

ASA Section on Aging and the Life Course



News from the Chair



Dear SALC members,

I'm pleased and proud to be serving as chair of the section this year. It is a rewarding, if sometimes demanding task. Even though the ASA annual meeting was just a few weeks ago, your elected officers and committee members have all been at work with section activities.

In our push to get our membership for the section to that magical number of 600, I found myself frequently extolling the benefits of SALC membership to my graduate students, our SALC Facebook friends, and any ASA member who would listen. But it was all true! We are the only ASA section that hosts a wonderful mentoring dinner and that takes our intergenerational, life course research interests and puts them into practice every year to nurture the next generation of aging and the life course researchers.

Our new Facebook SALC group page launched a few weeks ago -- thanks to chair-elect Debby Carr -- and we have hit over 100 members. Thanks to all of you who are posting great content every day. Join us and see what's going on!! Just search Facebook for Section on Aging and the Life Course. And if you don't already have a Facebook page, now is the moment of your life course that you've been waiting for.

SALC had a lively and wonderful 2013 program at the ASA meeting in New York, and it will be a challenge to maintain that quality for our 2014 meeting in San Francisco.

But we are trying! Since we did reach the 600 mark, we will be able to hold four sessions in addition to our Matilda White Riley Lecture and Business Meeting. Our theme this year is on social change in institutions driven by changes in age structure, and also by changes in the timing of life course transitions. We will have one invited session with leading researchers from other sections who have seen aging-related changes in the institutions they study, such as health care, education, criminal justice, or religion. We think this will be a great way to reach out to other ASA sections to show our common interest in aging as a social force.

This year's open sessions are:

Changes in the Timing of Life Course Transitions in Young Adulthood: Taking Longer, Maybe Never

Session Organizer: Pamela Herd, University of Wisconsin
 Email Address: pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu

This session will focus on changes – primarily delays – in the timing of critical life course transitions in young adulthood: completing education, entering the work force, establishing an independent household, marriage, and childbearing. Papers may examine subgroup differences in life course transitions, how new life course patterns in the lives of young adults have arisen in response to social forces, and / or demonstrate their impact on social institutions.

Changes in the Timing of Life Course Transitions in Midlife: Do-Overs and New Directions

Session Organizer: James Raymo, University of Wisconsin
 Email Address: jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu

This session will focus on changes in the timing of mid-to-late life transitions such as retirement and grandparenthood; or on the increasing appearance in later life of transitions we have traditionally thought of as taking place in young adulthood: going back to school, starting a new career, "gray divorce" and remarriage, or beginning a second family. Papers may examine how these new life course patterns have arisen in response to social forces, and / or demonstrate the impact of these changes in timing on a range of social institutions.

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News from the Chair

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SALC Roundtables

Session Organizer: John Reynolds, Florida State University
Email Address: jrreynolds@fsu.edu

In addition, we are planning an invited session:

Aging and Cohort Replacement as Engines of Social Change in Institutions

Session Organizer: Ellen Idler, Emory University
Email Address: eidler@emory.edu

Matilda White Riley's age stratification perspective first illuminated how the processes of aging, cohort flow, and replacement are fundamental sources of social change.

Speakers will examine how the prolonged aging of individuals and waves of unsynchronized cohorts during the 20th century have forced social institutions such as the family criminal justice, education, religion, and health care to adapt, increase/decrease capacity, shift functions, and in short -- drive social change.



The **Matilda White Riley Lecture** will be given by Gunhild Hagestad, University of Agder, Norway.

Here are some dates to keep in mind. On October 30 ASA will post the Call for Papers on its web site. The online system will open on December 6. The submission period will end on January 8, 2014. Please submit your papers to our open sessions and roundtables! All the great program ideas in the world won't amount to a thing unless great papers are submitted for the sessions.

It is also time to begin planning your nominations for the SALC awards: the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award, the Outstanding Publication Award, and the Graduate Student Paper Award. Nominations are due by March 1, 2014. Please consider nominating your colleagues for these awards. It is important for our section to honor those who are enriching our sociological lives.

The section membership now exceeds 600. Whew! It is important for our current membership to be a lower bound and to continue to encourage our colleagues and students to join the section. The intellectual tradition of our section with the ASA is strong – but can be stronger still as our ideas and research findings further inform work throughout the discipline. So, please renew your membership, and encourage colleagues and students to join as well.

My gratitude to the outgoing leadership of the section is tremendous. This is a very well-run section, a sure mark of how much its leaders care about it and make it a priority in their busy professional lives. Mark Hayward, now our past chair, brought us a fantastic program in New York in 2013 and he was a careful tutor in preparing me to take the reins this year. A special thanks is owed to Janet Wilmoth, SALC's outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, who served the section with incredible expertise for the past three years. In addition, I would like to express my thanks to our council and committee members. They work hard throughout the year to shape the program, organize sessions, and serve on awards committees. I also want to thank David Warner for a terrific job in managing our listserv – this careful organizing of pertinent announcements is a real added value of our section. Kristen Schulz Lee is our newsletter editor and Jill Suitor is our incoming Secretary-Treasurer, and I look forward to working with all of them this year. The listserv and newsletter and now our new Facebook page are all ways that we can connect about our mutual interests in teaching and research on aging and the life course.

At our Council and Business meetings in New York, there was a lively continuing discussion about changing the name of the section. We plan to devote the Winter edition of the newsletter to this important topic and provide an opportunity for members to weigh in with their thoughts. Stay tuned for details on how to make your voice heard!

In the meantime, we are all aging. Members of other sections are too, but at least we realize it! Best wishes to all of you in your research, and learning, and teaching about aging and the life course.

Ellen Idler, Chair

Section on Aging and the Life Course Business Meeting Sunday, August 11, 2013, 1:30-2:10 pm

Call to Order: Mark Hayward, University of Texas at Austin

Secretary's Minutes from 2012 Annual Meeting:
Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

Last year's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Janet Wilmoth, Syracuse University

The Section on Aging and the Life Course continues to be in excellent financial shape. We maintain a high level of activity at the annual meeting, which includes holding the Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Reception and the mentoring program dinner. We are able to cover these costs through the generous institutional and individual support that we continue to receive, as well as income from the book raffle. The section chair, Mark Hayward, and the chair of the Professional Development and Mentoring Committee, Andrew London, were particularly successful in obtaining financial support for this year's reception and mentoring dinner. Income from dues and our section allocation from ASA have changed little over the past several years. But annual meeting costs have been rising, due to the higher cost of food and drinks. However, the section treasury has sufficient funds to pay for these expenses and has seen increases in net assets every year for the past five years. Net assets at the end of 2013 are estimated to be approximately \$13,511.



Program Committee Report

Mark Hayward, University of Texas at Austin

This year's SALC program theme is the Role of Period and Cohort Processes in Aging in the Life Course. This year our section's activities span from Saturday evening with the Mentoring dinner to a Monday morning session. There are three sessions, the roundtables, and the Matilda White Riley Lecture following by the business meeting. Thanks to everyone who helped to organize these sessions, as well as to the sponsors of the reception.

Communications Report

Newsletter Editor: Kristen Schultz Lee, University at Buffalo, SUNY
Section Web Manager, Mark Hayward, University of Texas at Austin
Listserv Editor, David Warner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Newsletter Editor, Kristen Schultz Lee, distributed three newsletters this year via member email and the section website. Please submit information you would like to share!

The Section Web Manager, Mark Hayward, explained that the ASA has developed a new micro-site for the section's website that allows for the section to more easily manage and update the content. ASA has been shifting the responsibility of maintaining and updating content to the section. Given this, the section needs to have a webmaster who has webpage management skills. Council leadership will follow-up with ASA and other sections to see how other sections handle this and consider contracting a webmaster.

The Listserv Editor, David Warner, has been distributing announcements via the listserv twice a month – typically during the second and fourth weeks of the month. Listserv messages, of course, were only distributed when there were announcements to be made. There were numerous occasions during the 2012-2013 year when there were no official SALC announcements and when no items were submitted by the membership. Members were reminded of the listserv and encouraged submission of items that may be of interest to the membership.

Section Business During 2013 Annual Meeting

Membership Committee

Robin Shura, Hiram College, and Georgiana Bostean, Chapman University (Report given by M. Hayward)

Following last year's anomalously high membership prior to ASA (608 members by Aug. 1, 2012), membership this year is approximately at average levels (581 members as of July 29). However, SALC has reached record membership levels in years with comparable membership levels this time of year; for example, in the year with highest SALC membership (624 in 2009), membership at this time that year was only 576. Therefore, we will likely reach over 600 members by September if we continue recruitment efforts through personal communications and e-mails.

Committee on Mentoring and Professional Development

Andrew London, Syracuse University

This year, the dinner was held on Saturday, August 10 at Syracuse University's Lubin House, 11 E. 61st St., from 6:00 to 8:30. The program "How to Get Published: Advice from the Editors," featured remarks by Merrill Silverstein (Editor, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*), Kyriakos Markides (Editor, *Journal of Aging and Health*), and Madonna Harrington Meyer (Co-Editor, Baywood Publishing *Society and Aging Series*), followed by a Q&A session. Tickets were priced at \$35 for faculty and \$15 for students.

About 90-95 attended the event. The revenues for this event from donations and ticket sales are expected to offset the cost. Thank you for the generous support of our institutional and individual donors who make this event possible. Their contributions help to offset the cost of everyone's dinner.

New Business:

Continuing dialogue about the name of our Section: An open discussion was held regarding changing the section name. Dale Dannefer made a case for changing the name to "Sociology of Age and the Life Course." The implications of changing the name were discussed. Reservations were expressed by some about how the term "age" would be received outside of the section and others wondered about the message that might be sent by dropping the term "aging." A suggestion was made to change the name to the "Sociology of Age, Aging, and the Life Course." It was agreed that the discussion should continue in the section's newsletter, with an issue that lists the three proposed options (Sociology of Aging and the Life Course, Sociology of Age and the Life Course, Sociology of Age, Aging, and the Life Course) accompanied by brief position statements in support of a given option written by section members.

Welcome to incoming SALC officers and introduction of New Chair, Ellen Idler

There was a very brief discussion about plans for 2014 Annual Meeting.

Book Raffle Committee

Sara Moorman, Boston College, and Jennifer Ailshire, University of Southern California

The book raffle was going to be held at the end of the business meeting but we ran out of time.

The winning tickets were drawn and books were distributed immediately after the section business meeting. It is recommended that next year the raffle be done during the business meeting or at the mentoring dinner (if the dinner is held after the business meeting).



Presentation of ASA Section Awards 2013

Outstanding Publication Award

Chair: Melissa Hardy, Penn State University

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee. The committee was required to limit their consideration to books because the award was given to papers in the past two cycles. The committee selected Rick Settersten and Jacqui Angel's *The Handbook of Sociology of Aging* by unanimous vote. According to Springer's website:

The *Handbook of Sociology of Aging* contains 45 far-reaching chapters, authored by nearly 80 of the most renowned experts, on the most pressing topics related to aging today. With its recurring attention to the social forces that shape human aging, and their social consequences and policy implications of it, the contents will be of interest to everyone who cares about what aging means for individuals, families, and societies.

Two forwards highlight the significance of the handbook for scholarship and and policy-making on aging. The chapters illustrate the field's extraordinary breadth and depth, which have never before been represented in a single volume. They range from foundational matters, including classic and contemporary theories and methods, to topics of longstanding and emergent interest, such as social diversity and inequalities, social institutions, economics and governments, social vulnerabilities, public health, and care arrangements. The volume closes with a set of personal essays by senior scholars who share their experiences and hopes for the field, and an essay by the editors that previews some of the most exciting aspects for the decade ahead.



Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Chair: Mike Shanahan, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Stacy Torres

The committee was unanimous in choosing Stacy Torres's paper, "Where Everybody May Not Know Your Name: The Importance of Elastic Ties." Stacey is a doctoral student at NYU. According to the abstract:

Drawing on four years of ethnographic fieldwork among older adults in a gentrified New York City neighborhood, this article presents empirical data that challenge standard survey measures of social isolation and push our understanding of social ties beyond weak and strong by analyzing relationships that defy binary classification. By measures like the GSS "important matters" question, this study's participants appear isolated and without social support. When questioned, they minimize neighborhood relationships outside close friends and family. But ethnographic observations of their social interactions with neighbors reveal the presence of what I call "elastic ties"—relations in which they spend hours each day and share intimate details of their lives with people that they nonetheless do not consider what the GSS calls "confidants." These findings show how people's accounts of their social ties may not accurately reflect the character and structure of their networks. Furthermore, they demonstrate how a single social tie can vary between strong and weak depending on the social situation. This article also contributes to sociological understandings of network transformation in old age by conceptualizing a type of relationship that allows elders to connect and secure informal support while preserving their autonomy.

Congratulations to New SALC Officers!



Deborah Carr

Chair:
Deborah Carr, Rutgers University

Secretary-Treasurer:
Jill Suitor, Purdue University

Council:
John Reynolds, Florida State University
Andrea Willson, Western University, Ontario

Student Representative:
Jennifer Caputo, Indiana University

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank all of these strong candidates who agreed to be placed on the ballot and to serve in these capacities.



John Reynolds



Andrea Willson



Jill Suitor



Jennifer Caputo

Gunhild Hagestad Receives 2013 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award



“Receiving this special award provides new encouragement to continue my exploration of age across different borders: levels, cultures, welfare regimes, generational structures and gendered realities. And Matilda Riley has now become an even greater source of inspiration.”

Gunhild Hagestad
University of Agder, Norway
NOVA/Norwegian Social Research

From Ellen Idler's award presentation at the 2013 SALC business meeting:

Gunhild Hagestad is Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Agder, Norway, and a Senior Researcher at NOVA/Norwegian Social Research in Oslo. She did her undergraduate education in her native Norway and then received her PhD from the University of Minnesota, in Sociology and the Philosophy of Science. In her career she has held positions at prestigious universities on both sides of the Atlantic. She taught first at the University of Chicago for the Committee on Human Development, then at Penn State for the Department of Individual and Family Studies, then at Northwestern University's Human Development and Social Policy Program and Department of Sociology. She returned to Norway in 1989 to teach first at the University of Oslo's Department of Sociology and Social Geography, and since 1997 at the University of Agder, until her retirement in 2010. This is not to mention guest professorships at McMaster University in Ontario, the University of Bremen, the Free University of Amsterdam, and Case Western Reserve University, among others.

Prof. Hagestad is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America; has been a Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences; and is a Member of the Norwegian Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her commitment to research on aging in cross-national contexts is shown by her leadership roles in a number of research networks, including a European Union Research Training Network on Grandparenthood; a reassessment of the Nordic Welfare State for the Nordic Centre of Excellence in Welfare Research; a 4-country study of Lifetiming for the European Science Foundation; and most recently a 6-country study called Multilinks for the European Union's 7th Framework.

Throughout her career, her work has focused on intergenerational relations through the life course and transitions and trajectories in the dynamics of age in the family. Her theoretical overviews of age and the life course in such publications as the *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences* are widely cited. She has been a leader in raising issues of gender patterning through the life course and in understanding the growth and development of age norms. Throughout her work, her cross-cultural perspective has led her to emphasize the importance of social patterning produced by specific historical and social contexts, and to decry the trend toward what she calls "microfication" -- the over-emphasis on within-individual, micro-level analyses.

In 1998 Gunhild Hagestad shared the stage with Secretary General Kofi Annan and presented the keynote address at the United Nations to launch the International Year of Older Persons. The Section on Aging and the Life Course cannot offer quite so distinguished a setting, but next year, at our meeting in San Francisco we will be honored to have her deliver the Matilda White Riley Award Distinguished Scholar Lecture.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2014 ASA Annual Meeting!



Appreciation to Outgoing Officers

Thanks to outgoing chair Mark Hayward for an outstanding job running the section and putting together a great 2013 meeting in New York. Thanks also to outgoing council members and committee chairs Rick Settersten, Janet Wilmoth, Teresa Cooney, Monica Kirkpatrick Johnson, and Michael McFarland for their service.

We're on the web, Facebook
and Twitter!

[http://www.asanet.org/
sectionaginglifecourse/index.cfm](http://www.asanet.org/sectionaginglifecourse/index.cfm)

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SALC Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Scholarship

Outstanding Publication Award

This annual award honors an outstanding recent contribution to the field of sociology of aging and the life course as determined by the Outstanding Publication Award Committee.

Eligible publications include original research reports, theoretical or methodological developments, and policy-related contributions. The outstanding publication can be an article, book, or chapter published within the past three years. The committee will consider nominations and self-nominations. The award will rotate between a book and an article (or chapter) at least once every three years.

Eligible nominations are limited to publications appearing from 2011-2013. A single author or one of the coauthors must be a SALC member. Only SALC members are permitted to make nominations. Nominations of publications for the 2012 award should be sent by **March 1, 2014** to:

Professor Kenneth Ferraro

Chair, SALC Outstanding Publication Award
Department of Sociology
Purdue University
700 W. State Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-2059
Email: ferraro@purdue.edu

Graduate Student Paper Award

This annual award honors the outstanding paper written by a graduate student (or students) member(s) of the Section on Aging and the Life Course, as determined by the Graduate Student Paper Award committee. Papers authored or co-authored solely by students are eligible; faculty co-authorship is not allowed. Eligible student authors include master's students and pre-doctoral student members of the section who are currently enrolled in a graduate program or who have graduated no earlier than December of 2013.

Unpublished, under review, accepted, or published papers are eligible. If published, the paper should have appeared within the past two calendar years (e.g., a paper nominated in 2014 may have been published anytime during 2013 or 2014). Unpublished papers should not exceed 9000 words of text (not including references, tables, etc). All nominations are due by **March 1, 2014**. Self-nominations are encouraged. To be nominated send a hard copy and an electronic version of the paper to the Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee along with a completed and signed nomination form (available online). The award consists of \$250 presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the annual ASA meeting.

Professor Y. Claire Yang

Chair, SALC Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
Department of Sociology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
155 Hamilton Hall CB 3210
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
Email: yangy@unc.edu

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

2013 Section on Aging and the Life Course Mentoring Dinner and Program

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Matilda White Riley Award and SALC Business Meeting Reception

Oregon State University
 Center for Healthy Aging Research
 Pennsylvania State University
 Department of Sociology
 Population Research Institute
 Springer Science+Business Media
 University of Texas at Austin
 Population Research Center
 LBJ School of Public Affairs
 Center for Health and Social Policy

SALC Seeks Nominations for 2014 Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This annual award honors a scholar in the field of aging and life course who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the study of aging and the life course that warrant consideration. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations will be carried over for one year.

Materials should be sent by **March 1, 2014** to:

Professor Deborah Carr
Chair, SALC Matilda White Riley Award Committee
Department of Sociology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
26 Nichol Avenue
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Email: carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu

Recent Member Publications

Bostean, Georgiana, Christian K. Roberts, Catherine M. Crespi, Michael Prelip, Anne Peters, Thomas R. Belin, and William J. McCarthy. 2013. "Cardiovascular Health: Associations with Race-Ethnicity, Nativity, and Education In a Diverse, Population-Based Sample of Californians." *Annals of Epidemiology* 23(7): 388-394.

Bostean, Georgiana, Catherine M. Crespi, and William J. McCarthy. 2013. "Associations among Family History of Cancer, Cancer Screening and Lifestyle Behaviors: A Population-Based Study." *Cancer Causes and Control* 24(8): 1491-1503.

From the SALC Facebook Page...

- "56 Up" on PBS right now! Tune in to see one of the very best documentaries on the life course... <http://www.pbs.org/pov/56up/>
- This month's JHSB Policy Brief features the work of life course sociologists on the impact of family transitions on adolescent health. https://sociology.osu.edu/sites/sociology.osu.edu/files/Williams_Policy.pdf
- *The New York Times* features the caregiving research of SALC members Jill Suitor and Karl Pillemer! http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/18/daughters-still-are-the-caregivers/?_r=0

Job Announcement

Faculty, Sociology, Full Time, Tenure Track, Fall 2014

Salem State University's sociology department is seeking to fill a full-time tenure track faculty position in the primary area of public/applied sociology, secondary areas include: aging and the life course, medical sociology and sociology of the family for the 2014-2015 academic year. The faculty member, as a part of a cooperative and collegial campus community, will teach courses in public sociology and applied sociology and other sociology courses as needed to support the department, advise students, and serve on departmental and university-wide committees. The successful applicant also will work to advance sociologically-informed research and practice, to further public discussion of sociological issues, and to promote the use of sociology to inform public policy by working with local and regional government and not-for-profit organizations. This position is advertised subject to available funding.

Required qualifications include Ph.D in Sociology or related field, ABD considered.

Preferred qualifications include: one-year full time university/college teaching experience in public/applied sociology; experience in and commitment to teaching in a multi-racial, multi-ethnic environment with students of diverse backgrounds and learning styles; and experience in distance learning and instructional technologies. Candidates who enjoy serving as role models and mentors for a diverse student body are preferred. The salary is competitive, and commensurate with education and experience.

Salem State University is a comprehensive, publicly supported institution of higher learning located approximately 15 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts. The university enrolls over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students representing 27 states and 65 nations, and is one of the largest state universities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its mission is to educate and prepare a diverse community of learners to contribute responsibly to our global society.

To see the full list of benefits, review the complete job description and to apply online, please visit <https://careers-salemstate.icims.com/jobs/1204/faculty%2c-public-and-applied-sociology%2c-full-time%2c-tenure-track%2c-fall-2014/job> and attach your CV/résumé and cover letter. Appropriate original transcripts and three letters of reference should be sent to: Human Resources and Equal Opportunity, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970.



Transitions

Georgiana Bostean changed positions from a post-doctoral fellowship at UCLA to Assistant Professor at Chapman University in Orange County, CA.

INFORMATION NEEDED

To help keep SALC members connected, each newsletter will contain information on recent transitions and publications. If you have a professional announcement (tenure and promotion, employment change), personal information (marriages, births, tributes to recently deceased members), or a recent publication, please send information to Kristen Schultz Lee, kslee4@buffalo.edu.

Section on Aging and the Life Course

Chair

Ellen Idler
Emory University
eidler@emory.edu

Chair Elect

Deborah Carr
Rutgers University
carrds@sociology.rutgers.edu

Past Chair

Mark Hayward
University of Texas at Austin
mhayward@prc.utexas.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Jill Suitor
Purdue University
jsuitor@purdue.edu

Council

Michael Shanahan ('14)
University of North Carolina—CH
mjshan@unc.edu

Pamela Herd ('14)
University of Wisconsin Madison
pherd@lafollette.wisc.edu

James Raymo ('15)
University of Wisconsin Madison
jraymo@ssc.wisc.edu

Y. Claire Yang ('15)
University of North Carolina—CH
yangy@unc.edu

John Reynolds ('16)
Florida State University
john.reynolds@fsu.edu

Andrea Willson ('16)
Western University, Ontario
willson@uwo.ca

Communications Officers

Kristen Schultz Lee
Newsletter editor
University at Buffalo, SUNY
kslee4@buffalo.edu

David Warner
Listserv editor
University of Nebraska--Lincoln
david.f.warner@gmail.com

Ellen Idler
Section web manager
Emory University
eidler@emory.edu

Student Members

Lindsay Rinaldo Wilkinson ('14)
Purdue University
lrinaldo@purdue.edu

Jennifer Caputo ('15)
Indiana University
caputoj@uemail.iu.edu

