Aging Studies’ Sandra Reynolds Honored by Gerontological Society of America

Sandra L. Reynolds, PhD, Associate Professor and Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at USF’s School of Aging Studies, was recently honored at the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), as she stepped down from the role of Treasurer after 6 years on GSA’s Executive Committee and governing Council, the first Treasurer to serve that long since the early 1960s.

As Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Reynolds managed a $6.5 million budget and instituted a number of changes. Drawing on her banking background, Reynolds pushed GSA to diversify its Unrestricted Reserves portfolio, originated an Investment Committee to oversee the portfolio, and began a tradition of regular Treasurer’s Reports to the general membership through the Gerontology News, a monthly newsletter published by GSA.

Reynolds has had a long-standing interest in guardianship, advance directives, and legal and ethical issues in aging. She has published extensively on guardianship and advance directives, as well as trends in health. While her research interests still include legal and ethical issues in aging, particularly in the area of guardianship and financial exploitation, her recent focus on aging research relates to the impact of obesity. Obesity has uncertain effects on mortality in older adults, but fairly clearly negative effects on physical functioning. Reynolds’ current research involves the impact of obesity on both disability and disease. She is currently examining differences in active life expectancy in obese and non-obese older adults, as well as working with several colleagues on an NIH grant proposal to study obesity’s effects on mortality, morbidity, and disability.