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Fall 2011

# Emerities Newsletter, Fall 2011

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

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Recommended Citation
Georgia State University Emeriti Association, "Emerities Newsletter, Fall 2011" (2011). *Emeriti Faculty Publications.* Paper 11.
http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/gsuemeriti/11

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EMERITIES
Intellectual Creative and Social Engagement
FALL • 2011

# AN 'EXTREME' EXPERIENCE

*By Hiram and Babs Johnston*

Now we know why they call it EXTREME Make Over: Home Edition (EMHE)! Indeed, an EXTREME experience — start to finish! Extremely: challenging, chaotic and confusing, dusty, hot and exhausting, but — in hindsight – energizing, rewarding and exhilarating! As volunteer coordinators for EMHE in Madison, Ga., we had one of the most demanding, yet gratifying experiences of our lives!

It all began on a cold February morning in Madison, when 9-year-old Anaiah Rucker and her 5-year-old sister, Camry, broke free from their mother's hands and ran to catch the school bus. Realizing a pick-up truck was headed toward Camry, Anaiah pushed her little sister out of harm's way and took the full impact of the hurtling vehicle!

Knocked unconscious, this brave little girl was resuscitated by school bus driver Loretta Berryman. Thankfully, Berryman was up-to-date with her CPR and breathed life back into Anaiah. Two "heroes" emerged that day Anaiah and Loretta!

Air-lifted to Egleston Children's Hospital, Anaiah's life was spared but doctors were unable to save her left leg, a damaged kidney and her spleen. "Madison's Little Hero" began her long road to recovery.

Enter: Mark Schlabach, former AJC sports writer, author and current ESPN reporter. Mark, a Madison resident with three beautiful children of his own, was touched by Anaiah's story and began his personal crusade on her behalf. Mark spoke with Hiram, president and foreman of Morgan County's Habitat for Humanity, and learned that Anaiah's current dilapidated housing was unsuitable for handicapped-accessible restoration.

Mark then began a three-month campaign to bring EMHE to Madison to build Anaiah's family a new home! Hours of interviewing the family and filming their home ensued. While on the road covering sports, Mark called Babs daily with updates on his "mission." One day Mark would get EMHE's "thumbs up" on the project, two days later "thumbs down." While continuing to work at his own job, Mark contacted every person he thought could become a key player in this "labor of love."

After three grueling months of phone calls, filming, visits, interviews, ups and downs, EMHE relented to Mark's badgering and selected Anaiah's family for a home! Then the "real work" began!

*Babs and Hiram Johnston proudly wear "volunteer coordinator" hats for an Extreme Makeover Home Edition filmed in Madison, Ga.*

Mark asked us to serve as volunteer coordinators for the EMHE build and "the rest is history." From July 10 to July 18, with temperatures soaring near 100 degrees, we processed approximately 400 workers a day through our tent and watched a home go from ground to landscape perfect in five days!

Anaiah, a straight-A student, and her family have moved into their lovely Craftsman home, and thanks to the generosity of many caring people, their future looks promising!

In August, sporting her new Shriner's prosthetic, Anaiah returned to both school and the Madison-Morgan Boys and Girls Club.

Life has returned to normal for us, and we plan to watch "EMHE Madison Style" when it airs on ABC in October.

*Both Hiram and Babs Johnston are retired from the College of Education. Hiram was a professor in the Department of Middle and Secondary Education; Babs was director of development.*

2 **MEET THE NEW DEANS**
GSU welcomes three new leaders.

3 **'BASICS' TRAINING**
Dean emeritus and wife lead congressional seminars on economics.

3 **LIFELONG LEARNING**
Summer camp offers focused fun.

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SPOTLIGHT

## PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

If you are interested in information about our present financial crisis, John Hogan, dean emeritus of the College of Business, will send you a copy of an IRET Advisory Bulletin titled Monetary Policy—Conventional and Unconventional; Taming of the Financial Crisis, published July 29, 2011, and distributed to the Congress, universities and others. E-mail him at jhogan@gsu.edu.

**Kenneth Whipple**, professor emeritus of mathematics, presented a paper titled "An Efficient Way to Generate Permutations" last spring at the meeting of the Mathematical Association of America at Randolph Macon College in Lynchburg, Va.

# CHAIR'S DESK

DAVE EWERT • dewert@gsu.edu

We have two new initiatives — one finished and the other forthcoming. The first is the Pre-Retirement program. Its purpose is to serve the current faculty and encourage them later to become active in the Emeriti Association. There were three 2.5-hour sessions ending in November for faculty thinking of retiring in the next one to five years. The Emeriti Association, in partnership with Human Resources and the Gerontology Institute, expects to offer this program annually.

In the September session, Conrad Ciccotello and Elisabeth Burgess presented respectively *Financial Planning Issues for Those Nearing (Fearing?) Retirement* and *The Morning After: What to Expect In Retirement*. Conrad discussed how the financial planning emphasis shifts from wealth accumulation, when still earning, towards income vs. expenses at retirement. Elisabeth stressed what type of retirement is sought: Complete retirement from work? A change of jobs? Semi-retirement with part-time work? Self employment? Some retirees may go through several stages. Retirement is not a single event, but a process.

*Conrad Ciccotello and Elisabeth Burgess presented at the Emeriti Associations first pre-retirement program.*

For Valentine's Day we plan to have a reception in the morning in each college's/school's facilities for the current faculty and emeriti to meet. Afterwards the emeriti will come together at the Rialto for our annual luncheon sponsored by GSU. Mark your calendars now, and we'll plan to see you February 14.

## Three New Deans: *Arts & Sciences, Honors and Nursing and Health Professions*

**Georgia State University Provost Risa Palm has announced the appointment of three new college deans:**

**WILLIAM J. LONG** became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on Aug. 8, leading the university's largest college, with more than 40 academic and interdisciplinary centers and programs in the fine arts; humanities; natural and computational sciences; and social and behavioral sciences.

Long will also serve as a professor of political science. Previously, Long served as chair and professor of international affairs at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech.

Long served as a faculty member at Georgia Tech for 20 years. He received his Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and his law degree from Georgetown University. His fields of interest include health diplomacy; international cooperation and trade; and conflict resolution.

**LARRY BERMAN** will become the inaugural dean of GSU's new Honors College effective Jan. 3, 2012. Berman completed his Ph.D. at Princeton in 1977. He previously served as a professor of political science at the University of California-Davis and is an internationally recognized expert on American politics, foreign policy, the American presidency and the war in Vietnam.

Berman will lead a college dedicated to the advocacy of educational experiences and resources needed by GSU's high-ability students. As set forth by the university's Strategic Plan, the college will be a place where faculty can work with GSU's most talented students to advance undergraduate scholarship, enhance research, foster service, and compete for prestigious awards and fellowships.

**MARGARET C. WILMOTH** will become dean of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions, effective Jan. 1, 2012. Wilmoth received her doctoral degree in nursing at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. She has served as a brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve and was the first nurse and woman to command a medical brigade at the general officer rank.

Wilmoth is presently professor of nursing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is an active researcher in the field of psychosocial oncology and has an ongoing role with the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group of the National Cancer Institute.

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## CHAUTAUQUA

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wide range of subjects such as computer competencies, comparative religion or proficiencies in languages other than English.

Chautauqua's Religion Department hosts a prominent chaplain for each week of the season. It also presents a formal lecture based upon a contemporary religious or ethical issue each weekday afternoon. I consistently enjoy these lectures because they are often challenging and have the potential to fundamentally change listeners' perspectives. Lecturers often focus on topics and describe developments under religious auspices that are ahead of the times. For example, Chautauqua sponsored Soviet-American citizens' exchanges well before they were encouraged by government policies. Over the past 15 years, Chautauqua's path-breaking "Abrahamic Initiative" has been a model for other, more recent, programs that discuss the comparisons in theory and practice of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Multi-generational family groups often gather at Chautauqua, which offers educational programming for all ages. The Children's School serves children under 6. Older children can attend the Boys' and Girls' Clubs for educational opportunities and to develop recreational skills such as tennis or sailing on the nearby Chautauqua Lake. Fitness and recreational facilities are also available to adults.

Art and culture also are available. The resident Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra draws musicians from orchestras nationwide. Visiting chamber music groups perform weekly. Resident theater and dance companies and a youth orchestra, each with student members, give performances, and two on-site art galleries change exhibits throughout the season.

A stay at Chautauqua is indeed restorative, and this summary introduction to its program offerings leaves many possibilities unstated. The toughest "assignment" for me each season is deciding how to choose wisely among more programming options than one person can possibly attend. Interested readers should consult Chautauqua's user-friendly website, *www.ciweb.org*, for more details.

*Marjorie Girth is professor emerita of the Georgia State University College of Law.*

12-0019

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# EMERITIES Activities Calendar

## Winter Calendar

*Watch for additional information on the following Emeriti programs and events:*

### NOVEMBER

- **Dr. Ann Pearman, Memory and Aging**
  Nov. 9 • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. • 8th floor, Library South

### DECEMBER

- **Author's Series, Dean William Long**
  Dec. 1 • 11 a.m. – noon • 8th floor Library South
- **Holiday Party at the Hogan's**
  Dec. 11 • 3 – 5 p.m.

*Also recommended:*
**GSU's Gala Holiday Concert**
*a fantastic annual program!*
Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.
Rialto Center for the Arts
*(go to www.rialtocenter.org for tickets)*

### JANUARY

- **Dr. Rajeev Dhawan, State of the Nation's Economy**
  Jan. 19

### FEBRUARY

- **Valentine's Luncheon**
  Feb. 14 • Rialto Center for the Arts. Time TBD

## COMING UP: WINTER AUTHORS SERIES WILLIAM LONG

Health and politics are two issues of direct interest to everyone; so, too is the linkage between pandemics and peace!

On Dec. 1, William J. Long, Georgia State's new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, will discuss "Pandemics and Peace: Public Health Cooperation in Zones of Conflict."

His book examines how mutual interests, shared institutions and ideas, and inclusive identities can combine to promote international cooperation in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and East Africa.

Meet Long, Georgia State's new dean of Arts and Sciences, on Dec. 1 in Library South, 8th floor at 11 a.m.

## Emeriti Art Excursions

*By Maria Gindhart*

The Emeriti Association has now had two outings to the High Museum of Art. The group visited "Modern by Design" in August and "Picasso to Warhol" in November. Part of a multi-year, multi-exhibition collaboration with the Museum of Modern Art, both shows have enabled art and design enthusiasts in the Southeast to see works from one of the strongest collections of modern art in the world without having to travel to New York. While Picasso to Warhol focused on masterpieces by 14 canonical artists, members of the Emeriti Association can look forward to another exhibit next fall that will be organized chronologically.

For the spring, we are going to switch gears and see Bill Traylor Drawings from the collections of the High Museum and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. This will be a special treat because we will get to hear from Susan Mitchell Crawley, curator of folk art at the High and an alumna of Georgia State University's MA program in art history, who organized the exhibit in conjunction with the Montgomery Museum. The show comprises approximately 60 drawings by Alabama vernacular artist William Traylor (1854–1949), who created for a decade beginning at age 85.

*Maria Gindhart is an associate professor in the School Art and Design and leader of Emeriti excursions to the High Museum of Art.*

## RECAP: FALL AUTHORS SERIES EUGEN SCHOENFELD

On Sept. 8 Professor Emeritus Eugen Schoenfeld presented an overview of his recent book, "My Reconstructed Life." While his original motivation was to write the book for his children and grandchildren, the more he wrote, the more an expanded autobiography emerged. He recounted growing up in a unique small town in the Carpathian Mountains, being transported to concentration camps for brutal work duties, and gradually constructing plans for his future after war.

A highlight of Gene's presentation was a detailed, illustrated description of the now vanished world of Eastern European Jewish communities of the early 20th century. As he said: "It was my pre-Holocaust past that helped me to rebuild my life after my liberation." A devotion to family, commitment to study, and openness for miracles describe a truly fascinating life.

# EMERITIES Events

## Provost Palm's 'State of the University' Address to Emeriti

In her address to Emeriti at a luncheon on Sept. 19, Provost Risa Palm expressed optimism about GSU's numbers and opportunities. By the numbers, the student body this year is the largest in history, 17 students shy of 32,000. SAT scores for incoming freshmen are the highest, averaging about 1150, and the student population is the most diverse.

The university has made 87 new faculty hires for this year to raise research productivity in defined areas such as in the new Center for Inflammation, Immunity and Infection. This is expected to increase federal research dollars that will help GSU move into the top 200 research universities.

Provost Palm also recognized new emeriti and engaged the faculty in discussion of facilities and academic programs.

*Gene Schoenfeld and Anne Page Mosby at Sept. 9 Author Series*

*Provost Risa Palm (center) welcomes new emeriti at Sept. 19 meeting: Danny Bellenger, professor emeritus of marketing; Christine Gallant, professor emerita of English; Sandra Lee Owen, clinical instructor emerita of kinesiology and health; Thomas Whalen, professor emeritus managerial science; Marti Singer, associate professor emerita of English.*

*Provost Risa Palm at the Sept. 19 luncheon.*

## Our Summer Commitment and Creation: *The Emeriti Website*

*By Sandra L. Owen, Chair of Website Subcommittee, Emeriti Coordinating Committee*

In the words of George Gershwin, "Summertime and the living is easy." The summer of 2011 has been one of commitment and creation, as a band of six moved forward, united to redesign the Emeriti Association website.

Over the summer and into the fall, Wanja (staff, Emeriti Association), Jacque (summer student intern), Harry (Emeriti Coordinating Committee) Linda (staff, Faculty Exchange), Brian (staff, IS&T) and I interacted to create a website worthy of the distinction given emeriti by Georgia State University. We committed to and participated in Red Dot software training, website design discussions, editing discussions and text development and revision.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to serve GSU Emeriti and the Emeriti Association in this special way. Although the new website is not quite ready to be unveiled, finishing touches are now enriching the final product, which will be fully described in the next *Emerities* newsletter.

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