

National Center on Elder Abuse
NCEA E-NEWS

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**The 2008 NCEA Student Arts Competition:
“Why Should I Care about Elder Abuse?”**

“Art is the struggle to understand.”

- Audrey Foris

On Thursday, April 24th, the 2008 NCEA Student Arts Competition culminated in an intergenerational celebration as the University of Delaware hosted a reception for participating teen artists, their families, and friends. Despite the sobering subject matter, the mood was affirmative as the NCEA featured the efforts of the talented students in a Café of the Arts format that included poetry readings, a multimedia slide presentation, and a premier of an original dance depicting elder neglect.

Dr. Havidan Rodriquez, UD’s Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and International Programs, presided over the evening’s activities, which included another premier: NCEA’s public service announcement featuring national spokesperson for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation awareness, William Mapother.

Mr. Mapother had said earlier of the competition, “this contest offers a rare and valuable intersection of creativity, communication, and community services. When the aim is to help those in need, participating is winning.”

In all, 94 high school students from the Cab Calloway School of the Arts entered the competition. Although ten of the entries were in the visual/multimedia category, most students, who were also permitted to enter as teams, submitted poetry, essays, and short stories. All participants were invited to the reception along with their guests and given individual recognition for their involvement.

"We felt that it was important to recognize each student who entered, because a major goal of the competition was to start younger people talking and thinking about elder abuse," said NCEA Director of Social Marketing and Public Outreach, Carolyn Petrak. Ms. Petrak, who coordinated the reception, (*continued on page 4*)

Updating the NCEA Promising Practices Clearinghouse

In its role as a collaborator of the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) is updating information contained in the Promising Practices Clearinghouse. The function of the Promising Practices Clearinghouse is to encourage evidence-based practices and the replication of innovative programs. All entries in the Clearinghouse are being verified to make sure that information is current and accurate. New evidence-based data are being incorporated.

Information to be updated includes the following: name of the program; program summary and goals; funding source(s); materials/products disseminated; program start date; and relevant contact(s). The new evidence-based data requested include the target population and its size; behavior changes attempted; theoretical foundation of the program; program costs; participation in research; and lessons learned.

The information provided should be incorporated into the NCEA Promising Practices Database by fall 2008. The University of Kentucky is participating in the collection of this information.

As of early May 2008, NCPEA has emailed surveys to 28 states requesting updated information and details regarding the use of evidence-based practices. To date, 26 programs have responded. We ask that program contacts respond as soon as possible to the request, in order to promote promising practices related to elder abuse prevention and intervention throughout the country.

If you would like to share or update information about your program, please contact NCPEA at ncepa@verizon.net.

Special thanks to Wangmo Tenzin of the University of Kentucky and Pamela B. Teaster, President of NCPEA, for contributing this article.

MOSAFE Unveils New Video on Financial Exploitation

Missouri's comprehensive campaign on financial exploitation, *Missourians Stopping Adult Financial Exploitation* (MOSAFE), educates financial institutions and consumers on how to stop attempted or ongoing financial exploitation before a senior or disabled adult's funds are depleted. MOSAFE has a new fast moving video, featuring Emmy Award-winning actress Doris Roberts, best known for her role as nosy Marie Barone in TV's *Everybody Loves Raymond*. She provides the narration on how to prevent this fast-growing crime. The video, brochure, and informative slide show will help the general public and professionals learn how to recognize and report financial exploitation. All the materials can be viewed and/or downloaded from this site: <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/MOSAFE/>.

MOSAFE also provides a training kit to financial institutions and their employees on how to recognize and report this crime. The kit includes a video, brochure, PowerPoint presentation, resource manual and eight articles, which can also be viewed and/or downloaded from their site.

For more information on MOSAFE, please call the Department of Health and Senior Services' toll-free Information and Referral line, 1-800-235-5503.

Special thanks to Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of NAPSA, for contributing this article.

National Elder Abuse Training Survey Under Development

One of the three current priorities of the NCEA is the development and dissemination of training for key stakeholders involved in prevention and intervention of elder abuse. As a collaborator in the Center, the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) is inventorying existing training, and assessing the needs of professionals across disciplines.

A preliminary inventory survey of NAPSA state contacts and selected key informants from five professions (aging services, healthcare, criminal justice, financial services, and adult protective services) has been completed. The information collected will inform a more extensive survey currently being designed by NAPSA. A scientifically valid sample of persons and organizations throughout the country will be surveyed to identify what training exists, and what training is needed, in these key disciplines that interface with older individuals.

The national survey results will be compiled and analyzed, and the data gleaned will be used to help the NCEA develop a strategic plan to guide it in targeting future elder abuse training initiatives.

Special thanks to Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of NAPSA, for contributing this article.

National Public Service Announcements Debut in Communities, Ready for National Dissemination

National public service announcements promoting elder abuse awareness and featuring actor and spokesperson William Mapother have officially debuted.

On Thursday, April 24th, the NCEA previewed the announcement as part of its multimedia reception for the Student Arts Competition in Clayton Hall at the University of Delaware. On Monday, April 28th, Mr. Mapother accompanied the series' executive producer, Kimberly Baker, to a meeting of the Elder Maltreatment Alliance (EMA) in northern Kentucky, where the PSA was viewed by approximately 40 members of the local coordinating council on elder abuse. Mr. Mapother, a native Kentuckian, discussed his personal commitment to the cause, and learned of the council's ongoing advocacy efforts. Ms. Baker is a policy analyst and elder abuse specialist for Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The PSA series, a collaborative project by the State of Kentucky and the NCEA, is ready for national dissemination. A master copy has been sent to the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) for inclusion in the monthly web feed of public service announcements. Interested broadcasters from around the country can view and download the series for future airing. In addition, n4a has also viewed the announcements, and will be posting them on its web site. Members of the aging services fields are asked to reach out to regional media contacts to encourage air play, particularly as we approach June 15th, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Student Arts Competition, *continued from front page*

was also responsible for involving the broader community by generating sponsorship from locally-based businesses and organizations.

NCEA also gave each contestant a commemorative T-shirt. The shirt, gray trimmed in blue, simply read on the front, "*Why Should I Care?*" The back read, "*National Center on Elder Abuse Student Arts Competition*" and included the school's name.

Delaware Attorney General, Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III, presented the grand prize in the written category to senior Elizabeth Nicholls, for her journalistic poem, "*Min Woo.*" The narrative described the experience of a teenage girl, who upon visiting her grandmother in a nursing home, strikes an acquaintance with an older Korean man. She later suspects, and then observes, that he is being abused and faces the dilemma of what to do.

When accepting her award (a \$100 Visa gift card from Peninsula United Methodist Homes), Ms. Nicholls said that before the NCEA came into the classrooms to introduce the competition, she had never heard of elder abuse. When she began to think that her own "Gran," could be victimized it first shocked then outraged her.

Ms. Nicholls allowed excerpts from the poem to be read by NCEA's Dr. Karen Stein, who also read another award winning poem, "*Black Leather Bag*" by senior Taylor Elizabeth Stayton.

Internationally acclaimed graphic artist, Collette Gaiter, presented the grand prize award in the multimedia category to senior Meagan Santangelo for her poster, "*Elder Abuse: Why Should I Care?*" The photographic poster depicted the vulnerabilities of growing older, and urged everyone to become alert and to report their concerns. Ms. Santangelo received a \$100 Visa gift card from PNC Bank.

Ms. Gaiter, who is also an Associate Professor of the University's Department of Art, spoke of art as a medium for provoking thought and catalyzing change. She urged the students to continue to explore significant themes through their work.

A major highlight of the event was the video premier of "*A Rose for an Elder,*" an interpretive dance choreographed and performed by seniors Lauren Brown and Devon Gregg. The dance depicted a younger woman taking notice of a neglected elder, and making the decision to become involved in her life.

In addition to the commemorative T-shirts, fifteen students received gold honoree status for exemplary works. Another fourteen students were awarded silver honoree status. Gold and silver honorees also received gift certificates from sponsoring businesses.

To feature the visual art submitted, NCEA created a slide show of the gold honoree and grand prize entries. The loop was projected while guests talked and enjoyed refreshments before the presentation began. The original visual art will be displayed at the high school.

Showcasing the exemplary written entries "live" was a bit more challenging, so Ms. Petrak compiled a

Student Arts Competition, *continued from page 4*

commemorative book as a souvenir for all guests. The book included copies of entries awarded gold honoree and grand prize status.

According to Attorney General Biden, the competition provided an opportunity to look forward to preventing mistreatment among future generations. “Just as domestic violence was, elder abuse is a dirty little secret that continues to hide behind closed doors. We know that we can prosecute cases of elder abuse, but we need to do a better job of *identifying* these cases.” The AG has identified elder abuse prosecution as a priority of his office's Family Division.

Throughout the evening, students were applauded for considering the relevance of the issue, which on the surface seems very remote from their daily experiences. But their entries suggest that once asked teens personalize the issue by thinking of older relatives, and their own future lives. Predominantly, students wrote about abuse occurring in nursing homes, and emotional neglect. Many students, however, touched poignantly on the concept that aging makes one invisible, somehow less of a person.

In her closing remarks, NCEA's Sharon Merriman-Nai urged the students to see this as not the end of the competition, but the beginning of lifelong advocacy, and invited their future participation in NCEA activities. Ms. Petrak reports that if their exiting comments were any indication, many students will do just that.

NCEA plans to incorporate elements of the art created into its national public awareness campaign. Later this year, replication guidelines will be published on the NCEA website including lessons learned from the pilot competition. Exemplary entries will also be posted on public awareness pages of the website in the future.

The NCEA would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their generous support. Their donations allowed us to individually recognize the contributions made by each participant:

*PNC Bank
Peninsula United Methodist Homes
Paradigm Fitness
Harry's Savoy Grill
Best Buy
Five Below
The Frame Shoppe & Gallery
Christiana Mall
Wilmington Blue Rocks
WJBR
Commerce Bank
Newark Cinema Center
Season's Pizza*

First National Center on Elder Abuse Student Arts Competition Honorees

**Grand Prize Winner – Written Category:
Elizabeth Nicholls (senior), "*Min Woo*"**

**Grand Prize Winner – Multimedia Category:
Meagan Santangelo (senior) – "*Elder Abuse: Why Should I Care?*"**

Gold Honorees: Written Category (in alphabetical order):

Rachel Cox (senior) – "*Letter from Nan*"
Dia Davis (junior) – "*Wisdom Walkers: The Pathway*"
Kasey Fredericks (senior) – "*These Wrinkles*"
Elisa Gill (senior) – "*Why Should I Care?*"
Alisha Mulhern & Angelica Pagogna (juniors) – "*Death of a Lost Soul*"
Dawn Payne (junior) – "*Silent Cry*"
Taylor Elizabeth Stayton (senior) – "*Black Leather Bag*"
Kadeem Thomas (junior) – "*Untitled*"
Melanie Woosley (junior) – "*I Love You, Mother*"

Gold Honorees: Multimedia Category (in alphabetical order):

Lauren Brown & Devon Gregg (seniors) - "*A Rose for an Elder*"
Adrian Poole (senior) – "*Age in Pattern*"
Alim Smith (senior) – "*Untitled*"
Amanda Stout (sophomore) – "*Why Should I Care?*"

The NCEA would like to thank Cab Calloway School of the Arts for their participation in this inaugural event. We would especially like to thank Dean Rumschlag, Lisa Coburn, and Richard Hanel, whose cooperation, assistance, and warm enthusiasm were invaluable.

Cab Calloway School of the Arts of Wilmington, Delaware, is a public middle and high school in the Red Clay School District named in honor of the legendary Delaware bandleader.

**Question of the Month:
June 15th is fast approaching,
but there is still time to share your
strategies for commemorating
World Elder Abuse Awareness
Day.**

**What is your community
planning?**

**The National Center on Elder Abuse
would like to share your ideas for
raising public awareness. We will
publish readers' submissions in the June
newsletter. Your initiative may inspire
another community to take action. We
welcome your thoughts. Email: [NCEA-
INFO@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:NCEA-INFO@aoa.hhs.gov).**

NASUA and n4a Collaborate to Develop Project 2020

The National Association of State Units on Aging and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging have proposed *Project 2020: Fulfilling the Promise of the Older Americans Act*. It is intended to encourage evidence-based best practices in community-based long-term care to reduce the need for institutionalization and prevent "spend down" to Medicaid for elderly and disabled adults. Key features of the plan include person-centered access to information; evidence-based disease management and health promotion; and enhanced nursing home diversion services

Funding would be administered by AoA through performance-based grants. The approach seeks to enhance and expand the current aging network systems and programs; and to empower elderly and disabled adults to make informed decisions and efficiently utilize and customize community-based resources.

April's Question of the Month: "What is Your Community Planning to Commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15th, 2008?"

The NCEA would like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks of Ryerson University, Canada, one of the founders of the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), for submitting information on the *"World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008: Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse: Pathways to Human Rights."* This workshop, organized by INPEA and the Canadian Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse, will take place on June 16th and 17th 2008 at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. Canadian strategies and global innovations will be highlighted. In addition to workshops, the conference will also host a student poster competition. For more information, visit the INPEA website at: www.inpea.net.

The NCEA would also like to thank Mara Schecter, Queens District Director of Elder Abuse Programs from Rego Park, NY, for submitting the following update:

"The 3rd annual elder abuse conference titled *'Elder Abuse and the Family: Not a Private Matter'* is to be held on June 18, 2008 8:30 AM- 2:30 PM at the New School University, 66 West 12th Street in New York City.

"The conference is a collaboration between JASA, DFTA, HRA, Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, New School University, Fordham University, and the Carter Burden Center.

"Following Professor Evan Stark as the key note speaker there will be workshops on interdisciplinary topics such as: working with elder abusers; legal aspects; prevention work with families via legal and money management; social service prevention frameworks; clergy and elder abuse; interviewing skills as part of the risk assessment within the family context; the impact of changing family structure and elder abuse: Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transsexual, grandparenting, the non-documented senior victims."

For more information on this multidisciplinary conference, please contact Ms. Schecter via email at: mschecter@jasa.org or via phone at: 718-286-1540.

State News: Delaware Celebrates 25 Years of Adult Protective Services

On Tuesday, April 29th, the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) hosted an anniversary commemorating a quarter of a century of protecting vulnerable adults. The conference was attended by over a hundred participants representing 23 agencies throughout the state, including sister agencies of the Delaware Health and Social Services Department as well as members of the state Attorney General's office, senior volunteers, and other organizations. The theme of the conference was: *"Renewed, Refreshed, and Reaffirmed: Staying the Course in Social Services."*

Pamela Williams, the Administrator of the state's adult protective services program, coordinated the event and served as moderator for the days activities. The welcoming remarks delivered by DSAAPD Director Guy Perrotti were followed by a brief video depicting the dynamics of elder abuse in the family. Patricia Days-Wilmer, APS professional from the Milford office, provided a legislative chronology of the development of APS services since 1983. She also introduced the program's ten staff members and two supervisors, the team responsible for covering all three counties.

NCEA participated in the event as well. Sharon Merriman-Nai provided a national perspective on elder abuse, and highlighted the three priorities of the NCEA: to encourage multidisciplinary, evidence-based approaches to prevention and intervention; to address training needs of involved professionals; and to generate sustained, national public attention on the problem of elder abuse. She also urged participants to remember that all older individuals could become vulnerable to victimization when faced with certain life challenges, losses, and other transitions.

Deputy Attorney General Susan Purcell and prosecutor Susan Barchi described legislative characteristics that enable the Delaware Department of Justice to more effectively prosecute cases of elder abuse. Ms. Barchi spoke of the issues surrounding competency evaluation that complicate investigation and prosecution, and offered guidance for participants involved in documenting cases of suspected abuse and exploitation. In particular, she cautioned professionals to choose their written words carefully when describing their perceptions about a vulnerable adult's capacity to make decisions.

State Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III also spoke, emphasizing the need for collaboration among key stakeholders, and raising public awareness. He described elder abuse as an invisible problem, akin to domestic violence nearly twenty years ago, and applauded the efforts of the students of Cab Calloway School of the Arts for their involvement in raising awareness. The AG has identified elder abuse prosecution as a priority of his office's Family Division, and staff members are examining ways to centralize services to senior victims.

"I know that we can do a good job prosecuting elder abuse and exploitation. But we need to do a much better job of identifying the victims, and in preventing abuse."

Dr. Lee Nutter, an individual familiar to APS through presentations at the National Adult Protective Services (NAPSA) conferences, led an upbeat, at times provocative discussion entitled, *"Renewing the Spirit Within."* Dr. Nutter is a consultant with extensive experience working with victims of violence and spiritual healing. He urged participants to ask self-neglecting clients about the role of trauma in their (continued on page 9)

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lives, particularly during childhood. In the afternoon, Dr. Nutter also presented a workshop on "*Customer Service through Teamwork*," which emphasized the need to understand and accommodate different organizational personalities as key to effective collaboration. He stressed the need for organizational support to frontline workers not only through opportunities for training and education, but structured time for debriefing and supervision.

Psychologist Dr. David Mandelbaum also described the need to support APS professionals as they deal with emotionally draining work in his presentation, "*Coping with Other's Trauma*." Drawing upon his own experiences in working with clients of all ages who had been traumatized and, in some cases, repeatedly victimized, Dr. Mandelbaum spoke of the differences between "burnout" and vicarious or secondary traumatization. Secondary traumatization occurs when professionals (or volunteers) are deeply and excessively affected by their work with others who have been traumatized. This can be marked by anxiety, depression, and problems with personal interactions and relationships on the part of the professional. Like Dr. Nutter, he encouraged organizational support for frontline professionals, and also encouraged them to take care of themselves by maintaining a good support system, getting exercise and good nutrition, and taking time to do what they find enjoyable. An important aspect of dealing with secondary traumatization is to realize that it is an occupational hazard, and to be alert to its potential.

Ms. Williams concluded the day's activities by inviting participants to join in a new statewide multidisciplinary effort entitled, PEACE Delaware -- Preventing Elder Abuse through Community Education. Quite simply, the group's mission is to create opportunities for raising public awareness throughout the state and across the generations. One initiative under consideration is "*Seniors 2 Seniors*," a project that would involve pairing supervised high school students with older individuals who need assistance. Professionals and advocates in Delaware interested in becoming involved in PEACE can email Ms. Williams at: Pamela.williams@state.de.us.

Congratulations to the DSAAPD staff!

Special thanks to WSFS Bank, a longstanding Delaware business with a history of community involvement, for donating door prizes to the NCEA that were awarded as part of the day's festivities.

Is Your State Planning an Anniversary Celebration?

Because various state protective services programs developed at approximately the same time, many states may be planning similar commemorations. To share news of your state and local events, contact NCEA-INFO@aoa.hhs.gov.

Funding Opportunities

The following funding opportunities are available now available:

1. Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand awards grants to improve outreach to, and services for, crime victims. Grassroots, nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based victim services organizations are among those eligible to apply.

Application deadline: Open, dependent upon available funding.

For more information, [click here](#).

2. Fiscal Year 2008 National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects Grants

These Office of Victim's of Crime awards are designed to support the development of national initiatives that expand the capacity of service providers to address the needs of crime victims. Elder abuse is one of the program's areas of focus.

Application deadline: May 29, 2008

For more information, [click here](#).

3. Paul Coverdell Grant

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Funds may be used to eliminate backlogs in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ additional forensic laboratory personnel.

Application deadline: May 30, 2008

For more information, [click here](#).

Scholarship Opportunity: National Center for Victims of Crime 2008 Conference

The National Center for Victims of Crimes is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of Law Enforcement Scholarships for personnel who have been in the field at least one year to attend its upcoming national conference. *"Responses, Rights, and Resources for Crime Victims,"* will be held June 2-4, 2008, in Portland, Oregon. Application forms are accessible online (visit: www.ncvc.org/education , and click on the 2008 National Conference). Applications will be accepted until May 20, 2008.

The conference features more than 130 leading experts and 80 skill-building workshops on a wide range of issues for those supporting victims of crime, including: *Crimes Against the Elderly: Investigating Abuse and Financial Exploitation;* and *Understanding Scams and Consumer Fraud.*

For more information on these and other workshops, plenary speakers, and registration, visit our conference [web page](#).

Special thanks to Mary Lou Leary, Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, for contributing this information.

Federal Legislative Update: A Monthly Look at Federal Legislation and Activity that May Impact the Lives of Older Americans

The **Keeping Seniors Safe From Falls Act of 2007 (S. 845 / H.R. 3701)** was signed into law on April 23, 2008. Originally introduced in the Senate by Michael Enzi (Republican - Wyoming) in March 2007 and in the House by Frank Pallone Jr. (Democrat, New Jersey - 6) in September 2007, the law directs “the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.”

The **Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008 (H.R.5352)**, introduced by Joe Sestak (Democrat, Pennsylvania - 7) in February to “protect seniors in the U.S. from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection,” gained additional support in April from Representatives John Conyers, Jr. (Democrat, Michigan - 14) and Robert Scott (Democrat, Virginia - 3), bringing the total number of cosponsors to 2 in the House.

H.R.5352 [Click Here](#)

The **Elder Justice Act (S. 1070 / H.R. 1783)** gained the support of Senators Richard Durbin (Democrat - Illinois) and Jeff Bingaman (Democrat - New Mexico) and Representatives Barbara Lee (Democrat, California - 9), Artur Davis (Democrat, Alabama - 7), Michael Honda (Democrat, California - 15), John Conyers, Jr. (Democrat, Michigan - 14) and Robert Scott (Democrat, Virginia - 3) in April, bringing the total to 26 co-sponsors in the Senate and 108 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

S.1070 [Click Here](#)

H.R.1783 [Click Here](#)

The **Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2008 (S.2736 / H.R.2930)**, which seeks to “amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly,” gained the support of Senators John Kerry (Democrat - Massachusetts) and Carl Levin (Democrat - Michigan), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 5 in the Senate and 15 in the House.

S.2736 [Click Here](#)

H.R.2930 [Click Here](#)

The **Community Choice Act (S. 799 / H.R. 1621)** seeks to “amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.” The bill gained additional support (*continued on page 12*) from Representatives Lois Capps (Democrat, California - 23), Nick Rahall (Democrat, West Virginia - 3), Jason Altmire (Democrat, Pennsylvania - 4), Bob Filner (Democrat, California - 51) and Charles Gonzalez (Democrat, Texas - 20), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 89 in the House of Representatives and 20 in the Senate.

S.799 [Click Here](#)

H.R.1621 [Click Here](#)

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Federal Legislation, Continued from page 11

The **Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act (H.R.1032)** gained additional support in April from Representatives Dale Kildee (Democrat, Michigan - 5), G.K. Butterfield (Democrat, North Carolina - 1), Doris Matsui (Democrat, California - 5), James McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts - 3), Emanuel Cleaver (Democrat, Missouri - 5) and Tammy Baldwin (Democrat, Wisconsin - 2), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 77 in the House. The bill, which has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Health, seeks to “amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for treatment and support services for Alzheimer's patients and their families.”

H.R.1032 [Click Here](#)

The **Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007 (S.1577 /H.R.3078)**, which aims to “amend the Social Security Act to require screening of direct patient access employees of nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers,” gained additional support from Representative Andre Carson (Democrat, Indiana - 7) in April, bring the total number of co-sponsors to 6 in the House and 15 in the Senate.

S.1577 [Click Here](#)

H.R.3078 [Click Here](#)

The **Senior Investor Protection Act of 2008 (S.2794)** was introduced by Senator Herb Kohl (Democrat - Wisconsin) on April 1, 2008. The bill seeks to “protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices, with the goal of increasing retirement security.”

S.2794 [Click Here](#)

The **Elderly Care Tax Act of 2008 (H.R.5703)** was introduced by Representative John Lewis (Democrat, Georgia - 5) on April 3, 2008. The bill seeks to “amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that elderly and disabled individuals receiving in-home care under certain government programs are not liable for the payment of employment taxes with respect to the providers of such care, and for other purposes.” Representative Jim Ramstad (Republican, Minnesota - 3) has also endorsed the bill.

H.R.5703 [Click Here](#)

The **Senior Citizenship Act of 2008 (H.R.5750)** was introduced on April 9, 2008 by Representative Jerrold Nadler (Democrat, New York - 8), “to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to exempt certain elderly persons from demonstrating an understanding of the English language and the history, principles, and form of government of the United States as a requirement for naturalization, and to permit certain other elderly persons to take the history and government examination in a language of their choice.” The bill which also gained the support of Representative James Moran (Democrat, Virginia - 8), has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.5750 [Click Here](#)

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Elder Abuse Research

The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly maintains an annotated catalog of peer-reviewed literature on elder mistreatment and related issues. The following are highlights of recently identified publications. To search for additional references, visit <http://www.cane.udel.edu/>. Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk for compiling this update.

Donohue, W., Dibble, J. & Schiamberg, L.

A Social Capital Approach to the Prevention of Elder Mistreatment

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Volume 20 (1), pages 1-23; 2008.

Journal article (scholarship)

This paper explores the relationship between social capital and elder mistreatment and explains how building social capital may actually help to prevent elder abuse. The term “social capital” describes levels of trust and cooperation between individuals and groups and can be categorized as either bonding or bridging. Bonding social capital refers to levels of trust and cooperation that exist between individuals while bridging social capital refers to levels of trust and cooperation that exist between groups. The authors hypothesize that increasing social capital will increase caregivers’ capacity to cope with stress, in turn decreasing the likelihood that they will engage in elder mistreatment. Special attention is paid to how social capital affects adult children caring for an elderly parent, as research has shown that adult offspring are the most common abusers of the elderly.

Alves, L. & Wilson, S.

The Effects of Loneliness on Telemarketing Fraud Vulnerability among Older Adults

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 20 (1), pages 63-85; 2008.

Journal article (research)

(continued on page 14)

Federal Legislation, continued from page 12

The **Reverse Mortgage Proceeds Protection Act (S. 2490)** is a bill intended to prohibit authorized lenders of home equity conversion mortgages from requiring seniors to purchase an annuity with the proceeds of a reverse mortgage, and to provide other consumer protections to reverse mortgage borrowers. The bill was sponsored by Senator Claire McCaskill (Democrat – Missouri) in December, 2007, and co-sponsored by Senator Thomas Carper (Democrat – Delaware) and Senator Herb Kohl (Democrat – Wisconsin). The bill was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs in December.

S. 2490 [Click Here](#)

The **Safeguarding Social Security Numbers Act (S. 2915)** was introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (Democrat – New York) on April 24, 2008. The bill would require uniform standards for truncating Social Security account numbers to prevent fraud or identity theft. The bill has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 2915 [Click Here](#)

Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk of the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service for compiling this update.

Elder Abuse Literature, continued from page 13

This study explored the link between loneliness and telemarketing fraud victimization among elderly adults. Research has indicated that adults aged 65 and older and are victimized by telemarketing fraud at much higher rates than the rest of the population. Loneliness, which is commonly experienced by older adults, has been identified as a risk factor for telemarketing fraud. Elderly adults have been shown to be more trusting and eager to socialize, often substituting interaction with telemarketers for traditional social interaction, to cope with loneliness. A sample of 28 adults, aged 60 and older, who had been victims of telemarketing fraud, completed a survey which collected data on demographic characteristics and assessed their perceived levels of loneliness. Results of the survey indicated that victims were most commonly single, college-educated men between the ages of 60 and 70.

Spensley, C.

The Role of Social Isolation of Elders in Recidivism of Self-Neglect Cases at San Francisco Adult Protective Services

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect; Vol. 20 (1), pages 43-61; 2008.

Journal article (research)

This study assessed the impact of four risk factors – social isolation, mental health issues, cognitive impairment and substance abuse – on recidivism of elderly self-neglect cases. It was hypothesized that all four risk factors would be positively associated with recurrence of self-neglect. The charts of over 700 San Francisco APS clients, aged 65 and older, with documented self-neglect cases, were examined. While cognitive impairment and substance abuse were found to be positively associated with self-neglect recidivism, surprisingly no significant relationship was found to exist between social isolation or mental health concerns and self-neglect recidivism. Policy implications and future research needs are discussed.

NCEA Webcast on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Now Archived Online

On April 15th, NAPSA hosted the NCEA webcast entitled: *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: What Can Your Community Do to Raise Awareness?* The webcast was held during National Crime Victims Rights Week in order to emphasize that older abuse victims must also be recognized. Three national experts shared their ideas and informed participants on how to locate resources, including toolkits, press releases, posters, and ideas for activities: Betty Malks of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; Carolyn Petrak, NCEA Social Marketing and Public Outreach Director, University of Delaware; and Trudy Gregorie, Senior Director of Justice Solutions.

If you missed the live webcast, [click here](#) to access it online. (Note: you must have the current Windows Media Player to view the webcast, and may need to click the firewall bar on the top of the page to allow the download. Please contact Scott Harris via email at sharris@ganconference.com or via phone at 312-432-5376 for any needed assistance.)

The INPEA *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Community Resource Toolkit* is freely available online (visit www.inpea.net and click on WEAAD in the left column). The OVC 2008 NCVRW *Resource Guide* is also [online](#), and features pages devoted to addressing elder victimization.

Special thanks to Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of NAPSA, for contributing this article.

Calendar of Events

May 7-9, 2008

2008 Equal Justice Conference

Pursuing Justice: Balancing Challenges and Opportunities

Hilton Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 312-988-5766

June 2-4, 2008

National Center for Victims of Crime 2008 Conference:

Responses, Rights, and Resources for Crime Victims

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Portland, OR

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 202-467-8725

June 15, 2008

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
A Global Commemoration**

For more information, visit the [International Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse](#)

June 16- 17, 2008

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008:
*Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse: Pathways to Human Rights***

Government Conference Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

For more information, visit the [International Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse](#)

August 26 - 29, 2008

The 19th Annual NAPSA Conference

“APS: Advocating, Protecting and Serving Vulnerable Adults”

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

Chicago, IL

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 720-565-0906

July 20 - 23, 2008

n4a's 33rd Annual

Conference & Tradeshow

Renaissance Nashville Hotel and

Nashville Convention Center

Nashville, TN

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 202-872-0888

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Telephone: 302-831-3525**

NCEA Grantees:

**Clearinghouse on Abuse and
Neglect of the Elderly,
University of Delaware (CANE-UD)
On the Web at: www.cane.udel.edu**

**National Adult Protective Services
Association (NAPSA)
On the Web at: www.apsnetwork.org**

**National Committee for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)
One the Web at:
www.preventelderabuse.org**

National Center on Elder Abuse

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