LAUNCHING A NEW INITIATIVE: “AGING & THE WISCONSIN IDEA”

One central mission of the Institute on Aging is to promote the health and well-being of Wisconsin’s rapidly expanding aged population through research translation—that is, making knowledge of current scientific studies accessible and available to ever larger segments of the general public. Responsive to this need, the Institute has initiated a new program called “Aging and the Wisconsin Idea,” the goal of which is to broaden the scope of IOA dissemination activities to people around the state.

The first event will take place on April 7 at the UW-Fox Valley Campus in Menasha. It has been organized by members of the IOA Advisory Board: Alma Baron (Chair), Joyce Bromley, Margery Buckeridge, Marge Tobias, Carol Toussaint, and Martha Wells Lewis, working with David Weerts and Kristine Thompson of the UW Foundation, and Carol Ryff and Kay Smith of the IOA. To maximize participation in and visibility of the event, it has also been coordinated with the Wisconsin Alumni Association and the Chancellor’s “On the Road” initiative.

The program to be presented is titled “Successful Aging: Making the Most of Later Life.” It will feature four short presentations by the individuals below, followed by open discussion sessions.

Joseph Kemnitz, Director of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center and Professor of Physiology will speak on “Monkeying Around with Aging,” drawing on his more than 20 years of study of aging and age-related disorders in monkeys and apes. He will describe ongoing collaborative studies to document the beneficial effects of moderate restriction of food intake on slowing aging processes. Because of the shared characteristics of Rhesus monkeys and other nonhuman primates with our own species, they provide valuable models for learning about human health and disease, including the biological changes that occur with advancing age.
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Dr. Cohen has been very active in disseminating knowledge about aging in the national media. He has been on Nightline, the MacNeil/Lehrer Show, CBS Nightly News, NBC Nightly News, the Today Show, Good Morning America, and a series of public services messages with George Burns and Steve Allen.

Preregistration is required for the dinner lecture.

New Investigator Awards to be Presented

The New Investigator Awards recognize outstanding achievement in biomedical and social/behavioral research in aging by new investigators during their student years or periods of advanced training at the UW-Madison campus. The awards will be presented at the IOA Colloquium dinner lecture on April 27.

April 28 Symposium

“Gender Differences in Alzheimer’s Disease,” Mark Sager, M.D. Director, Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute; Associate Professor of Medicine, UW-Madison, 9 a.m.

“Caregiving as a Life Course Transition for Older Husbands,” Betty J. Kramer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, UW-Madison, 9:40 a.m.

“Prostate Disease—Why are we Treating it?” Tim Moon, M.D., Professor of Surgery-Urology, Chief, Urology and Assistant Chief, Surgery, VA Hospital, 10:35 a.m.

“The ABCs of Heart Disease Prevention,” James Stein, M.D., Associate Director, Preventive Cardiology, Assistant Professor of Medicine, UW-Madison, 11:15 a.m.

Emeritus Luncheon Lecture

“21 Steps for a Sustainable and Healthy 21st Century” (12-noon), Philip Lewis, MLA, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning.

Philip Lewis Jr., FASLA, APA, AICP, is a Jens Jensen Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Director of the Environmental Awareness Center. He is president and executive director of the Marshall Erdman Academy of Sustainable Design. His current interests are in regional urbanization patterns, rail-line preservation and utilization for transit and development of urban form potential.

Dr. Lewis served as a second chair of the UW Department of Landscape Architecture. He served under Governor Gaylord Nelson as director of the Recreation Resources Research & Design Section of the Wisconsin DNR to develop the state’s recreation and acquisition plan.

Dr. Lewis has authored over 100 publications, the latest of which is titled “Tomorrow by Design, a Regional Design Process for Sustainability.” He received the Society of Landscape Architecture’s Medal in 1987. One nominator stated that “Philip Lewis is one of the grandest and most visionary thinkers in landscape architecture.”

Attendees who wish to receive a free box lunch must preregister by April 18. Those who do not wish to participate in the free lunch may attend without preregistering.

Senator Russell Feingold to Receive Award at Emeritus Luncheon

The Institute on Aging is proud to present Senator Russell Feingold with its First Annual Award for Public Service on Friday, April 28 at the IOA Spring colloquium. This award recognizes Senator Feingold’s long-standing advocacy and sponsorship of aging issues while serving in the U.S. and Wisconsin State Senates.

Senator Feingold was a member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging for almost 7 years. He was also the leader of the Democratic Caucus Long-Term Care Reform Team during the health care reform debate in 1994. He authored long-term care reform proposals introduced in three sessions of Congress and was an original cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

Senator Feingold was the Chair of the Wisconsin State Senate Aging Committee for 10 years where he was an active advocate of the Community Options and senior nutrition programs. He authored Wisconsin’s anti-age discrimination law and two blueprints for long-term care reform. He was also the author of Wisconsin’s nationally-recognized Alzheimer’s program.

In 1997, Senator Feingold was awarded the Claude Pepper Legislative Leadership Award by the Long-Term Care Campaign in 1997 and received the Claude Pepper Award for Excellence from the National Institute on Community-Based Long-Term Care in 1998. He received the Community Building Award by the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups in 1988 and 1992.

The Institute on Aging is pleased to recognize and honor this wonderful record on behalf of the expanding aged population. His contributions to improving the health and well-being of Wisconsin’s elders, and those around the country, are outstanding.

April 28 Poster Session

Posters by UW faculty and researchers on a wide variety of aging studies will be presented from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A detailed list of topics will be posted on the Institute’s web site in April: http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/aging

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Registration Information:
To obtain a registration form for the dinner lecture and Emeritus luncheon, please contact the Institute on Aging, 2245 MSC, 1300 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706-1532, (608)262-1818.

All events will be held at the Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706-1532.

This event is sponsored by the Institute on Aging, UW-Madison and Aventis Pharmaceuticals (formerly Hoechst Marion Roussel).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University of Wisconsin-Madison will make every effort to honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Requests can be responded to more effectively if received by the institution as far in advance of the Colloquium as possible, preferably at least a week. Direct accommodation requests to Kay Smith, 608-263-6404.

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Karen Cruickshanks, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and Preventive Medicine will speak about “Sensory Impairments in Older Adults: Lessons from Beaver Dam.” Dr. Cruickshanks’ research focuses on identifying lifestyle, genetic, or environmental factors that increase risk of developing age-related sensory problems such as macular degeneration, hearing loss, cataracts, and difficulty detecting some odors. The ultimate goal is to learn how to prevent or delay these diseases processes and lessen their adverse consequences.

Marsha Seltzer, Professor, School of Social Work and Waisman Center, will speak about “The Impact of Lifelong Caregiving.” Becoming a family caregiver is a rarely anticipated, but almost universally experienced role. Dr. Seltzer’s research focuses on a unique group of family caregivers: parents who have provided lifelong care for an adult child with mental retardation. Her research has documented notable well-being among these caregivers, and she will describe some of the factors that account for why this is the case.

Carol Ryff, Director of the Institute on Aging and Professor of Psychology, will speak on “Aging is not for Sissies: Probing the Secrets of Later Life Resilience.” Dr. Ryff studies the psychological and social strengths that help some individuals weather age-related life challenges. She will describe notable evidence of resilience in the face of adversity and highlight current findings that link psychosocial strengths to biology, where the goal is to understand how they afford protection against later life illness and disease.

The long-term objective of “Aging and the Wisconsin Idea” is to hold one such event each fall and spring at different locations around the state. Planning for the second event, which will take place in the fall, is currently underway.

JoAnne Robbins, IOA Interim Associate Director, will organize the program for this event from among IOA affiliates.

For further information, contact the Institute on Aging, 2245 MSC, 1300 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706, 608-262-1818. E-Mail: aging@ssc.wisc.edu

NEW IOA DISPLAY PREMIERED AT GSA

A new Institute on Aging Exhibit made its first appearance at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting in San Francisco this past November 19-22.

The display emphasizes the IOA’s bridging of aging at UW-Madison and outlines its affiliation with the following groups:

Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Institute
VA Geriatric Research, Education & Clinical Center
Center for Demography & Ecology
Center for the Demography of Health & Aging
Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center
Geriatrics & Gerontology-Department of Medicine
National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health
Center for Mind-Body Interaction

The display also outlines the IOA’s involvement in the following areas:

Clinical Care
Primary Health Care
Geriatric Assessment
Specialty Care
Preventive Gerontology

Multidisciplinary Research
110 Faculty Affiliates (45 departments)
Biomedical
Psychosocial
Multiple Longitudinal Studies

Education & Training
Specialist in Gerontology
Ph.D. Minor in Aging Studies
Geriatric Fellowships
Training Grants:
  Biology of Aging & Age-Related Diseases
  Population, Life Course & Aging

The exhibit was staffed by Jim Porter of the IOA. He reported that the display was well received and of great interest to many individuals attending the meeting.
IOA VISITING SCHOLAR:
BURTON SINGER

Burton Singer, Professor of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, is spending his sabbatical at the UW’s Institute on Aging this spring. Dr. Singer was formerly Dean of Public Health at Yale University and Professor of Statistics at Columbia University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and received in 1994 the Mindel C. Sheps Award for Outstanding Contributions to Mathematical Demography. Currently, Professor Singer chairs the National Research Council Panel on Future Directions for Behavioral and Social Science Research at the NIH.

Professor Singer has a broad career, covering such diverse topics as environmental management of vector-borne diseases in the tropics and the development of a combinatorial theory of randomness and degrees of irregularity. Specific to aging, his interests are in: (1) characterizing the heterogeneity in disabilities and chronic conditions in the elderly population and their changes over time, (2) developing mathematical and statistical methods for projecting health status dynamics, (3) integrating psychosocial and biological factors to characterize pathways to diverse health outcomes. In collaboration with Dr. Kenneth G. Manton (Duke University), he has analyzed the consequences of the observed 1.5% annual decline in disability among the 65+ population for future solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. [See Manton, Singer, & Suzman (1993) Forecasting the Health of Elderly Populations (NY: Springer-Verlag); Singer & Manton (1998) “The Effects of Health Changes on Projections of Health Service Needs for the Elderly Population of the U.S.,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Vol 95, 15618-15622.]

Dr. Singer has been instrumental in adding biological agendas to the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (headed by Professor Robert M. Hauser) and the Wisconsin Study of Community Relocation (headed by Professor Carol D. Ryff). Both studies are involved in the recently funded Center for Mind/Body Interaction. Professor Singer is an investigator on multiple projects in the Center and will direct the Statistics Core. He brings to these studies the assessments of “allostatic load,” a summary index of cumulative wear and tear on multiple physiological systems, and along the way has developed methods to integrate complex, cross-time data to understand routes to health outcomes [see Singer & Ryff (1999) “Hierarchies of Life Histories and Health Risks,” Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol 896, 96-115; Singer, Ryff, Carr, & Magee (1998) “Life Histories and Mental Health: A Person-Centered Strategy,” Sociological Methodology (p.1-51)].

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE ON AGING

Why study aging? According to the AOA, in 1900, 4.1% of the American population was 65 years and older. That percentage rose to 12.7% by 1998, and it is expected to increase to 20% by 2030. The older population itself is getting older. In 1998, the number of people aged 75-84 was 16 times larger than in 1900, and the 85+ group was 33 times larger. These demographic changes will result in an ever-increasing demand for an educated work force qualified to address the needs of an aging society.

The Institute on Aging offers a Specialist in Gerontology certificate and a Ph.D. Minor in Aging Studies.

The Specialist in Gerontology Certificate Program is designed to be an introduction and broad overview of the multidisciplinary field of gerontology. It is patterned after standards and guidelines established by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the only national membership organization devoted primarily to gerontological education. It is an academically-oriented, multidisciplinary program focused on general education and the liberal arts that addresses gerontology as a specialty supplementing traditional disciplines.

Students from diverse majors may choose careers in which they will work with the older population. Examples include, but are not limited to, child and family studies, consumer science, continuing and vocational education, dietetics, economics, environment, textiles, and design, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, preventive medicine, psychology, public policy, rural sociology, sociology, and urban and regional planning. The program is intended for undergraduate, masters, and special students.

The 18-credit program requires completion of a 3-credit core gerontology course, 4-6 credits in the Social/Behavioral Aspects of Aging, 2-3 credits in the Biological/Physiological/Health Aspects of Aging, and 6-9 credits of elective coursework.

The Ph.D. Minor in Aging Studies offers advanced study of various aspects of social gerontology, lifespan development, and biogerontology. Students can tailor the program of study to meet their academic needs. The 10-credit program is intended for students enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the UW-Madison and fulfills the Option B minor requirement of the Graduate School.

Lists of course requirements and registration forms can be obtained at the Institute on Aging, 2245 MSC, 1300 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706, 608-262-1818, aging@ssc.wisc.edu. The course requirements can also be viewed at the Institute on Aging website, http://ssc.wisc.edu/aging. Information about careers in aging can be obtained at the AGHE web site: www.aghe.org.
NEW INSTITUTE ON AGING AFFILIATES

The UW-Madison Institute on Aging is pleased to welcome the following new affiliates. Institute affiliates are UW-Madison faculty and scientists who are involved with research, educational, and/or clinical activities in gerontology, geriatrics, and/or life course studies.

Daniel Albert, Professor, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Neil Barney, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Mary Behan, Professor, Department of Comparative Biosciences

Deric Bownds, Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Zoology

Suresh Chandra, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Yuri Danilov, Assistant Scientist, Department of Anatomy

David Jarrett, Assistant Professor, Departments of Surgery and Environmental Toxicology

Laura Kiessling, Professor, Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Robert Nickells, Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

Maureen Smith, Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine

IOA AFFILIATES IN THE NEWS

IOA affiliates Laura Kiessling, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Tomas Prolla, Assistant Professor of Genetics, were included in a February 1 Wisconsin Week article about bioscience leaders at UW-Madison. Dr. Kiessling studies the causes of inflammation, the body’s response to injury or infection that causes pain and swelling. Dr. Prolla studies how cancers can develop from various genetic defects in DNA repair pathways.

Kelli Koltyn was profiled in the March 1, 2000 issue of Wisconsin Week. Dr. Koltyn, an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and IOA affiliate, studies the intersection between pain and exercise and whether or not exercise can have a pain-relieving effect. The complete article can be found on the University of Wisconsin web page:http://www.news.wisc.edu.

IOA AFFILIATES RECOGNIZED

Alan Attie, Biochemistry, was named a Vilas Associate for 2000-2001.

Dale Schoeller, Nutritional Sciences, will receive the Herman Award for Clinical Research from the American Society of Clinical Nutrition in April.

NEWS ON IOA ADMINISTERED GRANTS

GRANTS RECEIVED

Neil Binkley has been awarded $101,982 for a clinical trial supported by Lilly Research Laboratories. This is a study of Raloxifene HCl and Placebo in Prevention of Invasive Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women with Osteoporosis.”

PROPOSALS PENDING

Steven Barczi, “Geriatric medical education that prepares physicians to meet the demands of an aging nation,” AAMC Division of Medical Education

NEWS ON AFFILIATE GRANTS

Larry Bumpass and Jim Sweet, Sociology, have received funding for a third wave of the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH). The project is being funded jointly by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute on Aging. The reinterviews will be conducted by phone in 2000-2001. Some aspects of the design are still being worked out, but much of the sample will be reinterviewed in two complementary components. There will be reinterviews with both the main respondent and with their “focal” child. These children were living with their main-respondent parents at the first interview in 1987-88, and questions specific to them were asked at that interview. They were subsequently interviewed by phone at the time of the second wave of NSFH (1992-94) and will be ages 18 to 31 at the time of the third-wave interviews. In addition, respondents who did not have a child ages 5-18 in their household at the first interview (and hence are not represented in the parent-child interviews) will be reinterviewed if they are over 45. It is possible that some, or all, of the spouses of these main respondents will be reinterviewed as well.

Mary Hayney, Pharmacy, received a Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists/Pfizer Award for her project, “Vaccine-Induced Cytokine Production as a Predictor of Life History and Health.”

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News on Affiliate Grants, continued from page 5

Kelli Kolyn, Kinesiology, was awarded $29,905 from the Jacobs Institute of Women’s Health for a one-year project titled “Association between Physical Activity, Physical Functioning, and Quality of Life in Older Women Residing in Long-term Care Facilities.” The award will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in May.

Julie Mares-Perlman, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, received the Research to Prevent Blindness Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award, contributing $55,000 to her research in diet and age-related eye diseases.

PRIMATE CENTER NEWS

Jon Ramsey, Ph.D., (Aging and Metabolic Diseases) is the principal investigator on a one-year NIH-NIA grant entitled, “Dietary Restriction and Regional Energy Expenditure.”

James Ver Hoeve, Ph.D., presented an invited lecture, “Changes in retinal and cortical function in aging rhesus monkeys” Nov. 11 at the conference on Aging Retina and Early Degeneration.


Rick Weindruch and Thomas Prolla, Ph.D., were mentioned in Signals, the online magazine of biotechnology industry analysis, in an article entitled, “Essence de vie.” (http://www.signalsmag.com/)


Publications:


WISCONSIN SYMPOSIUM ON EMOTION

The 2000 Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion to be held on April 13 and 14 will be the sixth in a successful series of annual symposia initiated in 1995 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to foster cross-disciplinary discussion of cutting edge research on emotion. The topic for the two-day symposium will be “The Neurobiology of Positive Emotion.” The symposium format and program schedule is as follows:

“On the Neurobiology of Emotion,” Antonio R. Damasio, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Neurology, University of Iowa, College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA; Adjunct Professor, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, CA.

“Individual Differences in Positive Affect: Perspectives from Affective Neuroscience,” Richard J. Davidson, Ph.D., William James and Vilas Research Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry; Director, Keck Laboratory for Functional Brain Imaging and Behavior, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

“Sleep, Sleep Deprivation and Affect,” David F. Dinges, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry; Chief, Division of Sleep and Chronobiology; Director, Unit for Experimental Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.

“Multiple Contributions of the Amygdala to Motivational and Incentive Processes,” Michela Gallagher, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

“The Neurobiology of Attachment,” Thomas R. Insel, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science; Director, Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.


“Reward Processing in Primate Basal Ganglia and Frontal Cortex,” Wolfram Schultz, M.D., Professor and Chair of Neurophysiology, Institute of Physiology, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland.

For additional information contact: HealthEmotions Research Institute, (608) 263-6161, e-mail shattuck@facstaff.wisc.edu, or visit the web site at www.healthemotions.org
The American Society on Aging (ASA), in partnership with the Minnesota Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC) and the UW-Madison Institute on Aging, will sponsor the Upper Midwest Summer Series on Aging at Concordia University in St. Paul June 19-22, 2000.

Over 40 half- and full-day intensive workshops will be offered on important community issues: dementia care; care management; clinical and health care issues; mental health/behavioral health and aging; rural aging issues; long-term care; diversity issues; management and staffing issues; religion, spirituality and aging; legal and ethical issues; environments, technologies and housing options; and life planning.

Continuing education credits are available for care/case managers, counselors, nurses, nursing home administrators and social workers. Other professions may be eligible for continuing education credits; please contact ASA’s continuing education coordinator for more details (415) 974-9632.

The registration fee for ASA/MAGEC/UW Institute on Aging members is $63 for half-day intensives and $118 for full-day intensives; lunch is included.

To request more information or to register, contact the American Society on Aging, 833 Market Street, Suite 511, San Francisco, CA 94103-1824, (415) 974-9600; fax (415) 974-0300; e-mail: info@asa.asaging.org; website: www.asaging.org

Mary Naylor, Ph.D., FAAN, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing will give a presentation titled “The Unique Contributions of APNs: Evidence from Their Care of Vulnerable Elders” on April 13, 2000, 9-11 a.m. at Meriter Hospital. Dr. Naylor is Associate Dean and Killebrew/Censits Professor of Undergraduate Education, Associate Director of the Center for Gerontologic Nursing Science, and Co-Director of Living Independently for Elders (LIFE) at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing. Dr. Naylor has been Principal Investigator of two major studies funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and recently published some of her findings on comprehensive discharge planning and follow-up of hospitalized elders in JAMA.

Dr. Naylor’s talk will focus on Advanced Practice Nursing and the critical contributions nurses make in the care of vulnerable elders. Dr. Naylor’s talk will be a unique blend of practice and research issues and the role of nursing research in improving the care of vulnerable populations. She will share an overview of a number of studies highlighting the unique contributions of APNs to the care of vulnerable elders. From the logs that APNs kept during these studies, Dr. Naylor has been able to identify the major patient problems the nurses encountered, to document the nursing intervention that they used in their practice, and to demonstrate the positive effects on patient outcomes. Exemplar case studies will be used to illustrate the complexity of care issues and system issues, as well as the strengths needed by APNs for this type of practice.

Dr. Naylor’s talk is being cosponsored by Beta Eta chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, UW-Madison School of Nursing, Meriter Nursing Department-Madison, WI, St. Mary’s Hospital Nursing Department-Madison, WI, UW Hospitals and Clinics Nursing Department-Madison, WI, and the Institute on Aging, UW-Madison.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

12th Annual Colloquium on Aging:
April 27 & 28, 2000
Dinner: Thurs. evening, April 27, Pyle Center
Colloquium: Friday, April 28, Pyle Center

13th Annual Colloquium on Aging:
April 19 & 20, 2001
Dinner: Thurs. evening, April 19, Pyle Center
Colloquium: Friday, April 20, Pyle Center

6th Annual Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion
“The Neurobiology of Positive Emotion”
April 13 & 14, 2000
Monona Terrace Convention Center

“Current Issues in Elderly Nutrition”
September 8, 2000, Pyle Center
1-888-391-4255

Wisconsin Deaf Senior Citizen Workshop
October 11-13, 2000 Quality Inn in Eau Claire
Rosemary LeDuc, rrleduc@aol.com

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If you wish to submit an article or other information for this
newsletter, please contact Kathy Page or Karen Meinholz at
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