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Diversity

PRESIDENT'S INVESTITURE HELD IN NEW CONVOCATION CENTER

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

ON SEPTEMBER 16, THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

for Dr. Brian Blake's installation as Georgia State's eighth president was held in the new Convocation Center. Dr. Blake, his wife Dr. Bridget Blake, and various dignitaries all had participated in the ribbon-cutting formalities for the Center the day before when it opened for the first time, designed to host just such large-scale occasions.

Events were planned for the week beforehand on the Atlanta and the Dunwoody campuses that highlighted his **Four Pillars** for Georgia State to build upon for continued success: research and innovation, student success, college to careers, and identity and placemaking.

One of the many events was a dinner hosted by Dr. Blake and his wife to celebrate the awardees of Georgia State's Research Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (*RISE*) initiative. These RISE awardees were recognized for their pursuit of research growth and impact, and shared \$2.5 million in one-time seed funding to develop transformative research. Nearly 50 university experts across different fields are exploring four key research hubs. Their research teams are joining with government agencies, private industry, foundations, non-profits and philanthropic sponsors.

As the final planned event, on September 17 a tailgate family BBQ was held just prior to the evening Panthers football game played between the Charlotte 49ers and the GSU Panthers in Center Parc Stadium, which served as the grand finale. Alas. The 49ers won with 42 final points scored against the Panthers' 41 points. But the very closeness of this final score provided a fireworks finish to an unforgettable week.



PHOTOS: **Top** (l-r): Dr. Bridget Blake, President Brian Blake, former President Mark Becker. **Middle** Ribbon-cutting at Convocation Center Opening. **Bottom** (l-r): Mayor Andre Dickens, former Ambassador Andrew Young.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

TED WADLEY

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A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE EMERITI

Association was founded in 2002. Georgia State University has made great progress, remarkably both in enrollment and in student success, and its reputation has grown within the state and also the nation. As emeriti, we have contributed to that success. The Emeriti Association connects us with each other and with the university. It promotes our interests within GSU, the University System of Georgia, and the community.

To mark the association's 20th anniversary, we are producing a video about the strides GSU has made over the last twenty years. We want to show that emeriti are proud of the university and that we continue to support its aims and ideals. The Emeriti Association is active, involved, and ongoing in pursuit of those interests.

One of our ongoing initiatives is our support of the Emeriti Association Honors College Just-In-Time Fund begun

in 2016 under Emeritus Harry Dangel, then Board Chair.

This fund makes small grants to honors students to present their research at professional conferences, to accept internships, and to study abroad. GSU has many great students who otherwise couldn't afford to travel or even to take time off from work. So, to further mark our anniversary, the coordinating board has set up a campaign to expand support of this fund. See: <https://impact.gsu.edu/project/32682>.

And I am very pleased to announce that we will be able to resume our annual Holiday Reception at the Rialto Center on Sunday, December 4, at 1 pm. It's a chance to get together, enjoy food and drink, and celebrate the season. We missed the last couple of years, due to the pandemic, but now can see each other again. Look for an invitation with more information and bring a guest if you wish. We hope to see you at our Holiday Gala on December 4!

FYI

Emerita Debra Snell reminds us of the new process for free parking on the downtown campus. No longer does an attendant issue an exit token. Now, emeriti should "register up to two cars with Parking and Transportation, and they will recognize from our log on and PantherCard that we are retired. That's all we need to do."

EDITOR'S NOTE!

EmeriTies: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

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Intrepid emeriti are again travelling abroad. I welcome your first-hand travel accounts. Europe—Asia—the Middle East—wherever one looks, "the times they are a-changin'." Let us know what you've seen.

One such Marco Polo (**Emeritus Bill Waugh**) wrote of his recent shifting travel plans. *May 16*: "We plan to resume international travel this summer. The stop in St. Petersburg was cancelled after Russia attacked Ukraine but

we will be close to the Russian border frequently. It should be an interesting trip." Uh, yeah. On *September 8*: "On the Svalbard (*Norway*) leg of the trip, I began writing about COVID precautions and evidence of the war in Ukraine. Now the theme seems to be the few remaining precautions and the large numbers of refugees from the [Ukraine] war..."

Articles should be 300-400 words in length.

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

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The retirement decision was difficult. I pulled the trigger and sent off my resignation letter in late July 2011 to my dean and my department chair. My timing was marvelous.

The following May it was announced that my college was in serious arrears because of accounting irregularities, with layoffs and no travel funding. The same thing happened to GPC that happens to any business providing necessary goods or services that cannot operate in the black: it loses its independence. The University System lost patience with the GPC folks in charge and fired or reassigned them. The University System's accounting watchdog came in and fixed the accounts. And in 2016, Georgia Perimeter College became part of Georgia State University.

So . . . what does one do when retired? One continues one's life, but without the scheduling necessary to make a living.

Retirement has allowed my wife and me to participate in a golden age of travel. I did not travel internationally until I joined a University System tour for a 16-day trip to Hungary in 2004. We have been to China, much of western Europe and the U.K., the Baltic states, Australia and New Zealand, Madagascar, Costa Rica and Peru. In late 2019 we intended to tour Eastern Europe. But Covid-19 caused us to postpone this trip till 2020, and then in 2021 the Russian invasion of Ukraine canceled it for the foreseeable future. We once again rescheduled our trip, this time for Greece and Turkey in late 2022. We can hope . . .

Retirement accomplishments. My bread-baking skills have improved. (See *EmeriTies*, Winter 2018.) I continue to do scientific stuff; and peer review for NSF and *Journal of Chemical Education*, and judge for Science Olympiad and Georgia State's Research Conference.

My retirement has been book-ended by high school reunions. In 2012, I attended my 50th and a few weeks ago, my 60th reunion. I had known many from grades 1 through



Michael Denniston

12. Growing up had been a really good experience. No mass shootings, and a massive amount of fun.

One day in the mid 1960's a classmate turned up at my door to tell me he was going to die soon and wanted to say good-bye, taking a farewell tour like a retiring athlete. Over the years, others were taken. So, should one have survivor's guilt or be grateful that, despite the inadequacies you *thought* you had growing up, you made it further than many who once seemed invincible?

But, wait, not all is lost. A close friend, in danger of becoming a hermit after the death of his parents, traveled to Arizona to visit a classmate recently widowed after 40 years of marriage. After months of courtship, they married and are starting a new life together.

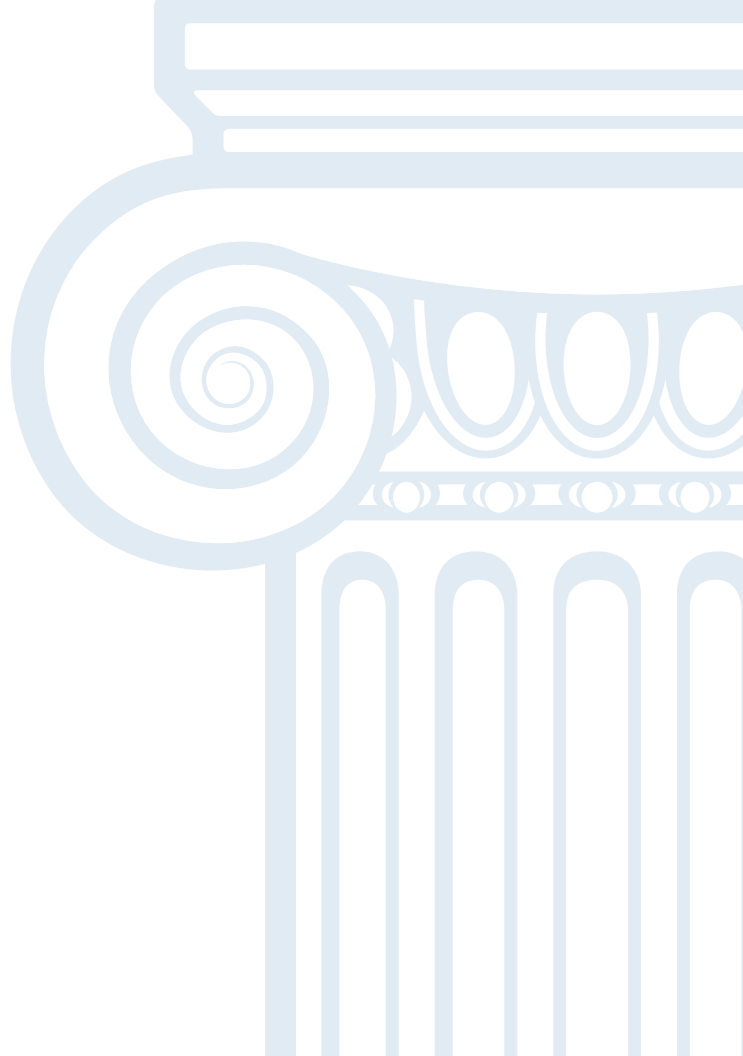


Regents' Professor Emeritus Walter Thompson was the 2022 recipient of the American College of Sports Medicine Citation Award. According to the American College of Sports Medicine, "The Citation Award of the American College of Sports Medicine is granted to an individual or group who has made significant and important contributions to sports medicine and/or the exercise sciences." Dr. Thompson has also served as President of ACSM.



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“Georgia State is classified by the U. S. Department of Education as a Predominantly Black Institution, and the only comprehensive PBI with a R1 Carnegie Research Classification in the nation.”

Georgia State is one of 146 public and private universities in the Carnegie Foundation's elite category of R1: Highest Research Activity, and the only comprehensive PBI with a R1 Carnegie Research Classification in the nation. It is an urban research university that appropriately is located in a city with a proud civil rights history.

For Georgia State is also nationally recognized for its diversity. In December 2021, Georgia State University received Insight Into Diversity's 2021 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that show a commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Insight Into Diversity magazine is the oldest and largest diversity publication in higher education and is well known for this annual HEED Award. The 2022 award is still to be announced.

Georgia State is one of the most diverse public universities in the United States, and this seems relevant to two recent top rankings it has received from the 2023 edition of the U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges. As in 2022, the Report ranks it the second most innovative university in the country while it ties for the No. 1 public university for best undergraduate teaching. These rankings are based on a survey of presidents, provosts and admissions deans at colleges and universities across the country.

Its student racial and ethnic demographics should be noted in this context. In Fall 2022, State University was 58.3% Black, 24.8% White, 13.4% Asian, 11.8% Hispanic or Latino, 5.5% Two or More Races. It is classified by the U.S. Department of Education as both an MSI (Minority Serving Institution) and a PBI (Predominantly Black Institution). HBCUs are not included in these classifications.

As President Blake has said: "Georgia State continues to be recognized as an institution that is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are proud to be a part of a community that is committed to excellence in research, teaching, and service. We are committed to being a place where everyone can thrive and succeed." [emphasis added].

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John Decastro, co-chair, Activities Committee – CAS

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Ruth Saxton, co-chair, Membership Committee – CEHD

Sandra Owen, co-chair, Communications Committee

Hugh Richard Miller – CAS

Don Ratajczak – AVSPS

USG Retreats Council representatives

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GSU TOPS NATIONAL RANKINGS FOR INNOVATION, TEACHING, DIVERSITY

EMERITIES

Events & Activities



Chinkuli Munkombwe, JIT Fund Recipient.

JUST-IN-TIME FUND Recipients

Four students received Just-In-Time awards to cover their conference expenses during the Spring term in 2022:

Chinkuli Munkombwe, Brenda Dapreis, Katherine French, and Hanna Osborne. Munkombwe's conference was virtual, while Dapreis and French attended in-person conferences.

Chinkuli Munkombwe wrote: "In February 2022, I presented virtually at the International Neuropsychological Society's (*INS*) annual conference. Every year, researchers in neuropsychology and related fields come together during this meeting to present their findings and learn from each other. The research I presented related to my project investigating a reason for racial disparities in Alzheimer's disease.

"It is well known that black Americans are far more likely to develop Alzheimer's than non-Hispanic whites, but the reasons are not understood. One theory relates to the higher prevalence of certain Alzheimer's biomarkers in black Americans. Thus my project considered whether the correlation between cerebrospinal fluid (*CSF*) biomarkers, tau and A-beta42, and imaging biomarkers such as white matter hyperintensities were modified by race. Results showed that race did in fact play a role in how CSF biomarkers correlated with white matter hyperintensity volumes.

"I hope to continue in the field of neurodegenerative diseases of aging, especially Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Attending the *INS* conference gave me the opportunity to learn how to better communicate my work, seek out mentorship in my field, and further my passion for research."

IN MEMORIAM

Roy Kern, Professor Emeritus of Counseling, died on Friday, July 1, 2022. He received his doctorate from West Virginia University and joined Georgia State's Counseling and Psychological Services Department as Professor of Counseling. Upon his retirement in 2007 he moved with his wife Erika to Lithuania where he continued his career at Vytautas Magnus University. (See: "GSU Emeriti Shining in Far Away Places," *EmeriTies*, Spring/Summer 2009, p. 3.)

He is remembered fondly by **Emerita Sandra Owen**. "I met Roy Kern while I was a doctoral student at Georgia State in Educational Psychology and a student assistant of Bill Curlette. Bill and Roy did much stress management research together, with additional studies grounded in Adlerian theory. My academic curiosity about health, education, and psychology drew me to questions related to health information diffusion within intergenerational families and among siblings and their peers. Roy Kern was truly a disciple of Adlerian theory. From his stimulating discussions, I broadened my conception of health and wellness within the context of family, culture, and society. The Adlerian concept of "holistic indivisible self" later became a cornerstone of my doctoral research.

"Roy Kern exemplified all seven Adlerian 'life tasks' (*work, friendship, love, recreation, spirituality, parenting, and family*) in balance. As a Clinical Instructor in Kinesiology and Health, I witnessed how Dr. Kern exemplified these 'tasks' in his own academic and community work in the areas of school violence and bullying, stress management, and play therapy and learning.

"So many children and adults have been enriched by Roy Kern's grace. He will truly be missed!"

EMERITIES

Events & News

UNIVERSITY NEWS

■ **Fall Semester Enrollment**

In Fall 2022, Georgia State enrolled the second largest incoming class in its history, with more than 53,000 students enrolled and the most qualified and diverse freshman class in our history. Students came from 49 states and more than 160 nations and territories, also a record. More than 4,600 freshmen will enter the university with a record average high school grade point average (*GPA*) of 3.53. Of this class, 36 percent is Black, and the university will set records for the number of Hispanic and Asian students enrolled as freshmen.

5,133 first-year students registered on its Atlanta Campus. Perimeter College also welcomed its second-largest class in its history, with 2,843 new first-year students enrolled across the college's five campuses, a 12.68 percent increase over last year's new first-year enrollment.

■ **Honors College**

Georgia State will join the prestigious Stamps Scholars Program which will be housed in the Honors College, with 36 other institutions including Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, the University of Michigan and Dartmouth College. Stamps Scholarships will be offered to select incoming first-year students. Five in-state students accepted into the Honors College will receive the scholarships annually, which will exceed the total financial package awarded to Presidential Scholars. The Stamps Scholarship will cover tuition, fees, housing, living expenses and meal plan. It also will provide each student with a \$10,000 enrichment fund, which can be used to pay for study abroad programs, research or other internships, academic conferences, leadership training or other designated activities.

■ **Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (AYSPS)**

AYSPS faculty and research centers reported a record year in 2022 for grants, with nearly \$38 million in research funding and the Georgia Health Policy Center's record \$28.5 million in grants leading the way. AYSPS researchers join with interdisciplinary teams at Georgia State and beyond, and play a critical role in affecting policies of state and local government agencies. In 2022, the school played a large role in helping the university raise a record for research funding, raising nearly a quarter of the university's \$164.2 million raised. Among the school's 42 grant recipients during this period, 10 brought in from \$500,000 to more than \$1 million each. More than 57 percent are women.

Georgia State Day 2022 was its most successful yet, with more than \$973,000 raised from 2,166 gifts supporting our students and mission.