Georgia State University

Emeriti ASSOCIATION

EMERITIES

Intellectual, Creative and Social Engagement

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SONNY PERDUE IS *NEW* USG CHANCELLOR

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THE SEARCH FOR THE NEW CHANCELLOR OF the University System of Georgia *(USG)* has ended at last with the Regents' selection of Sonny Perdue. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges *(SACSCOC)* has decided not to withdraw the USG's accreditation in retaliation as they threatened last April. *(See: "Chancellor's Search Extended," EmeriTies, Fall 2021.)*

Georgians know Perdue as their former two-term governor from 2003 to 2011 who served former President



Chancellor Sonny Perdue

Donald Trump as Secretary of Agriculture from 2017-2021. Perdue's candidacy for the Chancellor has been long and controversial, marked by faculty and student protests and rallies. The Regents were divided in 2021, with some opposed to him. However, he has been strongly supported throughout by Governor Kemp. In another twist, Kemp now faces Sonny's first cousin David Perdue—endorsed by Trump—as his main Republican rival in the primary this coming May.

The search seemed stalemated, with Teresa MacCartney continuing as Acting Chancellor. But in January, Kemp declared that "the process has gone on way too long . . . I don't think that's good for our state. I don't think it's good for the future of the university system." So he replaced two Regents whose terms expired in January. Two more left the Board who could not serve due to recent legislative redistricting *(including its chair who had opposed Perdue)*, and Kemp replaced one of them. In February this new Board voted unanimously to name Perdue the sole finalist. Their final approval came in early March.

"Governor Perdue stood out for his impressive experience and leadership in public service as well as a vast understanding not only of Georgia and its communities but of the issues facing the university system as we move forward," stated Harold Reynolds, the new Regents chair.

SACSCOC has declined to withdraw its accreditation from the USG. Its president Belle Wheelan stated: "Our Standards do not identify specific qualifications for the CEO." She noted there have been others without experience in higher education leadership who have successfully headed university systems. She added it was "serendipitous" that Kemp was able to appoint several new regents, replacing members who had reservations about Perdue becoming chancellor.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

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I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING A LOVELY spring with friends and family. As the weather warms, we have a chance to meet outdoors. John DeCastro is organizing a walk along the Chattahoochee River at Cochran Shoals on Wednesday, April 13. The trail is easy, flat, and clean, with restrooms along the way, and the scenery is beautiful. We may follow the hike with lunch on the patio of Mojave restaurant nearby. Please RSVP to ***John.m.decastro@gmail.com***.

The Native Plant Botanical Garden is open on Decatur Campus, featuring "Poetry and Art in the Garden" for the month of April. The fine arts departments on the Downtown and Clarkston campuses are highlighting art and music of this academic year. And there are wellness activities again on the Downtown and Perimeter campuses.

In addition, the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra performs on Clarkston Campus, presenting Hayden's Cello Concerto in C Major on May 10 and Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F on June 21. At the Rialto downtown, Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" is playing April 13-15, followed by "Manhattan Transfer" on April 30.

We're planning more opportunities for emeriti. If you're not getting our emails, please let us know at ***emeriti.gsu.edu***.

We'd like to have you join us.

JUST IN TIME FUND **RECIPIENTS**

Ashley Rene McKelvy • Director of Communications • Honors College

Last November, four members of Georgia State's Honors College used Just-In-Time funds to attend the American Society of Criminology *(ASC)* Annual Meeting in Chicago. The ASC focuses on scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge aimed at deterring crime and delinquency and encourages sharing information across multiple disciplines. The students **Veda Balaji**, **Cameron Huggins**, **Alexis Veazie** and **Katherine French** were all able to present their academic research at the event.

Balaji, a junior majoring in neuroscience and minoring in history, said, "The conference was an amazing opportunity, and it was truly fulfilling to have the chance to present my work." Huggins, who graduated from Georgia State in December, agreed that "I had a great experience meeting other academic students and presenting a piece of work I spent months working on." Veazie and French — both psychology majors — delivered oral presentations on research that looked into topics regarding domestic abuse and intimate partner violence.

Huggins expressed her gratitude for the Just-In-Time award saying, "I used the funds to pay for the hotel stay and conference registration, which was so helpful. I would not have been able to afford to go otherwise." She added, "Being involved in research gave me a strong resume to apply to graduate school, and I am currently going through the interview process now."

The trip was a valuable professional experience for all four of these honors students and one they won't soon forget.

REQUEST FOR JIT FUND DONORS . . .

Donations to the Just-In-Time Fund for Honors College students are requested as in-person conferences once again take place. Gifts can be made online at **https://netcommunity.gsu.edu/make-a-gift** or by check. **For checks, make payable to *Georgia State University Foundation*; add to the memo line *Emeriti Just-In-Time Fund***; and ***mail your donation to*: Georgia State University Foundation • P.O. Box 2668 • Atlanta, GA 30312-2668**.

You may specify the student's originating department.

EMERITIES Events & Activities

IN MEMORIAM

Lauren B. Adamson, Regents' Professor Emerita of Psychology, died on December 31, 2021. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology at the University of California-Berkeley in 1977. She joined Georgia State's Psychology department in 1980 where she completed her well-known studies that compared the development of infants with autism and Down's syndrome with that of typically developing infants. Throughout her career she was supported first by the National Science Foundation and then by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2003-2011, and retired in 2015.

Paul Kolter, Associate Professor Emeritus, died on Nov. 21, 2021. Born in 1921, he enlisted in the U.S. Infantry in 1942, and served 4 years during World War II. He returned to receive his M.S. at University of Tennessee *(Knoxville)* in 1950. In 1982 he joined the Biology Department at Georgia State, teaching while working for his doctorate from Emory University. During his time at Georgia State, he taught many students and courses at Grady, Piedmont, Crawford Long, St. Joseph Hospitals and Georgia Baptist Medical Center. He retired in 1985.

Lorene Quay Pilcher, Research Professor Emerita of Educational Psychology, died on October 19, 2021. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and was a faculty member at the University of Illinois and Temple University. In 1974, she joined the Department of Early Childhood Education and Development at Georgia State as a Full Professor and a specialist in Developmental Psychology. Later she was jointly appointed to the Department of Educational Psychology. In 1982 the Board of Regents appointed her one of the first Research Professors at Georgia State. When Governor Zell Miller started the nation's first pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds, she was selected and funded to evaluate the program's effect on children statewide.

Shortly after she retired, she was appointed a steering member of the Emeriti Association; and later chaired its Coordinating Board and edited *EmeriTies*.

Emerita Julie Dangel recalls: *Several Emeriti formed a book group, and Lorene always contributed to our discussions and caused us to think in new ways.*

Harold Skipper, Professor Emeritus of Risk Management and Insurance, died on Feb. 8, 2021. He received his BBA from Georgia State University, and Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a faculty member in Risk Management and Insurance *(RMI)* in the Robinson College of Business from 1976 to 2005, and the first C.V. Starr Chair in RMI. He also served as the chair of the RMI Department from the late 1990s until the early 2000s. His areas of focus included privacy, policy issues, and international insurance and he was instrumental in the founding of international insurance organizations.

NEW EMERITI OF 2022

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

Andrew Feltenstein, Professor Emeritus of Economics
William Hildreth, Professor Emeritus of Public Management and Policy
Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, Professor Emeritus of Economics
John O'Kane, Professor of Practice Emeritus of Public Management and Policy
Bruce Seaman, Associate Professor Emeritus of Economics
Mindy Wertheimer, Clinical Professor Emerita of Social Work

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sidney Crow, Professor Emeritus of Biology
Louise Gobron, Senior Lecturer Emerita of Applied Linguistics and ESL
Chun Jiang, Professor Emeritus of Biology
Jung Ha Kim, Principal Senior Lecturer Emerita of Sociology
Gregory Lisby, Professor Emeritus of Communication
Kathryn McClymond, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies
Marian Meyers, Professor Emerita of Communication
George Pierce, Professor Emeritus of Biology
Fernando Reati, Professor Emeritus of World Languages and Cultures
Timothy Renick, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies
Reiner Smolinski, Professor Emeritus of English
Irene Weber, Professor Emerita of Biology

COLLEGE OF LAW

Natsu Saito, Professor Emerita

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Ralph Gilbert, Professor Emeritus of Art and Design
Angelo Restivo, Professor Emeritus of Film, Media and Theatre
Robert Thompson, Professor Emeritus of Music

BYRDINE F. LEWIS COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Deon Thompson, Clinical Associate Professor Emerita of Physical Therapy
Barbara Woodring, Professor Emerita of Nursing

ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Deborah Butler, Clinical Associate Professor Emerita of Management

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Taka Oshima, Professor Emerita of Educational Policy

EMERITIES
Events & News

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

- **Nicolle Parsons-Pollard** became Interim Provost effective January 1. Prior to this, she served as Georgia State's Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs since 2020. She served on the Task Force for Racial Equality in 2020, and was a key point person for the university's Action Plan to address the Task Force's recommendations. She also is Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

  Prior to coming to Georgia State, Dr. Parsons-Pollard was Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs at Monmouth University *(New Jersey)*, and Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Operations at Virginia State University. She completed the American Council on Education *(ACE)* Fellows Program in 2014-2015.

- **Nancy Kropf**, formerly dean of Perimeter College since 2019, has been appointed Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. In this role, she will work closely with Interim Provost Nicolle Parsons-Pollard and President Blake in the University's strategic planning for 2022-2030.

  She first joined Georgia State in 2006 as a Director and Professor in the School of Social Work, then became an Associate Dean in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in 2013. In 2015 while serving as its Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives, she was appointed Dean of the Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions. She integrated the nursing programs of Perimeter College and the Lewis College during Perimeter's 2016 consolidation with Georgia State. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University.

- **Cynthia Lester** succeeds Dr. Kropf as Interim Dean of Perimeter College. She was Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs there, and led faculty search processes which resulted in five new department chairs and 45 new faculty. A Professor of Computer Science in Perimeter College, she previously served as Associate Dean of its Division of Math, Computer Science and Engineering as well as Associate Dean of the Clarkston campus.

- **Sarah Cook**, former Interim Dean of the Honors College, has been named Dean effective June 1. Since 2020, she created college recruiting and admission policies that resulted in the largest and most diverse first-year class and presidential scholar cohort. She was Associate Dean from 2012 to 2020, working with Dean Berman to implement two college-level strategic plans. She devised the Herndon Human Rights Initiative and standardized the undergraduate assistantship program. She joined the Department of Psychology *(CAS)* in 1997, and was its director for undergraduate studies. Dr. Cook received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Virginia.

Upcoming Events

HONORS COLLEGE

- The **"Honors Thesis Pitch"** is an annual competition and celebration of students' original research in their fields. GSU students conducting their Honors Theses elect to compete, and then must "pitch" their research to a non-specialist audience in three minutes, with one static slide to accompany their pitch.

Come to 100 Auburn Ave., Centennial Hall, to watch the Honors Thesis Pitch live on Thursday, April 21, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

- **Perimeter College.**
  See "Chair's Column" in this issue.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

SEND ARTICLES
100-300 words long
to the editor at
cgallant@gsu.edu

We'd like to hear from you.

And sometimes your articles prove prophetic,
as with **Emeritus P. C. Tai's**
"Travel Note: Ukraine"
in the ***Winter 2019*** issue.

https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1037&context=gsuemeriti

AAUP **CENSURES** *UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA*

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On March 5, the American Association of University Professors *(AAUP)* voted to censure the entire University System of Georgia *(USG)* "for the unilateral action of its administration and governing board to remove the protections of tenure and academic freedom from the system's post-tenure review policy" *("AAUP Updates," March 5, 2022)*. Earlier in October when they decided to investigate the system, they did so because "as far as we are aware, no other public university system has stripped the due-process protections of tenure from its post-tenure-review policy" (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, "Tenure Without Teeth, 2/22/2022).

As reported in the Winter 2022 issue of *EmeriTies*, the Board of Regents has amended its Policy Manual to change the process of post-tenure review *(PTR)*. Now, after the professor fails two consecutive PTRs, a performance-improvement plan will be created; and if the professor fails to improve as determined by "the department chair and dean after considering feedback from faculty colleagues," then the college may revoke tenure or terminate the professor. The college president will make the final decision. Many faculty *(and the AAUP)* consider this a violation of due process since it omits a specific cause for revocation and a thorough peer-review by other faculty.

". . . the area of Instruction is strongly emphasized and the new metric of "student success" has become part of the review process for all ranks."

In addition, the area of Instruction is strongly emphasized and the new metric of "student success" has become part of the review process for all ranks. "Student success" is not defined, although Acting Chancellor MacCarthy suggested in her letter to the questioning AAUP that this would "evaluate how faculty members interact with students outside the classroom through mentoring or advising." In its October report, the AAUP pointed out that 'success' might also be measured by other factors such as the professor's grades, course-completion rates and student evaluations.

All USG schools are revising their Promotion and Tenure Guidelines to accord with this newly amended Regents' Policy. At Georgia State, the Provost has appointed three committees to review all tenure track and non-tenure track faculty guidelines to "recommend changes in a way that maximizes academic freedom and protection of tenure." Ultimately, these revisions will go before the University Senate for approval.

". . . the Board of Regents has amended its Policy Manual to change the process of post-tenure review . . ."

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EDITOR'S NOTE !

EmeriTies: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

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Since President Brian Blake took office on July 1, 2021, he has faced unexpected challenges and so has his constituency, the University's faculty and administrators. The challenges come from controversial decisions by the Board of Regents that must be followed. Both had begun percolating before he arrived. One was the choice of a new chancellor of the University System; and the other, the approval of a revised policy changing the nature of faculty tenure. To meet these challenges, President Blake is creating a new strategic plan for 2022-2030 to reinforce the University's strengths in student success initiatives and research development by the faculty. See "President Blake's First Hundred Days" (**https://president.gsu.edu/first100/**) for details. Kudos for his swift and positive actions.

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