



As I Walked Across Campus

Harry Dangel, Associate Professor Emeritus of Educational Psychology and Special Education, College of Education

It is hard to believe I observed my 45th first day of class at Georgia State this August. Although the campus has changed a lot, some things have stayed the same. On the first day of classes, the newbies could be seen clutching their books, staring at maps trying to find their way and showing signs of stress, concern, and even panic — and that was just the new faculty. But we’ve all lived through that and survived. The students, on the other hand, seem much more at home on campus.

That first week an emeritus colleague noted the waves of students walking through Woodruff Park. They look younger every year, especially for those of us used to working with older, non-traditional students who enrolled in afternoon and evening classes and attended part-time. Our current student body of 32,842 is younger, more qualified (3.4 high school grade-point average) and more likely to attend full-time than in earlier classes. The freshmen in the Honors College, which has 1,464 students, have a record average SAT of 1,300 and high school GPA of 3.8.

Many more students are proudly wearing “All Blue, All In” T-shirts, and I’ve been told that for most of our current students, Georgia State was a first choice rather than a fallback option. Our students come from all 50 states

and more than 150 foreign countries, including Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Cyprus and Palestine. Our campus is more richly diverse than ever.

The Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment (CURVE) in the library is jaw dropping in its potential impact on students. Its high-definition screen allows one to see details from anywhere in the world or the areas of canvas that show through Van Gogh’s “Starry Night.” Technology for improved teaching is often more subtle — for example, an instructor-produced video that coaches students on how to read and understand a research article or a student getting detailed verbal feedback from the instructor by clicking small bubbles on a computer screen and hearing the instructor’s detailed guidance. This is much more helpful than when I simply wrote “confusing” on student papers.

Film crews have become a regular sight on campus. I saw a zombie get shot this summer as I was watching from the Student Recreation Center’s second floor. In the parking deck across the street, a zombie was shot several times until the crew filming AMC’s “The Walking Dead” got it right. Last fall the auto crash debris in the picture below showed up in the parking lot behind the College of Education Building — not a



25 Park Place—new home of the College of Arts and Sciences

faculty parking lot, but a set from the upcoming movie “Fast and Furious 7.”

As for physical changes, our colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences are gradually moving into the 25-story former SunTrust tower overlooking Woodruff Park, and the second phase of the Petit Science Center is under construction. Every year for at least the past five, new housing options have opened for students. This year the former Radisson hotel on John Wesley Dobbs Street (just off Courtland), which was converted to student housing by private developers in 2013, added a 16-story tower to accommodate several hundred more student residents.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

MISSY CODY,
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I hope you are celebrating today. We are almost at the end of fall semester, and I can see much to celebrate. Our campus is robust and vibrant with new research tools for students such as the library's new CURVE facility, athletic events, arts programs, special lectures and student concerts for extracurricular and co-curricular enhancement, construction of the College of Law building and many, many students wearing Georgia State sweatshirts. I am sure you have your own Georgia State celebration list. Celebration and thanksgiving go together, and I thank the many emeriti and others who have contributed to the development of our university community over the past 100 years.

I wake up each day celebrating books to read, people important to me and a new day with no mistakes in it yet. I look forward to celebrating with you this fall, especially at our emeriti holiday reception prelude to the School of Music's Holiday Gala.

See you there!

Down Under, Down Under

Dave Ewert, Professor Emeritus of Finance, J. Mack Robinson College of Business

Rhoda and I joined a Friendship Force (FF) three-week cultural immersion exchange that included two homestays of a week each in Hobart and Murray Bridge (a farming community of 20,000 60 miles southeast of Adelaide). Our host in Hobart, Australia, explained that "down under, down under" is how Tasmanians refer to their island. We had a few days in Sydney to adjust to jet lag and a few days in Melbourne between the home stays.

Jimmy Carter introduced the FF to governors at a White House gathering March 1, 1977, and its headquarters are in Atlanta. Today's exchange format has local FF chapters plan visits for 15-25 individuals with other chapters. The San Francisco Bay Area chapter arranged our exchange, and the 16 on our February-March exchange came from England, South Africa, Canada, West Virginia, Hawaii, the Bay Area and Atlanta — a great cultural experience in itself.

After four days sightseeing in Sydney, an FF welcoming committee greeted the 16 of us in the Hobart airport and paired us with our home-stay hosts, who took us to a dinner reception. Rhoda and I became friends with our host, Julie, a retired high-school science teacher and widow who had just moved into a new townhouse. She ignored our protests and put us in the spacious master bedroom.

We had our first "barbie" at the Mount Field National Park and walked off a few of the calories on the waterfall trail. A few days later, we had a delightful celebration with the St. David's Cathedral bells, organ and grand piano in a concert of Bach's mighty works for keyboard. "Bells and Bach" was a double celebration on March 1, as it was both St. David's Day and FF's World Friendship Day.

Rhoda has three second cousins in and near Melbourne she had never met. Cousin Walter arrived at our hotel with his sister, Rosemarie, and their mum, Gerda, to take us to sister Erika's farm, where more than alpacas reside. At the farm, we all sat on the deck drinking coffee as alpacas grazed within reach. After lunch, Erika and her daughter led us on a walk through her herd of alpacas. Their curiosity got the best of them, and they followed us. Watching and walking with a newborn, only a few hours old, and its mother highlighted our day.



Dave and Rhoda in Australia

To get to Murray Bridge our group took a long, pleasant and relaxing train trip over terrain more arid than the rolling green/brown hills of Tasmania. Again, we were paired with our home-stay hosts and off to a welcoming dinner. Our hosts and now friends, Jan and John, are retired from dry-land farming and early-childhood/special-needs teaching. They grew cereal crops, ran merino sheep on about 17,000 acres and earned several awards for their productivity and efficient use of water. One of the other hosts, Jerry, has relatives he visits often in North Georgia. Jerry, originally from the U.S., came to Murray Bridge and taught high-school auto mechanics for several years. He repaired a Ferrari that he drove to school — which, I expect, increased enrollment in his classes.

A final highlight included visiting a host's sheep farm, riding in a tractor-pulled wagon over many very dry acres, watching sheep shearing and enjoying our last barbie. Our willingness to experiment with Friendship Force worked well, and we encourage you to consider an exchange.

For more information, go to friendshipforce.org.

FIND YOURSELF WHILE ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Sandra Owen, Clinical Instructor Emerita of Kinesiology and Health, College of Education

Many of our cherished memories are of social interactions with family and friends as we shared a sunset on the beach, a hike underneath a mountain waterfall, a field of wildflowers in a hidden cove, a morning paddle down a pristine river or the excitement of whitewater kayaking. Being outdoors invigorates the mind, body and spirit. As naturalist John Muir said, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

Begun in 2011, the America's Great Outdoors Initiative empowers communities to prioritize and conserve the outdoor places and activities they most value. This initiative appeals to cities to creatively connect youth to America's unique natural heritage through outdoor experiences. Yet the initiative fails to empower communities to recreate leisure and recreational activities that include the 20 percent of the U.S. population who have disabilities.

As a woman who strives each day to commune with nature in spite of the barriers I face being mobility-impaired, I was elated to receive an invitation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be a member of the Trails that Comply with Trail Accessibility Guidelines committee. The committee formed Aug. 16, 2013, with 16 members and has grown to 36 members representing the National Forest Service, National Parks Service, National Coalition of Amputees, National Center

on Accessibility, National Center for Health, Physical Activity and Disability, and state, regional and national hiking associations. As a member, I continue to appreciate the committee's genuine dialogue and commitment to connecting those with a disability to the natural beauties of our country. My special interest is in promoting inclusive tubing, canoeing and kayaking by providing "route to water" accessibility at local, state and nationally designated water trails.

Members of the committee:

- Discuss improving access to the outdoors and leisure activities
- Identify resources and establish collaborations among national, regional and state groups
- Provide National Forest Service equipment training for trail accessibility measurement (slope and grade)
- Participate in the Southeast Foot Trails Coalition Conference
- Initiate dialogue with the Southeastern Office of the Parks Service concerning "route to water" accessibility for the Chattahoochee River Park area and the Riverway Project

This past spring, several committee members approached the North Georgia Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest Service District and identified two locations easily recreated in the woods along Lake Blue Ridge and Lake Chatuge, providing a total of two miles of undulating paved trail through beautiful forest with a lake



Trail Assessment Committee

view. In summer, a Forest Service volunteer (using a power chair) joined me in my manual chair to participate in field-based accessibility tests at both locations. That day we shared fellowship, healthy exercise, sun shining through the forest and cool breezes off the lake. I was finding myself again in nature.

Most youth and adults with disabilities live in urban areas that provide public transportation and medical services. Many are unable to travel outside of their communities to enjoy the outdoors. Their only experiences in nature come from visiting their local parks, many of which are not inclusive. I appeal to you as community benefactors, leaders and volunteers to empower your community through its parks and recreation program to assess and recreate local parks and water trails allowing everyone to find themselves in nature.

CURVE Grand Opening

Dr. Laura Burtle, Associate Dean, Digital Library Services and Special Collections

The Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment (CURVE) is a new \$1.2 million center within the Georgia State Library whose mission is to enhance research and visualizations by providing technology and services that promote interdisciplinary engagement, collaborative investigation and innovative inquiry. CURVE was introduced to emeriti in a special presentation on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The centerpiece technology, the CURVE interactWall, is a state-of-the-art, 24-foot-wide, touch-enabled video wall designed for collaborative visual and data-rich research projects.

CURVE's unique design encourages interactive and interdisciplinary research and learning at all levels. CURVE welcomes undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff to benefit from its advanced visualization and computing capabilities. To learn more about CURVE or to request a demonstration, contact Joe Hurley, CURVE's interim director, at curve@gsu.edu.



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As I Walked Across Campus

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What's next? The trolley line through campus should be running this fall. It will connect the King Center with Centennial Olympic Park and transport students, faculty and staff, as well as introduce more out-of-town visitors to our campus. As for Turner Field, those of us who live in Atlanta are quite aware that the Braves are vacating their home, and Georgia State, in partnership with a private development company, has submitted one of several proposals under consideration by the city. Preliminary details include a 30,000-seat stadium for football and soccer, a baseball field on the footprint of Fulton County Stadium that incorporates the left-field wall where Henry Arron hit his record 715th home run, student housing, classrooms, residential housing and retail options for the neighborhood. Come



Props for the movie Fast and Furious 7 behind the COE Bldg

downtown and see for yourself. You may also want to read about the University's Strategic Plan at <http://strategic.gsu.edu/> and campus master plan <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwmsp/2006/masterplan/>.

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EMERITIES

Events & Activities

2014 – 2015 Upcoming Events:

We will send all emeriti invitations with complete information about each event closer to the event date. Updated information will also appear on the Emeriti website, emeriti.gsu.edu.

■ DECEMBER

Emeriti Holiday Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 • 1 p.m.

Rialto Theater, SunTrust Suite

Please join emeriti for a holiday reception. Following the reception, guests are invited to attend the 17th annual Georgia State Music Department Holiday Concert. Tickets can be purchased at www.rialtocenter.org or by calling 404-413-9849. Emeriti members will receive a 15% discount on tickets. They just need to mention they are Emeriti Association members.

■ JANUARY

State of the Georgia Economy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 • 11 a.m. • Commerce Building Bennett Brown Room

Dr. Rajeev Dhawan, Director of Georgia State's Economic Forecasting Center, will discuss the state of the Georgia Economy in his annual update. Parking is available at any Georgia State deck with an attendant. Please show your PantherCard. Parking is also available in Commerce Building lot for a fee (only cash accepted).

■ FEBRUARY

St. Valentine's Day Luncheon

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Rialto Center for the Arts • 80 Forsyth St. NW

It's not too early to think about Valentine's Day! With it comes Georgia State's traditional gift of the Valentine's Day luncheon. Every year the university treats us to a reception where we meet friends, former colleagues, current deans and other administrators. This time of fellowship and catching up is followed by an elegant lunch on beautifully decorated tables and includes Georgia State's best entertainment. Parking in the Equitable building will be validated.

■ MARCH

Author Series

THURSDAY, MARCH 5 • 11 a.m.

Library South, Eighth Floor, Colloquium Room

Former professor and chair emeritus of the Department of Computer Information Systems, Dr. William Cotterman, will discuss his book "Improbable Women: Five Who Explored the Middle East." The book explores the lives of five daring women from different time periods who ventured into the heart of the region.

RECAP: PROVOST EVENT

On Wednesday, October 15, the Georgia State Emeriti Association held its annual program to welcome new emeriti and hear the provost's university update. This year we had one new member, Vijay Vaishnavi, Professor Emeritus in Computer Information Systems.

Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Peter Lyons, updated progress on the University's Strategic Plan. Most striking is our success in graduating students. Georgia State draws most of our students from the two bottom family income quartiles for which about 12.5% of students get a college degree by age 24. This is one-fifth the graduation rate for students from families in the top two income quartiles. But through programs such as the Summer Success Academy for at-risk entering freshmen, redesigns of bottleneck courses, supplemental instruction tutoring programs, and careful monitoring of students' progress

with follow up advising, the graduation rate for our students has jumped from 32% to 54% over the past decade. This is nearly double the graduation rate of other urban, research universities with similar student demographics.



As a result of our success, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities recognized Georgia State with their first MVP Trailblazer Award as the public university making the greatest difference nationally in student success.

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

RECAP: AUTHOR SERIES

By Anne Page Mosby, professor emerita,
University Library

GLENN ESKEW

Book: *Johnny Mercer: Southern
Songwriter for the World*

An Oscar statuette, a Grammy trophy and a Golden Globe award were special guests of the emeriti faculty who gathered to hear history professor Glenn Eskew discuss his recent biography,

“Johnny Mercer: Southern Songwriter for the World.” These artifacts represented part of Georgia State’s Popular Music and Culture Collection, which Eskew used in researching the life of the famous songwriter and jazz musician. University Library Archivist Kevin Fleming joined Eskew in describing archival material on the life of Johnny Mercer. Mercer was in the forefront of American popular culture from the 1930s into the 1960s, collaborating with Hollywood and Broadway stars of the period such as Nat King Cole, Billie Holiday, Judy Garland, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. He also was co-founder of Capitol Records, which became one of the leading, transformative companies in the music industry.



STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS



President Mark Becker delivered his annual “State of the University” Address at Georgia State on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. To read the complete text of President Becker’s address, go to the University website at www.gsu.edu, click the About tab and select Office of the President. There you can click on the complete text of his address. We think you will be proud as you read the outstanding list of accomplishments President Becker noted for Georgia State University.

In Memoriam

Dr. William “Bill” Martin, professor emeritus of sociology, died at his home on Sunday, June 22, 2014. A memorial was held for him on July 6, which would have been his 90th birthday.

Martin earned his bachelor’s degree magna cum laude and his master’s degree in sociology at Vanderbilt University. After doing graduate work in sociology at Indiana University, he returned to Vanderbilt for his Ph.D. and joined the Sociology Department at Georgia State as an associate professor in 1970. He retired from Georgia State in 1991.

A lifetime interest in science fiction led Martin to join First Fandom, an organization of “golden age” fans of science fiction, and the Science Fiction Research Association. He attended science fiction conventions and was a guest at many DragonCons.

Dr. John S. Wright, professor emeritus of marketing, died July 17, 2014 at the age of 94. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota, his MBA from the University of Southern California and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He taught marketing and advertising for more than four decades. He was chair of the Marketing Department at Georgia State from 1969 to 1973. He retired in 1990. While at Georgia State, Wright published several academic books, including five editions of his college textbook, “Advertising.”

After retiring from Georgia State, Wright devoted his efforts to non-profit organizations, serving on the boards of the American Diabetes Association, Life Enrichment and the Georgia Radio Reading Service. He discontinued this work because of visual problems and returned to teaching, offering classes at various universities in the Atlanta area for more than 20 years.