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Observations from the Needs Assessment

Harry Dangel, Chair of the GSU Emeriti Association

As you may recall, during the spring we sent out an email request that invited emeriti to respond to an online needs assessment. We are using these responses to help guide the Coordinating Board in setting priorities and future planning. I recognize that doing this electronically excludes those emeriti who don't have computer access, but this method did enable us to get a quick sample of what folks are thinking.

We had 33 emeriti respond to the survey. While this is a small percentage of our total group, the thoughtful written comments we received from those who still live in the Atlanta area and those who responded from out-of-state gave us some valuable insight as to what we should continue doing and some new activities/programs that could be started.

Here are some observations about the responses:

1. There were many positive comments about the programs for lifelong learning and social contacts the Association has offered (*about 75 percent ranked both areas as some or much emphasis*). In particular many responders mentioned visits

to museums, day trips and performances (*especially university-affiliated*). There were several who mentioned they live out-of-state and would appreciate online resources, such as ancestral searches and updating technology skills.

2. More than 85 percent of responders indicated that opportunities for new experiences should be emphasized in the Association's planning, including hikes, GSU sporting events and visits to wineries.
3. There was essentially universal agreement that keeping emeriti informed was important. Responders had much praise for the newsletter, EmeritiTies. They also added the importance of keeping the website updated and including information about university-sponsored events (*e.g., lectures, etc.*) that might be of interest to emeriti.
4. Responses reflected somewhat less emphasis should be put on service activities. Most suggestions that were made related to support for students (*e.g., funding a scholarship*).



Emeriti Coordinating Board

5. On the question about where the Emeriti Association should schedule activities/events, more than 60 percent preferred the downtown campus and two-thirds indicated they might attend an activity/event held inside the perimeter that was not downtown. Only 14 percent of responders indicated a preference for a location outside the perimeter whereas 43 percent said they might attend.

I think there are a number of important lessons for us from the many thoughtful comments that were made. We need to be mindful of the

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Harry Dangel discusses the importance and benefits of staying connected to three major retiree organizations.

2 PERIMETER COLLEGE

Rosemary Cox provides an overview of the activities of the Perimeter College/Dekalb College Retiree Association.

3 LAND OF CONTRASTS

Anne Page Mosby takes us on a tour of South Korea during cherry blossom season.



CHAIR'S COLUMN

HARRY DANGEL
Associate Professor Emeritus
Educational Psychology and Special
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I clearly remember sitting in the audience of the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) on the campus of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., in October 2010. As we listened to the key points of Robert Butler's research on aging, I was astounded that I was totally unaware of Butler's groundbreaking work and the whole field of research on aging. Butler had won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction in 1973 for "Why Survive?: Being Old in America" and continued to publish until his death in 2010.

Why is this important? Our careers have been shaped by the scholars in our disciplines who had gone before us, then by our own scholarly contributions and by communities of scholars we had joined. As we've transitioned to life beyond GSU, it's helpful to recognize and benefit from a new set of communities and individuals whose scholarship can be part of our continuing path. Georgia State has sent representatives to AROHE's biannual conference for the past eight years. AROHE describes itself as "a dynamic member network that advocates for, educates and serves campus-based organizations for retired faculty and staff." Visit www.AROHE.org to learn more.

Closer to home, the GA-Higher Education Retiree Organization

Staying Connected: The Georgia Perimeter College/Dekalb College Retiree Association

Rosemary Cox, *Professor Emerita, English*

In August 2009 a group of about 30 Georgia Perimeter College retirees met on the Clarkston Campus and created the Georgia Perimeter College/DeKalb College Retiree Association (GPC/DCRA) with the aim of assisting GPC retirees in maintaining communication links with each other and GPC. Now that GPC has transitioned into Perimeter College (PC), a two-year unit of Georgia State University, the goals remain the same: to promote fellowship among retirees through general quarterly meetings and social and cultural events, and to assist retirees in keeping abreast of issues such as changes in retirement benefits, health care and Board of Regent's (BOR) policies.

Membership in the GPC/DCRA is open to all faculty and staff who have retired from Perimeter College.* The annual membership fee is \$15, which covers the expense of the quarterly meetings and general operational costs. GPC/DCRA is a member of the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organization (GA-HERO) and the Association of Retiree Associations in Higher Education (AROHE), which allows PC retirees to stay current with and have a voice in broader issues concerning retirees within the BOR. In addition, the GPC/DCRA is now represented on the University System of Georgia Retirees Council, allowing Perimeter members to exchange information with their peers at other state and national institutions. A newsletter, published three times per year, as well as mailed and emailed notices, keep members informed of upcoming meetings, events and the activities of PC retirees. Members also enjoy library and parking privileges.

Hoping to harness the remarkable talents of its retirees, the GPC/DCRA sponsors a variety of programs. Each

December there is a holiday luncheon, usually at the Petite Auberge. The Book Club meets the third week of every month to discuss works selected by the group over lunch at a local restaurant.

Field trips are another highlight of the Association. Past trips include visits to Gibbs Garden, the Perimeter College Native Plant Botanical Garden, the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple, Joel Chandler Harris' Wren's Nest and the Atlanta Civil War battlefields, as well as a tour of the Okefenokee Swamp and a science- and culture-focused excursion to Sapelo Island. This September the group will participate in the Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference and tour the Carson McCullers Center and Smith-McCullers House and Museum.

One of the most rewarding functions of the GPC/DCRA is the awarding of an annual scholarship which covers one Perimeter College student's tuition for a full semester. The total endowed scholarship fund is now in excess of \$30,000, providing \$1,250 to each recipient (*see p. 3*). The scholarship was created through the efforts of members who coordinated and supported an assortment of fundraisers, including "An Afternoon with Mark Twain," featuring past College President Marvin Cole, as well as other holiday parties with silent auctions and gift-buying opportunities.

***Note:** *The PC Retiree Association includes all retirees (emeriti, faculty and staff), similar to the Silver Jackets group at Georgia Tech. Within the PC Association are emeriti faculty who were approved by the PC Faculty Senate in a manner consistent with GSU emeriti policy. PC emeriti faculty are automatically members of the GSU Emeriti Association.*

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For additional information on the GPC/DCRA, contact:

Bob McDonough • (404) 373-5627 • robert.mcdonough@gpc.edu
Erica Hart • (678) 891-2559 • ehart@gsu.edu

LAND OF CONTRASTS

Anne Page Mosby, Associate Professor Emerita, University Library

One of the best ways to experience another part of the world is to live there for enough time to know the neighborhood coffee bar staff by name and to be recognized by the local vegetable, herbs and spice sellers. If that's not available, the second best way is to visit someone who does live there. Thus when our son Paul received a job assignment in South Korea, my husband, Jay Haney, and I started planning.

After the flight to Seoul, we welcomed a long walk at Yuldong Park. The South Korean population of 50,800,000 is packed into 38,000 square miles of a mountainous peninsula approximately the size of Indiana (population 6,620,000). Thus the locals really seem to appreciate public greenspaces where they picnic, camp and hike. Many public spaces incorporate very old Buddhist cemeteries with their tumuli and memorial stones just off the park's path beyond the tree line.

The name "Korea" comes from the ancient Kingdom of Goguryeo, or Koryo. Ancient and modern sites next to each other make striking contrasts. We enjoyed several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including palaces and fortresses used by ruling classes in centuries past. One of our best hikes was in the extensive park, Namhansanseong Mountain, where warrior Buddhist monks had protected the king and his court in an "emergency palace" established for times when the main palace in the capital was threatened by war.

The 1,100-year-old Bongeunsa Temple was a fascinating place in the middle of an urban metropolis. Many people were strolling through the grounds that were filled with blooming pocket gardens, pine groves and Buddhist statues. Others were inside one of the fragrantly incensed halls praying or meditating. The temple library boasted 81 famous wood block volumes and calligraphy. On several occasions we toured excellent museums, including the National Museum of Korea with fine displays of beautiful pottery, calligraphy and statuary. Also, the Korean War Museum had exhibits of Paleolithic humans, 16th-century ironclad turtle ships and the more recent conflicts of World War II and the Korean War.

The Demilitarized Zone is the 2.5 mile-wide, 160 mile-long buffer that separates North and South Korea, and it is a most surrealistic tourist attraction, especially the Joint Security Area military base. We visited the small blue hut where intense negotiations have taken place between the North and South, and where, if you simply walk to the north side of the conference table, you can say that you have safely visited North Korea. The atmosphere is very serious and tension seems to hang in the air. At one lookout we could view the "bridge of no return," used for prisoner exchanges in 1953, and the North Korean Propaganda Village with its loud broadcasts and giant flag which rises above mostly uninhabited buildings.



Anne Page Mosby and Jay Haney near the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Hwaseong Fortress, Suwon

April in Asia is cherry blossom time and our best road trip took us all the way south for the famous festival in Chinhae. We loved the pink clouds of cherry trees, especially when we happened upon a "snowfall" of petals showering down on us. More gardens and mountain scapes opened for us on several rocky shores around Geoje Island (also a site for heavy industry and shipbuilding), the Oedo Botania Garden and Haegeumgang Island, where we heard the legend of the "elixir of immortality." Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor to unite China in 221 B.C., ordered his servants to find a particular magical, medicinal herb growing on this remote, mysterious island so that he could live forever. Alas, all were lost at sea—perhaps with the herb itself—and the emperor died from ingesting a supposed immortality-making alternative, mercury pills, made by his alchemists and court physicians.

Now that we have returned, we have a new appreciation for the wide world and such things as democracy, individual freedoms and abundance of water, fresh air and elbow room.



Scholarship Helps Jessica Kassianos Achieve Education Goals

Jessica Kassianos, a dental hygiene student at Perimeter College, received the GPC/DCRA Scholarship last fall. Kassianos plans to graduate in spring 2017 and continue her education at a four-year institution.

"I hope to practice dental hygiene in a family dentistry practice. I ultimately hope to become a dental consultant. I've worked in dentistry for the past fourteen years, and I understand all aspects of the business," says Kassianos.

"The GPC/DCRA scholarship allows me to continue to attend school and support my family," she says. "I have a five-year old son, and I am not able to work as often as I would like because of my school obligations. This scholarship gets me one step closer to completing my education goals."

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Needs Assessment

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various subgroups that make up our Emeriti Association—those who live in close proximity to campus, others outside Atlanta but within Georgia and those who live out-of-state. Likewise we need to recognize that emeriti are in different stages of retirement—some are active and others have lives that are quieter. Some members prefer face-to-face activities and others need engagement that permits them to be at home. Finally, we recognize that our primary contacts as faculty were in our departments and colleges, so we will seek ways to encourage colleges and departments to recognize emeriti and sponsor retiree events.

A first step: Based on your suggestions in the survey, Peter Roberts of the University Library has graciously set up a webpage with genealogical research tools. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jgvqd9y> or look for the link on the Emeriti website.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

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(GA-HERO) meets twice a year and shares ideas about developing programs to support and engage retirees. Institutions of higher learning around Atlanta have been most active in GA-HERO, although the goal of the organization is to have participation from public and private institutions throughout the state. For more information, visit www.ga-hero.org.

The final organization that we interface with is the University System of Georgia Retiree Council. This recently formed group has a representative appointed by the provost from each of the 30 institutions that are governed by the Board of Regents (BOR). Our representative, Missy Cody, worked tirelessly with the GSU Human Resources office to ensure that all GSU retirees received their information about the changes in healthcare coverage and provided feedback to BOR Human Resources staff. We are working to revise our GSU Emeriti website to include the latest information and best practices from the Retiree Council. More to follow ...

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EMERITIES

Events & Activities

2016 Upcoming Events

EMERITI WEBSITE UPDATED

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

ATTENTION EMERITI: Please update or add your email address so we can contact you electronically regarding 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 call **404-413-3302**.

■ SEPTEMBER

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Tour

Wednesday, Sept. 7 • 10 a.m.

The airport's most popular complimentary tour consists of a 3-hour exploration featuring control tower E and the airfield. A group lunch from Chick-fil-A is available for \$5 following the tour. Registration for this event is limited to 25 people and closes on Aug. 26.

10th Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23 and 24 • Columbus, Ga.

The GPC/DCRA is planning a fall field trip to participate in the 10th Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference, including a tour of the Carson McCullers Center and Smith-McCullers House Museum. For GSU Emeriti who wish to join the tour, please contact **Dr. Rosemary Cox** at rcox15@gsu.edu or **678-891-3499**.

■ OCTOBER

Benefits Presentation

Friday, Oct. 7 • 10 a.m. • Knowles Conference Center (College of Law; parking will be available in T Deck)

Gail Imoukhuede and staff members from the university's benefits office will discuss this year's updates to retiree benefits. The presentation will be preceded by a continental breakfast and followed by lunch.

■ NOVEMBER

New Emeriti Welcome Featuring Provost Risa Palm/State of the University Address

Wednesday, Nov. 2 • Noon–4 p.m. • *Invitations will mail in September*

All emeriti are invited to a luncheon honoring newly inducted emeriti members and featuring Provost Risa Palm's annual update on the university. President Mark Becker will deliver the State of the University Address immediately following in the Student Center.

■ DECEMBER

Emeriti Holiday Party

Invitations will mail in November

■ JANUARY

Economic Forecast Presentation

Invitations will mail in January

■ FEBRUARY

Valentine's Day Luncheon

Invitations will mail in January

■ UPCOMING AUTHOR SERIES

Details to follow

Stay tuned for notices about the Emeriti Association's Author Series, which showcases recent publications by Georgia State faculty. The next presentation is tentatively set to feature Dr. Harvey Newman whose new book "Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta" is forthcoming in November from Mercer University Press. The book is co-authored by Young and his daughter, Andrea.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

Georgia State University to Create College of the Arts

Andrea Jones, Public Relations and Marketing Communications

Dr. Wade Weast has been named the founding dean of Georgia State University's College of the Arts, a new academic unit that will focus on education in arts and related media, promote creativity and respond to the changing needs of artists, on- and off-campus.

The college, which will open in July 2017, will include the School of Music, the Welch School of Art and Design, the film and theater component from the Department of Communication, the Center for Collaborative and International Arts and the Center for Educational Partnerships from the School of Music. These units are now part of the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

To read the full article, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/zooygfh>.

In Memoriam

Dr. Harry P. Hopkins Jr. (July 10, 1939–July 8, 2016), Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, graduated from the University of Virginia in 1961 with a degree in Chemistry and from Carnegie Mellon University in 1965 with a Ph.D. in Chemistry. In 1968 he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Georgia State University. His prolific research and dedication to students in the lab and classroom resulted in an early promotion to full Professor. During his 30-year tenure he conducted research in thermodynamics and biophysical chemistry, including work at the National Institutes of Health in Washington. He served as President of the American Chemical Society and toward the end of his career he headed the promotions and tenure committee at Georgia State. His family and friends will always remember him as a gifted and enterprising man.

Dr. Luciano “Lu” L’Abate (Sept. 19, 1928–April 8, 2016), Professor Emeritus of Psychology, originally from Brindisi, Italy, joined the Georgia State University Psychology faculty in 1965. He became Director of the Family Psychology Training Program and the Family Study Center. He maintained a part-time clinical practice and served the community in various ways. He published more than 55 books and 300 papers, chapters and book reviews in professional and scientific journals and lectured extensively in the United States, Asia and Europe. Lu received many awards and honors. In 1983 he received the GSU Alumni Distinguished Professor Award in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in 1994 he was named the Family Psychologist of the Year by the Family Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 1990 and was an active member of the Emeriti Association for the remainder of his life.

Dr. Joanne Nurss (Sept. 13, 1937–May 22, 2016), Professor Emerita of Educational Psychology and Special Education, graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin in 1958 and taught in the Denver public schools. She completed her graduate work at Columbia University in New York City, earning an M.A. degree in Early Childhood Education and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. In 1969 she was recruited by Georgia State to begin a new Department of Early Childhood Education. She eventually stepped down as chair of that department to devote her time to working on literacy programs for young children, adult literacy and English as a second language. For the last 10 years of her career, she was professor of Educational Psychology and directed The Center for the Study of Adult Literacy. While at GSU she had three study leaves, including two Fulbright Teaching/Research awards. Following retirement she traveled and volunteered extensively and participated in Emeriti Association activities.

