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Georgia State University Emeriti Association, "Emerities Newsletter, Winter 2020" (2020). *Emeriti Faculty Publications*. 38.

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RETIREE GROUPS FOR EDUCATORS

Christine Gallant • Professor Emerita of English (CAS) • cgallant@gsu.edu

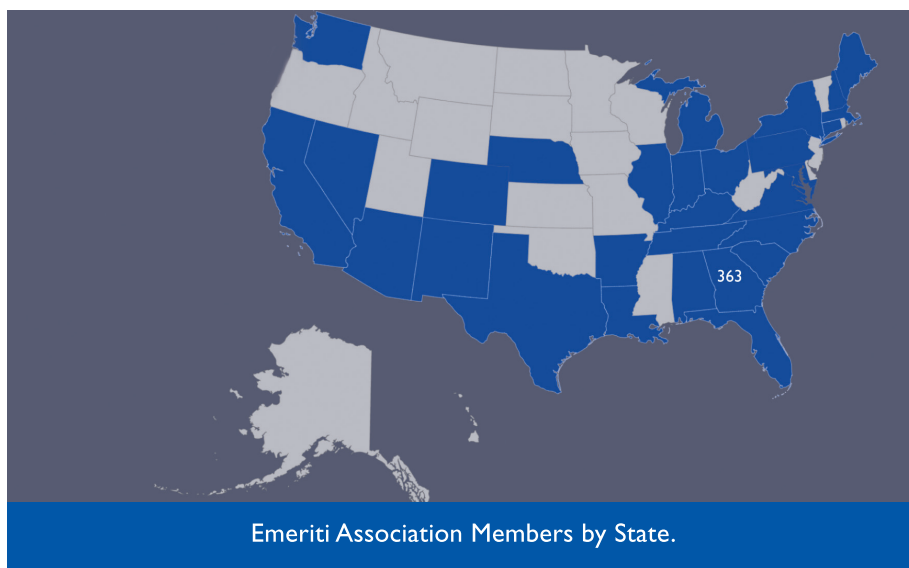
WE EMERITI ARE A VARYING

lot who have relocated across the continental United States. As of Winter 2020, 363 of our total 458 emeriti reside in Georgia. This story suggests retiree organizations our emeriti might wish to join.

Those who are house-bound can find them a rich resource for “virtual socialization,” which many experts say can be nearly as valuable for us older folks as face-to-face socialization. All organizations noted here offer e-newsletters, reports, and educational reading lists for their members. GSRA in particular depends on virtual communication, stating on their website that it is “an all volunteer organization with a very small budget. We rely heavily on electronic communication methods, such as this website and e-mails.”

One solely for higher education faculty is the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (<https://www.arohe.org/>), the advisory parent association of university and college organizations for retirees in higher education across the country. Founded in 2002 on the West Coast in California, it now has 93 chapters throughout the country and in Canada. AROHE soon will announce a basic membership that will allow individuals to join. Watch for an e-announcement of those changes in Fall 2019 on their website.

The Georgia chapter of AROHE is the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations



Emeriti Association Members by State.

GA-HERO (<https://ga-hero.org/>). Our own Emeriti Association is a member of GA-HERO. At present, there are ten member institutions across the state. GA-HERO was founded in 2012 by Dave Ewert, Professor Emeritus of Finance at Georgia State, former GSU Emeriti Association Board chairman, and present GA-HERO President, and John Bugge, Professor Emeritus of English at Emory University, who died in 2018.

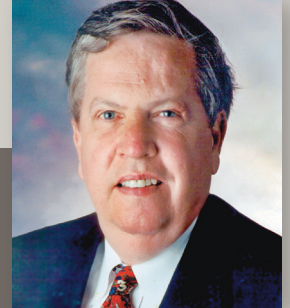
Membership now is restricted to organizations. However, non-members are encouraged to attend GA-HERO's meetings twice each year, which alternate between the Atlanta and the mid-to-south Georgia areas. These feature presentations of interest to retirees and retiree organizations. Their website has complete notes on their meetings and conferences.

[This story continues to back page.](#)

CHAIR'S COLUMN

WILLIAM FELDHAUS

Associate Professor Emeritus of Risk Management • feldhaus@gsu.edu



FALL 2019 ENROLLMENT AT GEORGIA STATE

University exceeded 53,000 students for the first time. Can you believe it! And student quality and diversity continue to excel. Our students come from 49 states and more than 160 countries. The 4,600 member freshman class has an average high school GPA of 3.53.

The 2019 *U.S. News and World Report* rates us as the second most innovative university in the U.S. and third in its commitment to undergraduate teaching! Very impressive recognition.

The Honors College, one of the jewels of Georgia State University, continues its track record in excellence.

The Honors College accepted 290 first-year students to its ranks. This new group of students earned an average high school GPA of 3.88 and SAT score of 1420. We all should be exceptionally proud of the recruiting efforts of the Honors College in bringing these bright students to our university.

Our Emeriti Association has selected their Just-in-Time Fund as something we would like to support. We will continue to provide snapshots of students that have benefited from this outstanding program. I recently made my own contribution to it. I hope that you too will consider supporting these bright young students.

EDITOR'S NOTE

***EmeriTies*:**

By Emeriti and For Emeriti

EmeriTies will devote a regular page to the Honors College, to include reports on recent JIT Fund recipients by Kathleen Baydala Joyner, Director of Communication in the College (*see her excellent ones in the last two newsletters*), and "Honors College News." Our ties with this college are close. We support their "Just-In-Time" fund; and three of our Coordinating Board chairs, former and present, belong to their Board of Visitors: Harry Dangel, Don Ratajczak, and Bill Feldhaus. One of their student assistants, Kiara Henry who majors in Journalism, soon will be assisting our website and newsletter.

Christine Gallant • Professor Emerita of English (CAS)
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RECAP

Leonard Ray Teel •

Professor Emeritus of Communications • lteel@gsu.edu

The Senior Financial Planning Brunch & Learn in the College of Law on May 22, 2019, gave a packed auditorium a lot to think about—including estate planning, taxes, tax shelters, and wills. My specific take-aways related to what you need to do as soon as possible. **(1)** Have an updated will, **(2)** tell your family or executor where your will and other documents are located, including PASSWORDS, **(3)** provide names and contact numbers for estate lawyers or others who have been advising you, and **(4)** "Get rid of your stuff. Nobody wants your stuff." The panel on June 13 included three GSU faculty—**Lynn Comer-Jones** (*Accountancy*), **Samuel Donaldson** (*Law*), and **Lucia Smeal** (*Accountancy*)—together with Financial Planner **Andrew Wise** and moderator **Cathy Henson**.


JUST-IN-TIME Request . . . You may make a gift to support this funding for students in the Honors College by making a **gift online here** or by check. For checks, make payable to **Georgia State University Foundation**; add to the memo line ***Emeriti Just-In-Time Fund***; and mail your donation to: Georgia State University Foundation • P.O. Box 2668 • Atlanta, GA 30301-2668. You may specify the student's originating department.

CORRECTION:

In "Bridges After Retirement" by Joanne Burgess (*Fall 2019*), Dr. Burgess's email address should have read: joanneburgess@comcast.net.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities



JIT Fund recipient **Lucy Eum**.

JUST-IN-TIME FUND Recipients

Kathleen Baydala Joyner • Director Communications,
Honors College • kjoyner@gsu.edu

Before graduating in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Honors College student Lucy Eum knew exactly what her next steps would be. Working in a lab at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, she's part of a team testing drug treatments for thoracic cancers. "I'm planning to work here for a couple of more years and then apply to med school," Eum said.

In 2018 she participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program at the Mayo Clinic, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Eum then secured an undergraduate assistantship in Georgia State University Professor Ritu Aneja's cancer research lab.

Thanks to the Just-in-Time Fund, Eum presented her undergraduate immunology research during Fall 2018 at two major national conferences for minority students in the sciences: the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Indianapolis and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science National Diversity in STEM Conference in Houston.

"Attending those conferences was so important to me. It allowed me to communicate with other scientists and to receive feedback about my research from fresh eyes and different perspectives," she said. "It really helped me see things that I might have missed and to think of new questions that I could attack."

HONORS COLLEGE NEWS

This Fall, the Honors College inducted its largest ever incoming class, with 290 first-year students. Among the first-year Honors College students are seven Presidential Scholars, recipients of the university's most prestigious academic award. Twenty-five students in the Honors College at Perimeter transitioned to the Honors College at Georgia State this fall. Their average incoming GPA was 3.82. Another 316 currently enrolled Georgia State students already on the Atlanta campus, with an average college GPA of 3.84, joined the Honors College this fall. The Honors College at Perimeter College has filled more than 1,000 seats at its five campuses across metro Atlanta.

Ninety percent of the 1,485 total students enrolled in the Honors College for fall 2019 are from Georgia. Many are first-generation college students, and 69 percent are on Pell Grants. The other students represent 25 different states and 28 different countries. Roughly 33 percent of the Honors College student body are majoring in a STEM (*science, technology, engineering, math*) field, and 27 percent are seeking business-related degrees. The Honors College also boasted a graduation rate for the 2018-19 academic year of 82 percent.

EMERITIES

Events & News

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Charles Lynn Fallis, Professor Emeritus of Educational Policy Studies and former Director of the Educational Administration Program, died on July 19, 2019. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served as a Signaller in the South Pacific during World War II. He earned his Doctorate degree in Education from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and taught at GSU from 1971-1992. Dr. Fallis was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Betty Jo Perry Fallis. He was also a member of the Atlanta Track Club and ran the Peachtree Road Race for 38 consecutive years until age 91.

Dr. Hugh T. Keenan, Professor Emeritus of English, died June 9, 2019. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee, and taught English at GSU from 1968 until retiring in 1998. He edited *Typology and English Medieval Literature* (AMS Press 1992), and introduced the study of children's literature to Georgia State's English department, in particular the Atlanta writer Joel Chandler Harris. His edition of Harris's surviving letters to his children, *Dearest Chums and Partners: The Letters of Joel Chandler Harris to His Children*, appeared in 1993 from the University of Georgia Press.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Your *EmeritiTies* Newsletter seeks contributions from Emeriti, both to keep you updated on former colleagues and to suggest possible retirement activities. These could be **first-person stories** about your travels, volunteering, or other retirement experiences (*up to 300 words*); or **short notes** about achievements or events in your life (*up to 100 words*). And you may receive the unexpected bonus of reconnecting with former colleagues.

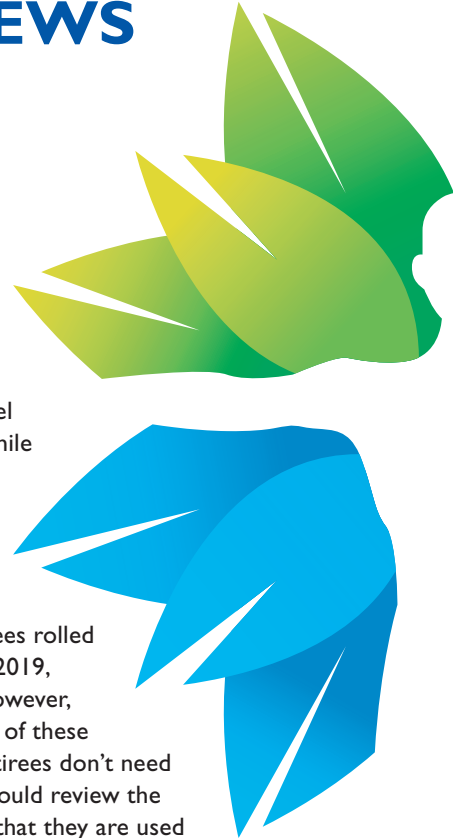
WELLNESS NEWS

Update on Retirees' HRA Funding

Emeriti have expressed concern about the rising cost of healthcare and the lack of an increase in their Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) funding. The Board of Regents approved the continuation of \$2,736 as the funding level for HRAs in 2020 as in previous years, while retirees will see a 5.5 to 7.5% increase in their healthcare plan premiums. The HRA contribution amount is assessed each year.

Only about a third of the 18,000 retirees had used all of their funds. Retirees rolled over an average of \$2,431 from 2018 to 2019, possibly against future large expenses. However, many think it would be best to use more of these funds now, lest the Regents think that retirees don't need the funding and cut it. Perhaps emeriti should review the medical expenses covered by our HRAs that they are used to paying themselves, such as medical insurance premiums. See <https://retiree.aon.com/> for the complete list.

A special fund is available for retirees whose prescription drugs costs significantly exceed the HRA amount, the Catastrophic Prescription Drug Benefit. Call **1-866-212-5052** for further information.



WINTER Upcoming Events

■ DECEMBER

Perimeter College Retiree Association Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, **December 5, 2019** • 11:00 a.m.
Petite Violette Restaurant
2948 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

Emeriti Association Holiday Party

Sunday, **December 8, 2019**
SunTrust Room, Rialto Center for the Arts
80 Forsyth Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

■ FEBRUARY

Emeriti Association Valentine's Luncheon

Friday, **February 14, 2020**
Rialto Center for the Arts
80 Forsyth Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303
Time: **TBA**

WENDY HENSEL NAMED NEW PROVOST

Christine Gallant • Professor Emerita of English (CAS) • cgallant@gsu.edu

Wendy Hensel, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs since July 1, has been appointed to the position permanently. Dean of the College of Law since 2017 until her appointment as Interim Provost, she is a nationally recognized expert on employment discrimination and special education.

She earned her Juris Doctor degree with honors at the Harvard Law School; and before coming to Georgia State in 1999 as Instructor, she was an attorney specializing in employment law with the prominent Atlanta law firm of Alston & Bird, litigating discrimination cases. This will serve her well in her first initiative, implementing the Report of the Commission for the Next Generation of Faculty released in August 2019. The goal of this 2017 Commission was to improve the racial diversity of our permanent faculty.

Georgia State University has long sought to make its faculty body more racially diverse, and many emeriti reading this now were hard-working, determined advocates in the struggle. Its “1992 Five-Year Action Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of African-American Faculty” was begun under President Emeritus Carl Patton, and expanded to all underrepresented faculty with the 2001 “University Policy on Recruiting and Retaining Ethnic Minority Tenure-Track Faculty.” The recent Report of the 2017 Commission has built upon these previous plans and policies, with additional data-driven strategies and programs.

Provost Hensel has long been an advocate for people with physical and mental disabilities, that has been termed the forgotten diversity group. While at Alston & Bird, she counseled Fortune 500 companies on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Her 20 book-chapters and articles on the subject are listed here:

https://works.bepress.com/wendy_hensel/

As Provost, she will pursue two additional initiatives.



Provost Wendy Hensel

She hopes to “create a strategic approach to online programming. We need to develop a strong approach at the university level both to improve the quality of [online-hybrid] courses and to identify strategically the graduate degrees that are in demand nationally and internationally.” She adds: “Over the last decade our growth and trajectory has been incredible. We now need to implement supportive infrastructure in human resources, sponsored programs, and technological services.”

Indeed, Provost Hensel is planning for Georgia State’s “Next Generation.”

EMERITI AUTHORS

(Emeriti: share your recent publications of new articles or books.)

STAN SMITS, Professor and Chair Emeritus of Managerial Sciences (sjsmits@bellsouth.net). “Knowing What We Know: Uncovering Tacit Knowledge for Improved Organizational Performance,” Matthew Andrews and Stanley J. Smits, *Journal of Organizational Psychology*, 2018, Vol. 18, No. 5.

“The Evolving Potential of Talent Management in Poland,” by Marianna Waters-Sobkowiak, Tadeusz Kowalski, and Stanley J. Smits in *Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review*, 2018, Vol. 6, No. 3.

CHRISTINE GALLANT, Professor Emerita of English (cgallant@gsu.edu).

Review-essay of *The Adjunct Underclass: How America’s Colleges Betrayed Their Faculty, Their Students, and Their Mission*, by Herb Childress. *Fortnightly Review* (London), July 2019.

<http://fortnightlyreview.co.uk/2019/07/adjunct-life/>

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RETIREE GROUPS FOR EDUCATORS *(cont'd from page 1)*

Those emeriti still in Georgia may wish to contact those groups of retired educators that seek to influence our state legislators working on educational issues. Some emeriti are retired administrators whose experience could help two politically oriented local organizations of retired educators. These groups safeguard retiree pension and healthcare benefits: GREA (*the Georgia Retired Educators Association*) and GSRA (*the Georgia State Retirees Association, whose members are retired state workers of Georgia, not Georgia State University retirees*).

GREA (<https://www.garetirededucators.org>) is a group of 29,000+ retired educators from pre-K through higher education, founded in 1958. GSRA (<https://www.mygsra.com>), founded in 2006, is much smaller with two constituencies: educators and all other state employees. Georgia's public school employees share membership in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) with USG educators and staff (*unless the USG ones opted for a private investment system*), since state law requires public K-12 teachers and staff to belong to TRS.

Our state legislature monitors TRS regularly. Over the past few years, legislators have proposed changes to TRS's traditional

"defined benefits" pension plan that provides fixed benefits upon retirement after a set number of service years, usually provoking controversy. Last year the Georgia House (*Bill 109*) suggested changing this defined-benefits pension plan to make it more flexible. For details, *see below* *: <https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt-politics/lawmakers-try-again-change-the-state-teacher-retirement-system/InNJl48LHnLYIGe5Lno04M/>

After considerable negative feedback from educators' organizations in early 2019, House Bill 109 was withdrawn and sent back to the House Retirement Committee. A revised version will probably appear in the 2020 legislative session. If so, members of GREA and GSRA are likely to converge upon the Golden Dome. I remember one such session years ago, flooded with angry septuagenarian educators on canes and walkers.

This bill originally proposed that any changes would affect new faculty only, not current ones or retirees. So it may not concern emeriti if/when it reappears. But we might remember Benjamin Franklin's words to the Continental Congress: "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

* <https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt-politics/lawmakers-try-again-change-the-state-teacher-retirement-system/InNJl48LHnLYIGe5Lno04M/>

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EMERITI ASSOCIATION

