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Emerities Newsletter, Winter 2012

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

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EMERITIES
Intellectual Creative and Social Engagement
WINTER • 2012

THE ADVENTURES OF A PERSISTENT PIANO PLAYER

By Ralph Russell, Professor Emeritus of Library

Having begun piano lessons at age 8, it feels as if I've played all my life. I began as a 10-year-old playing for church, then transitioned into an accompanist for community and school groups, a dance band, and a jazz ensemble. As a college student, I helped support myself by playing for church services, cocktail parties, and soloists and ensembles. Although I've played piano all these years, since I retired from GSU in 1997 I have had the leisure time to devote more of my energies to music.

Community theater is a wonderful way to combine drama and music, and since retirement, I've played for musicals including *Oliver, South Pacific, Nunsense, Dracula*, and several children's productions. I have loved working with amateur vocalists and playing for such appreciative audiences.

For 14 years, I served as pianist for two small Presbyterian churches, where I played for any and everything. I've "retired" as a church pianist, but I continue to accompany a community chorus and perform in a piano duo. We live in a community of folks over 55 years of age, so there are many events at which music (and musicians!) are a welcome addition.

One of my favorite – and most challenging – music opportunities was accompanying a Southern gospel quartet for five years. The quartet had been together for 15 years and had an established repertoire with four commercial recordings. They used no printed music so I listened intently and duplicated what I heard on the recording. For new music, they harmonized by ear and I duplicated it on the piano. And if you have heard Southern gospel, you know that when singers pause at the end of a phrase or verse, it is left to the ingenuity and technical skills of the piano player to "fill the void." The quartet, which performed mostly for small, country churches, had a consistent and uproarious sense of humor and we

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Emeriti Association hits 10-year mark

HELP US CELEBRATE IN 2012!

Can it really be a decade since the formation of the Emeriti Association of Georgia State University? The Emeriti Association is indeed 10 years old this year! An elaborate 10th Anniversary Celebration is being planned for the fall. Watch for news about the big event and make your plans to join in the celebration.

You can help us prepare for the celebration. **If you have memorabilia you are willing to share and don't need returned, please send it to Laurel Bowen, University Archivist, Georgia State University Library, 100 Decatur St. SE, Atlanta, GA 30303-3202.**

We are especially interested in receiving early copies of the Emeriti Association Newsletter, event announcements and invitations, and pictures of events that have been held during the last 10 years. Identifying information about events/dates/persons pictured, etc., would be helpful. Please do not write on the items, but provide information on a separate sheet of paper or sticky notes attached to the back. With your help, we can establish a permanent historical file of the Emeriti Association that can be housed in the University Archives of the Library.

2 **HIGHER ED RETIREES UNITE**
Retiree associations from Georgia colleges and universities hold first-ever joint meeting.

2 **THE SUMMER WIND**
Emerita's vacation plans almost blown off course.

3 **GO WEST OLD MAN**
Emeritus goes on wilderness expedition.

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SPOTLIGHT

Ted Ayllon, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, recently published "Head Strong: A Parenting Survival Kit for Reducing Tension and Building Self-Esteem."

In this book, Ted points out that the behavior patterns of problematic children can be understood in terms of a personal cost/benefit analysis to the child.

Specifically, a child learns to "manipulate" a parent's reaction and over time, "teaches" parents to tolerate disobedience and defiance. When patterns of behavior are examined in the parent-child interaction, much can be understood as to the why and how of changing it.

The methods described in this book rest on a well-researched fact: the emotional make-up and behavior of a child is largely influenced by the way parents interact with him/her on a day-to-day basis. The author's approach is rooted in more than 30 years of working with families.

Jack Hassard, Professor Emeritus of Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology, recently published "Science As Inquiry," 2nd Edition.

This book weaves together ideas about science teaching and inquiry that were developed over Jack's many years of work with practicing science teachers and in courses he taught at GSU. "Science As Inquiry" provides the practical tools that science teachers use to involve their students in inquiry learning, including hands-on investigations, project-based activities, Internet-based learning, and science activities.

This book recommends moving toward teaching that is rooted locally, personalized and related to the nature and needs of the students. "Science As Inquiry" is based on the idea that learning is deepened if viewed as a communal experience and students are involved in making decisions about how and what they learn.

CHAIR'S DESK

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On January 5 our Emeriti Association and Emory's Emeritus College hosted a day-long meeting of representatives from retiree organizations similar to ours from 11 public and private institutions of higher learning in Georgia. Held at Georgia State, the meeting included participants from Clayton State, Emory, Georgia Health Science University (formerly the Medical College of Georgia), Georgia Tech, Georgia Perimeter, George State, Kennesaw State, Morehouse School of Medicine, Oglethorpe, UGA, and West Georgia.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20 at Emory from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the meantime, attendees will be working to recruit participants from other schools.

During the meeting, attendees shared information about their respective programs and activities. Across the board, the most popular programs deal with retirement benefits. Some retiree organizations are either funding student scholarships or aspiring to, and one of the retiree organizations provides research grants for its retired faculty. Some associations offer ambitious programs such as overnight trips and overseas tours.

The consensus at this meeting was that we should establish a Georgia association of higher-education organizations that are dedicated to working with their retirees.

Attendees were enthusiastic about establishing a state-wide association, as illustrated by a note from one participant who thanked Georgia State for hosting the event and wrote, "I got so much from the interactions and absolutely have a list of ideas to implement quickly and some to work on adding."

Lee, Myself and Irene at the Jersey Shore

By Carolyn Robison, Professor Emerita, Library

For the past 40 years, I have vacationed at the Jersey Shore with family. This summer my sister Jane and I planned to drive to Avalon, N.J. on Aug. 27. Hurricane Irene was also heading up the east coast, and we wondered if we should go. On the 25th, my sister Emily called to say the entire county was being evacuated and she and Bob were headed to their home in Bryn Mawr, Pa. They were leaving the beach home they have owned for 30 years as Irene was predicted to hit the shore.

We decided to go anyway, perhaps stopping in Bryn Mawr. On Sunday, we called Emily from Harrisonburg, Va., and were thrilled to hear that Irene passed offshore and Avalon had no damage. Hallelujah! We drove straight to the shore on Monday and the weather was beautiful all week.

By the weekend, tropical storm Lee was headed our way. Tuesday morning Jane and I headed home. We drove through torrential rains as Lee made his way north, but eventually we drove out of the rain and into bright sunshine.

If you have never been to the New Jersey shore, I hope you will go some day. There are wide beaches, broad sand dunes, and great swimming, fishing and boating. Or, you can do what I usually do: sleep, eat, read, play bridge, or just lie in the sun. I did all of those things and loved it.

Vacationing in a True Wilderness Area

By Ernest Swift, Professor Emeritus of Finance

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines a wilderness, in part, as an area "without permanent improvements or human habitation" that has "opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." In the most basic terms, this means short-term habitation cannot involve modern conveniences of the sort that require ball bearings.

For example, there is no valet service because there are no cars – transportation consists of horses, mules or hiking; room service does not exist because hotels are replaced by tents; lighting is from kerosene lanterns; and so forth.

Many national forests have wilderness areas that allow camping, fishing and hunting. One such area lies deep within the Shoshone National Forest in northwest Wyoming. The area is called the Thoroughfare in reference to the creek that flows into Yellowstone Lake, within the southeast corner of Yellowstone National Park. The beauty of this wilderness area is equal to that of Yellowstone without the cars, hotels and throngs of people.

My opportunity to visit the Thoroughfare area came about as a result of my activity with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF.org), a conservation organization "to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat." Evidence of RMEF's success is the restoration of elk even to several states east of the Mississippi River. At an Atlanta RMEF fundraiser, I purchased a five-day elk scouting trip offered at auction by Jeff Krueger of Wyoming Expeditions. The trip took place August 2009.

Travel into the Thoroughfare begins 40 miles southeast of Cody, Wyo., with the loading of gear and foodstuffs onto mules at the trailhead. The 22 mile, 8.5 hour trail to camp is called Deer Creek Trail, and it crests a mountain pass at just over 11,000 feet. Often the trail is no more than 10-12 inches wide. Although the trail seems scary at first, the advice from the outfitter to "trust your horse" soon is accepted.

The scenery is spectacular, with waterfalls and sheer cliffs. These are the

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THE ADVENTURES OF A PERSISTENT PIANO PLAYER

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were greeted and loved wherever we went by bus all over several states. We never made any money – in fact it cost us – but the experience was certainly a high point of my musical life.

Another favorite musical opportunity was arranging for and accompanying a women's quartet, which included our daughter, Lauren. The quartet began as a church group but quickly broadened into a more inclusive repertoire, including classical pieces and show tunes. The opportunity to arrange for a women's quartet was a thrill – and included some of my favorite old hymns such as Blessed Assurance, I'll Fly Away, and Victory in Jesus.

"Have you played piano all of your life?" Yes, and what a fulfilling life it has been! The music is a source of blessings and enjoyment. Who could ask for more?!

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VACATIONING IN WILDERNESS *cont. from page 3*

mountains and valleys made famous by men such as John Colter, Jim Bridger and Buffalo Bill Cody. They are part of the beauty that inspired Theodore Roosevelt to establish the National Park System; they cannot be seen from a highway.

Our camp was situated only a few miles from the southeast corner of Yellowstone Park. Summer turned to fall before our very eyes during the weeklong trip in late August. The grass on the valley floor changed from a healthy green to an autumn brown due to subfreezing evening temperatures. The leaves of the aspen trees, or quakies as they are called out West, changed from green tinged with gold to brilliant autumnal yellow.

We spotted elk every day, as well as mule deer and bears. Each day, we experienced terrain that was similar and yet so different from the day before. The mix of trees and meadows seemed different because of the extreme slopes of the hillsides and the shifting shadows caused by the sun's rays. The mountains were beautiful – majestic in all directions by any definition!

The week ended much too quickly, but we enjoyed the trip immensely and recommend these excursions. There are also hunting trips offered later in the fall to wilderness areas throughout the West. These expedition outfitters also offer similar trips in the summer.

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EMERITIES
Events & Activities

Be sure to check out our upcoming events:

- **GSU St. Valentine's Day Emeriti Luncheon**
  February 14, 2012 • 11:30 a.m. Reception • 12:15 p.m. Lunch
  Rialto Center for the Arts

- **Author Series, Emerita Jackie Boles – *Life Upon the Wicked Stage: A Sociological Study of Entertainers***
  March 22, 2012: 11a.m. • 8th Floor • Library South
  The event will include a talk by Dr. Boles and a Q&A period.

Missy Cody, Anna Hogan, John Hogan and Dave Fraboni at the Holiday Open House

David Anderson, GSU Library Emeritus signing in at the Benefits Meeting

David Anderson and Sally Meyer at Fall Benefits Meeting

COMING UP:
SPRING AUTHORS SERIES
JACQUELINE BOLES

On Thursday, March 22, the Authors Series will feature Dr. Jacqueline Boles, Professor Emerita of Sociology. Her academic portrait of show people, "Life Upon the Wicked Stage: A Sociological Study of Entertainers," examines the world of actors, singers, dancers, comics, sports figures and celebrities of all varieties. The author reviews the history of show business from its earliest beginnings to the present day. She analyzes performers' backgrounds and career patterns, and shows the effect that life on the stage can have on family and relationships. Please join us for what will surely be an entertaining discussion of the sociology of entertainers. The event will include a talk by Dr. Boles and a Q & A period.

Recap: Fall Emeriti Events

By Professor Emerita Mildred (Missy) Cody

Benefits Luncheon, October 28: Have you checked on your benefits lately? At the October 28 Emeriti meeting, Corrin Sorteberg reminded emeriti that updating benefit choices includes making changes to beneficiary designations. This can be done any time during the year. You can do this online through the ADP system, *https://portal.adp.com/public/index.htm*, or contact Corrin Sorteberg, Benefits Manager, for help at 404/413-3314 or *corrinsorteberg@gsu.edu*.

Memory and Aging, November 9: Is your memory coming or going? At the November 9 Emeriti meeting, Dr. Ann Pearman, a licensed clinical psychologist who holds a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology and the Gerontology Institute at GSU, described some of the differences between memory changes normally associated with aging and memory changes that are pathological. If you want to improve your memory…exercise. If you want to remember more…help yourself by making and using lists and by standardization such as putting your keys in the same place every time. Dr. Pearman invited emeriti to participate in memory screening initiatives and to contact her if they had questions at *apearman@gsu.edu*.

RECAP:
AUTHORS SERIES
WILLIAM LONG

by Emerita Anne Page Mosby, Chair of the Authors Series

On December 1, Bill Long, GSU's new Dean of Arts and Sciences, discussed his 2011 book, "Pandemics and Peace: Public Health Cooperation in Zones of Conflict," published by the United States Institute of Peace. In a thoroughly engaging presentation, he explained his specialized research on disease surveillance networks in three regions with histories of local conflict: the Mekong Basin, the Middle East and East Africa. Drawing on international relations theory, he described effective processes by which interests, institutions, and ideas can align to allow for interstate cooperation, even in unfavorable environments. His conclusions identified cause for hope in a contentious world, with detailed policy recommendations and suggestions for further research.

EMERITIES
Events & Activities

Launch the new Emeriti website on your computer!

By Sandra Owen, Emerita, Chair of Website Committee

We are proud to announce the launch of our exciting new website! Now you will be able to find information about the activities and benefits of the Emeriti Association with a click of the mouse. To make it simple, the content and directions for negotiating the site are described below.

Getting there now and later:

Go to *www.gsu.edu/emeriti* and click Georgia State University Emeriti Association. You can "bookmark" this page for easy access in the future via the Bookmark function in the menu bar.

Let's navigate:

• Click *"People"* to view Emeriti Association Bylaws, annual budget, and coordinating committee minutes; coordinating committee members and their contact information; and GSU liaison and staff support information. Under *"People,"* click *"Member list"* for an alphabet you can click on for easy access to a particular member through the first letter of their last name. The "*" icon designates deceased members. Through a text box on the right, members may access the GSU Digital Archives and connect with Archives staff.

• Click *"Newsletter"* for this year's EMERITIES. Click on *"read more"* to view the entire issue.

• Click *"Giving"* for easy and secure online access to Emeriti Endowment Fund and Georgia State University Foundation giving opportunities. You will also find articles about some of Georgia State's generous donors, whose stories show that active and consistent giving benefits both the receiver and the giver!

• Click *"Events"* for specific time, location and RSVP information. Instructions help you navigate through each event. Announcement flyers, directions/maps, and presentation materials are posted when available. A comprehensive event calendar appears on the left for printing and posting.

• Click *"Contact"* for staff e-mail and phone contact information.

Send your feedback comments to Sandra Owen, *sowen2@gsu.edu*.

In Memoriam

Professor of English Arthur E. Waterman (Art) died in Sneads Ferry, N.C., on Oct. 10, 2011. Art taught at GSU for many years, specializing in American fiction and drama of the early twentieth century, and retired in 1984. English Professor Malinda Snow remembers: "Art was executive secretary of the state AAUP, and he approached his job with relish and skill. He believed strongly in faculty governance and in the need for faculty to stand up for fair treatment and the right to govern." Malinda recalled that Art led the AAUP's lawsuit in the late ´70s or early ´80s against the Board of Regents when it rescinded faculty raises after contracts had been signed. The AAUP won, and many of us remember joyfully getting our raises.

Malinda further described Art: "He was straightforward, funny, unpretentious and approachable. I don't think I ever saw him wear a tie. He spoke with an upper-Midwest accent, Minnesotan-style, and he liked sailboats. Among colleagues he was congenial, responsible and unselfish. I never heard him whine or grumble. He knew how to act in a positive and beneficial way."

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