Greetings to all Youth, Aging and Life Course Division members! It is a pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of the Division. I have been active in the SSSP for a number of years, but I consider the opportunity to serve the Division as exciting, challenging and fun. I hope that many of you will share your talents with us over the next couple of years.

We had a very successful program at the SSSP meetings in Philadelphia this past August, and I want to thank outgoing Chair Tracy Dietz for doing an excellent job in putting together an exciting and extensive program. Tracy is now serving ably on the Society’s Board of Directors.

The theme of the SSSP meetings this coming year is “Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities.” One of our open paper sessions at the 2006 meetings will be directly oriented toward this theme: “Economic Restructuring, Aging and the Life Course.” Propose papers that relate to this theme to Leslie Hossfeld, UNC-Wilmington (hossfeld@uncw.edu).

Begin now to plan for your participation in the 2006 annual meetings to be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 10-12. In addition to the thematic session, there are to be two open submission paper sessions and three co-sponsored sessions, one with Educational Problems, one with Family, and the third with Institutional Ethnography Divisions. Please note: Submit abstracts and papers electronically this year.

Additionally, please share your news with Division members in the next newsletter. Send me information about your career moves, recognitions, and recent publications. Reviews of relevant books are also welcome.
Graduate Student Paper Competition

All graduate students are encouraged to apply for the annual SSSP Youth, Aging and the Life Course Division Student Paper Competition. Papers should be related to the broad division interest. Up to two awards will be made, providing at least two papers are deemed meritorious. The first place winner will receive a monetary prize of $100 and the second place winner, $60. Additionally, the first place winner will receive student membership in SSSP, SSSP conference registration, and a ticket to the SSSP Awards Banquet.

To be eligible, the paper must meet the following criteria: 1) the paper must have been written between January 2005 and February 2006; 2) the paper must not have been submitted or accepted for publication (papers presented at professional meetings or submitted for presentation at other meetings are eligible, as are papers based on theses or dissertations; 3) the paper must be authored by one or more graduate students and not co-authored by faculty or a colleague who is not a student; 4) the paper must be no longer than 30 double-spaced pages, including all notes, references, and tables; and 5) the paper must be presented at the 2006 SSSP meeting in August in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Thus, it is strongly recommended that at least an abstract of the paper be submitted to the Chair of the Youth, Aging and Life Course Division by January 31, 2006. Email two copies of the complete paper, along with a brief letter of submission identifying your graduate program and signed by your advisor, to Dr. Carolyn C. Perrucci, Chair, (perruccic@purdue.edu), by March 15, 2006.

Section Chair-Elect
We welcome your nominations, including self-nominations, for the Election of Chair-Elect in 2006. Contact or send names, with a short bio if possible, to Carolyn C. Perrucci (email: perruccic@purdue.edu).

Graduate Student Paper Award
The Division makes up to two awards for outstanding graduate student papers. If you would be willing to serve on the evaluation committee, please contact me. Alternatively, encourage one of your students to submit a paper for this competition.

Division Members’ News and Publications


Susan M. Hannum, graduated this past spring 2005 with an M.A. in Applied Sociology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, after having completed her thesis on nurse and physician relationships. Upon graduating, she was hired as research project interviewer at the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH) at Thomas Jefferson University, working on a qualitative research project pertaining to the experiences of suffering in later life. She is currently applying to Ph.D. programs and also working on a couple of research articles related to her current work at CARAH.
