

Summer 2011

Emerities Newsletter, Summer 2011

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/gsuemeriti>

Recommended Citation

Georgia State University Emeriti Association, "Emerities Newsletter, Summer 2011" (2011). *Emeriti Faculty Publications*. Paper 15.
<http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/gsuemeriti/15>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the GSU Faculty Publications at ScholarWorks @ Georgia State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Emeriti Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ Georgia State University. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gsu.edu.



PERHAPS IT IS ABOUT THE STARTING LINE

by Harry Dangel

This was to be a moment to treasure – reaching the crest of Heartbreak Hill while running the Boston Marathon. Now, with 21 miles down and just five to go, that was not going to happen.

I staggered into the Red Cross Station atop Heartbreak Hill and, with the support of the staff, sank into a plastic chair. Wrapped in a Mylar blanket and shivering, I remembered that I had promised to write a story for *Emerities* about my grand adventure – some adventure!

Running the Boston Marathon was a Bucket List event for me. The Boston Marathon is the oldest continuously run marathon – 115th running in 2011 – and one of the few events in which an average Joe can compete with the world’s best. One must qualify for Boston, and less than 10 percent of marathoners meet entry standards. In 1981, I finished the Huntsville Marathon in just over three hours – my personal best – but still a minute and a half too slow for Boston’s age-based qualifying time. Years went by and there were the inevitable changes. What speed I had ebbd away; it took longer to heal from injuries; and my coordination, flexibility and balance quietly eroded.

(I fantasized about putting memorials around Sandy Springs where I had done face plants over the years.)

Then, in 2009, I ran a 4:15 marathon in Pittsburgh – just qualifying for Boston in the 65-69 age group. I would run my first Boston Marathon at age 67. But after the St. Jude’s Memphis Marathon in December of that year I developed plantar fasciitis – no Boston in 2010.

I was able to defer my eligibility for one year – 2011 would be my last shot. I trained carefully, nursing my foot, but making certain I had sufficient miles of preparation. It seemed to rain a bone-chilling downpour every Saturday morning this past January, but I knew runners up North were getting out of their warm beds to run in even tougher conditions – so I ran. Normally, marathon-training programs call for about three months of intense preparation, with five 20-mile runs spread over a few months. I did all this and more. I never felt more ready.

So many things can go wrong at the last minute, yet the flight to Boston was smooth. I ate carefully, slept better than expected and woke refreshed and eager to a clear, cool April 18 - Marathon Day. My only



Harry Dangel makes it to the starting line of the 115th Boston Marathon this past spring.

concern was a slightly upset digestive system a day earlier that now seemed to be under control.

The smiling and high-fiving with spectators during my first six miles quickly ended as my legs suddenly got heavy and I was making multiple bathroom stops. And though I was taking water and Gatorade at every opportunity, dehydration set in. I knew I was in trouble, but stubbornly pushed on, finally stopping when I realized that I was unstable even when walking – Heartbreak Hill. I had never failed to finish any race until Boston.

The night before the marathon I had read that one of life’s biggest challenges is getting to the starting line of whatever we want to do. That has become especially true as I get older. A week after returning from Boston, my son and I submitted our applications for the New York City Marathon.

Harry Dangel is professor emeritus of educational psychology and special education

2 FULFILLING A LIFELONG DREAM

Professor pursues his passion for learning Russian.

3 JERUSALEM AT LAST

Holocaust survivor touches history at Western Wall.

4 A POEM FOR MARK

Father honors Marine son.



RAVE REVIEWS FOR L'ABATE

Luciano L'Abate, professor emeritus of psychology, has been informed that *USA Today* will publish an excerpt from his book, "The Seven Sources of Pleasure in Life: Making Way for the Upside in the Midst of Modern Demands."

Says Richard Sauber, editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Family Therapy*: "For years I have been honored to publish some of the most original and meticulously documented contributions by Dr. L'Abate. Being scientific and professional, these frequent contributions did not allow levity or laughter. This book conveys ... the joy of life and the pleasure of living that is present when one meets him personally. I am delighted that now mature lay readers ... will be able to share his keen wit and engaging personality."

We have two new special interest initiatives – the High Museum and the Pre-retirement programs. The Author Series, our first special interest program, is working well under Anne Page Mosby's leadership.

Professor Maria Gindhart, from the School of Art and Design, will host our inaugural excursions to the High, giving us an overview of the exhibits before docents lead us on a tour. The first exhibition we'll visit is Modern by Design on Aug. 3, and you should already have received an e-mail with the details. Picasso to Warhol will be in November. Space will be limited, and there is a fee for those who are not members of the High.

Professor Elisabeth Burgess, from the Departments of Sociology and Gerontology, and Corrin Sorteberg, from Human Resources, are helping design the Pre-Retirement program around three dimensions – financial/legal, sociological and psychological. The target audience is faculty members who plan to retire in the next five years, although emeriti may also find some sessions of interest. The plan is to offer six Friday sessions this fall, each covering two topics, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The first offering, Sept. 23, will have Professor Conrad Ciccotello, from Risk Management and Insurance, discussing financial aspects of retirement and Elisabeth providing an overview of sociological and psychological issues. Space will be limited.

Выполняя пожелание давно OR FULFILLING A WISH OF LONG STANDING

by Gordon Harwood

I have had an interest in foreign languages since childhood. As a small child, some of my very first words were Spanish. This probably stems from having a Spanish-speaking au pair, Criselda, who was later a Wave in the U. S. Navy during World War II. She wrote to me in Spanish several times during the war, and to this day I remember how the need to conjugate verbs gradually dawned on me from her letters.

My interest in Russian probably came from the fact that my grandmother lived in a little town in Texas inhabited by a large population of Czech-speaking immigrants. There, one could readily hear Czech, which features many of the rich consonant clusters typical of Russian, another Slavic language. So the interest in

Russian passed to me through Czech, I think, and this interest prompted me through the years to seek ways to interact with the Russian language.

After retirement I decided to review the one year of Russian I had taken as a University of Texas undergraduate in 1951. This I did at Georgia Tech in their over-62 program, which waives tuition and fees for Georgia senior citizens who attend state university courses on a non-credit basis. After finishing the first two years at Georgia Tech, I inquired about continuing to study Russian without credit at Emory University, which has a long-established Russian department with a wide range of Russian course offerings, and found out that doing so would indeed be feasible. In the fall of 2011 I will be

TAKE COLLEGE CLASSES FOR FREE

If you are a Georgia resident age 62 or older, you may be eligible for free enrollment at GSU.

For more information visit:
www.gsu.edu/admissions/GSU-62.html

at Emory starting my fifth year of Russian, putting me well on the way to fulfilling my life-long wish to learn Russian.

I am looking forward to further interaction with the language when I travel to Russia in the summer of 2012 accompanied by my nephew, a career officer in the U. S. Army.

Gordon Harwood is professor emeritus of accounting

JERUSALEM: THE CITY OF HOPE

by Eugen Schoenfeld

I long dreamt to visit Jerusalem, especially after having survived the Holocaust. I never had the opportunity until 1973, when “Professors for Peace in the Middle East” asked me to join faculty from around the world on a visit to Israel. I was impatient, and it was a long flight, but finally the captain announced, “We are approaching Israel.” Some stood and cheered, some attempted to dance the “horah,” and there was I with tears in my eyes. “I am home,” I said to myself.

I spent a week visiting the land, but now it was time for Jerusalem. The group was scheduled to meet the leaders of the land: Begin, Rabin, and others, but first I felt compelled to visit the Kotel – the Western Wall, the Wailing Wall, the remnant of the ancient Holy Temple.

I walked to the old city and for a while stood in the yard overlooking the ancient stones. At one side of the wall stood the Chassidim in black beaver hats, reciting their prayers with a concentration that made them oblivious to the joyous singing of a group in whose midst were a young boy being carried on his father’s shoulder and a man carrying Torah, clothed in an Eastern-style garment with a large silver crown and breast-plate. They were on their way

to participate in the boy’s bar mitzvah rites.

To the right of the men, the women were cordoned off as required by Talmudic law in a place of worship. Their dress indicated a great geographical and cultural diversity. There were European, Yemenite, North African and Middle Eastern Jews creating a cacophony of language sounds co-mingled with the happy shrills of the female relatives of the bar mitzvah boy. This was not, by any means, the quiet that usually marks a holy and sacred place. This place was alive with the joyful sound of people who after 2,000 years of adversity found themselves physically, emotionally and politically free.

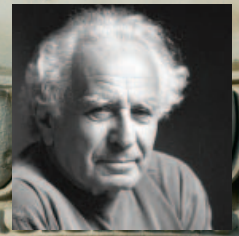
“What I experienced was a communion with a historical transcendent.”

Slowly, and I must confess, with great trepidation I approached the wall. I am a secular person, yet I was overwhelmed by the historical sanctity of the place. I came to touch the “Kotel” to experience the history of my people, to express my love of this oft-maligned, tortured and sacrificed people of whom I am an intrinsic part. I lightly touched the wall, fearing of what it might do to me. Perhaps it was merely a self-fulfilling prophecy,

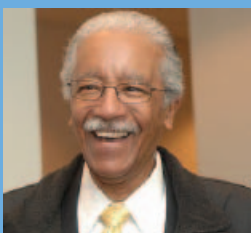
but what I experienced was a communion with a historical transcendent. I was transported as if by magic into another realm. In my vision I was surrounded by Moses, the teacher of all teachers; David the sweet singer of Israel; there were Hillel and Shamai, the two great scholars of the Tanaic period; and there were rabbi Akivah and Bar Kochbah, the revolutionary fighters for Jewish independence. And there also stood my hero, the great Jewish dissenter, Elishah ben Abooyah, who dared to question the meaning of ritualism, who because of his challenge to beliefs and ritual laws was named in the Talmud as “The Different One.”

There I stood in the midst of my history, together with people from the ancient and near past, including my family and the people of my hometown who were killed in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Surrounded by my people, I felt as most Jews do – not only as a survivor of the Holocaust, but as a member of a people who refuse to die.

Eugen Schoenfeld is professor and chair emeritus of sociology. He recently published “Faith and Conflict: Reflections on Christian Faith’s Impact on the Rise of the Holocaust.” His earlier book on the Holocaust is “My Reconstructed Life.”



LEON HURLEY RETIRES AGAIN



Leon Hurley, professor and associate dean emeritus of the College of Education, retired this month from the Coordinating Committee of the Emeriti Association. Leon joined the Coordinating Committee shortly after it began in 2002. Although GSU

emeriti now take it for granted that an emeritus representative will sit on the presidential platform at commencement, Leon started that tradition and was the first emeritus to accompany the presidential party to the graduation ceremony. Leon also served as secretary of the Coordinating Committee for several

years. He was recommended for Association chair many times but always declined. Leon had a special talent for greeting emeriti as they entered an event and for selling them emeriti T-shirts. We are grateful for his many contributions to the growth and development of the Emeriti Association.

In his years at Georgia State, Leon served as chair of the Department of Special Education (now Educational Psychology and Special Education) for 15 years and then as an associate dean. He was also an active member of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission Ethics Committee examining allegations of misconduct by public school teachers and administrators.

OFFICERS

David Ewert, Chair - RCB
dewert@gsu.edu

Glenn Abney, Vice Chair - CAS
gnabney@comcast.net

Missy Cody, Activities - CHHS
mcody@gsu.edu

Pat Sartain, Communications
Alumni Director Emerita
patsartain@aol.com

Lorene Pilcher, Communications - COE
pilchers@comcast.net

John Hogan, Treasurer - RCB
jhogan@gsu.edu

Marjorie Girth, Secretary - COL
mgirth@gsu.edu

Rankin Cooter - COE
rcooter@aol.com

Harry Dangel, Membership - COE
hdangel@gsu.edu

Sandra Owen, Website - COE
sowen2@gsu.edu

Anne Page Mosby, Author Series - Library
annepage@gmail.com

David Fraboni, University Rep. - Development
dfraboni@gsu.edu



CONTACT US:

emeriti@gsu.edu • 404/413-3409

www.gsu.edu/emeriti

P.O. Box 3999, Atlanta, GA 30302-3999

A POEM FOR MARK

by Gene Hollahan

Eugene Hollahan, professor emeritus of English, and his wife, Carol, are proud of their son, Col. Mark Hollahan, USMC, Chief of Staff, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan.

Mark's Mother's Day greeting to Carol, by Skype, was featured on WAGA-TV this spring. Mark enlisted in the Marines while at The Citadel and served in Operation Desert Storm. Gene wrote this poem when Mark was in Desert Storm (published in Weber Studies 13.2):

VERY LAWRENCE, SO TO SPEAK (Col. M.R.H., USMC)

Yucca, Yucca, Yucca japed the desert
when you jeeped from Capistrano to Quantico,
between duty on the west coast and the east.
I shotgunned for you. That is, I dozed,
nightmaring the wild bunch, the dirty dozen,
wilding Las Cruces and Silver City.
I went along for the ride, so cactus
and sagebrush
composed my closeups and middle distance.
Your sand hills were my Death Valley dunes.
My element was Mohawk and Cochise,
my medium
ersatz shale, flint, jasper, and tourmaline.
True grit or false grit? I dubbed the
whole scene,
cactus, mesquite, sagebrush, spongy succulents,
with healing properties from Paramount's
back lot.

The wide absences were Tombstone, Dry
Gulch, and Bowie.
Lizard and horny toad thrived at Growler Pass
and Silver Bell.
Desert rats owing survival to an oasis
dreamed blue eyes in a downpour at Mexicali.
Some auteur or other supplied the script.
I plumed myself filmic and germinal,
uttering a grammar of Hollywood glamor
until I heard the yucca's mockery,
slapping, slapping, slapping like broken film.
You had it in you to laugh in its teeth,
fresh from Arabia Deserta and directing traffic
to the score of Saddam's torch song at Sabriya.
You were the authentic iron man,
coast to coast
like Runyon's character in one unbroken line.

12-0018

P.O. Box 3999
Atlanta, GA 30302-3999



EMERITIES

Activities Calendar

FUTURE EVENTS

Missy Cody, the Activities Subcommittee chair, is planning activities for the calendar year and invites your input.

Please send her an e-mail at mcody@gsu.edu and let her know your interests and/or sign up to serve on her subcommittee.

Plans so far are to recruit experts to speak on topics about which emeriti have expressed an interest: memory and aging, fitness after 50, new technologies and history in Atlanta. A tour of GSU facilities is also in the works.

Possible excursions in the planning stage are: **Theatrical Outfit play** with discussion and/or speaker (*Freud's Last Session or A Wrinkle in Time*); **Nacoochee Village** (wineries, Nora Mill and Willows Pottery); **Kaleidoscope Shop** (featured in last newsletter) and **Stone Mountain Art Incubators**.

The Authors Series will continue with quarterly meetings. Additional special interest groups may also come to fruition.

FALL AUTHORS SERIES

EUGEN SCHOENFELD

On Sept. 8 the Emeriti Authors Series will feature Eugen Schoenfeld, who will discuss his autobiography, "My Reconstructed Life." It is the intriguing story of Gene as a young boy from a close-knit family in the Carpathian shtetl of Munkacs who experiences some of the most difficult times of the 20th century in Hitler's Europe.

Constructing new plans for a future after war led Gene to the United States, an education and a distinguished career as a professor of sociology, including chairmanship of the GSU Department of Sociology.

Join your colleagues on Sept. 8 for this presentation in Library South on the 8th floor at 10:30 a.m.

Specific events scheduled or to be scheduled are:

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 19

11:30 a.m., Student Center

Provost Palm will open our academic year with her annual State of the University message and the introduction of new emeriti.



OCTOBER

Friday, Oct. 28

Time, Location TBA

GSU's Human Resources Department will sponsor informational session on the 2012 Board of Regents benefits package.

NOVEMBER

Speaker or Theatrical Outfit

DECEMBER

Holiday Party

JANUARY

Dr. Rajeev Dhawan
Economic Forecaster

FEBRUARY

Valentine's Day Party



Dwight and Wynn Tabor greet Harvey Brightman at this year's Valentine's luncheon.

SUMMER AUTHORS SERIES

CHARLES WILLIAMS

On June 9 Professor Emeritus Charles Williams discussed his book, "The Crash of TWA Flight 260".

He presented spectacular photos taken of the crash site atop a granite spire on Sandia Mountain in 1955 and again in 2005 when he revisited the scene with descendants of some of the crash victims. He described the unusual aspects of the crash and the ensuing dangerous and arduous victim recoveries.

The five-year investigative efforts of a fellow pilot absolved the Flight 260 crew from blame for the accident. Charles found that, even after 50 years, crash victims' family members were relieved when he answered questions about their loved ones.

A 1996 Congressional act addressed issues of emotional trauma caused by air crashes and led to the founding of the Atlanta-based Family Assistance Foundation, which sends first responder care team volunteers to disasters around the world.

EMERITIES

Events



Lorene Pilcher, Leon Hurley, Anne Page Mosby, Jay Haney and Hanna Hurley at Leon's retirement luncheon.



Pat and Jack Sartain at the Emeriti Valentine's luncheon.



Leon and Hanna Hurley at the Commerce Club, where Leon's retirement luncheon was held.



Charles Billiard and Beverly Armento at this year's Valentine's luncheon.

In Memoriam

Brian Gary Armstrong, professor emeritus of history, died on May 26. He was at Georgia State from 1967 until he retired in 1998. He served as professor, department chair, and assistant dean. A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, he was president of the Calvin Society and the International Congress for Calvin Research. Brian was a historian of early-modern Europe. He published extensively, was active in many professional societies and was a well-liked teacher, committed to his students and his scholarly research. He served as an elder at Chapel Woods Presbyterian Church for many years. Kind, gentle and compassionate, he was well-liked, admired and respected by all who knew him.

Clyde W. Faulkner, dean emeritus of the GSU College of Arts and Sciences, died on April 9. Clyde graduated from High Point College and Duke University Divinity School and received his Ph.D. in sociology from Emory University. He had a distinguished career as professor and administrator at Georgia State University and retired as dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences. Clyde was an avid Duke basketball fan, and enjoyed travel, golf, reading, fishing, dog-sitting, roller coasters with grandchildren and, most of all, spending time with his family and friends. Clyde was a competent and highly regarded dean at GSU. He was always jovial and good-natured, and we will miss him.