work of alumni, students, and faculty at HBCUs. More importantly, we aim to provide opportunities for these scholars to volunteer and serve in leadership positions within GSA, while acknowledging promising leaders in gerontology/aging research. What's more encouraging is the opportunity to collaborate with other interest groups and leaders with similar goals to promote a diverse and inclusive organization. I'm sincerely committed to ensuring fair representation, within and outside of the organization, regardless of identifying characteristics and/or abilities. This will allow a culture of belonging and inclusion where all members are afforded the opportunity to see themselves as the next leader, advocate, or change agent.



Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., PhD, MS, FGSA

Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., PhD, MS, FGSA, is a Professor in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, Founding Director of the Program of Men's Health Research in the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions (HCHDS), Deputy Director of HCHDS, and Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He was recently appointed as the inaugural Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Diversity. He holds joint appointments in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology in the Department of Medicine, and the Department of Neurology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and the Department of Sociology at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Thorpe is a social epidemiologist and gerontologist whose research focuses on the association of how social determinants of health impact health, functional and cognitive outcomes among Black men across the adult life course. In addition, he leads or participates in several training programs designed to develop scholars who belong to under-represented groups to research independence. Dr. Thorpe's overall objective is to provide insights from research to inform health promoting strategies or policy relevant solutions for Black men.

Candidate Statement: I am very excited about the nomination to serve as the Vice President of GSA. It has been over two decades since I became a member of GSA. At my very first meeting I realized that GSA was going to be my professional home. I have served in several positions over the years, including Chair of the Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee (2014-2016), BSS Representative at Large (2016-2018), and the BSS Representative to the GSA Fellowship Committee (2019-2020). I plan to leverage these past experiences and relationships to make for an effective and productive Vice President. In addition, I served as the President of the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences which provided me experience in shared governance and shared decision-making processes. If elected, I will work with the GSA membership and staff on achieving the organization's strategic goals and objectives. Using a servant leadership style, I am eager to work collaboratively across sections of GSA to advance science, practice, advocacy, and policy to ensure that all individuals are afforded the opportunity to enjoy a "meaningful life as we age." I look forward to continuing my dedication to GSA by serving in this role of Vice President.

Diversity Statement: I have dedicated my entire career to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This has been exemplified in my research, training, and administrative roles at Johns Hopkins and beyond. In addition to my research that focuses on Black men, I lead an Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (AD RCMAR) and an Advancing Diversity in Aging Research (ADAR) grant both with the focus of diversifying the scientific workforce as it relates to aging. Within the AD RCMAR we are launching the HBCU Initiative which focuses on building awareness and capacity of aging research for faculty and students. For my ADAR summer program, we are partnering with two minority serving institutions: Morgan State University and University of Maryland and Baltimore County to facilitate the transition from undergraduates who are in STEM fields into graduate school conducting aging research. As Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity I have the honor of diversifying the faculty. At GSA I had the pleasure of serving as Chair of GSA's Diversity and Justice Working Group which developed the current policy on diversity and inclusion, and Chair of the Minority Issues in Gerontology Committee. All these experiences capture my commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Board of Directors Elections
Treasurer-Elect, Select One
(Three-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Terri Lewinson, PhD, MSW, FGSA, HAPF



Dr. Lewinson (she/her/hers) is an Associate Professor at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice and in the Department of Epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine. Her dedication to the field of gerontology is evident in her work in the Resident Equity and Community Health (REACH) Lab, where her team studies the health experiences of people who have been housing marginalized—whether living in an extended-stay hotel, assisted-living facility, senior housing setting, or an affordable housing development. Her housing-as-health research examines social determinants such as resident stress, renter mobility, eviction threat, and environmental conditions that lead to poor health outcomes for people across the life course. Dr. Lewinson’s lab also explores substance use treatment disparities, interdisciplinary healthcare systems, and medical social work practices that affect patient care. Dr. Lewinson earned a B.A. in developmental psychology from the University of

South Carolina and an MSW and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work. She is a Gerontological Society of America Fellow, Health and Aging Policy Fellow, Academy Health Fellow, and a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar.

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated for the Treasurer-Elect position on the GSA Board of Directors. Since beginning my academic journey, GSA has provided me with a rich intellectual space to develop my professional identity, expand my scholarship, and network with interdisciplinary gerontologists interested in improving the health and well-being of aging adults. From observing the impressive work of prominent GSA leadership over the years, my servant leadership has grown. As a Fellow in the Social Research, Policy, and Practice section, I have contributed as a pre-conference workshop convener, symposium organizer, and abstract reviewer. Most recently, I served on the GSA Governance and SRPP Fellows Selection Committees. I have received consistent guidance and support from GSA-affiliated professionals since 2010. In return, I have used my platform to empower emerging scholars preparing for careers in aging. If elected, I will continue to promote GSA mentorship programs through a health equity lens. I will use my community-engaged skills to elevate under-represented voices and uphold GSA’s commitment to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive Society. I will also promote culturally relevant, policy-directed, and system-reforming initiatives that fully include older adults in communities as integral members of research teams.

Diversity Statement: In every aspect of my personal and professional life, I firmly believe that diversity strengthens community, fosters creativity and innovation, and generally makes human interactions more interesting, valuable, and enjoyable. Throughout my academic journey, I co-created campus groups, such as Ebony Women for Social Change and Umoja, to create spaces for diverse populations to feel included and engaged. I have mentored, trained, and published with scholars representing diverse identities. The most fundamental focus of my research approach includes partnering with families in marginalized communities to improve access to essential resources, such as healthy housing and quality healthcare. While serving as a Legislative Fellow, I became aware of the complexity and consequences of social inequities and the power of collaborative policymaking to heal communities. These lessons, consistent with my disciplinary training in social work, keep me committed to amplifying underrepresented voices and addressing social injustice. Therefore, in my Population Health and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses, I prioritize preparing public health researchers and clinicians to think critically about systemic oppression and cultural humility in practice. If entrusted with the position of Treasure-Elect, I will work with Board Members to promote investment in and resource allocation for culturally enriching programs.



Pamela B. Teaster, PhD, MA, MS, NREMT, FGSA, FAGHE

Pamela B. Teaster is a Professor and the Director of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech. Dr. Teaster is a 2023-2024 Health and Aging Policy Fellow, a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (SRPP Section), and a Fellow of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She is a recipient of such awards as the Isabella Horton Grant Award for Guardianship (National College of Probate Judges), the Rosalie Wolf Award for Research on Elder Abuse (NAPSA), the Outstanding Affiliate Member Award (Kentucky Guardianship Association), and the Distinguished Educator Award (Kentucky Association for Gerontology). Her areas of scholarship include the abuse of vulnerable adults, surrogate decision making, end-of-life decision-making, ethical treatment of older adults, and public policy and public affairs. She has published over 250 scholarly and translational articles, reports, and book chapters and is the editor/author of 7 books. She serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect and the Journal of Trauma, Violence, and Abuse Review. She is a Commissioner for the American Bar Association for Law and Aging and a nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician and is licensed in Virginia.

Neglect and the Journal of Trauma, Violence, and Abuse Review. She is a Commissioner for the American Bar Association for Law and Aging and a nationally registered Emergency Medical Technician and is licensed in Virginia.

Candidate Statement: I am a proud and long-time member of GSA, having been so ever since I was a graduate student in 1992. Early in my academic career, I was elected as an officer in the student organization, and eventually become its chair. By serving in those roles, I met a multitude of outstanding gerontologists who are my colleagues to the present. I have provided help to GSA in a variety of roles (e.g., editor selection committee, finance committee member, abstract reviewer), and I have served on the Editorial Board of *The Gerontologist*, in which I have published papers, and for which I have reviewed numerous articles. If elected, I am happy to serve as the treasurer of GSA and will faithfully serve the organization and its members where finances are concerned. I am well aware that an organization's finances are crucial to its success. I have served on many boards and in various leadership roles. Becoming a member of GSA has significantly helped launch my career as a gerontologist, and I am an extremely grateful member of GSA and the opportunities it has afforded me. I am humbled and honored to be asked to run as its treasurer.

Diversity Statement: Over the course of my academic career, I have worked to raise up the voices and rights of older adults and people with disabilities through my research and advocacy on behalf of persons who are abused and marginalized. Along with my colleague, Dr. Debra Harley, I am the co-author of *The Handbook of LGBT Elders* (2016, Springer), and, along with colleagues Dr. Georgia Anetzberger and Candace Heisler, J.D., *Published Ethics And Vulnerable Elders: The Quest For Individual Rights and a Just Society* (2020, Cognella). I have worked to include and respect the values and wishes of people who are under guardianship and to help create more just systems for the people who serve vulnerable people and for the vulnerable adults themselves. I am currently serving my university through membership on its college Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, trying to reduce institutional ageism and foster fair and equitable treatment, especially for university staff members. I am happy to join GSA's efforts to promote greater diversity, equity, and inclusion among its members and the populations with whom they work.

Board of Directors Elections Member 1 – Select One (Three-year term beginning January 1, 2025)



Hannah R. Marston, PhD

Dr Hannah R. Marston is a Research Fellow in the School of Health, Wellbeing and Social Care at The Open University, UK. Hannah holds a BSc (Hons) in Multimedia, a MSc in Computing and a PhD in Virtual Reality and Gerontology from Teesside University, UK. Hannah completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Canada and a Research Scientist at the Institute of Movement and Sport Gerontology, German Sports University Cologne, Germany. Her expertise in AFCC, digital technologies/health, practices for aging populations affords her being a Co-I on an NIHR (UK) Accelerator Grant exploring technology needs for use in social care. She led a COVID-19 international consortium of 11 sites, and 13 languages to understand technology, psychological wellbeing, and digital literacy during the pandemic.

Hannah has served on the National Executive Committee for the British Society of Gerontology (2017-20), GSA ESPO Communications Chair (2008-10), GSA Student Representative Membership Committee (2008-10), Student Formation Chapter – International Society of Gerontechnology (2011-12). As an interdisciplinary researcher Hannah reviews regularly for funding panels (EU/UKRI/Tri-Council), and journals spanning gerontology, technology, and social sciences, and will be a plenary speaker at the forthcoming NZAG conference in August 2024.

Candidate Statement: As a proud member of GSA for 16 years, I am honored and excited to accept this nomination for a Board Member position. If elected, my goals will be to strive for all members to believe their voice and experiences are heard, to continue the growth and sustainability of GSA whether you are a doctoral student or a senior academic. Building on my interdisciplinary and international experiences I understand what it means to be part of the GSA family, working in a collaborative GSA environment, together with all, and international members will afford positive change. It is important to me that all opinions are heard whether dissenting or other, a society should thrive in critical scholarly debate, and rigorous discourse. I believe every single member should feel their opinions are worthy of respect. My desire to serve alongside GSA leadership will acknowledge all opinions, and (international) experiences to be embedded into the infrastructure of GSA, working collaboratively together with committees, and working group representatives across GSA. I hope to have the opportunity again to give back to the society and provide positive input and contribute to the future discourse of GSA directives and strategies.

Diversity Statement: As a working-class mid-level career scholar my experiences are varied, and include living and conducting research in Canada, Germany, and the UK, experiencing diverse societal and professional cultures. My research speaks of and represents marginalized communities contextualized in age-friendly cities, and communities, carers, technology users with limited digital literacy, women, and digital practices. As a woman who has faced recent discrimination [Phoenix Judgement, 2024] from institutional/ colleagues, for holding Philosophical/sex-based beliefs, a protected characteristic under the UK Equality Act; I am all too aware of the importance of hearing and listening to opinions in a respectful collegiate environment. If elected I will draw on my previous experience of being the ESPO Chair for Technology (now Communications), my experiences of being a woman, and an international scholar. A leader in the technology arena, I believe it is important for doctoral students, ECRs to have realist opportunities and experiences to advance their own scholarly developments, exemplified in the COVID-19 international, multi-site project spanning Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, working with the WHO pertaining to AFCC, and equitable discourse. Co-production affords voices to be instilled for solutions or policies, and integrating members voices into strategies and directives will serve GSA well.



Ulla Kribernegg, MA, PhD, FGSA

Ulla Kribernegg is the founding director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Age and Care (CIRAC) and full professor in Cultural Aging and Care Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. She is also an adjunct professor at the Medical University of Graz. Her academic focus is on cultural gerontology and health & medical humanities. She is the author of "Putting Age in its Place: Long-Term Residential Care in Contemporary Film and Fiction" (forthcoming) and co-edited "Care Home Stories: Aging, Disability and Long-Term Residential Care" (2017) and "Aging and Ecocriticism: Interdisciplinary Encounters" (2023). Ulla is a founding member and former president and vice president (2015-2022) of the European Network of Aging Studies (ENAS) and served on the executive board of the North American Network in Aging Studies (NANAS). She is Associate Editor for Humanities and Arts at The Gerontologist and a member of the GSA's Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Gerontology Advisory Panel. She is a Fellow of the

Trent Centre for Aging & Society, Canada, and a Fellow at the AgeCap Center of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Ulla has taught internationally (Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay, USA) and has received several teaching and research awards.

Candidate Statement: I am honored to be nominated to the GSA Board of Directors. The Society has provided me with invaluable opportunities since I joined in 2013, and I am eager to contribute my skills and dedication in return. As director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Age and Care (CIRAC) at the University of Graz, Austria, and former president of the European Network in Aging Studies, I have always forged international connections. In roles such as Associate Editor of The Gerontologist and member of the GSA's Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Gerontology Advisory Panel, I am committed to promoting interdisciplinary aging research.

I am passionate about volunteer leadership for the GSA because I believe in fostering meaningful dialogue between researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. Together, we will confront ageist practices in our communities and culture.

I foresee the GSA playing an increasingly important role in addressing new challenges and opportunities in the future through collaboration with the board members and the broader membership, as well as supporting training and mentoring for early career scholars. I would be honored to continue to be part of this community by serving on the Board of Directors.

Diversity Statement: In my research and teaching, I have always been committed to fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion. I am a member of the University of Graz's "Anti-Bias Circle" and have been a co-researcher in the circle's project on "unconscious bias." With my students, I have developed a module on ageism for a Massive Open Online Course on Diversity and Inclusivity. I am currently co-editing a Special Issue of the Journal of Aging and Later Life (JAL) on "Intersectionality Matters: Age, Care, Power Relations." I am a principal investigator / team member of the following research projects that are all dedicated to intersectional themes:

- Gender Matters: Age, Care, and Migration
- Inclusive Caring Communities: How can the participation of people with disabilities be achieved in the social environment?"
- EU Co-Work: Promoting Compassionate Workplaces, funded by the European Union's HORIZON program
- CareACT in Communities: Theater Interventions for Justice-Oriented and Democratic Learning Processes in Caring Communities
- Caring Living Labs Graz: Fostering Inclusive Urban Caring Spaces with Solidarity and Diversity (03/2022 – 05/2024)

Based on my commitment and experience, I look forward to supporting the GSA's "Diversity and Justice Working Group."

Board of Directors Elections
Member 2– Select One
(Three-year term beginning January 1, 2025)

Bérénice A. Benayoun, BSc, MSc, PhD



Bérénice Benayoun, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Gerontology, Biological Sciences, Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Dr. Benayoun received her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the École Normale Supérieure de Paris and Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7 in Paris, France. Her PhD work focused on a transcription factor whose mutations lead to a human syndrome associated to premature menopause. During her post-doctoral training, she identified a new key chromatin signature of cell identity and transcriptional consistency, which is partially remodeled during aging. This work raised important questions about the stability of cellular identity throughout life. Her lab’s research focuses on epigenome and transcriptome remodeling with aging in vertebrates, how these changes interact with overlooked cues such as biological sex, and the roles that these changes play in the aging process. Her lab is one of the pioneering labs in the development of a naturally short-lived vertebrate as a new model for aging research, the African turquoise killifish. Dr. Benayoun was named a 2020 Pew Biomedical Scholar, 2021 Nathan Shock new Investigator and 2023 AGHE rising star. She serves on the editorial boards of scientific journals Translational Medicine of Aging, Journals of Gerontology and eLife.

Candidate Statement: I am excited to present my candidacy to serve as a Board member of GSA, and help GSA toward its goals on keeping the public apprised of aging research and fostering high-quality scientific communication around aging research. My overarching goal has been to understand how genomic regulation mechanisms influence aging, health and the chronic disease through the lens of lifelong sex-differences. I believe that this point of view can be very useful on the board of GSA.

Since I attended my first GSA meeting as a junior faculty, I have been able to start meaningful collaborations through the GSA meeting, have had so many fruitful exchanges with colleagues, and felt the support of GSA in my career. Because of this, I am committed to give back and support GSA’s efforts to welcome scientists to the field.

As a Board member, I would be honored to serve and work on helping reduce inequities in science both in the people who do the research (i.e. help support women and minorities), as well as in the way we study aging (e.g. inclusion of study subjects of both sexes/genders, etc.).

Diversity Statement: As a woman in science, I am passionate about supporting women with their scientific journey. Additionally, my own research focuses on the importance of gender-relevant considerations in aging biology, a field that has been historically ignored. Thus, I have actively promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion within my team, field and institution. In my lab, I am committed to mentoring trainees from underrepresented minorities [URM] in STEM, including women. My lab hosts trainees from diverse backgrounds and genders, who are involved at all stages of research, regardless of training stage. I am committed to increasing diversity in academic research by providing an inclusive environment where everyone’s input is respected. Before the program ended due to the pandemic, I volunteered as a mentor for the USC Advancing Diversity in Aging Research [ADAR] program, hosting summer trainees in 2018/2019. Since Fall 2022, I am a founding mentor for the Gerontology Enriching Math Science Technology Engineering and Medicine [GEMSTEM] program, where we recruit historically URM undergrads into a funded research training program. I strongly believe that the inclusive environment that I am fostering is part of the reason that 4 of my Ph.D. trainees have been first-gen (3 of them URM).



Scott F. Leiser, PhD

Scott Leiser, PhD, is a tenured Associate Professor of Molecular & Integrative Physiology, Internal Medicine, and Gerontology at the University of Michigan. His training and expertise include more than 20 years studying aging and revolves around understanding the basic biology of aging through genetic, biochemical, and molecular approaches. In particular, his research utilizes a combinatorial approach in both nematode and mammalian systems, focusing on conserved regulators of longevity. He is particularly interested in how organisms perceive and respond to stress, and the role of conserved families of stress-responsive genes.

Since joining GSA over a decade ago, he has consistently attended and contributed to GSA through participation on committees (e.g., Public Policy committee, Demystifying Peer Review, Editorial Boards, Editorships workgroup), developing symposia, and participating in abstract reviewing. Additionally, he is PI on multiple R01 studies on the biology of aging, in addition to serving as Vice Chair and Board member of the American Aging Association, a member of the AFAR National Scientific Advisory Council, a member of the Interventions Testing Program Leadership team and Access Panel, Vice Chair of the Physiology graduate program at UM, and Associate Director of the Career Training in the Biology of Aging Training grant at UM.

Candidate Statement: I think the role of the GSA board of directors should be to enhance the mission of the Association through promoting high quality research, education, training, and mentoring toward the ultimate goal of promoting healthy aging. Having had the opportunity to serve on multiple GSA committees and to interact with members from the different sections, I believe that GSA can excel at bringing people together from different subfields to overcome the challenges of aging. On the Board, I will promote this mission with an added objective to provide additional interactions between sections. The goal is to bring together social scientists, educators, basic scientists, and clinicians to develop pipelines to both inform others of key advances in each area and utilize the other areas to enhance the impact of the work of each area. I also support continued promotion and refinement of GSA mentoring both within and between sections, as well as efforts to grow the number of high-quality researchers driving the field through expanding promotion and dissemination of the research findings of our Association members. As a basic scientist who studies the biology of aging, I realize the complexity of aging and believe that it can only be mitigated together.

Diversity Statement: In many areas of study, but science in particular, having different backgrounds, experiences, and ways of thinking are crucial to providing the most productive, creative and scientifically vigorous environment possible. To that end, my primary contributions to DEI in the past, present and/or future primarily include: 1) mentoring, 2) departmental/recruiting, and 3) systemic approaches. In mentoring, my lab has trained a substantial number of underrepresented individuals, including multiple diversity F31 recipients, a diversity amendment (R01) recipient, international trainees, and a military veteran, to name a few, each with different racial, educational, and LBGTQ backgrounds. My approach in this regard is to accept all lab members fully into our lab family, but to mentor each individual based on their needs as developed between mentor and mentee. In the department, I have served 8 years on the Physiology graduate program committee, currently as Vice Chair, where we actively recruit from URG serving colleges and actively support recruitment and retention of a diverse department. Lastly, after 4 years on the board of the American Aging Association (currently vice chair), my experience promoting diversity through travel awards, recruitment, and a DEI committee are all highly relevant to my goals at GSA.

**Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education Representatives and Primary Section Members
Vice Chair-Elect– Select One
(Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)**



M. Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW

M. Aaron Guest (He/Him) is an interdisciplinary trained social-environmental gerontologist, Assistant Professor of Aging, and Osher Lifelong Learning Research Fellow in the Center for Innovation in Healthy and Resilient Aging at Arizona State University. Additionally, he chairs the Secretariat of the Age-Friendly University Global Network. His research focuses on understanding the predominant social and environmental domains of older adults' lives and leveraging this knowledge to enhance health outcomes. The overarching aim of his research and life's work is to create an equitable society for aging for all people. Dr. Guest's leadership in GSA began as a student, serving as ESPO Membership Co-Chair and on the Dissertation Writing Group Development Committee. Currently, he serves as Chair of the AGHE Communications Workgroup, following a two-year term as a member. He has held progressive leadership roles within the American Public Health Association, including the Executive Board and as an Officer of the Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Society on Aging, and the Accreditation for Gerontology Education Council. His primary teaching role is within the Master of Science in Aging Program, where he teaches courses on environmental gerontology, programs and services, and research methods.

Candidate Statement: It is a profound honor and privilege to stand for election as the AGHE Vice-Chair Elect. The Gerontological Society of America has been my professional home for over a decade. Like many, my journey to gerontology was not linear. I was fortunate to have a series of instructors and mentors who introduced me to this field and demonstrated the vast potential of a career in gerontology. As a faculty member, I strive to provide the same opportunities for my students. At the same time, as a doctoral-trained gerontologist, I recognize the unique timing of our entry into this field and the challenges we face. Despite global demographic shifts, programs in aging and gerontology continue to experience decline and closure. It is crucial to highlight gerontology's unique perspectives and training, ensuring students are exposed to its interdisciplinary approaches. If elected, I have three primary goals: 1) Increase the number and diversity of AGHE members, 2) Ensure AGHE remains the leading voice in gerontological education, and 3) Identify additional opportunities to engage emerging scholars and instructors in AGHE activities. In doing so, I aim to build on our history while positioning AGHE and GSA for the future.

Diversity Statement: A steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence has profoundly influenced my scholarship, teaching, and service. As a community-focused scholar, I prioritize understanding the optimal person-in-environment fit for underserved populations, particularly those in rural areas who identify as a member of sexual and gender-diverse populations. As an instructor, I curate educational experiences that broaden students' understanding of society, ensuring they engage with diverse perspectives. This dedication extends to my professional service. Indeed, my first service position was as the Diversity Co-Chair of the APHA Student Assembly. As a doctoral student, I co-established our Ad Hoc Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee, where, working with colleagues, we hosted a series of seminars to promote diversity and inclusion among students and faculty. As faculty, I co-led our college's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, culminating in the creation of a dedicated College-Wide DEIB Office and the appointment of our inaugural DEIB Coordinator. These engagements reflect my personal and professional journey, underscored by my experience as an underrepresented first-generation college student. I understand the transformative potential of inclusive environments in fostering growth and development. If elected, inclusion and belonging will remain central to our activities as we work to ensure equitable aging for all.



Tamar E. Shovali, PhD

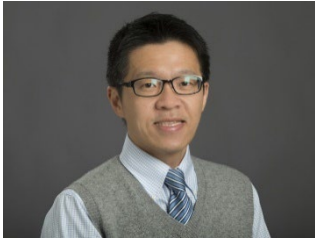
Dr. Tamar Shovali (she/her/hers) is an Associate Professor of Human Development at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL, an Age-Friendly University. She completed her PhD in Developmental Psychology and Graduate Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Georgia. Her areas of research are grandparents raising grandchildren and high impact, intergenerational gerontological pedagogy in higher education. Most recently Tamar has been committed to AGHE service as member of the GSA Minority Issues in Gerontology Advisory Panel (2024), co-chair for the AGHE Academic Program and Development Workgroup (2017-2021), chair of AGHE's subcommittee for standards and guidelines for gerontology and geriatrics in higher education (2019-2021), and co-editor of the 7th edition of the gerontology and geriatrics curricular standards and guidelines in higher education (2021). Passionate about teaching, she regularly teaches Aspects of Aging, Death and Dying, Introduction to

Human Development, Research Methods in Human Development, Cultural Diversity: Theory and Practice, Creating Intergenerational Relationships, and Images of Aging.

Candidate Statement: As a member of GSA for 18 years and AGHE for a decade it is an honor to be nominated to serve as the AGHE Vice-Chair Elect. I recall as a graduate student attending my first GSA meeting in San Francisco and feeling the excitement that comes from being with like-minded colleagues. Then, as a new faculty member at a teaching institution, presenting at AGHE for the first time. This is when I knew that AGHE was my professional home. Discussions with colleagues about teaching gerontology seemingly had no end - I was delighted! In my AGHE service roles I have come to appreciate the innovative ways that AGHE supports faculty and furthers gerontology and geriatrics education. As Vice-Chair Elect I intend to listen and support my colleagues in advancing education and training in the field. My hopes are to continue to develop classroom resources that gerontology faculty want and need, to engage together in self reflection about age inclusivity in the classroom and beyond - for us and our students, and to find ways to engage members of GSA in the valuable work of AGHE. Together we can continue to be global leaders in advancing education on aging.

Diversity Statement: A commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) is one of the most crucial skills for faculty in higher education. Recognizing, critiquing, and challenging my personal cultural assumptions, biases, prejudices, and stereotypes is a lifelong task. I have been committed to DEIB in many capacities. In 2014 I began teaching Cultural Diversity: Theory and Practice yearly to sensitize my students to the complex cultural issues involved in service delivery. In service to my college I have contributed as a committee member to the Diversity Task Force (2016-2018), Diversity Action Council (2019-2020), and Inclusive Excellence Strategic Planning Committee (2020-2021) advancing the college's DEIB mission. I have been committed to age inclusion by serving as the college representative coordinating the Age-Friendly University Global Network since 2019. In my Aspects of Aging, Introduction to Human Development, Senior Seminar, and Death and Dying courses I regularly employ myth busting practices to encourage intergenerational, intersectional learning. In one course, my students are trained to practice anti-ageist language while working with AARP and a local CCRC/LPC to provide technology mentoring to older adults in our community. Engaging in DEIB awareness, self-reflection, and intercultural responsiveness is necessary to respond to the changing needs of society.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)**



Chien-Ching Li, PhD, MPH

Chien-Ching Li, Ph.D., MPH is an Associate Professor of Health Systems Management in the College of Health Sciences at Rush University. Dr. Li received his Ph.D. in Health Services Research from Saint Louis University and post-doctoral training at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research focuses on reducing health disparities among vulnerable and minority populations. In 2019, he was selected as the Scientist of the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). In 2022, he was further recognized as the Health Equity Research Scholar by Rush-BMO Institute of Health

Equity of Rush University Medical Center.

Since joining the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), Dr. Li's involvement with the GSA has been both extensive and impactful. Over the past eight years, he engaged with GSA in various capacities (e.g., reviews the abstracts for the GSA Annual Meeting), contributing to the advancement of gerontological research (e.g., serves JGSS and JGMS reviewer), fostering collaboration among scholars, and promoting knowledge exchange within the field (chairs the International Comparisons of Healthy Aging Interest Group at GSA).

Candidate Statement: I am greatly honored to have been nominated for the Vice-Chair role of the Behavioral and Social Science (BSS). It has been almost a decade since I first joined the GSA as a junior faculty in 2015. I truly benefit from affiliating with the BSS in terms of gaining knowledge in conducting aging research and networking with multidisciplinary health professionals on promoting healthy aging through developing and implementing social and behavioral interventions. If elected, I will strengthen the BSS with focuses on: (1) recruiting and engaging diverse domestic and international members, (2) building an online and interactive platform to offer BSS members opportunities for seeking collaborations on social and behavioral research, and (3) creating a new award for recognition of teaching excellence in the field of Behavioral and Social Sciences. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the growth and development of the Behavioral and Social Science (BSS) section. With a decade of experience in the field and a passion for fostering collaboration, I am committed to enhancing the BSS's impact and relevance in the years to come. Together, we can advance our understanding of social and behavioral dynamics, ultimately improving the well-being of individuals and communities worldwide.

Diversity Statement: Being Chinese and Asian American, I have embraced the principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in my lived experience. In my role as an educator, I have taught over 300 undergraduate and graduate students, including those who self-identified as African American, Hispanic, or Asian. While teaching in the classroom, I strive to avoid any unconscious biases and create an equitable learning environment to ensure every student can excel. Furthermore, my work in community services (e.g., health promotion in older Chinese Americans) aligns with DEI perspectives by ensuring that health promotion services are accessible, culturally sensitive, and tailored to the specific needs of diverse populations. Finally, diversity, equity, and inclusion are embedded into every aspect of my research. I am dedicated to researching and reducing health disparities across minority populations, including racial/ethnic, sexual, and aging minorities. Additionally, I regularly involve underrepresented students in my research activities through the volunteer program at my current institute. Given my past and present experiences, I am confident in taking a leadership role to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion powerfully and innovatively in the Behavioral and Social Science section of the Gerontological Society of America.



Jeffrey E. Stokes, PhD

Jeffrey E. Stokes, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Gerontology, as well as Affiliate Faculty in Sociology and a Fellow of the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB). He received his PhD in Sociology from Boston College in 2017, and previously served as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Illinois State University.

Dr. Stokes conducts research concerning aging, families, and health, with a particular focus on loneliness, older adult couples, and bereavement in an intergenerational context. He also specializes in neighborhood contextual effects and health disparities across the life course, both in the US and internationally.

*An active GSA member since 2013, Dr. Stokes has regularly attended and presented at the GSA annual meeting, served as a GSA Mentor, as a member of the BSS Annual Awards Committee, and as ESPO Representative to the BSS Executive Committee. Dr. Stokes is also currently Associate Editor at both *Research on Aging and Personal Relationships*, and serves on the editorial board of the *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Aging & Mental Health*, and the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, among others.*

Candidate Statement: I am both honored and excited to accept the nomination for BSS Vice-Chair, yet I am even more enthusiastic about the opportunities this position would offer for continuing and improving upon the excellent work being promoted in the BSS section. In particular, I am passionate about expanding the membership base by fostering mentoring and networking opportunities for junior scholars, emphasizing international and interdisciplinary research, and further establishing GSA and the BSS section as a center for innovative research and meaningful debate on contemporary issues of importance in aging. It is my firm belief that almost no area of human experience is unaffected by issues of age and aging, and that GSA and BSS can play a key role in bringing together scholars from various fields, backgrounds, and areas of interest. I am particularly passionate about expanding our membership and research footprint in underrepresented regions and populations, including diverse populations within so-called WEIRD countries. I have worked extensively on this issue as part of the Internationalization Committee at the International Association for Relationship Research (IARR) and as International Section Associate Editor at *Personal Relationships*, and want to expand upon this in my primary “intellectual home”, the BSS section of GSA.

Diversity Statement: Issues of power, diversity, and inequality are central to my self-understanding and my approach to research, teaching, and mentoring. As a sociologist of aging, my research not only concerns health disparities across the life course on the basis of race, ethnicity, and gender, but also emphasizes international perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches. At UMass Boston – one of the most diverse campuses in the United States – it is my privilege to mentor and collaborate with students from a wide variety of backgrounds, including from across the globe. My service to the discipline has also been marked by a focus on diversity, especially geographic diversity. Moreover, as Graduate Program Director at UMB Gerontology, I am tasked with recruiting, retaining, and training as diverse and exceptional a pool of doctoral students as possible. As a leader in field of aging, GSA and BSS have a unique opportunity and responsibility to foster and promote diversity, not only through Interest Groups but also through the BSS section and annual meeting themselves. I would be honored to have the opportunity as BSS Vice-Chair to assist in these efforts to build an even stronger and more diverse BSS section for the next generation of aging scholars.

**Biological Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair- Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)**



Mark A. McCormick, PhD

*Dr. Mark A. McCormick is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, where his lab studies the basic biology of aging. Dr. McCormick has had a longstanding interest in the basic biology of aging, which was also the focus of his PhD and postdoctoral research. The McCormick lab's research focuses on translatable and conserved basic biology of aging, using multiple model systems including mice, mammalian cell culture, the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, and the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, most recently focusing on a class of compounds, tRNA synthetase inhibitors, that can greatly extend lifespan in multiple models. Alongside their wet-lab approaches, the McCormick lab increasingly also applies machine learning and artificial intelligence based computational*

approaches in their work. Their long-term goal is uncover conserved biology that could lead to delays in the onset and severity of important human diseases of aging.

Candidate Statement: I have been a GSA member since 2017, and have previously served on the Information Technology committee, and attended and presented my work at GSA annual meetings. In 2018 I had the opportunity to represent GSA and present my research at the German Congress on Geriatrics and Gerontology. I have spoken to past GSA Biological Sciences section chairs about this opportunity to best understand how I might contribute. As Biological Sciences section vice-chair elect, I would hope to continue the existing tradition of excellence for the GSA BS Section. My goals would include engaging with our membership and with top leaders in our field to bring the latest and most exciting research to the forefront of BS Section talks at the GSA Annual Meeting, and working to further include trainee, early career stage, and historically underrepresented researchers in all aspects of the GSA BS Section, including as presenters at the annual meeting. In keeping with the rapid recent growth of interest in artificial intelligence-based approaches, I would also hope to find ways to highlight AI-related aging research, whether through talks featuring cutting edge approaches, or workshops and round table discussions to engage aging researchers new to AI.

Diversity Statement: Throughout my career I have focused on enhancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. While a trainee member of the American Aging Association, I helped spearhead outreach at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Students, and staffed their inaugural exhibitor table. I have also attended ABRCMS once as a FASEB MARC Faculty Peer Mentor, and twice as a Faculty Judge. Since joining the University of New Mexico, a Hispanic-serving Institution, I have also served as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Representative for our Autophagy, Inflammation, and Metabolism Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, and currently serve on the DEI Committee of my Department. Within my own lab I have focused on the recruitment, mentoring, and training of first-generation and underrepresented students, who now include three New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars, one UNM Ronald E. McNair Scholar now in a PhD program, a UNM Lane Women in STEM Scholar and Goldwater Scholar, now in a PhD program, and an NIH Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity Data Science Training Core Training Practicum e-Program fellow, among others. This demonstrated focus on DEI would be a key part of my service to the Gerontological Society of America.

**Student members, Transitional members, and Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization
Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)**



Katherine Carroll Britt, PhD, MSN, RN

Dr. Kat Britt is a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) School of Nursing. Dr. Britt has been a GSA member since beginning her Ph.D. program at The University of Texas (UT) at Austin School of Nursing in 2019. Dr. Britt has served as GSA conference abstract peer reviewer (2019-2024), Health Sciences (HS) Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) Junior Leader I & II (2023 & 2024), co-leader of the Religion, Spirituality, and Aging GSA Interest group (2023 & 2024), and symposia chair and co-chair. She has also served as a Vice President of the Association of Nursing Graduate Students (2020-2021), a biomedical science board member of the Institute of Cultural

Engagement, Center for Inquiry & Design (2020-2021), and a Co-President of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Society (2022-2023). Her awards include Ambassador for Community Health Scholar Award from St. David's Medical Center (2021-2021), Phi Kappa Phi Love of Learning Award (2021), and Jonas Mental Health/Psychology Scholar (2021-2023). She is the Assistant Director of the Gerontological Nursing Center at UT, a Research Fellow at the Population Aging Research Center, and an Associate Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at UPenn.

Candidate Statement: I bring a unique perspective to ESPO focused on belonging and inclusion across disciplines and individuality focused on human flourishing. Volunteering and leading in several roles has equipped me with essential skills in communication, individual and group engagement, active listening, emotional intelligence, empathy, and collaboration that will be invaluable in this ESPO leadership role.

My aspiration for the ESPO leadership position is driven by my desire to foster a sense of belonging and inclusion for all. I envision collaborating with the GSA community to advance knowledge and understanding of aging across research, practice, and education disciplines. Importantly, I am committed to ensuring that early career and underrepresented group members are not left behind but are provided with the necessary resources, networking platforms, leadership, and training opportunities to advance their work and position within the field.

Older will adults soon outnumber children for the first time in history, a shift that has profound implications for healthcare and social services. GSA will play a pivotal role in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with this demographic transition by shaping policy, programs, and education tailored to the needs of older adults, and by promoting evidence-based practices, fostering collaboration, and advocating for inclusive policies.

Diversity Statement: My commitment to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging permeates my leadership approach across research, teaching, and service. Through active engagement in training programs like the Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality Training Program and the Johns Hopkins ADRD Disparities Training, I have deepened my understanding of health disparities and inequalities, particularly among marginalized communities. In my research, I prioritize co-creating culturally inclusive resilience interventions in older adults with cognitive impairment among minoritized populations at greater risk of cognitive disparities. Collaborating with international and interdisciplinary scholars further enriches my perspective. I foster a supportive environment to promote diverse voices and perspectives in my teaching. In addition, my service involvement, including co-leading interest groups for GSA and organizing symposia, advocates for including older adults in research, education, and care, emphasizing diverse perspectives to address health inequities and disparities in healthcare today. Through these efforts, I strive to lead by example and promote diversity, inclusion, and belonging in all professional endeavors.



Janelle E. Fassi, BA, MS

Janelle Fassi is a third-year gerontology PhD student at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has been an active member of GSA since 2021. Janelle has served as conference abstract peer reviewer (2023), Careers in Aging Day Ambassador (2023), Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) Communications Task Force member (2022), and currently serves as the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) ESPO Junior Leader (2023-present). As Junior Leader, Janelle has organized pre-conference webinars, presented talks, and co-chaired ESPO AGHE symposia for the annual scientific meeting. Within AGHE, she sits on the awards review panel (2023-present), Education Resource Development Workgroup (ERDW) (2023-present), and Teaching Institute planning committee (2024). In 2022, she was awarded the James McKenney Student

Travel Award and organized an online information/networking session for awardees and applicants. In her PhD program, Janelle serves as President of the Sigma Phi Omega gerontology honor society (2023-present) and student representative of UMass Boston's Wellness Commission (2024-present). She was awarded the 2024 UMass Boston Gerontology Scholarship Award for her paper on the impact of creative activities on older adult cognition. Her work has been published in the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships, Palgrave Macmillan, and the Public Policy and Aging Report.

Candidate Statement: My experience working with a diversity of students through leadership roles at UMass Boston and GSA have prepared me for this position. One of my most impactful roles was my time as a teaching assistant for Dr. Nina Silverstein's Global Aging and Introduction to Senior Transportation courses. Although I was hesitant to go into teaching, I quickly learned that I could have a real impact on first-generation, international, and nontraditional students. Being a first-generation college student myself, I didn't have a role model to talk through struggles with anxiety, imposter syndrome, and achieving work life balance, and neither did my students. I used my role to advocate for students, talk through their struggles, and serve as a conduit between them and Dr. Silverstein. This sparked my passion for teaching and mentoring students, and I will continue this same pursuit if elected as ESPO Vice Chair. As ESPO Vice Chair-Elect, my priorities will be focused on serving underrepresented student groups including highlighting and improving their mental health challenges, creating networking opportunities, and highlighting their research. These priorities are in line with GSA's, which include acknowledging barriers in place for underrepresented populations, highlighting their research, and putting this research into practice.

Diversity Statement: I am a female first-generation college student and Pell Grant recipient. If Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives weren't enforced, I wouldn't be able to speak on this platform today. Working with students who have different abilities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and cultural backgrounds has informed my work as a researcher and made me a more well-rounded person. My research program also reinforces my commitment to DEI. I am interested in studying the emotional and physical well-being of custodial grandparent caregivers, who are disproportionately female, low-income, and racial and ethnic minorities. I have begun talking with grandparent support groups and service providers and learned that more policies are needed to support vulnerable grandparent caregivers. Through my research, my goal is to actively advocate for services and programs that benefit the grandparents I am studying. If elected as ESPO Vice Chair, my goal is to actively advocate for programs and initiatives that benefit first-generation and nontraditional ESPO members. Although GSA works to improve DEI, so much more can be done, and my experience as a first-generation college student, researcher, and active GSA member will inform my work as ESPO Vice Chair-Elect.

Health Sciences Primary Section Members – Select One Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)



Anju Paudel, PhD, MGS, RN

Dr. Paudel is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the Penn State Nese College of Nursing. Her academic training is in nursing and gerontology. Since her graduate training, Dr. Paudel has consistently focused on better understanding the quality of daily care interactions between care staff and persons living with dementia across settings of care, factors influencing these interactions, and the measures of interactions. Some of this work has led to the development of the 'Promoting Positive Care Interactions (PPCI)' intervention to optimize daily care interactions between staff and residents with cognitive impairment or dementia in assisted living (AL), as well as the development of QUALity of Interactions Inventory (QUALII) tool to assess and guide staff-resident interactions in AL.

Dr. Paudel has been an active GSA member and engaged in diverse service roles including abstract reviewer, session chair, and panelist for GSA Career Conversation series. Most recently she has been committed to GSA service as the co-lead of the virtual meet and collaborate sessions hosted by the HS Section, as well as the member of the GSA on Aging Podcast Series workgroup which will be producing two podcasts this year as a collaborative effort between HS and SRPP Sections.

Candidate Statement: I am excited for the prospect of service as a HS Section Vice-Chair Elect in GSA and consider this opportunity to be an immense honor. Since my membership and engagement with GSA, I have experienced GSA's commitment to aging research, education, and practice and policies. As one of the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging, GSA has been fostering collaboration among behavioral and social scientists, health professionals, educators, economists, policymakers and many other scholars and professionals studying the biological and social science of aging.

I see the role of Vice-Chair Elect as advancing the vision and mission of the GSA, supporting the purpose of the Health Sciences Section, and exploring opportunities to work with other sections to promote cross-disciplinary collaborations. With a background in nursing and gerontology and the experience I have collected thus far in service to various internal and external committees, including in GSA and HS Section, I have developed the skills to support this role. As a HS Section Vice-Chair Elect, I will be devoted to GSA's commitment to the field of aging and build upon HS Section's current efforts and programs while promoting interprofessional collaboration among the members.

Diversity Statement: My commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion will be influenced by my own personal experiences as an international scholar, including in roles such as student, educator, project manager, faculty, and mentor. Through these experiences I have been fortunate to learn from and work collaboratively with individuals of diverse national origins, socio-cultural backgrounds, sexual orientation, and abilities/disabilities, as well as diverse teams comprised of colleagues representing various roles.

In my current role as an assistant professor of nursing, I am always seeking to educate myself on the diversity of students, faculty, and staff and responsibly contribute towards an inclusive professional environment where all feel welcomed and respected. As a researcher, I always aspire to convening a diverse research team, recruiting a diverse sample, and using inclusive and culturally sensitive language in research related documents and activities. As a HS section Vice-Chair Elect, I will bring my experiences and aspirations in contributing to the initiatives or programs to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the diverse GSA community. I will remain committed to finding ways to incorporate diverse voices in GSA and HS activities and foster a sense of belonging among GSA and HS members and those whom they serve.



Elizabeth Vasquez, DrPh, FGSA

Dr. Elizabeth Vásquez is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany School of Public Health. Dr. Vásquez completed her Master of Public Health at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (2002) and a Doctor of Public Health at New York Medical College (2010). Dr. Vásquez considers GSA as her professional home since her days as a graduate student at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Vásquez is currently serving her last year as a GSA Board of Directors member. Dr. Vásquez’s research examines the prevalence of social determinants of health, the behavioral individual-level indicators, and the ecological impact of social context, which contributes to differential health outcomes in racial and ethnically diverse populations, particularly Latinos. In addition, she has received four competitive mentoring fellowships: Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals

Engaged in Health-Related Research Summer Institute Program (PRIDE, NHLBI;2012); the William Butler Scholars Program (NIA, 2015); Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research (STAGR; 2017), and the Hispanic Leadership Institute Training (State University of New York, SUNY) (2022). My training and professional development has strongly positioned me as a recognized contributor to the field and GSA.

Candidate Statement: I am thrilled to be part of the Health Science (HS) Vice Chair-Elect slate of candidates for The Gerontological Society of America. My trajectory with GSA spans over 20 years and it has helped shape my career path of scholarship in the field of aging. My work as an epidemiologist in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany School of Public Health has significant implications in the assessment of the role of social determinants, physical activity, and its counterpart sedentary behavior, among racially and ethnically diverse older adult’s health outcomes. My experience as a Department Chair, Board of Directors’ member and insights into the student and professional realms will help me increase GSA’s visibility, while advocating for racial and ethnic diverse scholars conducting scholarship in aging within health science. In addition to serving as a volunteer in our Health Science section Welcome Committee, I have been active in GSA by reviewing conference abstracts and manuscript submissions for GSA journals. My selection to the Health Science Vice Chair-Elect will help enhance GSA’s vision and expand the ways scientific knowledge is disseminated across disciplines as well as in local, state, and national forums.

Diversity Statement: My consistent commitment to diversity and inclusion is reflected in the composition and contributions of my research. My work is intentionally transdisciplinary, with collaborators from public health, medicine, international and local communities. My track record includes advocating for those under-represented through leadership, mentorship, and being a voice at the table. As a first-generation immigrant and a woman of color in academia, I am uniquely qualified to inform conversations related to social determinants, address barriers relevant to research in this area, and provide context with personal experiences. Furthermore, my commitment to diversity transcends my academic research. I was our section representative to the Task Force on Minority Issues and a member of the GSA Diversity and Justice Working Group, which spearheaded the creation of the GSA diversity, equity, and inclusion policy. If elected, I will continue to promote the need for diverse representation to complement our section’s existing structure and organization. As the race and ethnic distribution of older adults’ change, I am well positioned to be part of the leadership of the Health Science section and GSA and help navigate the upcoming transition, using personal insights, creative ideas, and research to reduce health inequities and promote education, and advocacy.

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Primary Section Members – Select One
Vice Chair-Elect (Four-year term beginning January 1, 2025)**



Sara G. Bybee, PhD, LCSW

Dr. Sara Bybee (she/her) is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Utah College of Nursing. She earned a Master's in Social Work from Portland State University (2012) and is a licensed clinical social worker. During her doctoral education, she was awarded a competitive fellowship in Interdisciplinary Training in Cancer, Caregiving, and End-of-Life Care through the National Institutes of Health. After earning a PhD in Nursing (2021), she completed a postdoctoral fellowship through the Utah Clinical and Translational Institute. Her research examines the structural determinants of health among historically marginalized populations in the context of serious illness and end-of-life care. Dr. Bybee received fellowships through the Utah Health Equity Leadership and Mentoring program, the Compass Leadership and Management Training and Mentoring Program (NIH), and the National History Museum of Utah's Science Communication Fellowship Program. She was recently elected to serve as an ambassador for the

Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research. She has volunteered for several GSA roles including conference abstract reviewer (2018-2024), conference orientation leader, and SRPP new member engagement facilitator. She was a co-convener of the Rainbow Research special interest group (2019-2022) and is serving her last year as an SRPP ESPO Junior Leader (2022-2024).

Candidate Statement: GSA has been my professional home since my first annual scientific meeting in 2017. My engagement in GSA has been pivotal in my career, and I seek to provide the same invaluable experiences to other SRPP members. As a second-year SRPP ESPO Junior Leader, I have engaged with SRPP section leaders and seen their dedication to their section members and GSA. I contributed to the development of presidential symposiums, networking events, and mentored other early-career scholars. As the Vice-Chair elect, I aim to increase awareness of how GSA can foster career advancement for early career scholars. I am also committed to developing standard operating procedures for SRPP leadership and to translating these procedures for use by all sections to increase efficiency, transparency of operations, and mentorship of future leaders. As the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to aging research, education, and practice, GSA not only encourages innovative and rigorous research and its dissemination but has the incredible privilege of engaging with policymakers and the public. As an interdisciplinary scientist with experience engaging with the public and with policymakers, I have the qualifications to succeed in advancing SRPP and GSA's mission.

Diversity Statement: As a Research Assistant Professor, I examine the structural determinants of health impacting historically marginalized communities. With community service experience in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, advocating for health equity in this population is a personal mission. Recently, I received an Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant to develop an advance care planning intervention for Spanish-speaking Hispanic/Latinx individuals living with dementia and their care partners. As a co-convener of the Rainbow Research special interest group, I developed a workshop regarding grant writing for scholars conducting LGBTQ+ aging research. I provided input to the GSA response to a Request for Information from the White House Office of Science and Technology to inform the Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity. I also contributed to GSA's NIA grant submission to have GSA serve as one of the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research Coordinating Center (RCMAR). Finally, as one of the ESPO SRPP Junior Leaders, I informed the development of the 2023 Presidential Symposium, suggesting we focus on legislation negatively impacting LGBTQ+ individuals. As an SRPP Officer, I would remain committed to social justice, seeking new opportunities for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion within SRPP, GSA, and the greater society.



Cal Halvorsen, PhD, MSW

Cal J. Halvorsen, PhD, MSW, is an assistant professor at the Boston College School of Social Work, a project lead and investigator at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Center for Work, Health, and Well-being, and an affiliate of the Center on Aging & Work at Boston College. His work examines the need and desire for people to work past traditional retirement age, with particular emphasis on self-employment, low-income workers, and volunteering. His research has been funded by the U.S. Social Security Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Institutes of Health, AmeriCorps, and AARP. Cal's expertise on older workers has been featured in several outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and BBC. Commencing September 2024, he will be an associate professor with tenure.

Prior to earning his PhD, Cal worked for six years at CoGenerate (formerly Encore.org), later serving as its director of research and evaluation. Now CoGenerate's senior research fellow, Cal advises the nonprofit organization on its research initiatives related to bringing the generations together for the social good. Cal also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Gerontological Social Work and Journal of Intergenerational Relationships.

Candidate Statement: My commitment to GSA, and notably SRPP, spans my entire career. My first GSA Annual Scientific Meeting was in San Francisco in 2007. Having just started the second year of my Master of Social Work program, I was amazed by the rich mix of gerontological scholars who spanned multiple fields and who were kind enough to chat with an eager student. I have prioritized my attendance at GSA Annual Scientific Meetings since, including chairing symposia and workshops, and now have the privilege of serving on GSA's Public Policy Advisory Panel. I have also reviewed conference abstracts for the past 10 years, exposing me to the incredibly diverse scholarship that GSA offers.

The SRPP section meetings and informal gatherings with many of its members have truly enriched my career. I relish SRPP's multidisciplinary nature and its attention to early-career scholars. Indeed, I am the recipient of SRPP's generosity, having received the Carroll L. Estes Rising Star Award in 2020. If elected, my focus would be to grow our membership ranks, maintain and increase engagement in SRPP activities, and highlight the real-world implications of SRPP members' scholarship, with special emphasis on connecting scholars at different levels of their careers.

Diversity Statement: My priority as a gerontological social work scholar has been to highlight the experiences and outcomes of a diverse group of older adults who continue to stay engaged in paid and unpaid work. This includes older workers and volunteers with low incomes and assets, and those who are recent immigrants, non-native English speakers, and racial and ethnic minorities. As examples, one of my favorite research experiences was engaging a diverse group of unemployed older adults and their case managers in a participatory research project; I am also proud that I have taught PhD students approaches to increase racial and ethnic representation—and reduce the use of the “other race” category—in data analysis. In the classroom, I also use andragogy, often called adult learning theory, to guide my teaching. This approach helps me to create an environment that appreciates the rich knowledge and experiences of students from multiple generations and backgrounds in my graduate program. If elected as SRPP Vice Chair-Elect, I would continue our section's work to maintain a welcoming presence for scholars from multiple backgrounds while seeking to create a sense of belonging among our diverse group of members.