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AN EDUCATOR'S TRIP TO BEIJING IN 2018



Wayne Urban with students at Beijing Normal University.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2017, I WAS IN

Argentina at a meeting of an international group to which I have belonged for two decades. While there, I met a young faculty member from Beijing Normal University. We had a chance to talk a good bit and I was pleased, later that year, to receive an invitation to come and talk with her and her students.

I left Atlanta in April, 2018, for a full week at Beijing Normal University. The United States and China had just begun their rapidly escalating “tariffs war.” While I was, as usual, not afraid to criticize American education or to comment critically on contemporary American politics, my students and my host did not reciprocate. This was the only-- but important--sign that I was in a society much more controlled than my own.

I gave five talks on aspects of American educational history at Beijing Normal University, and had one long question and answer session with graduate students. I also gave one talk at Capital Normal University, also in Beijing. I was treated royally by my host and her students. Students were knowledgeable about US society and about the role of education in our society. They also were sophisticated in terms of their grasp of our educational history and historiography.

They arranged visits for me to the Forbidden City, to Tiananmen Square, to the Great Wall of China, and to the Beijing Botanical Garden. Given that it was spring

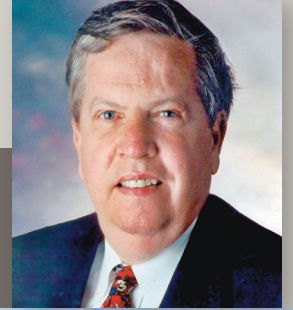
time in Beijing, things were in full flower and little of the pollution for which the city is famous plagued my trip. I was taken to lunch and dinner often, and enjoyed both the food and the student contact.

A highlight of my trip was a visit with an old Chinese couple in the Botanical Garden, who had been to Buffalo, New York, as well as to the Finger Lakes region there. All in all, I had a great time in China, great enough to want to be invited again.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

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I AM PROUD TO BE THE INCOMING CHAIR OF the Coordinating Board of our Emeriti Association. Since I came to Georgia State University in 1972, I have worked with a number of outstanding faculty members, including former Board chairs Don Ratajczak, Harry Dangel, Rankin Cooter and Missy Cody. It has been inspiring to see their continued service to the university through the Emeriti Association.

This year I would like to focus our efforts in three areas. The **FIRST** is a continuation of our efforts in supporting the work of the Honors College. I have had the opportunity to meet with several of their outstanding students as we have encouraged them through the Just-in-Time program that helps support travel grants and other activities. Don Ratajczak made a generous matching grant to our Emeriti members to fund this program. We will continue this support in 2019.

The **SECOND** major effort will be to reconstruct our

website. Sandra Owen will be leading the effort to update it, including a complete listing of our members as well as the Emeriti of Perimeter College now part of Georgia State. This will allow us to keep everyone aware of the activities of our association and other events that may be of interest.

The **THIRD** area where we will be working is mentoring. In my 35 years as a faculty member, I enjoyed mentoring students and young faculty. Our students in particular appreciate guidance and encouragement as they plan for their careers beyond GSU. When I see our graduates around town, they always make kind comments about the mentoring provided by our faculty. This mentoring role would be ideal for our Emeriti faculty. We will approach departmental administrations to see how this might work between our students and our members interested in such an opportunity.

We look forward to a great year in 2019-20. Hope to see you at our activities.

CAMPUS NEWS

HONORS COLLEGE

The **Just-In-Time Fund** allowed six Honors College students to present their undergraduate research last month at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, hosted by Kennesaw State University, by covering conference costs. The Honors College had a total of 11 students present. In addition, the Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference (*GSURC*) saw its largest ever participation this year, with 430 students from 53 academic departments presenting their research projects.

ADMINISTRATION

Walter Massey, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs and president of the Georgia State Foundation since 2009, retired in Spring 2019. He led the most successful capital campaign in the university's history, the recently completed Burning Bright campaign, which raised more than \$329 million and attracted more than 41,000 new donors for the university.

James A. Weyhenmeyer, Vice President for Research and Economic Development here since 2011, will join Auburn University as Vice President for Research on April 1. He has led a period of unprecedented growth in research at Georgia State. Since fiscal year 2010, research expenditures have more than doubled, and Georgia State established 10 new university-level research centers and institutes.

Wendy Hensel, dean of the College of Law since 2017, has been appointed Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, effective July 1. Georgia State's recent national search for a successor to Provost Risa Palm did not result in a hire.

NEW AAUP CHAPTER

Georgia State's new chapter of the American Association of University Professors (*AAUP*) was authorized by the Georgia Conference of AAUP in late 2018. The chapter encourages all faculty, including Emeriti, who are present members of AAUP to join. AAUP now welcomes all higher-education faculty, not only present and retired tenured and tenure-track professors but also adjuncts and graduate students. Membership is now kept confidential.

In 2012 the AAUP restructured into two associations. The AAUP-CBC (*Collective Bargaining Congress*) followed collective bargaining where legal, while the AAUP supported collective action where it is not, such as Georgia. (*Ga. Code 20-2-989.10 prohibits collective bargaining by public school teachers.*) AAUP "advocacy chapters" in the latter group determined their activities according to campus-level issues, supported by the national organization. In June 2019, the AAUP changed its Constitution. The CBC branch rejoined the greater AAUP, still committed to collective bargaining where legal.

Those interested should contact Chapter President **David Stinson**, Professor of Mathematics Education, at dstinson@gsu.edu (work) or stinsondw@aol.com (personal).

BRIDGES *AFTER* RETIREMENT

In the summer of the year I was five years old, my family allowed me to go alone to the public library which was six blocks away. Barefoot, I raced across that bridge—an overpass actually—that led to the library and then home again. Ever since I had that experience, bridges have been important in my life. I crossed many as I grew, studied and developed my career.

When I retired in 2000 I became concerned about bridges to a better life, and participated with several local churches in sponsoring a refugee family from Croatia.

Learning about the resettlement program offered by the U.S. Government for refugees was interesting, and helping a family meet the requirements was challenging.

After that project, I began to see the need for a connector to a better life in the Juvenile Justice System in Fulton County. For five years I served on a citizen panel that gathered information about children who were potential candidates for the State of Georgia's Foster Care Program. The panel members reviewed information about the children and recommended their placement to the



Joanne Burgess

technical school scholarship program that has awarded approximately \$30,000 to graduating high school seniors. Part of my effort was the 2016 publication of my memoir about my childhood and some of the experiences I have had in my career, *Manners of Love*, with all proceeds going to the scholarship. (Copies are still available. See <https://www.amazon.com> or contact me at my email address below.)

Maturing and teaching never cease to be interesting, challenging and a search for bridges.

Juvenile Judge, who was overwhelmed with cases and needed help. Another opportunity for service was volunteering for the Community Assistance Center in Sandy Spring. For twelve and a half years, I supported client interviewing, taught ESOL classes and served on an Advisory Board.

I then turned my interest to supporting educational endeavors, a bridge to a better quality of life for young people. I was pleased to be able to develop a scholarship at my local church, the Sandy Springs Christian Church. A church friend and I worked from 2003-2006 to raise funds for a college/

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EMERITI NEWS & NOTES!



LEFT

Nannette Commander, Professor Emerita, Educational Psychology (ncommander@gsu.edu), was a Fulbright Scholar at Hong Kong Baptist University from August 1-December 21, 2018.

RIGHT

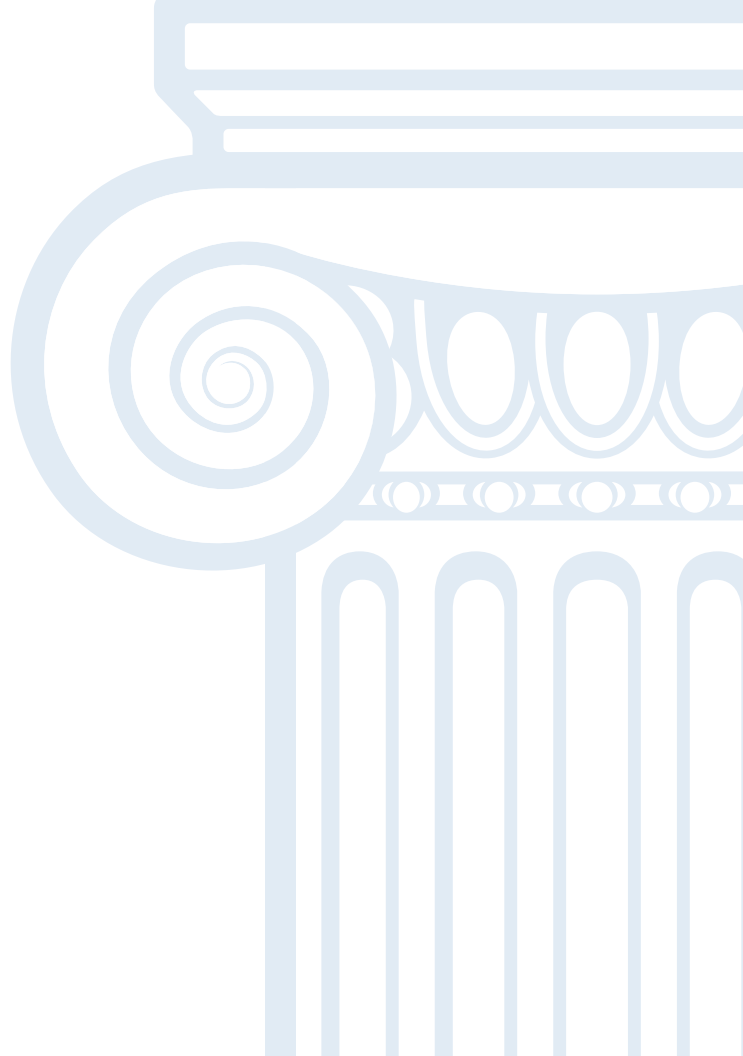
Peggy Gallagher, Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Special Education (pgallagher@gsu.edu), visited Antarctica in January, 2019.





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CONVOCATION CENTER LINKS CAMPUSES

Several decades after President Emeritus Carl Patton first envisioned the Convocation Center in his 1997 Main Street Master Plan, he finally will see it become a tangible reality in 2021 since its state funding was approved in May 2019. As a professional urban planner, Emeritus Patton believed that "Georgia State should be a part of the downtown Plan states. He initiated the university-wide planning effort for the campus renovation that is still continuing as the campus expands from its central core southward to include what had been Turner Field.

Originally, the intent was to replace the outdated, cramped Sports Arena building with a Convocation Center at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and Decatur Street by 2005, and also supported the need for a facility that could be used for basketball games and commencements. Then came our 2016 consolidation with Georgia Perimeter College and its 18,000 students, a strong impetus for the Master Plan of 2018 that included a much bolder Convocation Center. It should be beautiful

This multi-level, 150,000 square-foot multi-

In May 2019 Governor Kemp approved \$48 million in state funding for the Convocation Center. We expect to receive an additional \$6.2 million from G.O. Bonds with a contribution from the university of \$20 million, for a total project budget of approximately \$80 million. The current building program and size could further change to meet this budget. The University is currently in the "Programming and Concept Phase," and while it has chosen a designer (BRE/Heery who is partnered with Perkins and Will), there are no artistic renderings to share at this time. But see future issues of Emeriti's

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