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in Wisconsin,
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and Virginia

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

Emeriti celebrated their annual Valentine's Day Luncheon in the Rialto Center on February 12, 2023, last held in 2020. They welcomed President Blake, and enjoyed one another's company once again.

During the luncheon, one of this year's recipients of the "Just-in-Time Fund" was celebrated, Chichi Munkombwe, a Neuroscience major from the College of Arts and Sciences. This award is provided by the Emeriti Association in coordination with the Honors College to well-deserving Honors students to enable them to travel to professional conferences to present their research.

President Blake wrote of this on February 21 in his presidential blog on the University website (<https://president.gsu.edu/blog/>). "The Annual Emeriti Association Valentine's Day Luncheon returned this year after a brief COVID hiatus and we at GSU are delighted that, even in retirement, so many emeriti faculty continue to remain actively connected to the university.

Their many years of contributions in the areas of teaching, research, and service have tremendously shaped this institution."



LEFT:
*President Blake
with Missy Cody*



RIGHT:
*Harry Dangel,
Ted Wadley, and
Charles Williams*

EMERITI ATTEND THE FIRST "RETURN TO LEARN"

Kathleen DeMarco • Assistant Professor Emerita of English (PC) • kdemarco@gsu.edu

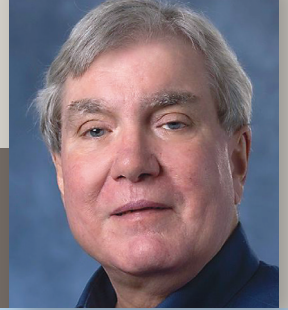
On April 11, 2022, our Convocation Center became a dynamic classroom for emeriti when eight active faculty presented their ongoing research in the first campus mini-conference of "Return to Learn." Former Vice President of Advancement Jay Kahn opened the event that included a buffet lunch, when President Brian Blake and Provost Nicolle Parsons-Pollard joined emeriti and President Blake spoke briefly.

A wide range of research was presented by Ashley Rockwell and Dr. Halley Riley (*University Library Research Data Services*), Dr. Natalie King (*Science Education*), Dr. Amanda Ellwanger (*Anthropology*), Dr. Andrew Gewirtz (*Biomedical Sciences*), and Al Thrash and Ben Yonas of the School of Music. The sessions were well attended. Future conferences will be announced, and all emeriti are encouraged to "return to learn" from present faculty.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

TED WADLEY

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



MORE THAN FORTY EMERITI AND GUESTS,

including President Blake, Deans Sarah Cooke and Jeff Steely — eighty people in all — enjoyed each other's company at our Valentine's luncheon in February.

John deCastro hosted a beltline hike and lunch at Superica at Krog Market in May. There will be more hike/luncheon combinations coming up in the future: emeriti and family/friends can do one or both. If you're not getting email announcements of our activities, please contact me at twadley@gsu.edu, and I'll make sure you're on the list.

Our website, emeriti.gsu.edu, is now updated regularly. Check out our 10th and 20th anniversary videos and Valentine's

photos. Sandra Owen plans to add a section on the history of the GSU Emeriti Association and the impact we continue to have on GSU and beyond. Associate Provost Emeritus Yezdi Bhada spoke at the Emeriti Board meeting in June. He was instrumental in forming the Emeriti Association in 2002 and after retiring served as board chair. Filling out the origins and early history of the Emeriti Association and putting together its story up to the present will help us think about where we are now and what we could do in the future.

Please contribute any ideas that you have for activities and initiatives that will strengthen our connections to the university and each other.

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2023-2033

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

Georgia State University's 2023-2033 Strategic Plan was recently approved by the University Senate and announced by President Blake.

It should interest all emeriti as a blueprint for our future.

(<https://strategic.gsu.edu/>)

The Strategic Plan of 2011 was to cover the next decade with the new Plan coming out in 2021, but the pandemic erupted in 2020 and then-President Mark Becker resigned as well. And much had happened since 2011. The 2020 Strategic Plan was postponed.

Our student demographics have become pluralistic since 2011, without any one racial or ethnic group as a majority. Also, in 2016 we consolidated with Perimeter College, which had an open-access mission and five additional campuses. Thus the 2023 Plan begins by describing our present reality.

"We have a distinct identity as the only university in the country designated as a Predominantly Black Institution and a Very High Research Activity Institution with an open-access mission through Perimeter College. In addition, our

“Our student demographics have become pluralistic since 2011, without any one racial or ethnic group as a majority.”

university holds the designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), which is further evidence of our diverse student population.”

***Nota bene:** Georgia State is **the only university in the country** that can make this claim.*

UNIVERSITY NEWS

■ Administration

Chester Phillips, Director of the School of Music, will serve as Interim Dean of the College of the Arts from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, while Dean Wade Weast is on leave for his American Council of Education (ACE) Fellowship. While serving as Interim Dean, Dr. Phillips will continue in his role as Director of the School of Music. Susan Richmond, Associate Director of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design, will become the Interim Associate Dean.

■ New University Award

The Department of Africana Studies has established the **Jacqueline Rouse-Doris Derby Africana Studies Fellowship** honoring the legacies of two distinguished University scholars, **Emerita Jacqueline Rouse and Doris Derby**. This fellowship will support graduate students seeking an M.A. in Africana Studies, with the first recipients to be named in spring 2024.

Emerita Rouse earned her B.A. in Afro-American History from Howard University, her M. A. in African American history from Atlanta University and her Ph.D. in American Studies from Emory University. She is best known for her scholarship on the women leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. She was an editor of *The Journal of Negro History* and held leadership positions in professional organizations. Dr. Rouse joined the faculty in our History Department in 1991, and assisted the Black students in their 1992 demands that the University create a department devoted to Africana Studies. She retired in 2017.

Dr. Derby earned her B.A. from Hunter College in 1962. While there, she was a founding member of the New York branch of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was one of the original Freedom Riders through the segregated South in 1961. After graduation, she worked in the southern Civil Rights Movement. During the early 1960s, she was active in SNCC's Atlanta chapter and went down to Mississippi at their special request to develop an adult literacy program at Tougaloo College. During the 1960s, she also became a tireless photographer "witnessing" the grim realities of Black life in rural Mississippi in thousands of photographs later featured in nationwide exhibitions.

She returned to graduate school in the early 1970s, and received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology with a specialization in African and African American Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1972. She came to Georgia State in 1990 as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology and the Founding Director of Georgia State's Office of African American Student Services and Programs (OAASS&P). As this Director, Dr. Derby mentored many Black students and encouraged their active participation in the University. She retired from Georgia State in 2012. She passed on March 28, 2022.

This Africana Studies fellowship aims to honor the legacies of these scholars whose work contributed to Black student success at Georgia State. "[It] is a testament to the invaluable contributions that Dr. Rouse and Dr. Derby have made to the field of Africana Studies, Georgia State University and beyond," said Department Chair Jonathan Gayles.

EDITOR'S NOTE

EmeriTies: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

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

Our new 2023 Strategic Plan now makes it clear how beneficial our earlier consolidation with Perimeter College was for Georgia State, which already had a Very High (#1) Carnegie Research rating.

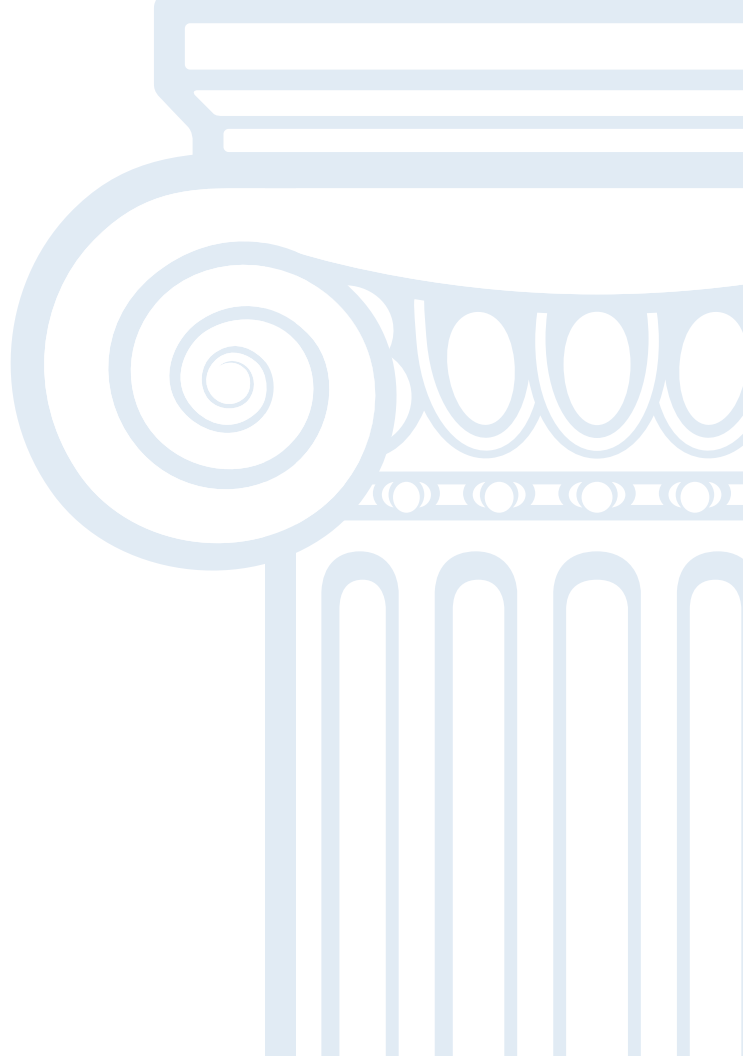
In April, the Regents suspended admission requirements for test scores and GPAs at 23 USG schools including Georgia State for the 2024-5 school year. Georgia State now funnels entering students with lower test scores and high school GPAs to our Perimeter College with its ambitious "student success" and mentoring programs. If students graduate with an Associate's degree from there, they are automatically admitted to the University as juniors and may proceed to graduation.

Thus, it may seem an oxymoron to say that Georgia State is now an open-access school with a Very High Carnegie Research rating, but it is literally true. And it was precisely our consolidation with Perimeter College, with its open-access mission, that has enabled this unique identity. This is quite likely to improve our student enrollment rates and thus our state legislative funding.

This all pleases me as an emerita of Georgia State who taught many doctoral students who went on to secure tenure-track positions with Perimeter College.

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

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Just-In-Time Fund RECIPIENTS

Marc Reyes • Scholarships and Fellowships Coordinator • Office of Undergraduate Research Fellowships (OURF)

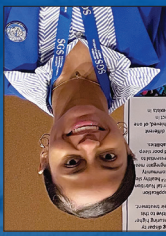
This spring, five Georgia State University Honors College students learned that they would receive Just-In-Time grants–**Tori-marie Palmer, Emerald Gibbs, Kendahl Heckstall, Wesley Grace, and Rachel Mayhew**. All have used, or will use, their awards to present their latest research at prestigious national conferences in Wisconsin, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

In March, **Tori-marie** and **Rachel** went to the National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Madison, Wisconsin. **Rachel**, a senior chemistry major, felt that without Just-In-Time support, she would not have been able to attend the conference and would have missed meeting peers and colleagues. The experience gave her confidence as a researcher and student, and she is thankful for the help this grant provided.

Tori-marie had a similar experience. This was her last chance to present at NCUR since she was a graduating senior, and her Just-In-Time award made that possible. Explaining her work to scholars from different backgrounds and hearing their reactions gave her greater motivation to keep presenting her research and grow as an effective communicator. **Emerald**,

Thanks to the support of the Emeriti Sciences Professor **Rafaela Feresin**, pursued under the supervision of Nutrition who presented at the Southern Gerontological Society's conference in Norfolk, Virginia, won a first-place award for her research poster. This summer, **Kendahl** and **Wesley** are heading to Boston for the annual meeting of the American Society of Nutrition. The two will share the findings of the research they have pursued under the supervision of Nutrition Sciences Professor **Rafaela Feresin**.

Thanks to the support of the Emeriti Association, Just-In-Time awards are making it possible for Georgia State students to travel to national conferences and present award-winning research. For more information on the grant, please visit the **Emeriti Association** or contact the Honors College.



Emerald Gibbs



Tori-marie Palmer



Rachel Mayhew

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EMERITIES

Events & Activities

USG RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

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The virtual meeting of the USG Retiree Council on March 31, 2023, opened with reports from various USG officials.

- **Chancellor Sonny Perdue:** \$66,000,000 was cut from the 2023-4 Georgia Higher Education budget by the Georgia Legislature. Additionally, many state universities are experiencing reductions in undergraduate student admission applications. The Board of Regents has no plan for any mergers of USG universities.
- **USG Faculty Council Chair Rich Foreman:** money is not now available to campuses experiencing low student enrollment. This will result in the closure of struggling programs, and thus the loss of tenured faculty in those programs. In addition, the Council is clarifying what the state requires for working with the AAUP while also maintaining an effective relationship with the Board of Regents.
- **Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dana Nichols:** USG provosts have approved the Emeriti Procedure Handbook, written by USG Retiree Council committee members, with the addition of requiring cybersecurity training for university email users.
- **USG Associate Vice Chancellor, Karen Elliott:** the 2024 Health Benefits Fair will be held in person rather than virtually. New documents available to USG faculty and staff on the Alight Insurance website include, "USG Survivor Information - Death of a Retiree" and "Losing a Loved One: Survivor Tips for Dealing with Loss." Also, our USG Health Plan can currently reimburse Medicare Part B premiums.
- **Alight Retiree Health Insurance Benefits Update, Matt Berkley:** there are changes from the American Rescue Plan Act. In 2023, cost sharing for vaccines will be eliminated. In 2024, Medicare Part D premium growth will be limited to 6%, and the 5% retiree share will be eliminated at the catastrophic level.

ANOTHER TRAVEL SAGA

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Travel is always an (*unintended*) adventure for us. Consequently, my wife and I purchase extra insurance if necessary. We had not traveled internationally since 2019 until the day before Halloween (*Trick or Treat?*) in this year of 2023.

Because of fog in Atlanta and very slow passport control in Montreal, we missed our connecting flight to Athens, Greece. To make matters worse, our luggage went missing for about five days and saw more of Europe than we did.

Aboard the Viking Venus cruising the Aegean Sea from Athens to Istanbul, my diabetic wife had 2 separate hypoglycemic (*low blood glucose*) episodes that required intervention by the ship's medical staff. However, the Acropolis and the mosques in Istanbul were worth the time and expense. If there is a holy place on this planet, it must be the Hagia Sophia.

The adventure continued after we returned and traveled to Kansas City to see friends and relatives during the holidays. Returning to our motel about 10 pm on a bitterly cold Christmas night, we were surprised that the place was dark. All the lights were off, even in the parking lot. It seems that the water pipes had burst inside, shorting out the fire alarm system, resulting in the fire marshal shutting the place down.

My wife and I finally found an assistant manager camped inside, retrieved our belongings, and found a new place to stay. Be careful out there.

EMERITIES

Events & News

IN MEMORIAM

David Bottoms, Professor Emeritus of English, died on Friday, March 10, 2023. He joined the English Department in 1982 and was founding co-editor of its nationally acclaimed *Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Arts*. His first book of poetry, *Shooting Rats in the Bibb County Dump*, was selected by Robert Penn Warren as the winner of the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. Seven other collections and two novels followed. He won an American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Award, an Ingram-Merrill Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Dr. Bottoms held the John B. and Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters, served as Associate Dean of Fine Arts, and was the Poet Laureate of Georgia from 2000 to 2012. He received the Governor's Award in the Humanities in 2011, and retired in 2020.

Sidney Crow, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology, died on April 18, 2023. He joined the Department of Biology in 1975, and served as Interim Chair and Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs. He maintained his research and teaching interests in microbial ecology and metabolism through the departmental Applied & Environmental Microbiology Program and as founder and Director of the Environmental Research Center (1995-2016). He co-published over 60 papers in peer-reviewed journals and over 30 chapters and reviews in environmental microbiology. He brought in major amounts of funding, and obtained several U.S. patents. He chaired the National Review Panel related to Indoor Air and Fungal Contamination, and was a founding organizer of the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Editor-in-Chief of its *Journal of Industrial Microbiology*. Upon his retirement in 2018, Dr. Crow was awarded the Selman A. Waxman Teaching Award by the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Charity Scott, Professor Emerita, died on March 18, 2023. She joined the College of Law at Georgia State in 1987 and was the founding director of its Center for Law, Health, and Society. She also was co-founder of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP), their medical-legal partnership, and the college's Health Law program grew to a nationally recognized program with a certificate program and LL.M. Dr. Scott played an integral role in developing the health law sections of the ABA and of the State Bar of Georgia. She retired in 2020.