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RECENT *REGENTS DECISIONS* FOR THE USG

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

IN HIS RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, Governor Brian Kemp has tried to keep local businesses open where possible and refused to issue any public mask or vaccine mandates. The Regents required the University System of Georgia (USG) to follow suit this Fall term. Its campuses opened to in-person teaching, with only “strong encouragement” to be vaccinated or wear masks on campus. There has been increasing pushback from Georgia’s faculty as they sought mask mandates for their campuses, with support from the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

During September, the Georgia chapter of the AAUP organized demonstrations protesting the lack of mask mandates on 17 state campuses, including Georgia State. The senates of Georgia State, Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia passed resolutions that the Regents should allow individual presidents to decide their own campus mandates.

Official response was quick. At the September Board of Regents meeting, Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney warned of disciplinary action against anyone not following the system’s guidelines. She cited Kemp’s ongoing opposition to mask mandates, saying: “We continue to be in alignment with the governor’s expectations and requirements for state agencies through this pandemic.”

Then at its October meeting, the Regents approved changes in its Policy Manual relating to post-tenure review that many faculty members think will end tenure. They worry about retaliation for their campus protests.

The Regents began considering such changes in September 2020 under then-Chancellor

Steve Wrigley, but didn’t receive the final report until this Fall. Before, post-tenure review specified that if the tenured professor failed two consecutive post-tenure reviews, then the department chair and dean, consulting with the professor, would create a performance-improvement plan. Notably, there was no penalty specified if the professor failed to improve.

But under the amended policy, if the tenured professor fails to make sufficient progress as determined “by the department chair and dean after considering feedback from the committee of faculty colleagues,” then the college will take remedial action, such as a pay suspension . . . or a *revocation of tenure, or termination*. The college president will make the final call.

Under the previous policy, a tenured professor could only be fired for a specific cause after a thorough peer-review process. Many faculty consider this new amendment a violation of due process in the revocation of tenure.

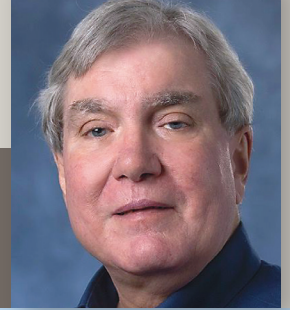
The Georgia chapter of the AAUP contacted the national organization about these policy changes. In its September 24 reply, an AAUP representative stated: “Given the severity and scope of this potential attack on tenure and academic freedom, our executive director will authorize an investigation if the board votes to adopt these changes.” AAUP investigations are usually preludes to their censure. This investigation now has been approved. As of this newsletter’s press time, we await further developments.



CHAIR'S COLUMN

TED WADLEY

Associate Professor Emeritus of English (Perimeter College) • twadley@gsu.edu



I AM HONORED TO SERVE IN THE EMERITI Association and very proud of our accomplishments. I especially thank my predecessor, Bill Feldhaus, for his leadership during a difficult time.

In one of my first activities as chair, I spoke with GSU's new president, Brian Blake. He is very approachable, and interested in emeriti and our engagement with the university. I asked for his support for maintaining our strong connections with the Honors College and the library, for building connections with other colleges, and continuing our partnerships with HR and the Foundation. Our practices and innovations are scalable, and I asked him to establish an umbrella organization for all GSU

retirees. It's too soon to know how we will fit into his priorities, but I'm encouraged by his record before coming to GSU and by his openness and goodwill.

We are approaching our 20th anniversary. Ten years ago, we produced an excellent video highlighting the achievements of the presidents to that time. It's posted on our website under "about us." I told Blake we'd like to make a 20th anniversary video next year and celebrate the great strides the university has taken, looking forward to the goals he wants to accomplish.

GSU has come a long way in the last twenty years, and faculty are the key to its success. Please join me in welcoming new emeriti into our association.

Across the country, colleges and universities are facing significant declines in student enrollment, but any fears for Georgia State were dispelled this Fall. It enrolled its largest first-year class ever, with more than 5,600 students. 2,400 of them were first-year students in its Perimeter College.

HONORS COLLEGE UPDATE

Eden Kahssai • Assistant Director Development • Honors College

Research opportunities were dampened significantly last year. We are only now starting to see things return to normal. Honors College students are eager to get back into more hands-on research and are ready to take advantage of opportunities by attending research conferences.

Last year, due to canceled conferences, the Honors College awarded few recipients the Just-in-Time Scholarship. This year, seven students were awarded it in just Fall semester 2021, and will attend these conferences: the American Society of Criminology in Chicago; the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Orlando; the American Public Health Association Conference in Denver; and the Georgia Political Science Association Conference in Savannah.

Fall 2021 recipients are: Maria Peratilla Alfaro (*Psychology*), Brenda Dapreis (*Anthropology*), Katherine French (*Psychology*), Cameron Higgins (*Psychology*), Trevor Kisloski (*Political Science*), Sangha Park (*Psychology*), Alexis Veazie (*Psychology*).

More UPDATES

- **Wendy Hensel**, provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2019, will step down at the end of this calendar year. She has agreed to continue to serve as Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives. An interim provost will be named before the end of fall semester and a national search started in the spring semester.
- In late October, **President Blake** sent a letter to the University community announcing "... immediate initiatives I would like us to plan over the next few months and start by the beginning of 2022." He will "increase research capacity with additional infrastructure; create budgets and strategic authority for the Provost and Vice President of Research to amplify faculty hiring" and "initiate a next-level research challenge providing up to five \$500,000 awards to fund transformative ideas."

Dr. Blake added: "Starting in November, I will work with our senior leadership to initiate a SWOT (*Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*) analysis as the first step toward strategic planning. The next chapter of the university will build on the previous strategic plan with a refreshed perspective. We will take what we have learned, especially during the challenges of the pandemic, and move the university forward."

AN EMERITI BENEFIT FROM AFAR

Diane Willen • Professor Emerita of History • dwillen@gsu.edu

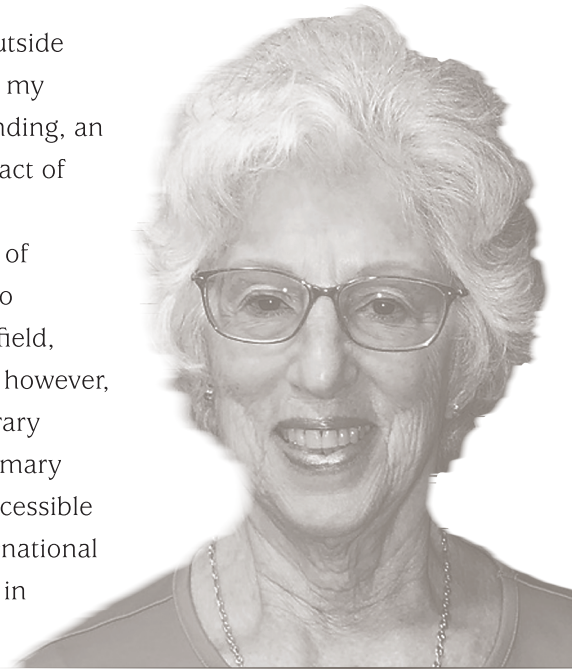
In 2002 my husband and I left Atlanta and relocated in a community just outside Baltimore. Why go north to retire? I have family here and, as I explained to my husband, the area is rich in libraries. My attachment to libraries is long-standing, an attachment both intellectual and emotional. Yet after our move, it took the impact of the pandemic before I fully appreciated our GSU Library.

Once in Maryland, I first used the Milton Eisenhower Library on the campus of Johns Hopkins. A fine research library, it had some drawbacks for me: no way to check out materials without a hefty annual fee, limited source materials in my field, difficult parking, and no good public transportation. I became a happy camper, however, as a Reader at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. The best library in my field in the United States, the Folger is user-friendly, holds a wealth of primary and secondary sources, and has a gorgeous reading room. There is an easily accessible commuter train to D.C., and it was a pleasure to mingle with national and international scholars. Yet the Folger closed in January 2020 for major renovations, and now in the midst of Covid, it is not scheduled to reopen until 2023.

I had intermittently used the electronic resources of the GSU Library, but the changing circumstances of the last two years have heightened my dependence and my appreciation of its resources and staff. I am especially grateful for a digital acquisition made at GSU since my retirement, Early English Books Online, which allows me to access from my desk in Maryland over 25,000 published texts that survive from the 1470s to the 1690s. Tracking my Puritans and checking footnotes have never been easier! Other databases and journals are available, and whenever I have run into difficulties, the librarians and staff at GSU have been understanding and helpful in resolving problems.

Other departments like the Help Desk at the Computer Center and the Benefits Office are there for expats as well as the Library. But I want to draw special attention to the GSU Library, to which our status as Emeriti gives us permanent access. I invite fellow Emeriti faculty to use and support this wonderful resource.

[Ed. Note: see “University and College Emeriti Benefits,” in *EmeriTies*, Spring 2020.]



Diane Willen

REQUEST FOR JIT FUND DONORS . . .

Donations to the Just-In-Time Fund for Honors College students are requested as in-person conferences once again take place. Gifts can be made online at <https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/make-a-gift> 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 30312-2668.**

You may specify the student's originating department.

COORDINATING BOARD

Ted Wadley, Chair – PC
twadley@gsu.edu

Leonard Ray Teel, Vice Chair – CAS
leonardteel0@gmail.com

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

William Feldhaus, Treasurer – RCB
feldhaus@gsu.edu

John DeCastro, co-chair, Activities Committee – CAS
john.m.decastro@gmail.com

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

Sandra Owen, co-chair, Communications Committee
and Website Webmaster – CEHD
sowen2@gsu.edu

John Haberland – COTA
jhaberland@gsu.edu

Hugh Richard Miller – CAS
hmiller@gsu.edu

Ruth Saxton – CEHD
rsaxton@gsu.edu

EMERITIES

Christine Gallant, editor, co-chair
Communications Committee – CAS
cgallant@gsu.edu

Patricia P. Simmons
graphic designer
psimmons@gsu.edu



CONTACT US:

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

PANTHER PANTRY

Missy Cody • Associate Professor Emerita,
Nutrition • mmcody50@gmail.com

The Panther's Pantry benefitted 500-600 students per month across four Georgia State campuses during Fall 2019, closing in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 10,400 applications for emergency aid, 52 percent cited food insecurity as the reason for the request. During this period, more than \$200,000 in food vouchers and Kroger gift cards were dispersed to students within 24 hours of their aid request.

In 2020 it expanded from a small room in the parking garage to a large indoor space at 75 Piedmont Ave. Renovations to the new pantry were made possible in part by a \$40,000 external grant. Additionally, the pantry provides the food-insecure students with academic support, counseling and community referrals.

“Panther's Pantry: Nourishing Student Success,” [<https://pantry.gsu.edu/>](https://pantry.gsu.edu/) further illustrates the Pantry's activities and growth.

RETIREE COUNCIL

Harry Dangel • Associate Professor Emeritus,
Educational Psychology and Special Education •
hdangel@gsu.edu

For 2022 the Regents have approved a \$2,736 contribution to each Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), as well as eligible spouses, for healthcare expense reimbursements. This is the same amount as in 2021. Retirees may access their HRA funds managed by AON at <https://retiree.aon.com/usg>.

A major concern of the Retiree Council is that only about half the USG retirees use all the funds in their HRA accounts, and some use none. AON members should use their HRA accounts on an ongoing basis rather than saving them for an emergency. For even as healthcare costs are rising, we risk having the annual HRA funding reduced if it appears that many retirees don't need or use their full allotment. Email me if you're having problems getting enrolled or reimbursed.

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

EMERITI ASSOCIATION



EMERITIES

Events & Activities

IN MEMORIAM

Sanford Bederman, Professor Emeritus of Geography, died on August 19, 2021. He received a Ph.D. in Geography in 1973 from the University of Minnesota. His primary area of interest was Africa, and he spent 1965-66 in Nigeria and Cameroon on a National Science Foundation grant. He retired from GSU in 1992 after 34 years.

Carl Bramlette, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Business Management, died June 5, 2021. In 1953 he was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology from Duke University. He helped design the first state-wide community mental health system. In 1969 he became a Professor of Management at Georgia State University and retired in 1988.

Marjorie Knowles, Professor Emerita of Law, died September 24, 2021. In 1986, she became dean of Law at Georgia State. During her deanship, the GSU law school gained accreditation from the American Bar Association. After stepping down as dean in 1991, she remained on the faculty and retired in 2011. The new Law School building includes the Marjorie and Ralph Knowles Conference Center.

William Cannon Mallard, Professor Emeritus of Physics, died April 21, 2021. He earned MS and PhD degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Physics. He joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at GSU in 1970, and retired in 2002.

Eckhart H.W. Richter, Associate Professor Emeritus of Music, died on August 4, 2021. He received his Doctor of Music at Florida State University in 1969. During his career, Dr. Richter played with the Houston and National Symphony Orchestras. He joined Georgia State University in 1973 and retired in 1995.

Susan Roman, Assistant Professor Emerita of Nutrition, died in 2021. A microbiologist, she started her GSU career in the Department of Medical Technology and retired from the Department of Nutrition. In 2007 she was recognized with a Sparks Award.

Patricia Sartain, Alumni Director Emerita, died on Sept. 19, 2021. A Georgia State alumna (class of '60), she won a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1971; and served as Alumni Director from 1978-1993. She was editor of *EmeriTies* from Summer 2015 through Winter 2017.

Upcoming Events

**No events are planned for 2021 . . .
No Holiday Party, alas!**

There will be our traditional **Valentine's Day Luncheon in 2022** to honor emeriti old and new, **but its status right now is undecided.** We will have *specific information closer to February, and will communicate it to you via email.*

RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Contact: rialto@gsu.edu or Phone: 404-413-9849

- **Gala Holiday Concert**
GSU Department of Music
Sunday, December 5, 2021 • 3 p.m.
Rialto Center for the Arts, Atlanta
- **2nd Annual Rialto Gala**
Saturday, March 12 • 8 p.m.
Contact the Rialto for details.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Our 500+ emeriti who have settled across the continental United States are emerging from the "year of Covid" into varying experiences of its aftermath.

- **What is it like where you are?**
- **Do you have any travel experiences to relate here or abroad which you couldn't take in 2020?**

SEND ARTICLES,
100-300 words long,
to the editor at
cgallant@gsu.edu.
We'd like to hear from you.

EMERITIES

Events & News

NEW COORDINATING BOARD

New Coordinating Board officers of the Emeriti Association were elected unanimously by the Board at its June 2, 2021, meeting.



Chair
Ted Wadley



Vice-Chair
**Leonard Ray
Teel**



Secretary
Missy Cody



Treasurer
William Feldhaus



John DeCastro



Harry Dangel



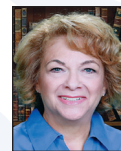
John Haberen



**Hugh Richard
Miller**



Sandra Owen



Ruth Saxton

EMERITI AUTHORS

(*Emeriti: share your recent publications of new scholarly or creative articles/books. No textbooks, please.*)

Charles Burden

Professor Emeritus of Business, *The Village and the Turnpike: A Whimsical Cedar Mountain Historical Adventure from Then to Now*, with Douglas Pace, and Patricia Lee Stahl. Cedar Tracks Publishers (N. C.). Dr. Burden was a member of the original Coordinating Committee that created the Emeriti Association in 2002.

James Owers

Professor Emeritus of Finance. "The Ongoing Contributions of Spin-off Research and Practice to Understanding Corporate Restructuring and Wealth Creation: \$100 Billion in One Decade," with Bruno Sergio, June 2021, *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*, V. 8, pp 1-31.

EDITOR'S NOTE !

EmeriTies: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

Christine Gallant •

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

Last September when I learned about the faculty demonstrations on campuses, this old academic warhorse heard the bugles and wanted to join them. But then I realized I could be more useful at the computer, with my cane in the corner. Who knows what SACS and the AAUP will decide to do?