



## A Four-Month Adventure Down Under

Teryl Frey, *Regents Professor Emeritus of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences*

One of our life goals (*i.e.*, *bucket list*) is to travel to all seven continents and, to that end, Phyllis and I were keen to visit Australia and New Zealand to make the list six for both of us while still relatively young and able (*I lived in Australia for six months as a college student in 1968 but Phyllis had never been*). Frommers, our favorite travel guide, recommended that Spring in Australia and New Zealand (*Autumn in the U.S.*) would be the best time to go. In addition to Frommers, in working with a travel agent recommended by our friends Anne Page Mosby and Jay Haney, who had made the trip in 2014, we quickly accumulated a list of things to see that encompassed four months. While it had not been our intent to travel for so long, we decided “Why not! That’s what we retired for!”

Our trip was extensive. We spent the first three months in Australia visiting all six states and two territories. In general, we flew between the major cities, as Australia is as big as the continental U.S., and rented cars at those cities to travel locally. The one exception was renting a campervan for three weeks to drive through southeastern Australia and Tasmania, as we are avid car-campers in the U.S. We were left with two big impressions. First, the scenery

is very diverse despite the country’s reputation for being a large desert. The major highlights were Sydney, with its beautiful Opera House and harbor, the Great Barrier Reef where we snorkeled at two sites (*including wonderful Heron Island*), Uluru and Kata Tjuta (*formerly known as Ayer’s Rock and the Olgas*) in the “Red Centre”, and the sandstone monoliths on the Great Ocean Road west of Melbourne. However, there were many other regions of scenic beauty and we were particularly enchanted by the coastline with its cliffs, rock formations, deserted beaches, and picturesque lighthouses. Secondly, the wildlife was superb. Since the indigenous species are almost all nocturnal, mammal-watching involved driving at dusk (*a dicey proposition since kangaroos along the road are very unpredictable in their movements*) or a nighttime tour. We did observe all of the major species (*even a platypus*), except Tasmanian devils, which we could only see at a reserve. The birds



Phyllis and Teryl Frey outside the Sydney Opera House.

were more readily observed and we saw emus, a cassowary, five species of parrots, magpies, kookaburras, penguins, and a distinctive bright blue wren known as a “fairy wren”.

We then spent five weeks in New Zealand, including both Thanksgiving (*not a holiday there*) and Christmas (*definitely a holiday with trees and Santa Claus, even though it is summer time*). Our major impression of New Zealand is that the scenery is more spectacular than in Australia, as it has huge volcanoes on the North Island, snow covered mountains and glaciers on the South Island, and an equally dramatic coastline. The second major

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## CHAIR'S COLUMN

**HARRY DANGEL**  
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I'm writing this column on the first day of classes for the spring semester and ask your indulgence as I reminisce a bit about the changes in our University. In my early years at GSU I recall longing for the tree-lined, grassy campus where I received my degrees—an intellectual oasis in the midst of rural Pennsylvania. But I eventually realized that Georgia State, in a bustling metropolitan area of more than 6 million people, Fortune 500 companies, and world-class healthcare, and news organizations, provided the model for offering a 21st century education.

When I started teaching at GSU, we had an open-door admissions policy. As the University grew, admission became increasingly selective. The fall 2015 freshman class was the largest (3800), most qualified (*based on test scores and high school GPA—most are in the top 25% of HS class*), and most diverse (*biggest increase in Asian-American students*). As our admission standards became higher, GSU instituted innovative student monitoring, advising and support programs that have significantly increased our graduation rates more than 15% and 82% retention of freshmen. Unlike most other research universities, GSU's student body is a clear reflection of the diversity of our city and state. When our students talk about

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## New Era Begins with Georgia State-Georgia Perimeter Consolidation

Doug Gillett, *Development Writer-GSU*

When students at Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) returned to class for spring semester 2016, they did so as students of the largest university in the state of Georgia.

That status came about as a result of the consolidation of the two schools, which received final approval from the Board of Regents on January 6. Not only is the combined institution's student body of nearly 54,000 the largest in Georgia, it is one of the 10 largest schools in America in terms of undergraduate enrollment.

The point of the consolidation, though, was not merely to get bigger — it was to open a door for thousands more students to change their lives and futures.

"This is not only a historic day for Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College, it is also an important day for the students of Georgia," says Georgia State President Mark P. Becker, who now serves as president of the combined institution. "We look forward to helping thousands more students graduate with the support of our nationally recognized programs aimed at ensuring student success."

The new dean and vice provost of GPC, now known as Perimeter College at Georgia State University, is Peter Lyons, formerly Georgia State's associate provost for institutional effectiveness and a professor of social work in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. A Georgia State faculty member since 1998, Lyons developed and coordinated the consolidation plan for the two institutions.

GPC was the state's largest two-year college, with more than 21,000 total students enrolled as of last fall at its five metro Atlanta campuses in Alpharetta, Clarkston, Decatur, Dunwoody and Covington. GPC's demographics mirrored Georgia State's in many ways, including its racially diverse population and large numbers of working and first-generation students.

Like Georgia State, GPC also placed a priority on ensuring student success — even after students left campus. The school was a pioneer in the implementation of transfer admission guarantees (TAGs), which guarantee admission spots at four-year institutions for GPC students who meet various grade

point average requirements in their core studies. At the time of consolidation, GPC had dozens of TAG agreements with four-year schools in Georgia and around the country.

Leadership at both Georgia State and the University System of Georgia (USG) have confirmed that Perimeter College will retain its "access mission" of providing inroads for two-year students whose ultimate goal is to earn a bachelor's degree. They have envisioned the consolidated Georgia State University functioning in a similar fashion to Penn State's system of "Commonwealth Campuses," in which students in good academic standing at any of 14 two-year colleges around the state can complete their degrees at Penn State's main campus in University Park.

Already, around 1,500 students transfer from GPC to Georgia State each year, subsequently performing at a level comparable to the rest of the GSU student body. Through consolidation, the University System hopes to clear an even more direct path for prospective transfers.

"We are keenly focused on access and college completion," says USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby. "The new Georgia State University will continue to expand upon its successes in these areas for students beyond the downtown campus, throughout metropolitan Atlanta."

"Georgia State is a recognized national leader in improving student success and will be able to apply its best practices to a broad student body from across the state," he continues. "Combining these attributes with Georgia Perimeter College's leadership in providing access to students across the metro area presents a significant opportunity to improve student success."

As the faculties and staffs of the two institutions are merged, the GPC retirees' group will be combined with Georgia State's as well, says Walter Massey, Georgia State's vice president for development and alumni relations. "We're looking forward to a lot of great things coming out of this," Massey says. "It will expand opportunities for both groups of emeriti, not the least of which is the chance to get to know an entirely new group of fellow academics. We are excited to welcome the GPC retirees."



# A LOVE AFFAIR WITH PARIS

**Harold D. Skipper**, *Professor Emeritus, Risk Management and Insurance, Robinson College of Business*

**M**y wife (*Toni*) and I adore being in Paris. It is our favorite city. We appreciate its majesty, its confident citizens, and its restaurants, gardens, museums, and monuments.

We introduced ourselves to Paris in 1983, training there from Geneva where I worked for the United Nations, while on leave from GSU. (*Confession: before living in Geneva, we were as naïve and ethnocentric as most Americans.*) On returning to GSU in 1984, my professional focus increasingly became international. In the late 1980s, I went to Paris once or twice yearly as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Paris-based OECD. Paris was becoming more comfortable, and we wanted more time there, so Toni usually went with me. In 1990, I secured a six-month visiting appointment at the University of Paris VII and a consulting assignment that together paid the rent and bought the food and wine.

Fast forward to today, almost 11 years after my retirement. Paris is now an old friend with whom we visit most years for a few days to catch up on things – “things” being superb dining, exploring, and visiting some sites we know and some that we do not. We try never to rush and usually have no fixed agenda, except maybe one or two dinner reservations. We typically stay four days, appending the visit to other international travels. Our old friend has changed little over the years. The things that enchanted and

delighted us three decades ago still enchant and delight.

The reasons why we adore Paris are innumerable. Dining probably ranks highest. Yes, Paris is home to the best food and wine in the world, and service is efficient and polite (*but never overly friendly*) – just dining there is special; brusque perhaps when a brasserie is hopping, but that’s okay. We relish the way Parisians dine, lingering, not rushing. Perhaps enjoying a Sancerre while waiting for a steaming bowl of mussels and frites at a sidewalk café, devouring the sights of the people – an assault on the senses! Neither of us recalls ever having a disappointing meal, whether dining in a family bistro or in a Michelin three-star temple.

Being *flâneurs* – (*those who walk about leisurely, perhaps aimlessly, enjoying the ambiance*) also ranks highly. While Paris has a first-rate metro system, walking is our default option, both for its own sake and because it consistently reveals different aspects of the city. Paris is made for walking, perhaps more so than any major city. One has but to reflect on the many historical figures who walked these same beautiful streets, with the same views. At last year’s visit, Toni arranged a walking tour in the Latin Quarter of the streets and haunts where Hemingway, Stein, Fitzgerald, and other notables lived and worked. A Moveable Feast indeed. Toni said that she was gobsmacked –



**Harold and Toni Skipper** outside the Towers of Notre Dame Cathedral.

whatever that means.

The last thing I’ll mention is gawking. Yes, gawking. Placing oneself at an outdoor café or in one of the many gardens affords entertainment galore in people-watching. Parisians dress in interesting ways, beyond the latest fashions. They have a certain enjoyable air and confidence about themselves. They laugh, hold hands, kiss, and, yes, smoke a lot (*but less each year*).

Our knees or other body parts eventually will probably conspire against our being *flâneurs*, but other Paris passions likely will endure and new ones emerge. If you have never spent much time in the City of Light, go. It’s never too late to fall in love.

## FAST FACTS about

# Paris

- There are **181** places in the city where you can get an espresso for €1 (*one euro*)
- There are **9,057** open terraces (*bars, cafes and restaurants*)
- There is only **one stop sign** in the whole city of Paris
- The bell in the Notre Dame Cathedral weighs over **13 tons** and is called *Emmanuel*
- There are **6,100** streets in Paris
- The shortest street in the city is just **5.75 meters** long (*Rue des Degrés*)
- There are **1,784** bakeries in Paris
- There are **1,124** bars in the city

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## A Four-Month Adventure

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impression left by New Zealand was the climate, which is wetter than in Australia, making rain and clouds an almost constant factor in our tourist activities. We did, however, have a gloriously sunny day at Milford Sound with its snow-capped peaks, cliffs rising out of the water, and waterfalls; the most spectacular place on the whole trip.

Our adventure was one of a lifetime, although we are fortunate in having had others. In addition to being highly rewarding, Australia and New Zealand are easy places to visit, even on one's own, as we did, (*with the caveat that driving involves staying on the left-hand side of the road*), with excellent tourist infrastructures. While our trip was comprehensive, there are places we want to see again and additional sites to visit and we are likely to return.

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

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what they like most about Georgia State, they nearly always mention the variety of backgrounds, countries, races, religions, ages, and talents of their classmates.

In January, the Georgia Board of Regents approved the consolidation of GSU and Georgia Perimeter College, making our current enrollment close to 54,000 students. The consolidation has special meaning for me. Given my mediocre high school record, I would likely not have been admitted to GSU before the consolidation. Fortunately, a network of community colleges was part of the university I attended, so I had a chance to prove I could succeed in college. That's what the Perimeter consolidation offers our prospective students. More than 2600 former Perimeter students are already successfully completing degree programs at GSU. By adding Perimeter College and continuing its role of providing open access, Georgia State is both extending its reach and offering our effective model for tracking, advising, and offering instructional support to the next generation of GSU students.

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# EMERITIES

## Events & Activities

### Updates

Information about events will be sent closer to event dates. The website is being updated, so please check [emeriti.gsu.edu](http://emeriti.gsu.edu).

**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 you may call **404-413-3302** to provide information.

### 2016 Upcoming Events:

#### ■ APRIL

##### School of Music Recital

THURSDAY, APRIL 14 • 12:30 p.m.

Florence Kopleff Recital Hall, 10 Peachtree Center Ave. NE

Join us for a concert featuring student performers from the School of Music, followed by a reception in the Green Room.

#### ■ MAY

##### Beltline Bus Tour

To Be Determined

Join us and ride in comfort while getting a unique glimpse into the history, project updates and long-range plans along the Atlanta BeltLine.

### RECAP: HOLIDAY PARTY – Lorene C. Pilcher, Professor Emerita, College of Education



The emeriti had a merry holiday party at Canterbury Court, where several emeriti live, on December 6th. They toasted the holiday season with fine champagne and enjoyed delicious food and wine in a beautifully decorated place. What a jolly way to launch the holiday season!



# EMERITIES

## Events & Activities

### RECAP: ST. VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON – *Pat Sartain, Alumni Director, Emerita*

Emeriti enjoyed a beautiful Valentine luncheon and fellowship with former colleagues, current deans and administrators.



### RECAP: STATE OF THE ECONOMY – *Anne Page Mosby, Associate Professor Emerita, University Library*



New GSU College of Law building.

**Rajeev Dhawan**, Director of the Economic Forecasting Center and Professor, J. Mack Robinson College of Business, presented his annual insights on the health of the economy at a luncheon in the fabulous new GSU College of Law building. Even with a downturn in the market he is fairly optimistic that we are not in economic trouble. CEOs are showing confidence in business by buying back their companies' stocks; and new start-ups ("The Unicorns", like Uber or SpaceX) are innovative and doing well.

Things to watch are: worldwide markets; the Federal Reserve; geopolitics, especially China, and Iran; and the worrisome "3 Ts" of terrorism, transportation and Trump.



**Harry Dangel** (right) introduces **Rajeev Dhawan** at State of Economy Luncheon on January 21.