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## JUST IN TIME FUND

**AS I THINK ABOUT MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE** before retirement what I remember best are the times students opened up so I could help them fly. I don't think so much about my professional accomplishments: publications I wrote, academic conferences where I read papers, or committees I chaired. No, all these years later I think about the individual students who came to me and said: "Do you have some time to talk?" Or, "I have this really great idea for a project." They often have re-appeared years later to re-establish contact as fellow seasoned adults . . . all flying quite nicely on their own. What a boon!

I came to know one such student in 2009 a few years before I retired, an undergraduate English Honors student named Divya Nair. She was a native of India whose family had emigrated to Atlanta. At that time, the Honors Program was not an independent college but a unit within the College of Arts and Sciences. The program was open to any major, but its students usually were undergraduates heading toward a graduate education in the humanities or social sciences.

Divya asked me to direct her Honors thesis, which involved independent research that would ultimately be presented at the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference. I don't remember its exact subject, but I do know that she wrote it from the viewpoint of postcolonial literary criticism. As with many of my best students, I learned along with her. This young woman who had grown up in India immediately grasped this complex critical approach, for it had been "proved upon [her] pulses," as the poet John Keats put it.

My main contribution was to convince her to avoid the hackneyed critical jargon so often considered a sign of membership among the academic elite, and instead to use her own voice of experience. (*"No, Divya, don't use those familiar words of your elders! Make the thesis your own!"*) The research conference was a pleasure to attend with all the program's excited young scholars presenting their work. I can remember Divya rehearsing her presentation in my office, an egg-timer on my desk to be sure it was within the allotted time. As so frequently happens with Honors graduates, she was accepted into a first-rate graduate school—the University of Pennsylvania where she also won a tuition scholarship.

I thought of Divya, with her long flowing hair, intelligent bright eyes, and vivid focused perceptions, when Dean Larry Berman of the Honors College first discussed with the Emeriti Coordinating Board the creation of a "Just-In-Time" fund. (*See the Fall 2016 issue of EmeriTies for details.*) And I thought: yes, I would like to participate in that.

Clicking on the Emeriti website (<http://emeriti.gsu.edu>), I found that gifts both large and small were much appreciated, and these gifts could be one-time, recurring, or in installments. A recurring gift of \$50 taken from my charge account each month seemed manageable as a retired English professor.

I have just received a thank-you note from Dean Berman reading: ". . . thanks to your help we are able to fund Sophie Yount, a junior chemistry major (*biochemistry concentration*) for travel to the 2017 Experimental Biology Conference in Chicago, where she is presenting a poster with her departmental co-author and faculty sponsor. Sophie is excited about her presentation, and just a bit nervous to be taking her very first plane trip!"

Fly, sister, fly!!



# CHAIR'S COLUMN

**DON RATAJCZAK**

Emeritus Regents Professor of Economics

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies • [ratajczak@gsu.edu](mailto:ratajczak@gsu.edu)



## SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO I LEFT GEORGIA

State University to try my hand in the private arena. At that time, I don't remember having a GSU email address. Since that time, much of downtown Atlanta has become Georgia State and we have integrated Perimeter College as well.

The Emeriti Association also has been working at integrating the Perimeter emeriti faculty. Our next board meeting will be on the Clarkston campus.

As I assume the chairmanship of the Emeriti Association I wonder what we should be doing for our emeriti faculty. We provide some outings and are working to do more with the GSU Alumni Association along with continuing our own activities. We continue to promote a benefits meeting in October as well as holiday and Valentine's Day activities and the Authors Series. Some of our board members also remain abreast of changes impacting current and retired

faculty, but we can and should do more.

Harry Dangel, our previous chair, initiated funding for a Just-In-Time program that allows students in the Honors College to expand their professional footprint by attending and presenting at academic programs away from Georgia State. I hope that our emeriti will continue funding this effort as an ongoing activity of the Emeriti Association.

I would like to hear from the emeriti membership about what our association should be doing. Should we have programs on aging, retirement financing or other retiree-related issues? Should we be more involved in academic issues in addition to our Authors Series meetings? What have you enjoyed as an emeriti and wished to do more of and what have you missed and wish to do now?

I now have a GSU email address: [ratajczak@gsu.edu](mailto:ratajczak@gsu.edu). Please write and let me know what you want from your association.

## SOPHIE YOUNT RECEIVES JIT FUNDING



### SOPHIE YOUNT IS THE FIRST

Honors College student to receive funding from the Emeriti Association's Just in Time Fund. She is a sophomore from Canton, Georgia, majoring in biochemistry. The JIT funding made it possible for Sophie to take her very first trip on a plane to attend the 2017 Experimental Biology Conference in Chicago, where she presented a poster with her departmental co-author and faculty sponsor Dr. Huanbiao Mo, Chair of the Nutrition Department.

Sophie chose to major in biochemistry because she is fascinated with the mechanisms and building blocks of everyday life. "Going into college, I knew I had an affinity for the sciences and that one day I would want to pursue a post-baccalaureate degree. For my undergraduate degree, I chose the best of both worlds: biochemistry. By majoring in chemistry and concentrating in biology, I felt that I would be equipped for any career that I may choose later," Sophie says.

Sophie chose to attend Georgia State "because of the unparalleled opportunities offered to its undergraduate students. From the impeccable programs within the Honors College, to the plethora of academic clubs, the support and learning experiences offered at Georgia State are unrivaled for enhancing one's undergraduate education." Sophie believes that what distinguishes Georgia State from other universities are "the opportunities offered to

undergraduates to conduct hands-on work in fields of interest." Sophie notes that these opportunities have enhanced her application to graduate schools and helped narrow her focus on career options.

At the conference, Sophie heard top research professionals from around the world speaking in-depth about cutting-edge studies. She emphasizes that she "never would have learned about these studies without this funding." After having the opportunity to discuss her own research with professionals attending the conference, she feels "more confident that the work I'm participating in can impact many people in the future. After a long and hard semester, it was the most gratifying thing to see my hard work finally pay off."

Sophie says that she "cannot thank the Emeriti Association enough" for the opportunity to attend the conference, adding that "it has truly been one of her greatest college experiences."



# GSU EMERITI ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP



Seated from left: Myra Carmon and Rosemary Cox; standing from left: Teryl Frey, Don Ratajczak, Christine Gallant and Charles Williams.

**T**he 2017/18 leadership team for the Georgia State Emeriti Association was elected unanimously by the Coordinating Board at the March 2017 meeting.

Don Ratajczak, an Emeritus Regents' Professor of Economics in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, is the incoming board chair. Upon election, Don said, "Under Harry Dangel the Emeriti Association broadened its social activities and began an initiative to provide student funding for those in the Honors College who need support for presentations at meetings and other costs that enhance their professional lives. We are exploring more social activities with senior alumni as well as continuing consolidation of Perimeter College's emeriti with our own."

Myra Carmon, incoming chair-elect of the Coordinating Board, is an emerita from the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions. Charles Williams, an emeritus of the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, is assuming the role of treasurer after having served as the website coordinator. Christine Gallant, an emerita of the College of Arts and Sciences, will continue as the Coordinating Board secretary.

Current committee chairs are Terry Frey (*Activities*), Rosemary Cox (*Membership*), Leonard Teel (*EmeriTies newsletter*), Harry Dangel (*Representation*) and Lynn Hogue (*Bylaws*).

Harry Dangel (*Education*) "graduates" from chair of the association to immediate past chair, and Missy Cody (*Lewis School*) will continue as the GSU representative to the University System of Georgia Retiree Council.

Other members of the Coordinating Board include: Catherine Carter (*Perimeter*), William Feldhaus (*Business*), Valerie Fennell (*Arts and Sciences*), John Haberlen (*Arts*), Deborah Huntley (*Perimeter*), Bob McDonough (*Perimeter*), and Al McWilliams (*Education*).

All officers and committee chairs welcome input from members. Their contact information is available on the emeriti website at <http://emeriti.gsu.edu/people>.

## MUTATIS MUTANDIS, ONE OF THESE DAYS **SAPPHIRE VALLEY**

*Morning and evening, dawn to dusk,  
we are out the door or out the window  
scouting the expected and the desired,  
what our painterly friends fired us with, promises,*

*not merely the predictable, old gold, butter,  
sulfur, mikado, and olivesheen, but more,  
Indian pink, Claude, purree, goldenrod, and  
crash.*

*Amazing us that when the green was leaving*

*leaves would alter to hellebore and cardinal,  
to Goya and carnelian, sienna and Pompeii.  
On the north slopes we could expect ruddle and  
murrey.*

*Whiling, we set out a dish of salted nuts,*

*caring first to napkin off the deadly salts,  
for a red-tailed squirrel who handily  
and more than handily shape-shifts our gifts  
so each nut twitches furrily, screeches, and  
scurries.*

*We hunger for any hue, provided it's yellow or  
red.*

*Meanwhile, but not gladly, we suffer  
green's uniform toehold, in rhododendron and  
ash*

*a verdigris and a cobalt, in laurel and hickory*

*a jade, leek, and zinc. Name-droppings, too,  
of Kildare, Lincoln, Paris, and Nile,  
to our annoyance, impatient, envious,  
whenever we brood on the tangled bank.*

— By Dr. Eugene Hollahan

## COORDINATING BOARD

**Don Rataczak, chair – AYSPS**  
rataczak@gsu.edu

**Myra Carmon, incoming chair-elect – BFLSNHP**  
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**Charles Williams, treasurer – RCB**  
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**Christine C. Gallant, secretary – CAS**  
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**Catherine Carter – PC**  
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**Mildred (Missy) Cody, USG Retiree Council – BFLSNHP**  
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**Harry Dangel, representation – COEHD**  
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## CONTACT US:

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# GSU AND STATE FARM PARTNER

**G**eorgia State University and State Farm, Georgia's largest insurance company, recently announced a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership that helps qualified students entering the Decatur campus of Perimeter College have a pathway to a more productive future.

State Farm is providing \$14.5 million to support Georgia State's Learning, Income and Family Transformation (LIFT) program, which will bring the university's pioneering data analytics work to students enrolled in two-year degree programs at the university's Decatur campus.

According to the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, a college degree in the Atlanta region can increase earnings potential 27 % for an associate degree and 108 % for a bachelor's degree.

"A college education gives people a better life, but for too many, it is unattainable," said Georgia State President

Mark Becker. "Obstacles students face in pursuing post-secondary education range from difficulty securing financial aid and unreliable transportation to lack of emotional support. First-generation college students are hit hardest, but they have a better chance if helped."

Georgia State LIFT will track student progress to provide the help needed to overcome a variety of educational obstacles. Progress is tracked across hundreds of indicators to identify potential issues and implement proactive solutions to keep students on track to graduation. Once participating students earn a two-year degree, they will transition to either a four-year degree program or a career. Graduation rates for Georgia State's minority and low-income students have more than doubled in recent years, and the university now graduates students from all racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds at comparable rates.

**Georgia State University** • Public Relations and Marketing Communications

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

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# EMERITIES

## Events & News

### Tour of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

On April 20, twenty members of the GSU Emeriti Association and their guests participated in a tour of this historic 2,965-acre site that preserves a Civil War battleground of the Atlanta Campaign. Opposing forces maneuvered and fought here from June 19, 1864, until July 2, 1864. Although most famous as a Civil War battlefield, Kennesaw Mountain has a much richer story. The tour was guided by Jay Haney, Georgia State alumnus and the husband of Emeriti Association member Anne Page Mosby.



### IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. William "Bill" Amis**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, died in January 2017. After serving in the military, he enrolled in Swarthmore College and graduated in 1949 with a double major in sociology and psychology. In 1955 Bill joined the Department of Sociology at Georgia State, and later attended the University of North Carolina where he received his Ph.D. in sociology in 1959. He took positions at Emory and Wake Forest before returning to GSU in 1961. Bill was married to Dr. Paula Stephan (an economics professor at GSU for 42 years. With a partner, Bill founded the Science Fiction and Mystery Book Shop in the Virginia Highlands neighborhood in 1983; he retired from GSU in 1988. Bill was fascinated by and very proficient in the nuances of the English language and edited books and articles for colleagues and scholars, including those of his wife, Paula. He was also a serious student of German, French and Italian and an avid reader of non-fiction, an opera lover, and a world traveler.

**Dr. Jac L. Goldstucker**, Professor Emeritus of Marketing, died in November 2016. Jac received his MBA and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and later joined the Marketing Department in the GSU College of Business. As a strong researcher and writer, he had a gift for working with other faculty members in the College of Business, and he co-authored many research papers with colleagues in his department. These papers were published in refereed journals and presented at meetings of national marketing organizations. Jac also had a reputation for mentoring students, involving them in his research and including them in his publications. He co-authored a book entitled *Qualitative Research in Marketing* with his GSU colleagues Dr. Danny Bellenger and Dr. Kenneth Bernhardt in 1976. He also co-edited *Marketing Information: A Professional Reference Guide*, 3rd edition, with Dr. Hiram Barksdale in 1995. Among other research topics, Jac investigated and reported on bank credit card users and on marketplace needs of the elderly.

**Eugene "Gene" Hollahan**, Professor Emeritus of English Literature, died in April 2017. Gene grew up in Memphis and served in the U.S. Navy aboard an aircraft carrier from 1952 to 1955. He attended Memphis State University and graduated in 1959. After receiving his master's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1961, he taught at Clemson and then North Carolina State University. While teaching at NC State, he pursued his Ph.D. in English at the University of North Carolina. After receiving his doctorate in 1969, he joined the English Department at GSU. An accomplished poet, Gene wrote countless poems, published four collections of poetry and four scholarly books. The Emeriti Association is grateful for the remarkable poems he contributed to EmeriTies. Gene's wife, Carol, is also retired from Georgia State, having served as secretary to the vice president for finance for a many years.

**Dr. Roger O. Miller**, Emeritus Vice President for Finance and Administration and Associate Professor of Business Administration, died in January 2017. He received his B.A., MBA and Ph.D. in Business Administration from GSU. After receiving his B.A., he worked at Lockheed in the subcontracting department. After earning his MBA in 1967, he accepted the position of assistant comptroller at GSU, beginning a 25-year career at the university. Roger managed the updating of the accounting system and the establishment of internal controls. He shepherded GSU into the computer age and established as his first priority the conversion of the faculty payroll to a computer system. From 1967 to 1992 when he retired, Roger was in charge of the university's budget, which increased from \$7 million to \$200 million during his tenure. Roger was dedicated to GSU and after retirement was active in the Emeriti Association, serving as chair from 2007 to 2009.

# EMERITIES

## Events & Activities

### 2017 Upcoming Events

#### ■ AUGUST

##### **Atlanta Braves SunTrust Park Tour**

Thursday, Aug. 3 • 10:30 a.m.

755 Battery Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30339

In partnership with the GSU Alumni Association's Senior Brunch and Learn, emeriti are invited to tour the Atlanta Braves' new home at SunTrust Park. Lunch in The Battery will follow the tour. To register, visit the Alumni Association's website at [www.pantheralumni.com](http://www.pantheralumni.com), go to the calendar, and select the event.

#### ■ SEPTEMBER

##### **Fall Authors Series**

Monday, Sept. 18 • 11 a.m.

Library South, 8th Floor

Special Collections

100 Decatur Street SE., Atlanta, GA 30303

Julia Gaffield is a historian of the early-modern Atlantic World and professor of history at Georgia State. She completed her Ph.D. in the Department of History at Duke University in 2012. Her research focuses on the early independence period in Haiti and seeks to understand the connections between Haiti and other Atlantic colonies, countries, and empires in the early 19th century. She will discuss her book *Haitian Connections in the Atlantic World: Recognition after Revolution* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 2015).

#### ■ OCTOBER

##### **Benefits Presentation**

Monday, Oct. 23 • 10 a.m.

College of Law

Knowles Conference Center (lower level)

85 Park Place NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

Gail Imoukhuede and staff members from the university's benefits office will discuss this year's updates to retiree benefits. The presentation will be preceded by light refreshments; lunch will be served at noon. **Complimentary parking will be available in T Deck.**

#### ■ DECEMBER

##### **Holiday Party**

Saturday, Dec. 2 • 3 p.m.

Canterbury Court

3750 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30319

Our annual gathering will be held again this year at Canterbury Court. Join us for holiday cheer and catching up before the season becomes too hectic. **Complimentary parking will be available at Canterbury.**

### Updates

**ATTENTION EMERITI:** Please update or add your email address so that we can contact you electronically related to emeriti activities. If we do not have your correct email address, you may miss communications sent by email. Send updates to: [update@gsu.edu](mailto:update@gsu.edu).

To update Human Resources information, you may send an email to: [payroll@gsu.edu](mailto:payroll@gsu.edu) or [benefits@gsu.edu](mailto:benefits@gsu.edu) or call 404-413-3302.

For more information or to RSVP for any upcoming events, visit the Emeriti Association website at <http://emeriti.gsu.edu/calendar>.



Associate Professor Emerita Missy Cody and her husband, Bill, enjoy catching up with Pat Sartain (Alumni Director Emerita) and her husband, Jack, at the Valentine's luncheon. Pat is the longtime editor of *EmeritiTies*.

#### ■ FEBRUARY

##### **Valentine's Luncheon**

Thursday, Feb. 8 • 11:30 a.m.

Rialto Center for the Arts

80 Forsyth Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

With Valentine's Day comes Georgia State's traditional gift of the Valentine's Day luncheon for members. Each year the university treats emeriti to a luncheon where we meet friends, former colleagues, current deans and other administrators and recognize new emeriti. **Parking is conveniently located within steps of the Rialto.**

##### **Economic Forecast Presentation**

Details will be posted to <http://emeriti.gsu.edu/calendar> in January.