



## Leland “Bert” Waters, PhD

***I am the Future of AGHE and the present, too!***

“I was led to pursue a MS in Gerontology after I read *Life Worth Living*, a critical analysis of the nursing home industry by Bill Thomas. The greatest benefit I received through my involvement with the AGHE Student Committee was learning how to participate on a national level in a committee as an emerging professional.”



## **Brian Downer, BS**

“My involvement in the AGHE Student Committee has allowed me to expand my professional and personal network by providing me with opportunities to meet students, faculty and other professionals that I would not have been fortunate enough to meet if I was not involved with the AGHE Student Committee.”

***I am the future of AGHE because my goal is to have a positive influence on future generations of gerontologists!***



## **Candace Brown, MAG, MEd**

*I am the future of AGHE because I choose to be passionate about the education of gerontology and geriatrics and want to help instill that passion in others!*

“Don't be afraid to get involved! AGHE is just as important to students as it is to faculty. And if we are really the future of AGHE, it's great to understand the inner workings of AGHE at an earlier stage in your educational journey.”



## **Erica Hegland, BS**

“I would advise students to attend all of the mentoring opportunities at the AGHE Annual Meeting. These are truly invaluable. Do not feel that because you are a student you don't have anything to contribute. You do! AGHE cares about teaching and students, and the members are there to help you grow as a student and as a future educator.”

***I am the Future of AGHE because I am passionate about educating people about gerontology and gerontological issues!***



## **Eric Goedereis, PhD**

***I am the Future of AGHE because part of my job is to inspire young people to learn about and work with older adults...I'm always proud when I convince a new student or colleague to attend an AGHE meeting. "Just try it," I say. And then they're hooked!***

“There are many benefits to being involved with the AGHE Student Committee, but the easiest one to articulate would be the mentoring relationships I’ve developed since becoming involved. The larger AGHE organization has always seemed genuinely interested in developing and mentoring early career gerontologists. I really appreciate this and hope to be able to pay it forward one day.”



## **Kelly Fitzgerald, PhD**

“My advise to students at AGHE? Talk, talk, talk! Go up to anyone and everyone and ask questions! If there is someone 'famous' to you that you want to meet - go meet them! AGHE folks are gentle and usually don't bite! Also, become active on several committees. Rotate through them to 'test' them to learn more about the organization and to meet people. When you eventually find a committee you like, consider aiming to eventually become the Chair!”



## **Kelly Niles-Yokum, PhD**

***I am the Future of AGHE and so are YOU!***

“The greatest benefit I received through my involvement with the AGHE Student Committee was being connected to other students who were facing similar challenges and the support that network provided. The AGHE Student Committee also afforded many opportunities particularly through volunteering at conferences which allowed me to meet and engage with people I normally would not have had the opportunity to meet.”



## **Jessica Krok, PhD**

“I was originally motivated to pursue a career in gerontology because of close relationships with my grandparents and the nursing home residents where I worked during college. I knew that I wanted to make a difference in such a vibrant yet underserved population. I became involved with the AGHE student committee because I was looking for a leadership opportunity in a smaller gerontological group.”

***I am the Future of AGHE because my versatile degree and research allows me to educate others in interdisciplinary fields about gerontology and geriatrics!***



## **Leanne Clark-Shirley, PhD**

***I am the Future of AGHE and I am working to link research and community involvement to better the position of older adults in our society!***

“Why was I motivated to pursue a career in gerontology? Gerontology chose me! As a sophomore in college, I took an Introduction to Gerontology course at Miami University with Kathryn McGrew, and was instantly attracted to the subject matter, inspiring faculty at Miami, and the range of possibilities for building an academic career in gerontology.”



## **Lydia Manning, PhD**

“I learned early in my career that networking, along with hard work and determination, is important when pursuing a career in the academy. I also believe in the field of gerontology, and as a result felt compelled to engage in service to the discipline. AGHE provides wonderful opportunities to both network and serve. It’s an added bonus that the individuals associated with AGHE tend to be welcoming, supportive, and generally make for wonderful colleagues.”

***I am the Future of AGHE and am dedicated to serving the discipline and doing what I can to help others do the same!***



## **Tara McMullen, MPH**

***I am the future of AGHE because I am the future of gerontology; a future leader, teacher, and researcher. I will carry the torch for those who came before me!***

“I became involved with the AGHE Student Committee in 2008 because I wanted to connect with others who studied aging and were interested in student issues. I was particularly interested in AGHE students having a voice within the AGHE organization and how the Student Committee could maintain the student presence in most if not all AGHE committees.”



## **Dena Shulman-Green, PhD**

“I became involved with the AGHE Student Committee because I was excited to bring the student perspective to the AGHE board and to work on student-focused initiatives. I was also interested in learning the inner workings of the organization and in making a contribution to the important work of AGHE. When I was the Student Chair, we spent a good deal of time defining the role of the AGHE Student Chair and incoming Chair-Designee. It was exciting to engage in the process of assessing how the Chair could be involved in AGHE and to create associated protocols.”

**I am the future of AGHE because I represent and advocate for gerontological issues in higher education in my professional role, as well as in my personal life!**



## **Sarinnapha "Fah" Vasunilashorn, PhD**

***I am the Future of AGHE, and I am committed to advancing gerontology and geriatrics education!***

"The network of gerontology colleagues, who have over time become not only supporters of my professional pursuits but have become good friends, are my most cherished benefit from being involved in the AGHE Student Committee. AGHE is truly a family, and I am so pleased to be a part of it."



## Melinda Heinz, PhD

“My advice for students is to go outside of your comfort zone. Attend as many events as possible and introduce yourself to others. Although you might feel awkward at first, you’ll soon start seeing familiar faces at events and even future AGHE meetings. Everyone is incredibly friendly at AGHE. You won’t regret pushing yourself to make that first step!”

***I am the future of AGHE and will do my best to passionately encourage and teach my students about the field of gerontology! I commit to mentoring and giving students the time and resources they need in order to further develop their skills and talents.***



## **Colleen Bennett, MS, MA**

***I am the Future of AGHE because I am dedicated to gerontological education!***

“I became involved with the AGHE Student Committee because I found a “home” with the mission and vision of AGHE; the students were amazingly passionate, and I was hooked! The worst thing students can do is silo themselves at the Annual Meeting – rare is an unfriendly face or anything less than a warm welcome at AGHE!”