Emerities Newsletter, Spring 2023

Georgia State University Emeriti Association

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WE LEFT FOR EUROPE WITH EIGHTEEN COUNTRIES on the cruise itinerary on July 29, 2022, and returned September 30. We had visited St. Petersburg in Russia in 1982 when it was Leningrad, and expected to visit it again. When we left, we were concerned about COVID and the February 24 Russian attack on Ukraine, for our stop in St. Petersburg was cancelled. But profounder changes were ahead. We didn’t expect to encounter early effects of climate change as well.

The cruise company told us to bring proof of COVID vaccination with booster shots to board the cruise ships or aircraft connecting the cruises. The first was an “expedition” to the Arctic, beginning in Oslo, and the mask requirement was strict on board. The captain announced our first COVID cases shortly after we left port for the Arctic Circle, and the sick passengers were isolated in their cabins.

Seeing polar bears was our primary goal. The guides reconnoitered prior to landings to make sure there were none on the island or swimming off-shore, and armed guards were posted around the landing site. We counted 12 bears, including a mother with two cubs gnawing on a walrus carcass on the beach. Many looked malnourished and one was eating seaweed, a sign that climate change is affecting the wildlife. When the ship returned to port after the voyage, two more passengers were quarantined and could not board the aircraft with the rest of the group returning to Norway.

We joined the group in Amsterdam to find that we could not board the boat until we got to Cologne. So the Rhine “river cruise” began with bus rides. Drought had lowered the waters so much that a local river boat from Koblenz provided the initial tour of Rhine castles and towns. Low bridges and canal locks became the norm as we moved in the locks between stretches of the rivers. Vienna marked the end of the first cruise.

Next, we visited Osijek (Croatia) and Novi Sad and Belgrade (Serbia) with Constanta on the Black Sea as the objective. Romanian TV cameras covered our boat’s arrival because we were the first to navigate the low waters of the Rhine/Main/Danube Rivers all the way to the Black Sea. The adventure ended in Bucharest.

The tourism industry along the rivers of Europe is suffering from the effects of climate change. Shipping by barge slowed as water levels limited loads. And the impact of the war is evident in the very large number of refugees in Europe. Many young Ukrainians were working at stores and restaurants in virtually all the cities we visited, especially those with universities, and the food halls often had restaurants serving Ukrainian food.

These are the realities of international travel today.
IN NOVEMBER, MY WIFE REGINA AND I JOINED a “meet-up” in Cartersville with the chance to visit three outstanding museums, have lunch with a sophisticated group of people and hear a speaker from the local historical society, then go to the downtown Holiday Open House. The program was organized by GA-HERO (the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retirement Organizations); people came from Emory, GSU, and other institutions around the state. We had a good time. GA-HERO is planning more meet-ups. Check the website at http://www.ga-hero.org/.

Atlanta is a great city with a wonderful climate. It offers fine cultural opportunities including the High and Carlos Museums, the Atlanta History Center, and the Carter Center. The Atlanta Botanical Garden is in bloom, as is the GSU Perimeter College Native Plant Botanical Garden. The emeriti could have meet-ups to explore these and other possibilities. The cost and commitment are small, and it doesn’t matter how many people participate; those who do share a common interest, a wish to be active, and a desire to socialize.

Emeritus John DeCastro will again organize hikes followed by lunch as the weather warms up. The Emeriti Board is surveying everyone regarding potential activities, interests, and times. Please let us know what you might like to do.

December 4, 2022, was a magical afternoon at the Rialto Center, site of the Emeriti Association (EA) 20th Anniversary Reception and the School of Music 25th Anniversary performance of the Gala Holiday Concert. Before the concert, emeriti gathered in the Rialto reception room and reconnected with colleagues, all of whom had tired of the past two years of pandemic social isolation. Members’ conversation about recent travel, hobbies and publications filled the room.

Past EA Coordinating Board chair Missy Cody welcomed new emeriti and encouraged everyone to view the EA 20th Anniversary video on the Home page of the EA website, https://emeriti.gsu.edu/. She recognized past EA Board Chairs and together they shared EA advancements over the past ten years, including financial support for the Just-In-Time fund of the Honors College. Towards the end of the reception, President Brian Blake and First Lady Bridget Blake arrived to congratulate emeriti on the EA’s 20th Anniversary.

The concert included 14 musical pieces beginning with “Polonaise” played by the University Symphony Orchestra and concluding with “A Feast of Carols,” sung by the combined choirs and accompanied by the University Symphony orchestra. Three hundred students and faculty participating in four choir and five instrumental performances were beautiful testaments to the musical talent of the School of Music.

As I read the Gala Holiday Concert program, I realized the significant connection between the EA’s 20th Anniversary and the School of Music’s 25th Anniversary performance of this concert. As Dr. Phillips, Director of the School of Music, stated: “We are especially honored to recognize Professor Emeritus Dr. John Haberlen, for his vision and leadership in starting the annual tradition that is our Gala Holiday Concert 25 years ago.”
Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, Interim Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs since January 2022, has been appointed to the position permanently. She arrived at Georgia State in January 2020 as Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, and Professor in Criminal Justice and Criminology in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

As Provost, she will continue major initiatives already underway. Perhaps foremost is the ADVANCE-IMPACT program, begun in 2022 with the support of a $1 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Georgia State will partner with Florida International University to recruit and retain more minority women in tenure-track faculty positions in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields and in administrative leadership.

For 20 years, Dr. Parsons-Pollard has worked in higher education. She began her career at Virginia Commonwealth University, a state university ranked by Georgia's Board of Regents as one of Georgia State's peer institutions in its baccalaureate through its doctoral programs. She received all of her academic degrees from Virginia Commonwealth with a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration, and taught there as Assistant Professor for several years. She then taught at Virginia State University (an HBCU), where she was tenured as Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, and served as Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Operations. While at Virginia State, she completed the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program in 2014-2015.

Dr. Parsons-Pollard continued her administrative career at Monmouth University (New Jersey) in 2016 as Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs. She also was Professor of Criminal Justice, as well as the state academic affairs representative in the regional accrediting body liaison office.

A nationally recognized scholar in Criminal Justice, her research has focused on disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in juvenile justice and program evaluation. While in Virginia, she received eight grants to study local DMC initiatives from the Departments of Criminal Justice for Virginia and for the City of Richmond. She has published 20 book-chapters and articles, and edited the book *Disproportionate Minority Contact: Current Issues and Policies* (Durham, North Carolina: Carolina Academic Press) that went into its 2nd edition in 2017. Most recently, her research has expanded to issues related to faculty workload in higher education.

As an emerita who began her teaching career at Virginia Commonwealth in 1977, I am especially pleased to welcome alumna Dr. Parsons-Pollard to Georgia State.
Last fall, five Honors College students received Just-in-Time grants. Four of the five students—Varun Joshi, Haeun Jin, Gelila Ayele, and Amari Jones—used their awards for conference presentations. The fifth, Jennifer Perez, used it to research why people might be resistant to seeking out psychological treatment.

Varun Joshi, a Data Science major, traveled to the 8th National Workshop for REU Research in Networking and Systems in Denver, Colorado, to present a paper, and says he was able “not only to expand my professional horizons through networking, but also to see what’s possible in undergraduate research.”

Haeun Jin, who graduated from Georgia State in December, traveled to Boston to attend the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition. Without the award, Haeun was unsure she could have attended the meeting, even though her proposal was accepted by the conference organizers. She was delighted to receive the grant and revealed that speaking at the conference turned out to be one of the most important moments for her academic and professional development. When asked about the impact of this award, she replied, “I was able to attend an opportunity that I had worked so hard to secure, and I was able to network with other professionals in my field.”

Thanks to the Just-in-Time grant, Georgia State Honors students are traveling to prestigious conferences and presenting cutting-edge research. For more information on the grant, please visit the Emeriti Association webpage or contact the Honors College.
Honorary Degrees

At its December 2022 Commencement, Georgia State awarded honorary degrees to the three Black women who originally helped to desegregate our university: Myra Payne Elliott, Barbara Pace Hunt and Iris Mae Welch. Elliott, 90, was awarded a degree and posthumous degrees were awarded to the late Hunt and Welch.

In 1956, despite the U.S. Supreme Court’s watershed ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, public colleges and universities in Georgia remained racially segregated. However, Elliott, Hunt, and Welch applied to attend the Georgia State College of Business Administration (now Georgia State University). They were denied admission and became the plaintiffs in a court case filed by the NAACP, which they won in 1959. They still were prevented from enrolling through state laws and Regents’ policies. The school would not integrate until 1962, when Georgia’s public colleges and universities were opened to applicants of all races. But these three women never realized their dreams of attending Georgia State.

At the Commencement, President M. Brian Blake stated: “The conferral of these degrees honors their legacies and recognizes their roles in ending segregation in the University System of Georgia. We are deeply grateful to them and are honored to give them the recognition they so richly deserve.”

Administration

Sally Wallace stepped down in January as Dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. Now Interim Dean of the School, Ann-Margaret Esnard had been associate dean for research and strategic initiatives since 2017. Her research is in urban planning and disaster planning. Her B.Sc. is from the University of the West Indies-Trinidad, her M.S. from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, and her Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the U. Mass.-Amherst.

Wolfgang Schlör, Associate Provost for International Initiatives, is retiring in March, with Carrie Manning, Professor of Political Science, now Interim Associate Provost for International Initiatives. She is author of three books and more than 20 journal and book articles, with her Ph. D. in Political Science from the University of California-Berkeley. She lived in southern Africa from 1994-1998, serving as Country Director for the National Democratic Institute in Angola from 1997-98, and has conducted seminars in civil-military relations in more than a dozen African countries.

Corrie Fountain, now Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, has been appointed Permanent Associate Provost as of February 1. Her doctorate in Educational Policy Studies is from Georgia State. She was chair of the Inclusive Education Department at Kennesaw State University before returning to Georgia State as Director of Faculty Development in August 2021.

EDITOR’S NOTE
EmeriTies: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

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

A reminder now that y’all seem to be travelling again: Georgia State Alumni Activities are open to all emeriti. Check their website: https://alumni.gsu.edu. These activities include their trips abroad with other alumni at special prices. Check “Alumni Travel.” For details on discounts, email AESU Alumni World Travel at alumni@aesu.com, call 800-638-7640 or visit the respective tour web site.
**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dr. Michael W. Metzler** died October 18, 2022, Professor Emeritus of Education. He taught at Iowa State University, Virginia Tech and Georgia State University, with numerous monographs and books. A Fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology, he was awarded the Luther Halsey Gulick Medal by SHAPE and The Ohio State University Career Achievement Award in 2020. He was a GSU Faculty Teaching Fellow in the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and received the USG Board of Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award and the College of Education Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award. A Boyer Scholar, Dr. Metzler served as Department Chair and Associate Dean, co-founded and edited a disciplinary journal, edited two other journals, received the Distinguished Service Award, as well as the Presidential Award from the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education. He served on the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition Board. After retiring in 2016, he returned as Associate Director for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) program in the GSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

**Walter William Walthall** died November 25, 2022, Associate Professor Emeritus of Biology. He joined the Biology Department at Georgia State University in 1988. His research focused on understanding the gene networks involved in the development of the nervous system, and he introduced molecular genetics to the developing neuroethology group in his department. His own research focused on the genes guiding the development of neural networks that control behavior, and made pioneering contributions to the field of developmental neurobiology. This research was supported by funding from the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation, and resulted in publications in prestigious journals in his field. He played a key role in developing the Neurobiology & Behavior concentration in the Biology Department, and helped develop the Neuroscience Institute.

**Karen Zabrucky** died January 21, 2023, Professor Emerita of Education. She received her Ph.D. in the field of Experimental Psychology in 1980 from the University of Toledo, and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Applied Cognitive Psychology at Wayne State University in 1982. She joined the educational psychology program at Georgia State University in 1986. Her research interests lay in the areas of metacognition, memory and comprehension; and she published numerous scholarly articles in the field of cognitive psychology. She retired from Georgia State in 2016.

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**NEW EMERITI OF 2022-2023**

**ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES**
- Richard D. Lakes, Faculty Emeritus of Educational Policy Studies

**BYRDINE F. LEWIS SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS**
- Susan J. Kelley, Professor Emerita of Nursing
- Deon L. Thompson, Professor Emeritus of Physical Therapy

**COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**
- William D. Coleman, Professor Emeritus of Music

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
- Gabor Patonay, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry
- Keith O. Pascoe, Principal Senior Lecturer of Chemistry
- W. D. Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry
- Susan Talburt, Professor Emerita of Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Robert D. Morris, Professor Emeritus of Psychology
- Irene T. Weber, Professor Emerita of Biology

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
- Takako C. Oshima, Emerita of Educational Policy Studies

**COLLEGE OF LAW**
- Bernadette W. Hartfield, Associate Professor Emerita of Law
- Jennifer G. Chiovaro, Principal Senior Lecturer Emerita of Law
- Natsu T. Saito, Professor Emerita

**J MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**
- Richard L. Baskerville, Regents Professor Emeritus of Computer Information Systems
- Ephraim R. McLean, Regents Professor Emeritus of Computer Information Systems
- Duane P. Truex, Associate Professor Emeritus
- Nancy R. Mansfield, Professor Emerita of Risk Management & Insurance

**PERIMETER COLLEGE**
- Lynn B. McGill, Assistant Professor Emerita of English
- Tina J. Philpot, Associate Professor Emerita of Business
- Carol A. Harris, Assistant Professor Emerita of English
- Robert L. Hopkins, Assistant Professor Emeritus of Economics
- Sarah G. Paschal, Professor Emerita of Mathematics
- Brenda N. Sudan, Associate Professor Emerita of Humanities
- Lynne L. Best, Associate Professor Emerita of English
- Maryann S. Errico, Associate Professor Emerita of English
- Kathleen A. DeMarco, Assistant Professor Emerita of English
- Sheryl F. Shanholzter, Professor Emerita of Life & Earth Sciences
- Susan F. Finazzo, Professor Emerita of Life & Earth Sciences
- Cari F. McAllister, Professor Emeritus of Humanities
- Joe S. Patterson, Associate Professor Emeritus of Business

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
- Richard B. Rothenberg, Professor Emeritus of School of Public Health
- Daniel B. Crimmins, Clinical Professor Emeritus of School of Public Health
- John A. Steward, Senior Academic Professional Emeritus of Public Health