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Emerities Newsletter, Spring 2013

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EXPLORING HISTORICAL TURKEY

By Dennis Thompson, Professor Emeritus,
Educational Psychology and Special Education

My wife Pamir and I have been traveling to Turkey for about 35 years. Turkey has thousands of historical and archeological sites of interest to the Western traveler, and narrowing these down for this short introduction is a challenge. After talking recently to Turan Kilic, executive director of the Istanbul Center in Atlanta (which sponsors tours focused on significant historical sites of Christianity, Judaism and Islam), I decided to focus on the cities of Istanbul and Izmir.

Istanbul is a must-see. Its historical significance is considerable. With a population of 14 million, its origins date to 660 BCE when it was known as Byzantium. The city was renamed Constantinople in 330 CE, and then changed to Istanbul in 1928 after the founding of the modern Turkish Republic. One of Istanbul's most iconic structures is the Hagia Sophia, a former basilica completed in 562 CE by decree of Roman Emperor Justinian. Topped by a dome of 120 feet, it is one of the best-preserved structures of antiquity. For more than a millenium, it stood as the world's largest cathedral. Almost across the street stands the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, known better as the Blue Mosque because of the blue tiles adorning the interior walls. The Blue Mosque, built from 1616 to

1619 by Sultan Ahmed I in an attempt to rival Hagia Sophia, is one of the most beautiful religious buildings in the world. Other notable locations in the historic district of Istanbul are the Grand Bazaar (with its 61 covered streets and 3,000 shops), Topkapi Palace (home to the Ottoman Sultans) and the Istanbul Archeological Museum.

About 300 miles south of Istanbul, along the Aegean coast, is the modern city of Izmir. Izmir is a convenient launching point for inland excursions to the ancient cities of Ephesus, Sardis and Pergamon. Ephesus is about a 90-minute drive south of Izmir and was the home of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Ephesus features a well-preserved Greco-Roman theatre seating 25,000 that helps host an annual summer festival. The theater is also where Saint Paul once preached.

An hour's drive east of Izmir is Sardis, capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Ancient Sardis had a large and prosperous Jewish community which around 600 CE built the largest synagogue outside of what is today Palestine. The synagogue remains can still be admired, including its mosaic floors and marble-paneled walls. Lastly,



Library at Ephesus (two-story building)

Pergamon is about a two-hour drive north of Izmir. The Book of Revelation cites Pergamon as one of the Seven Churches of Asia. The Roman physician Galen worked in Pergamon, which was also home of a major mental health facility. A library in Pergamon became so prominent that ancient administrators from a competing library in Alexandria, Egypt cut off its supply of papyrus used in preparing scrolls. This embargo led to a creative solution: in Pergamon, parchment was first developed and used.

Istanbul and Izmir can be reached by air or European cruise ship. An excellent resource for trip planning is Melitour, which operates tours to all the locations mentioned here. My colleagues at Ege University in Izmir, where I taught for two years, are good friends with the family that owns and operates Melitour. For more information, see Melitour.com.

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CHAIR'S DESK

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GIVING, SHARING AND VOLUNTEERING

Most — or possibly all — Georgia State University emeriti entered the teaching and the educational arena hoping to make a difference in the lives of children or young adults. Now that we have retired, we probably would agree our many experiences were rich and rewarding.

In our current phase of life, we should reexamine our skill set. What are our potential contributions to society now and in the future? What activities are self-fulfilling and rewarding? I suggest two avenues for serious consideration:

- 1) Sharing our time and talents at the university, local schools, recreation centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, libraries, animal shelters and many other agencies.
- 2) Donating money, furniture, clothing or other items to churches, Goodwill and other nonprofit groups.

We have so much to offer and can continue to make a difference in the lives of fellow Georgians and Americans. I encourage all emeriti to remain involved. Remember the saying: *“Life—Be In It.”*

Continuing on the Shoulders of Giants

By Dave Fraboni, University Representative on the Coordinating Board

This is indeed a special year for Georgia State University. As the university celebrates 100 years of providing enterprising and accessible education, the Emeriti Association celebrates 10 years of engaging and maintaining friendships among colleagues and the university's leaders. Today we celebrate our past and acknowledge that our future truly is built on the shoulders of giants.

Like the university, the Emeriti Association is dedicated to supporting the friendships that have been built over a lifetime of commitment to the education of our students. Through Emeriti Association luncheons, lectures, educational and literary programs, there are myriad opportunities to remain engaged with friends, colleagues and campus programs.

The university's commitment to students and colleagues does not end with retirement. Emeriti faculty and administrators continue to play a vital role in the success of today's students by serving as mentors, lecturers, researchers and spectators. The university is blessed to have emeriti who are such active supporters.

Emeriti are also among the university's most generous investors. As a leading research institution committed to accessibility, the university benefits from contributions of many emeriti. They have

provided annual support for programs, endowments that support faculty and student success and provided for the construction of buildings that facilitate our educational aspirations.

During the past year alone, emeriti have established targeted funds to support student travel to professional conferences and provide scholarship support for students with need and academic merit. They have funded recognition awards for early career teaching success, and to support programmatic initiatives of colleges and departments.

What makes each of these funds special is that they represent investment in the emeriti donor's personal interest or passion. That investment will provide for future generations. Collectively, these gifts represent the culture of philanthropy shared by our emeriti, and their commitment to assuring each student has access to the best education possible.

The giants upon whose shoulders we stand are the emeriti faculty and administrators who created an educational center that is Georgia State University. As we celebrate our centennial and look ahead, we look forward to the next 100 years and work to provide for the educational needs of future generations. We are proud of our emeriti commitment and investment in the success of Georgia State in the past, present and future.



The Emeriti Association regularly communicates via e-mail and welcomes your updated information at emeriti@gsu.edu. Please include your full name and preferred e-mail address.



GRANDPARENTS CAMP & COMPUTERS: WHO'S TEACHING WHOM?

By Brian Schott, Professor Emeritus, Decision Sciences

Our grandson is 11 and seems to be in love with all things computer. Browsing a local Microcenter, I discovered a shelf of electronics kits and the book, "Getting Started with Arduino," by Massimo Banzi, known for his lifelong pursuit of trial-and-error experiments.

Arduino, I learned, is a printed circuit board that connects to any standard PC via USB port. The board includes free online software to program sensors and actuators that are already on the PC board or found in old phones, nightlights or various kits. An on-off button can act as a sensor, for instance, and a light bulb can serve as an actuator.

The book also shows how to wire colorful LED lights to simply turn on or off, or use "pulse width modulation" to produce rheostat-like variable degrees of ohm.

After puzzling over what to do with our grandson for a weekend "grandparents camp," we decided to see if the local Radio Shack had any Arduino products. We were pleased to find the book, a la carte pieces and kits with the board. We bought an Arduino Uno, precut wires for a solderless "breadboard," resistors and a few sensors and actuators.

I read the book prior to our camper's arrival, and it provided simple, complete instructions for several experiments. Even with that



Brian Schott

preparation, it was hard to keep up with our grandson's intake speed, but we managed. We two counselors and camper really enjoyed Arduino, and of course, each other. Since then, we have had more "camp" requests and visits using the same materials.

A similar newer device, Raspberry Pi, offers sensors and actuators that are much more computer-like. Its programming language is Linux, which is more powerful and complex. We expect our grandson to enjoy figuring out the differences in these devices and teaching us the next "new" thing.

In Memoriam

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Jan L. Boal died on January 16 at the age of 82. A native of Canton, Ohio, Boal came to Atlanta to attend Georgia Tech. in 1954, where he graduated with both a bachelor's and master's degree. He received a doctorate in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1959. He taught at the University of South Carolina before moving back to Atlanta to serve as the chair of the Mathematics Department at GSU from 1969 to 1977, and thereafter as a member of the department until retirement. At Georgia State, Dr. Boal "taught his students to be unafraid of math through his infectious love for the subject," (according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution). GSU emeritus George Davis reports that Boal displayed a "happy and joyous face," but also that "he always had a math oddity or a puzzle to talk about every single time we saw him. Math geeks (such as myself) absolutely love things like this: He could take the date, like 3132013, or 313 or 2013 and come up with a strange property the number has that you would never realize. Fantastic!" Davis reports that Boal was very dedicated to teaching and to students. Following retirement, Boal and his wife, Bobby, ran the Veranda Bed and Breakfast Inn in

Senoia, just south of Atlanta. Jan and his wife, Bobby were featured in the Spring 2011 Emerities edition.

Librarian Emeritus Stanley M. Verhoeven died on March 9 at the age of 70. Vanhoeven was a native of Glendale, California and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa in 1965. Before he started graduate school, he served in the Air Force from 1966 until 1971. In the mid '70s he earned a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, followed by another master's degree in library science. He then moved to Atlanta and worked as a research librarian at Georgia State for 24 years. Verhoeven was known for his ability to help people, particularly "helping students find statistical data and then interpret that information," according to an interview in the Atlanta Journal Constitution with Georgia State emerita Gayle Christian. Christian also said "Verhoeven's background in anthropology was extremely useful to him as he helped students find resources." According to his wife, Penny, even with the coming of technology and changes in the duties of research librarians, "Verhoeven never lost his enthusiasm for people and books."

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A Chance to Mentor at Columbus State University

On Monday, March 25, Wanja Ngugi and Dave Ewert visited Columbus State University's annual retiree luncheon at the request of Laurie Jones, director of human resources. The Columbus State retirees wanted to learn about the Georgia State Emeriti Association and GA-Hero (Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations) to help build excitement for starting a retiree organization there.

Both Wanja and Dave offered their assistance. It was an opportunity for Wanja to return to where she worked before joining Georgia State and to share with her friends models of successful programming for a retiree organization. Dave compared a retiree organization to an alumni organization with a difference that retirees have spent 10, 20, 30 or more years at an institution. Columbus State University President Timothy Mescon was so inspired he said it is time to start a retiree organization at Columbus State.



Wanja Ngugi, Laurie Jones and Dave Ewert at The Columbus State annual retiree luncheon

Editor's Note

Correction regarding the Winter Emerities Page 4: The caption of Dr. Janice Benario should have described her speaking to the Atlanta chapter of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association at the National Museum of Patriotism. We regret the error.

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EMERITIES

Events & Activities

Upcoming Event:

■ JUNE

Author Series: “Of War and Men: World War II in the Lives of Fathers and Their Families” by Ralph LaRossa

June 6 • 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. • Colloquium Room (8th Floor), Library South

Recap: Research Luncheon

by Professor Emerita of Nutrition Mildred “Missy” Cody, Vice-Chair and Activities Chair

What do love and inflammation have in common? Many attributes, both good and bad, according to Dr. Jian-Dong Li, the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Inflammation and Immunity and Founding Director of GSU’s Center for Inflammation, Immunity & Infection. Both can cause your body to respond in many different ways.

We all know the positives and negatives of love, but thinking through the positives and negatives of inflammation is the focus of Georgia State’s 17M, NIH-funded Center. The Center does theoretical and translational research...in other words, from theory to drug or clinical recommendation. Briefly, inflammation is the body’s response to injury (trauma, infection, allergy, etc.) and may include swelling, reddening, heat, pain, loss of function and other symptoms associated with chronic diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, COPD, eczema, obesity, diabetes, cancer and many others.

We all need a measure of inflammation to survive. This is the acute or immediate response to injury. When the inflammatory response is not completely turned off we have chronic inflammation, which means the immune response continues when it is not needed. This can damage the body’s tissues to produce the diseases and conditions given above. The Center is working to determine ways to control the regulation of inflammation that will lead to healthier long-term outcomes. In less than an hour we had a peek at the Center’s efforts. Dr. Li has invited us to come to the Center to “see what’s cooking.”



Dr. Jian-Dong Li



SPRING AUTHOR RECAP: PAULA STEPHAN APRIL 11, 2013

by Emerita Anne Page Mosby, Chair of the Author Series

If all economists presented their work like Paula Stephan did in the latest Author Series, economics would no longer be called “the dismal science!” She explained how she analyzed what economics has to do with science funding, academic careers and the efficient use of national resources. For example, in her recent award-winning book, “How Economics Shapes Science”, she described how researchers deal with costs and incentives.

Special mice for experiments can cost \$3,500 each for unique designer animals. Yet new Ph.D.s who cannot find permanent placements due to universities’ overproduction of doctorates are considered “cheap hires” as postdocs in that same lab. Stephan pointed out trends in the system that reward safe research proposals and dismiss potentially transformational scientific work, as well as steps we could take to do better in building a more efficient public research system.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

Memories from the Valentine's Day Luncheon



Dean Margaret Wilmoth and emeritae Barbara Browning and Myra Carmon enjoy the reception hour at the St. Valentine's Luncheon



Emeriti Roger Miller and Norman Harbaugh at the 2013 St. Valentine's Luncheon



Football Coach Trent Miles addresses emeriti at the 2013 St. Valentine's Luncheon



Coordinating Board member Pat Sartain talks with Edgar Torbert of the Provost's Office



The Georgia State University Male Vocal Quartet entertains at the 2013 St. Valentine's Luncheon

Valentine's Luncheon

by Professor Emerita of Nutrition Mildred "Missy" Cody,
Vice-Chair and Activities Chair

For the university's centennial year, the Emeriti Valentine's Luncheon also broke the 100 mark when more than 100 emeriti, guests and university staff attended. Our surprise guest was new Head Football Coach Trent Miles. Coach Miles described his goals for our move to the Sun Belt Conference, which marks the Panthers' transition to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Coach Miles engineered a dramatic turnaround in five seasons at his alma mater Indiana State University, so we know he plans to win football games. His core goals are to build strong young men who work hard in and out of the classroom, serve as peer leaders and are respectful of everyone. His goal is to build pride across campus in our team and its efforts.

Go Panthers!

A short concert by the Georgia State Male Vocal Quartet, an a cappella group, sent us home with songs in our hearts.



Guests enjoy lunch at the 2013 St. Valentine's Luncheon