Emerities Newsletter, Spring 2014

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

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Alumnus Honors Favorite Professor

*Courtesy of the College of Law*

One of the enduring pleasures of teaching, especially teaching law, is watching your former students go on to succeed and prosper. Some become highly successful in their areas of practice, others become elected officials, some become judges and a few become friends,” says L. Lynn Hogue, law professor emeritus, about the announcement of the L. Lynn Hogue Professorship in Law. “From its beginning, the college has had a genuine commitment to diversity in the variety of students we admit. However, we never really know everything applicants bring with them or how much law school will mean to them.”

Such was the case with Thomas J. Guzzo (J.D. ’98), who transitioned from a military career into law school thanks, he says, to Lynn Hogue.

“I was 45 years old and at a crossroads in my life. I could continue in the military and an assignment at the Pentagon, or I could prepare for another career,” Guzzo says. “I always wanted to go to law school, but I worried my undergraduate grades were nothing to brag about. Also, I was concerned my military accomplishments and even the two master’s degrees I earned along the way might not carry much weight with the admissions committee.

“I learned about Georgia State University and contacted a friend in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, who told me about Lynn Hogue, a JAG reserve officer, who taught at the College of Law,” Guzzo says. “I asked for an introduction, met with professor Hogue and realistically discussed my prospects for admission with him. He was supportive and helpful, and the next thing I knew I had an acceptance letter. Although he has minimized his involvement in my admission, I always knew he made a big difference.”

Hogue says, “Tom brought some qualities to the law school I think deserved my support. He had a soldier’s tenacity. I knew he wouldn’t quit and his grades weren’t that bad. He also had some values born of a military career I thought would be valuable in law.”

Four years later Guzzo graduated in the top half of his class, passed the bar exam on his first attempt and began his second career in law. However, he never forgot Lynn Hogue, who became a close friend. When Hogue retired, Guzzo looked for a way to honor him and say thanks.

“I really didn’t know a meaningful way of saying thanks to a retiring law professor. A watch or a pen wouldn’t do it,” Guzzo says. “I kept hearing about scholarships, professorships and chairs, and that got me thinking. I came up with the idea of funding one of them for professor Hogue, but I didn’t really understand how they were structured, or how the money is spent.

“Lynn explained that professorships and chairs were among the highest honors bestowed on a professor and seemed like a great way to express my appreciation for the way he and the college had changed my life,” Guzzo says. “I asked for only two conditions. First, to the extent possible, I wanted him to take ‘ownership’ of it. I wanted him to be able to influence how the professorship would be used to promote the values he and I share and implement the interests he felt...”

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Revitalize your Scholarship with ScholarWorks

Laura Burtt, associate dean for Digital Library Services and Special Collections

ScholarWorks at Georgia State is the open-access repository the library hosts to preserve Georgia State scholarship and make it accessible. The repository contains almost 7,000 items, including 3,431 electronic theses and dissertations, 446 faculty publications and one fully downloadable digital book, as well as numerous conference materials and hosted journals collectively downloaded more than 2.4 million times.

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A POST-RETIREMENT QUEST TO BUILD AUDIENCES

James Cooney, professor emeritus, J. Mack Robinson College of Business

While never fanatical about the fine art form, I enjoyed opera during my adolescent years. I came into the world with congenital, progressive hearing loss. By my teens, I learned opera obviously at an early stage in the opera house or at the theatre where I lived every year when it wasn’t necessary for me to ask, “What did she/he just sing/ say?”

Now, move forward 70-plus years through the usual evolutionary life stages, all of which provided operatic exposure. Retired from academic and other professional pursuits — to a small, lush island off Hilton Head, I’m surrounded by pristine golf opportunities, and I fortunately discovered a few other retired residents who enjoy opera.

Periodically our opera-loving group rafted off the island for live opera and/or Metropolitan Opera simulcasts, and the group usually wants more information about the productions. A pasting contest lost earned the group the responsibility of developing this material. I learned from my children to attract attendance, materials must be non-technical (no music-speak), informative and preferably illustrated. Most important, they must be entertaining. Such content worked well with kids and seemed to move its seductive spell on my opera-inclined neighbors.

As we attended more opera productions, I noticed something curious and worrisome about the audiences. Obviously and consistently, the attendees were aging, while younger folks, if not absent, were conspicuously in the minority. Aging audiences get smaller without youthful replenishment, n’est ce pas?

I sent some of my opera education materials to John Haberlin, former director of the Georgia State College of Music. My question was, “Could these write-ups be used to lure new patrons to performances, rebuilding the audience?” John seemed intrigued but unsure, so he passed the question to Dwight Coleman, who assumed the directorship upon John’s retirement. Dwight, who has now moved to another position at the School of Music, also teaches, produces and performs opera.

Dwight, supportive of the materials, extended the invitation to develop supplementary materials for the school’s annual spring opera production and to deliver pre-performance lectures, which invitation was accepted, but requested lectures became discussions. The first discussion had an audience of five. But not to worry — over the past nine years, business has picked up. Now, usually there’s a full house, and frequently standing room only.

As to the presentation process, I write a commentary on the annual opera. Then my resident-editor and spouse, Sondra, makes a readable printed result is a 10 to 15,000-word folio-sized booklet. We finance the printing for distribution to all attendees.

In addition to Georgia State’s School of Music, we’ve been doing pro bono booklets for numerous for two regional opera companies to use on their websites. Our folio inventory is now up to 60. Fifteen of these are also now e-books, with more in the queue. Could this be a cottage industry gone ballistic? Probably not! However, the discussion crowd is interested to watch over time, as we have a cadre of annual returnees. Every now and then, a high school teacher will appear with class in tow, which is most exciting.

Recently, my grandson volunteered me to orient his fifth-grade peers to the mysteries of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute,” in cooperation with Opera Carolina’s stripped-down version for youth. It was a successful encounter and hopefully garnered more future attendees!

President’s Society Contributors

The Emeriti Association would like to thank all donors for their gifts to Georgia State University. The President’s Society recognizes annual gifts of $1,000 or more. This list includes contributors who made gifts from July 1, 2013 to March 1, 2014.

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were important in legal education. And secondly, I wanted it named after him.”

“I was honored,” Hogue says, “and it would be such a wonderful thing to do for the law school.”

Hogue accepted the conditions and is excited by the chance to influence the use of resources. For example, he may encourage teaching and research in fields that composed his career: conflict of laws, military law, national security law and constitutional law.

Guzzo says, “This professorship provides Hogue a legacy that will allow his spirit and values, if not his person, to remain with the college in perpetuity and will serve as a constant reminder of how an alumnus found a way to express his appreciation for the teachings, guidance and friendship of his professor.”
MAY

Museum Tour
Tuesday, May 20, 2014   •   12:30 p.m. tour
Join us to see a short film and enjoy a docent led tour of permanent installations such as the multimedia “Global Symphony.” Featured exhibits include “Art in Science, Selections from Emerging Infectious Diseases” and “Witness: The Photographs of Billy Howard.” The museum requires visitors to present a valid government-issued ID and to allow cars to be searched at the gate. Parking is available at the Visitor Parking Deck. Entrance to the museum and parking is free.

Author Series
Thursday, May 22, 2014
11 a.m.  •  Library South, 8th Floor, Colloquial Room
David O’Connell, professor emeritus, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, will present his book, “The Art & Life of Atlanta Artist Wilbur G. Kurtz.” Nationally renowned Georgia artist and historian Wilbur G. Kurtz launched his career by founding the Pen and Brush Club of Atlanta in 1913. A co-founder of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta, Kurtz supervised the placement of more than four hundred historical markers in northeast Georgia documenting various stages of the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. Decades after his passing in 1967 at the age of eighty-five, Kurtz’s legacy lives on through his murals and historic paintings on display in public buildings and private art collections throughout Atlanta and the South.

Tour of Coca-Cola
Summer 2014  •  Details to come

2014 Upcoming Events:
We will send emeriti invitations with complete information about each event closer to the event date. Updated information will also appear on the emeriti website, emeriti.gsu.edu.

Pictures from Reception Following School of Music Recital
After attending the School of Music Student Concert Series, emeriti enjoyed a reception with the student performers in the Green Room.

Percussion Student performers  Interim Director Stephen A. Harper and Jack Sartain  Stanley and Mary Smits
By Anne Page Mosby, professor emerita, University Library

**DEAN MICHAEL ERIKSEN**

**Book: The Tobacco Atlas**

As Dean Michael Eriksen of the School of Public Health discussed his book, it became clear he’s leading the campus in progressive applied research. “The Tobacco Atlas” is intended to assemble all the information on the tobacco industry for public education and policy development. The Tobacco Portal, a web-based resource for tobacco-related facts at tobacco.publichealth.gsu.edu, supplements the atlas. The School of Public Health recently received a $19 million grant to extend understanding of nicotine addiction through in-depth studies of e-cigarettes. Even as tobacco smoking has declined, new unregulated vaping devices are rapidly becoming popular, especially among teens and young adults. Eriksen described how his continuing work at Georgia State explores why people decide to smoke and exactly how inhaling substances from electronic devices affect the body.

**RECAP: SCHOOL OF MUSIC ALL-AREA RECITAL**

On Thursday, April 17, 2014, the Georgia State emeriti were invited to attend the School of Music All-Area Recital, an event in the Student Concert Series given at Kopleff Recital Hall. The program opened with an outstanding rendition of an anthem by choral students in the School of Music. Attendees were treated to performances by seven undergraduate and graduate students studying in the studios of School of Music faculty members. The performances were varied, including horn, classical guitar, piano, trumpet and saxophone, as well as a vocalist who offered a classical operatic piece by Puccini. The recital ended with a rousing number by four percussionists who performed “Ritual Music” composed by David Skidmore in 2005. After the recital, the emeriti attended a light luncheon buffet with the performers and their instructors. The emeriti look forward to attending a similar recital again next spring.

**In Memoriam**

**Dr. Robert Croom**, professor emeritus of social work, died Dec. 27, 2013. Croom came to Georgia State as a faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice. He was designated an Alumni Distinguished Professor in 1977. Croom was very active in the University Senate, where he was chair of the Statutes and Bylaws Committee. In the three years prior to his retirement he was acting dean of the College of Public and Urban Affairs. He completed the 1994-95 academic year as acting chair of the Department of Social Work. During that year the department’s bachelor’s program gained full re-accreditation and the master’s program achieved approval by the Board of Regents. Croom will be remembered by all who knew him as an affable and friendly person who was dedicated to the advancement of Georgia State.

**Dr. Rhodes Haverty**, dean emeritus of the College of Health Sciences, died Jan. 24, 2014. Haverty, founding dean of the School of Allied Health, established degree programs in nursing and physical therapy, the first accredited physical therapy program in Georgia. The school, later the College of Health Sciences, was the precursor to the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions. Haverty continued as dean until he retired in 1991. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, an associate faculty member in pediatrics at Emory Medical School, an associate head of pediatrics at Crawford Long Hospital and president of the Medical Association of Georgia. While at Georgia State, Rhodes was involved with accreditation as well as serving on the board and executive committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Rhodes will be remembered as a pioneer in establishing health sciences at Georgia State.