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Advantages of Emeriti Association Membership

Christine Gallant, *Professor Emerita of English*

As chair of the Membership Committee of Georgia State's Emeriti Association, I welcome all emeriti who, by their status as emerita or emeritus, automatically become members of the Association. I also encourage each of you to join us at our various events as colleagues once again. With Georgia Perimeter College joining our University, now there's an even wider range of new emeriti to meet.

Your emeritus status keeps you in touch with those who have shared similar work-experiences over decades, some teaching students, some advancing the internal workings of the University, and some doing both. We all have shared a common context.

And of course, every year there are new emeriti as people decide to retire. It is a pleasure when retired to meet again those known in earlier times. Since the University does not have an organization for its retirees, the Emeriti Association is the only place where this may happen.

Our Association activities cover a range of interests. The most widely attended are the annual Holiday Party in December, sometimes followed by a School of Music Holiday Gala Concert, the Valentine's Day Luncheon, and the Health Benefits

Presentation. The second one is usually held in the Rialto Center, and presents a wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with former academic friends over delicious food while being entertained by current faculty and students from the University. Emeriti spouses or significant others are invited as well to both events. The Health Benefits Presentation by the University's Human Resources gives emeriti important updates that are especially valuable for those who have retired some years ago, and allows them to ask questions they may have.

Also widely attended are the Academic Provost's annual welcome of new emeriti at a reception where she addresses us on the State of the University, and the State of the Economy presentation by Georgia State's own noted economist Dr. Rajeev Dhawan.

The Association includes activities that provide opportunities for new learning experiences, such as the lectures given by active faculty and emeriti on their own recently published books. I enjoy having my intellectual curiosity piqued by new scholarship on subjects far afield from my own. Not only is this an opportunity to learn the most up-to-date scholarship on the various subjects presented,



Christine Gallant

but the fresh enthusiasm of these recently published scholars is contagious. Often we attend School of Music recitals given by faculty and outstanding students. Sometimes we arrange informative trips to local museums, such as the Michael Carlos Museum in 2013, and landmarks, such as the tour of the Oakland Cemetery in 2015.

Many emeriti remain connected to Georgia State through their student advisees and younger active faculty mentees. I have myself. The University is changing rapidly, and emeriti mentors as well as our new Perimeter College colleagues will wish to stay current with University advances, even though retired. The Emeriti Association is one way to do so.

Participating in Association

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2 CHAIR'S COLUMN

Harry Dangel gives us a detailed overview of five new significant buildings on the Georgia State University campus.

2 MAP OF FIVE NEW BUILDINGS

Shows in detail how the university campus has spread north along the Piedmont and Peachtree corridors.

3 CHANGING TIMES

Missy Cody gives us an in-depth report into how the Affordable Care Act and changes in Medicare are affecting retiree healthcare insurance benefits.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

HARRY DANGEL

Associate Professor Emeritus

Educational Psychology and Special Education • hdangel@gsu.edu



Story of Five New Buildings

I'm going to take you on a walk of the campus to see five buildings that were not a part of Georgia State a few short years ago. I think each building offers a story about our University's growth.

If you imagine the map of the campus as a clock face, begin at 10 o'clock. The picture is of the former 28 story SunTrust tower that has been part of the Atlanta skyline for decades and now houses most of the College of Arts & Sciences. The GSU flame symbol is clearly visible to travelers driving through Atlanta.

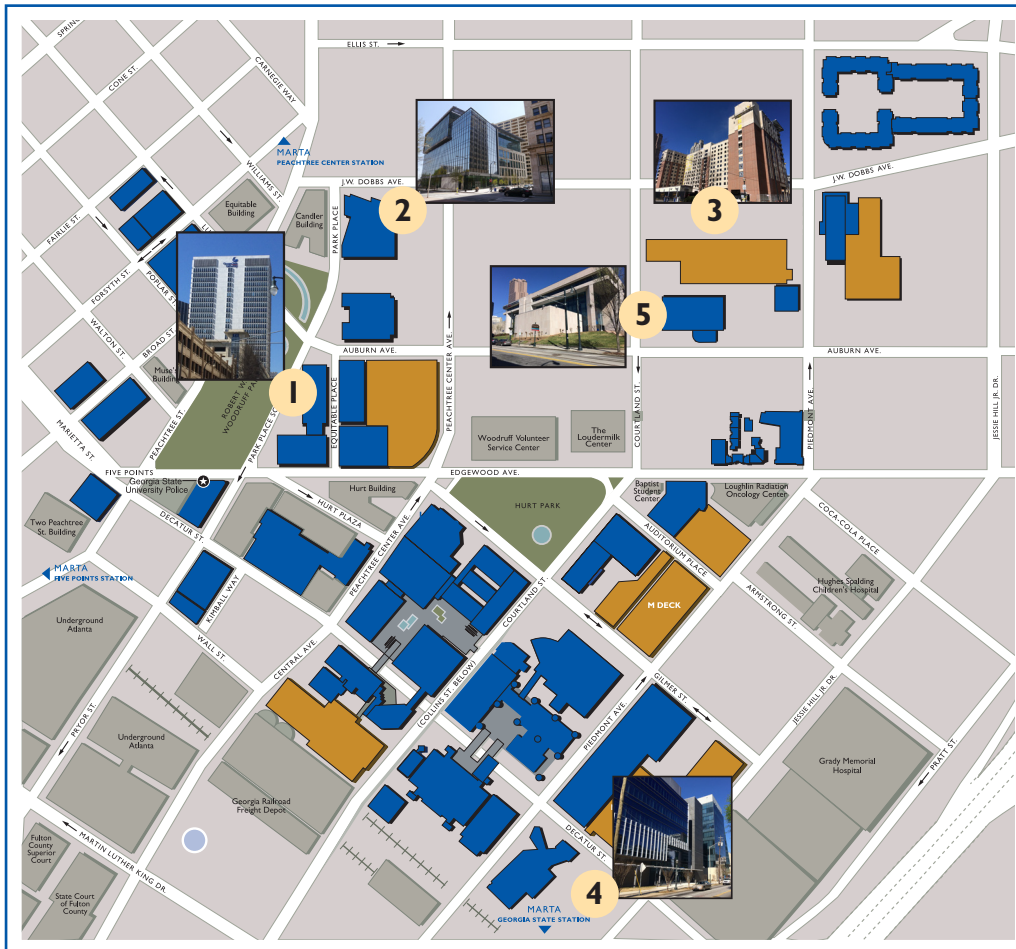
At 11 o'clock is the new College of Law building at 85 Park Place. Designed with input from law faculty, it opened in Fall, 2015 with facilities from a coffee bar and cafeteria to classrooms with the latest in design and technology to promote learning. For the first time in decades, most faculty offices will be clustered along Park Place, including the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, the Robinson College of Business in 55 Park Place and College of Education Building, just one block south.

Continuing clockwise to 1 o'clock is a picture of the newest

student dormitory — Piedmont Central. The dorm, to open for the fall semester, will house more than 1000 students and represents another step toward having 20 percent of our student body living on campus. It's been fun to watch Piedmont Central being built, because what appear to be brick sections on the building are actually pre-constructed brick-faced panels, put together like Legos.

The building at 5 o'clock is Science Park Phase II on Decatur Street, scheduled to open in Fall 2016 and adjacent to the Petit Science Center. The two science buildings are a testament to the University's growth in securing research funds in health and physical sciences.

Finally, the picture of the lovely Centennial Hall Building (*upper center*) is the former Atlanta Life headquarters and now houses the President's office, Welcome Center and Honor's College. It also shows how the campus has moved north along the Piedmont and Peachtree corridors.



- 1 25 Park Place**
College of Arts and Sciences
- 2 85 Park Place**
College of Law
- 3 Piedmont Central**
Student Dorms – Fall 2016
- 4 Petit Science Center**
Phase II
- 5 Centennial Hall**
(former Atlanta Life Bldg.)

FOR THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING . . .

Missy Cody, Associate Professor Emerita, B. F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions

The University System of Georgia (USG) has developed a Retiree Council (RC) to “promote and foster the welfare of System retirees and of the University System of Georgia through the combined creativity and expertise of retiree representatives from System institutions”. I am Georgia State’s representative. Each USG institution, regardless of size, has one representative. Additional information on the Council is available at http://www.usg.edu/academic_planning/committees/view/usg_retiree_council. This information includes meeting minutes and presentations that have been made to the Council.

One of the first issues that USGRC has discussed is retiree healthcare. Convergence of several trends, including the rising cost of healthcare and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, is affecting retiree healthcare insurance. The most visible change for USG retirees is that our healthcare insurance is separated from the active employee health insurance. For those who have valued our previous insurance and dislike change, this has caused stress. I have given Gail Imoukhuede, GSU Benefits Manager, information to post to retirees as it becomes available, and I will continue to do this.

While active employees have several choices for insurance, the one most often chosen by our emeriti was the Blue Cross PPO. Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) was the administrator of the USG plan. USG, like most large organizations, was self-insured. This means that the USG paid the insurance claims that were approved through the BCBS

claims administrators. The “PPO” component was the description of the network plans – Preferred Provider Organization. For the USG BCBS PPO, over 90 percent of physicians in Georgia were included as “preferred providers” in our network, in large part because USG has units across the state. Additionally, BCBS negotiated service rates so that, in most cases, we paid much less than the “posted” rate.

In a first stage, retirees were moved to a Medicare-based plan, where Medicare was primary, i.e., paid first, and BCBS was secondary, i.e., paid for covered expenses at their established rate. Because many retirees and covered spouses, at the advice of USG, had not originally registered for Medicare when they became eligible, USG is paying their penalties directly to CMS (*Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services*).

In the current plans, Medicare is primary and Medigap policies, the closest product to a PPO, whether purchased through Aon or purchased through other vendors, is supplementary. That means that Medicare pays 80 percent of the established rate for covered procedures, and the supplemental insurance pays the remaining 20 percent for covered procedures. Some procedures covered by earlier insurance may not be covered by Medicare, which has caused both confusion and anger. Also, just as for PPO and other insurance, some providers do not accept Medicare assignment.

The pharmacy component of Medicare, Medicare Part D, is covered separately from Medigap



Missy Cody

policies, which are not allowed to include Medicare Part D coverage. Each Medicare Part D policy has a formulary, which describes the drugs that it covers in different cost brackets (*tiers*). One issue that will be examined for next year’s coverage is changing formularies after the deadline for enrollment.

The current HRA (*Health Reimbursement Account*) is \$2736/eligible retiree/spouse. This is not meant to cover all healthcare costs. It was determined to cover about a third of individual healthcare costs. This money is held in an account by Aon and can be used to cover insurance premiums (*even for those policies not administered through Aon*), co-pays, deductibles, and other allowable expenses. It can be used to cover expenses, such as dental and vision

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EDITOR’S NOTE:

Missy Cody’s work as the GSU representative on the Retiree Council has been invaluable as retirees maneuver through the changes affecting retiree healthcare.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

Updates

EMERITI WEBSITE UPDATED

Check out the updated Emeriti website! There are new pictures, member updates, calendar updates and much, much more. We hope you have the opportunity to take a look at the website, as this will continue to be a way that we communicate with you. You may access the website at: <http://emeriti.gsu.edu>

ATTENTION EMERITI: Please update or add your email address so that we can contact you electronically related to emeriti activities. If we do not have your correct email address, you may miss communications sent by email. Send updates to: update@gsu.edu.

To update Human Resources information, you may send an email to: payroll@gsu.edu or benefits@gsu.edu. Or you may call **404-413-3302** to provide information.

RECAP: SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL

Missy Cody, Associate Professor Emerita, B.F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions



Emerita **Christine Gallant** (left) with student composer **Marcelino Medley** after performance of his piece, Solo for Alto Saxophone, at the GSU Concert of New Works.

Several members of GSU's Society

of Composers, Inc. presented their new works to the University community in April. The program included several premieres and featured GSU student musicians. You can hear several short examples from composer Marcelino Medley (*a name born to music*) at <https://marcelinomedley.wordpress.com>.

Poem

By Eugene Hollahan, Professor Emeritus of English, College of Arts and Sciences

STEADY AS SHE GOES

How keep decorum and a steady hand?

*Recall as we wait for a wind to rise
her hands in foxgloves like quick-brown foxes,
her feet in yellowy lady's-slippers,
near the end doddering next the dodder,
teasing the teasel stiff in its armor,
outlasting the pearly everlasting,
among the bleeding hearts the coolest blood,
among the irises the clearest eye.*

*Shadowed by hemlock, staghorn, witch hazel,
she cozied sedge, hardhack, mullein, yarrow,
all those contemptible, exiled, outcast.
Our Queen Anne's lace was her wild carrot.
She allowed pumpkins to carve for themselves,
permitted mushrooms wide room to turn round.
Never applied a brake to her bracken.
Each gesture innate among the pinnate.*

*Sunflowers accustomed to track the sun
revolved their faces toward her light and heat,
intent on her making a spade a spade.*

*Who was this origin of everything
we have reduced to a handful of dust?
Clear foresight planting Forsyth's yellow bursts.
Dogged pluck by dogwood's crux akimbo.
Madame Plantier, fragrant antique rose,
in her bathing pool a water lily,
in private moments an opening bloom,
under a breeze a melodious chime.*

*Now lifts the wind that has kept us waiting.
Recall one day as you scatter my ash,
my hand now strewing, steady as she goes.*

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

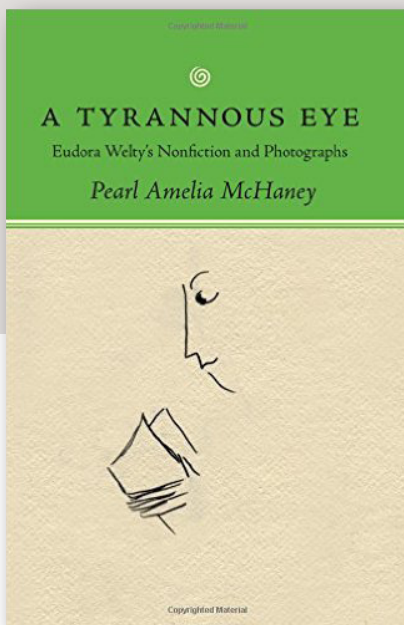
RECAP: AUTHOR SERIES

By Anne Page Mosby, Associate Professor Emerita,
University Library

PEARL MCHANNEY

Book: *A Tyrannous Eye: Eudora Welty's Nonfiction and Photographs*

Pearl McHaney tells us in her book that before Eudora Welty flourished as a fiction writer "... she explored every creative production available." In this study our author examines Welty's photography, essays, newspaper articles, reviews and letters to describe and expand on the complex ideas in all of her work. In every genre Welty developed a "tyrannous eye," one that observes nonjudgmentally, "... to see from the heart into the heart of humans." She explored her own time and place, often taking risks with art; always inserting the insights and humor of a genius.



In Memoriam

Marylou Barnes, Professor Emerita of Physical Therapy, died November 26, 2015. Before coming to Georgia State, Dr. Barnes was founding director of the West Virginia University physical therapy program. She joined the GSU faculty in 1979 as professor and department chair. By the time she ended her chair position in 1986, the department had grown in prestige and produced graduates with a 100 percent pass rate on the licensure examination. She retired as a professor emerita in 1995. She was the author of several textbooks, including *The Neurophysiological Basis of Patient Treatment*, which was later expanded into three volumes with co-author and friend Carolyn Crutchfield. She was a leader in the physical therapy profession and an active and respected member of both the American Physical Therapy Association and the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia. She earned multiple recognitions and awards throughout her career, including an honorary doctorate from the University of Indianapolis and a James Madison University (*Virginia*) Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. Irving L. Finkelstein, Associate Professor Emeritus of Art and Design, died February 26, 2015. He received his Ph.D. in art history from New York University and joined the faculty of the Department of Art and Design at Georgia State University in 1971. After contributing 25 years of creativeness and inspiration to the Art and Design Department, he retired as Associate Professor Emeritus in 1996. Dr. Finkelstein was very active in art circles in Atlanta and the South. In 1978 he organized a printmaking exhibition at the High Museum entitled "Image and Process," which received enthusiastic reviews by the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. He wrote articles for many exhibitions at GSU and the Georgia Museum of Art as well as for national and international art bulletins and journals. Dr. Finkelstein was interested in Lepidoptera (*an order of insects that includes moths and butterflies*). He made many field trips to observe and study these insects and was very active in the Lepidoptera Society.

Mr. Bernard Lynn Webb, Professor Emeritus of Risk Management and Insurance, died at the age of 91 on February 3, 2016, at his home at the Atria in Alpharetta. A native of Arkansas, he joined the navy and was stationed on Okinawa during World War II. After the War, he pursued his education at the University of Richmond, where he earned his Master's degree in Business Administration specializing in Actuarial Science. He worked in a variety of insurance roles before joining the faculty of Risk Management at Georgia State University in 1967. After teaching at Georgia State for nearly three decades, he retired in 1989 and was made professor emeritus in 1990. He wrote numerous books and articles, but teaching was his passion. In his retirement he enjoyed traveling the world and spending time at his home in Franklin, North Carolina.

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Advantages of Membership

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activities allows you to meet emeriti outside of your college or even professional field that might not have been possible before retirement, for all colleges with emeriti are represented here. Let me tell you that this can be a real pleasure. As a longtime senator I am reminded of the similar benefit of serving in the University Senate, which includes faculty and administrators from all the colleges as well as staff. Here too the Association provides the opportunity to meet people outside your department, outside your college, and even outside your profession of educator. It loosens up your thinking.

I'm not a native Southerner, but come from New York and other points north. However, I've lived in this individualistic, warm-hearted, passionate, sometimes violent region since 1977, first in Richmond, Virginia, and now in Atlanta. So I feel qualified to say to our emeriti: "Y'all come back now!"

FOR THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING

continued from page 3

expenses, that have not previously been covered by the BCBS PPO. The money in the HRA rolls over to next year, if it is not spent. Retirees and spouses share a single account, and the money can be used jointly. About 90% of enrolled retirees are receiving auto-reimbursement for premiums for policies sold through Aon. Other reimbursements must be made manually.

Healthcare will remain a hot topic as we work toward resolving issues, such as formulary coverage and plan availability across the state. Other topics, such as communication to retirees, are also on the agenda for next year.

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