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KELL HALL GIVES WAY TO GREENWAY



THE APPROACHING DEMOLITION

of Kell Hall is part of a much larger Master Plan that will open up the downtown campus, first announced by President Becker in 2013.

(For details, see <https://facilities.gsu.edu/files/2013/07/Physical-Master-Plan-7-9-2013.pdf>).

The five-year preparation for demolition has required moving out the Geosciences Department, the classrooms, and the labs located in Kell Hall, as well as the post office on the first floor.

Also demolished will be Georgia State's old idea of its core campus: a self-contained collection of buildings centered around the libraries, with its internal elevated Library plaza and fountain where students congregated. If one walked along Peachtree Center Avenue past the old Georgia State, nothing was to be seen but the blank walls of multi-story classroom buildings that included the aging Kell Hall. It was a closed, somewhat unwelcoming sight.

Soon, the campus will be opened up for students and the community as Kell Hall is replaced by a landscaped courtyard opening off Peachtree Center Avenue, a connecting greenway to the Library plaza and the Library. The present elevated Library plaza also will be demolished and replaced with a greenway. (See "Our Library Reimagined" in 'EmeriTies,' Fall 2018.) Eventually, one will be able to walk from the Woodruff Park District—the university buildings within a few blocks of Woodruff Park—past the Park and then on to the Campus Core District, the traditional heart of the campus. The site of the quirky former parking garage built in 1925 with its endless circular ramps will be a mini-park!

This rendering shows the development of this greenway over the next 10 years.

Removal of hazardous materials from Kell Hall such as asbestos should take 30 days, and will begin in early December after all occupants have been relocated. The Board of Regents' approval for the building and plaza demolition is expected by February 2019 and then work will begin, although no specific date has yet been set. The interior demolition of Kell Hall will take place floor by floor. This demolition and the ensuing greenway project could take six months.

Faculty from a variety of departments have taught in Kell Hall. [Two memoirs follow on page 4.](#)

CHAIR'S COLUMN

DON RATAJCZAK

Regents Professor Emeritus of Economics
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies • drdonecon@aol.com



THESE ARE MY OBSERVATIONS MADE AS AN economist on my recent African trip. While I was crossing the Zambezi River, my river raft crossed the borders of three countries: Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana. Aside from that border point, there was very little in common among the countries.

Zimbabwe was the most advanced when President Robert Mugabe took power. However, he decided to break up the plantations and redistribute the land. A former plantation owner, who had just accepted delivery of a new tractor before his property was expropriated, returned several years later to discover that no one had used the tractor. Zimbabwe redistributed to people who did not know how to exploit the land, and now is suffering unemployment well over 40%, poor infrastructure, and a declining economy. At Victoria Falls, a tourist oasis in a failed country, tourists were buying trillion-unit currency as souvenirs while those in long lines outside

banks hoped that someone would deposit money so they could withdraw theirs.

Botswana has valuable resources. Their exports are diamonds, managed by DeBeers. The diamond workers are organized and benefit from their work. The royalties have been used to educate the population. Eighty percent are literate in English and their tribal language. The roads are in better shape than many U.S. highways; communications are excellent; and shopping malls are accessible and stocked with quality goods. The wise use of resources, after allowing those who are efficient in exploiting them to do so, has led to one of the highest growth rates in Africa (*probably 5% this year*).

Welfare economics suggests that if the “haves” are efficient, one should take resources from them to help the “have nots” with as little distortion of incentives as possible. Also, provide opportunities for the “have nots.” Not easy, but this comparison suggests that when it is done well, countries can prosper.

CAMPUS NEWS

HONORS COLLEGE

The Honors College welcomed first-year students from around the nation and the world at its annual Convocation this fall. With high school score profiles in the top 5-8% in the country, this group of high-achieving students joins a vibrant community of scientists, artists, entrepreneurs and scholars dedicated to the pursuit of an outstanding undergraduate experience. Congratulations to the twenty-one 2017-2018 Emeriti ‘Just-in-Time’ award recipients who, with the generous support of Emeriti donors, have represented Georgia State and the Honors College by presenting their undergraduate research at disciplinary conferences across the country.

The College encourages emeritus faculty to become Faculty Affiliates and teach an Honors course in their discipline. Contact Associate Dean **Dr. Sarah Cook** at scook@gsu.edu. To learn more about Faculty Affiliates, check <https://honors.gsu.edu/faculty-affiliates/>. The College also welcomes

emeritus faculty as judges at its annual GSU Research Conference, this year to be held on April 10, 2019. Please contact Dr. Grace Eau in the Honors College if interested.

LIBRARY

The GSU Library has hired new professionals for the research library. This spring it hired an expert in quantitative data tools like SAS and SPSS. With the hiring of a new Senior Editorial and Production Coordinator, and a new Assistant Director of Development, the library is developing updated branding and philanthropic strategies to connect better with its constituents.

PERIMETER COLLEGE

“There’s a lot of energy for honors right now,” according to Dr. Lauri Goodling, the new Associate Dean of their Honors College. Replacing Dr. Jeffrey Portnoy who retired in August 2018, Goodling continues a tradition of Honors at Perimeter College (*formerly*

DeKalb College). Its Honors Program began at DeKalb College in 1982 with coordinated Honors classes, campus-based Honors program student organizations that actively participated in local and national Honors Councils, and a lecture series that invited nationally recognized speakers such as Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

Associate Dean Goodling plans to maintain the Honors legacy at Perimeter by expanding honors involvement with study abroad programs and enrolling more first-generation honors students. She credits her own career success to her experience as a first-generation honors student at Tallahassee Community College, reinforcing her conviction that honors programs “make students.” Her greatest challenge so far has been shifting her perspective from being Campus Coordinator at Alpharetta to the wider one of being Associate Dean at Perimeter College, but she welcomes the opportunity to serve the new Campus Coordinators.

TRAVEL NOTES: IRELAND

“Hold to the now, the here, through which all future plunges to the past.” — James Joyce, *Ulysses*

When James Joyce left Ireland in 1912, he never returned again—except in his imagination. Unlike Joyce, I dreamed of the day I would revisit Ireland after my first trip in 1996 to the Yeats International Summer School. This time I would focus on Joyce’s work in the city that inspired it—Dublin—at the 30th Anniversary session of the Dublin James Joyce Summer School. Each July, Joyce aficionados gather at this international conference by the River Liffey to hear lectures from scholars and participate in seminars that analyze his works.

My traveling companions (*two Perimeter English Department colleagues—Nancy Gilbert and Tim Tarkington—and Tim’s brother, Rick*) and I spent our mornings at the James Joyce Center in such scholarly pursuits as studying the influence of Joyce on contemporary Irish fiction with University College Dublin Professor Anne Fogarty, contemplating the impact of Irish divorce laws on *Ulysses* with Professor Peter Kuch from New Zealand, or pondering the intricacies of Joyce’s syntax with Dr. Fritz Senn from the Zurich James Joyce Foundation. Strolling across St. Stephen’s Green (*uncharacteristically brown from unprecedented drought and heat*) to Boston College Ireland, we devoted our afternoons to *Dubliners* and *Ulysses* before heading to a local pub for fish and chips and a Guinness stout.

While in Dublin we also experienced the incredible history of this vibrant city, from the ancient Book of Kells at Trinity College and exquisite gold artifacts in the National Museum to a recent theatrical adaptation of *Ulysses* at the Abbey Theatre and the Millennium Spire of Dublin on O’Connell Street. We rounded out our stay in Dublin with a visit to Joyce’s Martello Tower at Sandycove and a “Cadbury’s 99” ice cream cone on the beach before embarking on the second phase of our adventures in southwest Ireland and the Aran Islands.



Photo: Rosemary Cox

Left - Right: Rick Tarkington, Nancy Gilbert, Rosemary Cox, Tim Tarkington

Rosemary Cox • Professor Emerita of English (*Perimeter College*) • rcox15@gsu.edu

TRAVEL NOTES: UKRAINE

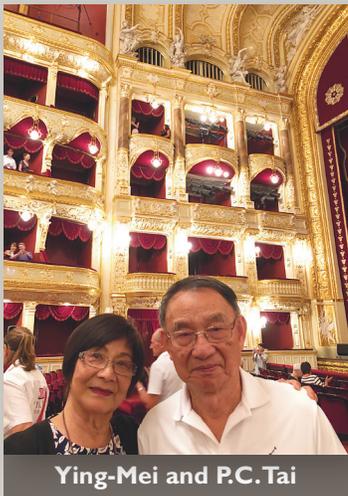


Photo: P.C. Tai

Ying-Mei and P.C. Tai

enjoy traveling. Around the years, we have visited many places over the world by ocean cruises or by planes and land tours. Last year when I retired, my wife and I decided for a change to take more relaxed traveling by river cruises. In August, we decided to take a trip to Ukraine, which surprised many, considering the war on its eastern border. But I was curious about the Black Sea and the country which was once the strongest ally of Russia in the Soviet Union era, possessing the third most hydrogen-bombs in the world.

We started in Kiev, the capital and one of the oldest cities in Europe dating back to 882 A.D., and traveled along the Dnieper River, visiting several cities and what is left of the Black Sea Fleet. We ended up in Odessa, the Pearl of the Black Sea. As we expected, we admired the thousand year-old St. Sophia Cathedral, the Monastery of the Caves, the Island of Cossack, the Akkerman Fortress, and the magnificent Odessa Opera House.

Ukraine surprised me, with its Dnieper River very quiet in contrast to the bustling river traffic on the Rhine, Danube, and even the Volga River in Russia. The influences of Russia and the Soviet Union on Ukraine are obvious, yet despite about one hundred years of interaction, the Ukrainian national pride cannot be mistaken. There are loyalty issues about the Eastern Orthodox churches (*Russia or Ukraine—though there is not much difference*).

Katherine the Great of Russia is here Katherine the Second. The vast proud Independence Square came after the collapse of the Soviet empire; and the Open War Museum followed the 2014 Crimea War.

On the other hand, the corruption and mismanagement of the earlier administration after the Independence led to economic disarray. We saw two beautiful buildings constructed in 2010, but closed now because of unsafe wall cracks. Ukraine is still out of the European Union. Despite her charms and optimism, Ukraine now is not in good shape, with a negative population growth. Their youths are exploring jobs in the neighboring countries such as Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland. For these reasons, our Ukrainian trip was both enjoyable and a disappointment.

P.C. Tai • Regents Professor Emeritus of Biology • biopct@gsu.edu

COORDINATING BOARD

Don Ratajczak, Chair – AYSPS
drdonecon@aol.com

William Feldhaus, Vice Chair – RCB
feldhaus@gsu.edu

Catherine Carter, Secretary – PC
cwcarter531@gmail.com

Charles Williams, Treasurer – RCB
cwilliams@gsu.edu

Missy Cody, co-chair, Activities Committee – COHHS
mmcody50@gmail.com

John DeCastro, co-chair, Activities Committee – CAS
JMD018@shsu.edu

Christine Gallant, editor *Emeriti* – CAS
cgallant@gsu.edu

Rosemary Cox, chair, Membership Committee – PC
rcox15@gsu.edu

Harry Dangel, chair, Nominations Committee – CEHD
hdangel@gsu.edu

Beverly Armento – CEHD
barmento@aol.com

Myra Carmon – BFLSNHP
mcarmon@gsu.edu

John Haberlen – COTA
jhaberlen@gsu.edu

Deborah Huntley – PC
dhuntley@gsu.edu

Leonard Teel – CAS
leonard.teel@gmail.com



CONTACT US:

emeriti@gsu.edu • 404-413-1330
www.gsu.edu/emeriti

MEMOIRS OF KELL HALL *(cont'd from page 1)*

MISSY CODY

Associate Professor Emerita of Nutrition

The very first thing I did every session for every food science course was direct a mock fire drill. After all, Kell Hall was like a giant oven with few ways out. My instructions were simple. Turn off the stoves, grab your “stuff” and leave by the stairs. During the one surprise fire drill that occurred during the 20+ years that I taught in that lab, on the fifth floor, my students and I were down the stairs in less than 3 minutes of the alarm. The fire marshal timed us. Ours was the only group that evacuated. He said, “The rest of them could have exploded.”

For two years in a row, I had extra students in my class on the second floor of Kell. They were simply lost. Going up the winding halls disoriented them, and they were tired of trying to find their psychology class. One of those students enjoyed the class and became a nutrition major.

Because Kell was essentially a very enclosed space, the aromas (*mostly good*) from the foods lab attracted hungry students and faculty members. Harry Hopkins, a physical chemistry professor, ate lunch with the students and me fairly regularly. He enjoyed discussing the chemistry of breads and sauces.

P.C. TAI

Regents Professor Emeritus of Biology

Kell Hall made an unforgettable impression upon me in 1991 when then-Chair of Biology, Dr. Ahmed Abdelal, invited me to visit the Biology Department. Back then, Biology was an emerging and inspiring Department with laboratories and offices in Kell. My lab that was moved in 1991 from Boston was a challenge. The large freezer and centrifuges were moved up via the ramp to the sixth floor where my lab was. Kell then was a short-term patch-up building, and a maze with unique room numbering.

The construction of a new Natural Science Center to house experimental sciences departments only partially filled the needs in 1993. By that time, research programs in Biology and Chemistry had expanded greatly, leaving departmental offices and half the research laboratories in Kell. The Institutes of Neuroscience and Biomedical Sciences, and several University Research Centers, were subsequently established from the solid science foundations started in Kell Hall. The sciences at GSU have indeed come a long way from the parking garage where they once started.

Atlanta, GA 30301-2668
P.O. Box 2668

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

