



MAGEC

MOMENTS!

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WE ARE BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *MAGEC Moments*! This edition will serve as an announcement of the re-funding of the MAGEC program to our many loyal community partners and friends in the health care professions. It will also serve as an introduction to the “wonderful world of MAGEC” to those yet unmet professionals seeking cutting-edge training and education in the ever-changing world of geriatrics.

After nearly 19 years in its previous existence, MAGEC has been reborn. As a result, you can expect to find many of the same, successful educational components of the previous program...combined with some new faces, ideas, technologies and perspectives. Our mission, however, remains the same: **To serve as a world class, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, culturally diverse geriatric education center for the healthcare professionals of South Florida.**

In the spaces below, you will learn the highlights of the exciting educational activities we expect to engage in over the course of this new three-year grant cycle. You will also meet some great people – the new MAGEC office staff.

We think you will be pleased with what is in store for you. We invite you to embark upon this new and challenging educational adventure with us. Join us now for what we hope will be many rewarding MAGEC Moments!

A Look at the People...

MAGEC has been a successful Geriatric Education Center (GEC) since 1988, under the direction and leadership of **Edwin Olsen, M.D., MBA, J.D.** Dr. Olsen, who is nationally recognized in Geriatrics, continues as the Director of the new MAGEC, one of 50 GEC's funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (or HRSA), under the Department of Health and Human Services.



Jean Sherman, Ed.D., RN assumes the role of MAGEC's Associate Director. During her 14 years at the University of Miami, Dr. Sherman has engaged in a variety of community training and educational projects in both the aging and the disability fields.

Between her clinical nursing and her university careers, Jean was also active in the aging services network for more than a dozen years...serving as the founding director of an adult day care center,

director of a multipurpose, focal point senior center and as an assistant director at an area agency on aging. Most recently, for the past several years she has been involved in advocacy and educational efforts with a local coalition to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders and vulnerable adults. Dr. Sherman enters her new position, armed with this broad experience and recognition in the South Florida community

Mamie Brisker is the new MAGEC Program Coordinator;



Nadege Louis-Jeune, is the new Staff Associate.



In their respective roles, each brings a vitality and enthusiasm for the job ahead that will stand them in good stead and serve MAGEC's many customers well.

A Few Upcoming Highlights...

Over the course of the next three years, MAGEC will embark on the following new initiatives: 1) implement a project whereby patients will identify issues they want their healthcare providers to discuss with them; 2) educate interdisciplinary practitioners about the assessment and treatment of compulsive gambling in the older population; 3) promote an understanding of the importance of health literacy in the older population, as a factor affecting health outcomes; 4) increase the awareness and use of evidence-based health promotion and chronic disease self-management in the community; 5) provide multidisciplinary education on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation to healthcare professionals; 6) educate healthcare providers on how technology (tele-health and telemedicine) can be used to facilitate healthcare delivery and promote positive healthcare behaviors among elders; 7) teach primary care physicians and other practitioners how to manage older patients in community practice via the use of proven "tool kits;" and, 8) collaborate with the Center on Aging to establish and implement a continuing education certificate program in gerontology, for community healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals.

The above activities will also occur alongside continuing MAGEC efforts: to increase cultural sensitivity on our web site and in our trainings; screen for depression and alcohol abuse among elders in primary care settings; further develop the University of Miami's Healthcare and Elder Law Policy (HELP) Center; educate nursing home administrators and staff regarding the medical and legal issues of improving care for nursing home residents; maintain and advance partnerships with a variety of community entities and conferences – bioethics, professional guardians and local area agencies on aging; and, conduct distance and traditional learning programs, including the traditionally popular annual Advances conferences on specific topics and intensive geriatric interdisciplinary team trainings (GITT).

Watch for specific notification about our first Advances Conference, which we hope to present in the spring of 2008. The first GITT is being planned for July of that year.

We will be working with a wonderful and varied group of academic and community partners in this new MAGEC program. These partners (listed below in alphabetical order) include: Alliance for Aging, Barry University, Center on Aging & Disabilities, Coalition to Prevent Abuse of Vulnerable Adults, Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Bioethics Network, Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Florida Medical Association, Florida State Guardianship Association, Miami/Dade Area Health Education Center, Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Plaza Health Network, Stein Gerontological Institute, and, the University of South Florida. We welcome all of MAGEC's friends and associates from the past and look forward to making new acquaintances and meeting a new generation of trainees!

Join Our (e)mailing List!

Please visit our webpage and send us your up-to-date contact information so that we will be able to keep you informed of upcoming MAGEC moments and events!

<http://www.miami.edu/magec>

NOTE: Soon we will be distributing our new office mailing and contact information. However, you may address any immediate concerns or questions to Jean Sherman at: jsherman@med.miami.edu.

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