Emerities Newsletter, Summer 2014

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

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Alumnus Honors Favorite Professor

"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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A POST-RETIREMENT QUEST TO BUILD OPERA AUDIENCES
James Cooney, professor emeritus, J. Mack Robinson College of Business

While never fanatical about the art form, I enjoyed opera during my adolescent years. I came into the world with congenital, progressive hearing loss. By my teen years, I learned opera offered an opportunity to attend an event where 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, lakeshore 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 loss earned the responsibility of developing this material. I learned from my children to attract attendance, materials must be non-technical, easy to 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 School 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 in the School of Music, also teaches, produces and performs operas.

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. Invitations were 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 research-editor and spouse, Sondra, makes a readable. The 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 commentaries 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 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!

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CHAIR’S COLUMN

MISSY CODY, Associate professor emerita, Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions mcydy@gsu.edu

In this issue of Emeriti you’ll hear from several colleagues who have strengthened ties to Georgia State in exciting ways: Jim Cooney as an enthusiastic opera instructor and Lynn Hague as the recipient of an alumnus-funded professorship. You’ll also learn how to archive your scholarship and teaching work at Georgia State through ScholarWorks.

We each support Georgia State in different ways, and I hope you’ll share your activities and stories with us, whether it’s travel, book authorships or other projects.

We have an exciting lineup of spring events. In May, we’ll have a tour of the David J. Sencer Museum at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), featuring a docent-led tour of “Witness,” a photography exhibit of Atlanta-based photographer Billy Howard, who has taken international assignments from the CDC. CARE and the Carter Center.

Also in May, we’ll have an author series presentation by David O’Connell on his new book, “The Art & Life of Atlanta Artist Wilbur G. Kurtz.” Kurtz was an adviser to Margaret Mitchell while she was writing “Gone with the Wind,” and O’Connell’s presentation will help us to better appreciate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. I hope to see you at our May events.

A POST-RETIREMENT QUEST TO BUILD OPERA AUDIENCES

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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

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.
DEAN MICHAEL ERIKSEN

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.