

*University of Alaska Anchorage*  
*AGKEC and Gerontology Program Activities and Accomplishments*  
*July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004*  
*Final Activities Report*

The following bullet points highlight accomplishments and activities that have occurred over the past year related to the University of Alaska's efforts to address the training needs of professionals, paraprofessionals and community members in the field of aging and elder services.

- Geriatric Education Center officially funded beginning July 1, 2003. This five-year grant will provide academic and professional development in the field of geriatrics (see attached GEC summary).
- UA Gerontology Update – is an e-news letter sent out via the Center for Human Development's contact database (about 200 people). The first e-news was sent out in June. The purpose of the Update is to provide information on current and future training activities related to gerontology/geriatrics in Alaska (see attached sample).
- The information in the Update can also be found by going to the Center for Human Development's web site (<http://www.alaskachd.org/gerontology>).
- UAA Minor in Gerontology program was officially approved December, 2002. Funds from the AKGEC will be used to support faculty to incorporate geriatric practice, service learning and distance delivery methods onto all courses listed in the Minor (see brochure).
- Thanks to co-support/funding from the Alaska Commission on Aging (\$50K), we have been able to create a series of training topics that were presented at UAA's Summer Institute on Aging (July 11, 2003), Care of the Elderly Conference in Sitka (Sept 18-20, 2003), and the Alaska Public Health Association Health Summit – Elders Track (December 1-5, 2003) at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel, and at the Full Lives Conference at the Anchorage Marriot Hotel (April 29-30, 2004). Selected topics were/are being presented by experts in their given field and vary per venue:
  - Managing Medication Wisely
  - Encouraging Physical and Nutritional Well Being
  - Assessing Mental Health Status and Accessing Mental Health Care
  - Addressing the Role of Spirituality
  - Understanding Palliative Care
  - Assessing Care Needs
  - Identifying Elder Abuse and Available Services

\*\* Information from these presentations are being used to develop a series of training modules that will be delivered via face to face workshop/meetings, and through distance delivery methods. All presentations will incorporate information addressing the MHTA beneficiary groups.

\*\* In funds were utilized to co-sponsor Dr. Thomas Perls, as a Key Note speaker at the Health Summit in December. - Dr. Perls is a physician and researcher in the study of aging at Boston University Medical School. As Associate Professor in Medicine

- and a Geriatrician he cares for older patients at Boston Medical Center. Since he first discovered that his centenarian patients were among his healthiest, Dr. Perls has become one of a handful of world's experts studying these exceptional human beings. For the past seven years he has directed the New England Centenarian Study (NECS). Funded by The Institute for the Study of Aging, The Ellison Medical Foundation, The Alzheimer's Association, and The National Institute on Aging, the NECS is the largest genetic and social study of centenarians and their families in the world.
- Additional training activities sponsored by the AKGEC/UAA Gerontology Program include the following:
    - Summer Institute in Gerontology – co sponsored a two-day workshop with the Northwest Geriatric Education Center during the Summer Institute in Gerontology (July 10-11, 2003) entitled “Keeping Elders Healthy”. 45 people attended this two-day workshop.
    - Summer Institute in Gerontology. In-House Training-Southcentral Elders Program, June 2003. 12 Alaska Natives attending.
    - Strategies for Assisting Aging Family Caregivers of Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities August 22, 2003 – co sponsored with the National Family Caregiver Support Program funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. 50 people attended.
    - Workshop on Aging – Normal Aging vs. Disease, Aging and Medication Adverse Reactions – co sponsored with Associates for Gerontological Education, Inc (AGE, INC) August 20, 2003. 30 people attended.
    - National Institute on Aging – September 10-12, 2003 at UAA and UAF. The meeting emphasized grant support mechanisms and new science initiatives. NIA staff described initiatives designed to recruit and keep emerging investigators and students trained in aging research. They will seek feedback from faculty and students concerning special initiatives and ways to improve them. NIA is also interested in addressing needs and barriers to research careers for minority scientists and students. Advice was provided on how to apply for research support as well as appropriate staff contacts. 43 academic faculty attended.
    - Twenty UAA-Academic Faculty AKGEC Associates identified. Training of four of these (i.e. Adult Education, Social Work, Human Services, Dietetics and Nutrition) is currently underway. Faculty development Workshop planned for May 7 & 8, 2004.
    - Faculty Task Force (2) established for Reformatting of Gerontology/Geriatrics courses into Distance Delivery and Implementing Civic Engagement/Service Learning into Gerontology/Geriatrics Curriculum.
    - Several minor courses (DNA245) and (SOC 310) are currently on line or will be available in summer.
    - UAF Social Work and Aging Society (SWK 370) was made available in Spring 2004 for statewide teleconferencing.
    - UAF Health Psychology aging unit added. Was made available in Spring 2004

- for statewide distance and web-based blackboard delivery.
- UAS permanent regional coordinator hired-Chonalyn Guilas (December 2003)
  - UAF permanent regional coordinator hired-Denise Daniello (April 2004)
  - Exhibits featuring career and training opportunities were displayed at Campus Center, for Careers in Aging Week. Materials provided by Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). (April 8 & 9, 2004).
  - Aging Conference – 6 AKGEC faculty and staff attended the 2004 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on the Aging in San Francisco. (April 2004)
  - Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Training Conference, with funding from the Alaska Commission on Aging/Mental Health Trust Authority in Sitka, (April, 2004)
  - The Culture Gap in the Care of Our Elders Training in Fairbanks (April 13, 2004)
  - Full Lives Conference, Aging Track, in Anchorage (April 29 & 30, 2004)
  - AKGEC Faculty Development Workshop on Distance Delivery (May 7 & 8)
  - Dementia and Aging-The Hope of Brain Sciences, co-sponsored by AKGEC, Alzheimer’s Disease Resource Agency and UAA Campus Bookstore (June 6, 2004)
  - Advanced Care Coordinator Training: Developing Exceptional Skills to Address Special Needs-sponsored by ACoA and DSDS in Anchorage (June 9 & 10, 2004)