

K-STATE CENTER ON AGING

Student Gerontology Update

February 2008

www.ksu.edu/gerontology

CALENDAR

1/30	Last day to enroll
2/06	Last day to drop for 100% refund
2/21	Last day to drop without W
3/15	Residence halls close
3/17-21	Spring Break
3/24	Fall/Summer '08 Enrollment Begins
4/19	KSU Open House
5/12-16	Finals Week
5/22	Grades available on KATS

Note from the Director

What can you do with a secondary major in gerontology? Here at the Center on Aging we've decided to make answering that question our priority for the Spring semester. You'll find career tips in this newsletter and then keep an eye open for the careers in aging series that we'll be showcasing throughout the next few months. Don't forget to rely on Pam's expertise in advising to help you look forward to an exciting future in aging.

This week a former student, Tim McGlasson, sent me the following note after reading our most recent alumni letter. "Since my graduation in 1990 I have worked in a variety of areas. I was a long term care administrator in Missouri for four year before completing a Master's in Gerontology at Baylor University. My specialization at that time was in gerontological counseling and afforded me the opportunity to work as a professional counselor in public mental health for six years. I am currently completing my Doctorate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice at the University of Washington. My specialization is in geriatric mental health and dementia care. I guess it is true that gerontology really does get into your blood."

Just imagine what we could be reading from you in the next fifteen years! Have a great semester.

Gayle

Advising Notes

The semester is in full swing and graduation will be here before we know it. If you will be graduating in May or August 2008 please schedule a grad check with me to verify that you have completed all the requirements for the secondary major. Every year I have at least one student who thought they had all the requirements completed, but end up 3 hours short. You also need to be thinking about completion of your portfolio which is due at graduation, and completing your exit interview with us. Remember that in order for the university to recognize your secondary major, it must be completed before you graduate. If you have questions or problems, please feel to contact me to schedule a visit.

Pam

Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.

- Booker T. Washington

Websites of Interest:

www.careersinaging.com

www.businessandaging.blogspot.com

<http://agework.com>

Why Work with Older Adults?

People working in aging report great satisfaction in addressing the challenges of those who are growing older, helping to maintain the quality of their lives, and enjoying the wit, wisdom, and creativity of the older persons with whom they come in contact. Working in the field of aging provides an opportunity to influence the agencies and organizations serving older persons and the legislation

Wage Estimations: Cashing In...

All of the following represent a yearly wage.

Medical

Physician	\$163,965
Therapist (PT, OT, etc.)	\$58,000
Registered Nurse	\$49,170
Pharmacist	\$83,420
Optometrist	\$91,970

Health Occupations

Life Science/Biology	\$35,000
Fitness/Aerobic Instructor	\$25,260
Medical & Health Services Mgr	\$65,430
Long-term Care Administrator	\$81,000

Human Service

Community & Social Services	\$33,500
Social & Human Service Asst	\$24,450
Recreation Therapist	\$29,840

Mental Health

Psychiatrist	\$180,960
Mental Health Counselor	\$33,370
Licensed Social Worker	\$43,480
Licensed Psychologist	\$53,790

Others

Dietician	\$58,000
Food Manager	\$50,930
Interior Design	\$37,240
Architects	\$56,810
Lawyers	\$80,690
Arbitrator/Mediators	\$44,260

This represents a listing of average salaries for careers generally known to work with older adults. These are averages and do not guarantee that any one individual could expect this income upon graduation. Salaries do vary greatly based on region. All salaries are representative of a range in Kansas.

Information collected from US Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2006

Selling Your Skills Related to Older Adults To Potential Employers

Some employers may not even know the value of hiring someone with skills and knowledge of older adults. You will need to highlight why that would benefit them. You can take the opportunity to make that connection for a potential employer in several different ways. Many interviewers may ask you to tell them about yourself or to identify a strength you possess in the interview process. If the job you are interviewing for is related to aging, this is a great time to highlight your skills related to older adults. If the job you are seeking is not directly related to working with older adults, take time to make the connection for those that are interviewing you. For example, if you are interviewing for a position in a bank, you might say the following as appropriate. "The older adult population is growing with the baby boomer generation approaching retirement. I have volunteered with older adults and I have taken classes to learn specifically about aging. Customer service is an important part of this job. I feel confident about providing quality customer service to all customers but feel especially comfortable working with older adults." Skills in aging along with your other skills may close the deal in landing your first job.

Most Overrated Careers of 2008

According to US News and World Report
These are careers that have down sides that career seekers were unaware of when they chose their career path.

Architect	Accounting Executive
Attorney	Chef
Chiropractor	Medical Scientist
Physician	Nonprofit Manager
Police Officer	Clinical Psychologist
Teacher	Real Estate Agent

Small-Business Owner

For more information go to: www.usnews.com

TOP 10 INTERVIEW BLUNDERS

- ★ **Don't Prepare:** Be prepared to answer the following question: "What do you know about this company?"
- ★ **Dress Inappropriately:** It is a good idea to go to the company you want to work for and see how others dress. If unsure, dress up not down.
- ★ **Poor Communication Skills:** Be sure to shake hands, make eye contact, and exude confidence.
- ★ **Too Much Communication:** Do not bring a cell phone to an interview. Don't bring anything except your resume, job application, list of references, and yourself.
- ★ **Talk Too Much:** Keep answers to questions succinct, to-the-point and focused.
- ★ **Don't Talk Enough:** Be sure to be responsive to the interviewer and fully answer the questions as best you can.
- ★ **Fuzzy Facts:** Be sure to know the information you will need to complete an application if you are asked. This would include details like dates of employment, graduation dates, and employer contact information.
- ★ **Give the Wrong Answer:** Make sure you listen to the question and take a moment to gather your thoughts before you respond.
- ★ **Badmouthing Past Employers:** The world is sometimes smaller than you think. The interviewer might know the boss you think was a jerk at your last job. This could be a deal breaker.
- ★ **Forget to Follow Up:** Be sure to follow up with a thank you note reiterating your interest in the position and the company.

Information gathered from: <http://jobsearch.about.com>

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CAREERS IN AGING SERIES

Choosing the right career can be a huge decision.

We are happy to announce an opportunity to hear from professionals that work with older adults. Learn how you can put your skills and knowledge of aging to work.

February 20th at 1:30

Union Rm. 209

Featured Speakers:

Gabrielle Thompson, Attorney

Doretha McWilliams, Adult Protective Services

Rachel Logan, Area Agency on Aging

Future Panel dates:

March 12th, April 2nd, and April 24th

See full flyer for details at:

www.humec.k-state.edu/aging

Click on brochures and publications



“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

-Theodore Roosevelt