I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE MUCH positive to say about a pandemic, but in hindsight I can see one blessing. Forced to stay at home and away from new educational and social venues acquired post-retirement, I had nothing left to do but write a book with which I had been struggling for some time.

It was my great good fortune in the last years of my tenure at GSU to join a group from the College of Education who were consulting in the Kwa Zulu Natal province of South Africa. I was invited by the Chancellor of Durban University of Technology to engage with DUT’s program for deaf students and with several schools for the deaf in the area. The Chancellor, as it turns out, was none other than Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of that icon of peace, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. This began a collaboration and friendship that spanned the next ten years.

My book describes the stories Ela revealed to me of the cruelty and horrors she and others faced at the hands of South Africa’s apartheid government. Forced to work underground, she emerged as one of the unsung heroines of the anti-apartheid movement, rising eventually to the new parliament under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. Along the way she experienced the triple oppression of being poor, a female, and of color. Calling upon the lessons inherited from her grandfather and through her parents, Ela’s experiences of growing up Gandhi provide guideposts for today’s nascent social activists.

A reviewer on the Amazon website stated: “Mahatma Gandhi’s principles and methods are as relevant as ever… I particularly liked the chapter on how to protest: non-violence is most effective but requires planning and training.”

As the author, I am pleased with the chapter on developing a peace curriculum. I also like the story of sitting on the Zulu Queen’s throne at their international mushroom launch—a project for Zulu women farmers to grow mushrooms for international import.

Isolation due to the pandemic provided me with the dedicated time I needed to finish this book. I can truly say My Time with Ela Gandhi is brought to you by Covid-19.
LET’S HEAR IT FOR MAKING IT THROUGH 2020!
I hope we never have to go through that challenge ever again. By the time you read this I hope all of you have had your first vaccine shot and maybe your second. I’m sure we all long for the day when we can enjoy large group gatherings and the opportunity to travel. I pray for that being our reality in 2021.

Andrew Gumbel’s Won’t Lose This Dream: How an Upstart Urban University Rewrote the Rules of a Broken System (https://thenewpress.com/books/wont-lose-this-dream) details the amazing transformation of Georgia State University over the last decade into a remarkable story of student success. This is the story of Dr. Tim Renick and his team of dedicated faculty and staff who have made a real difference to our students. The results in terms of graduation rates and other measures of student success are dramatic over a short amount of time, and have led to the creation of Georgia State’s new National Institute for Student Success. Dr. Renick will be its founding Executive Director beginning November 1, 2020. We wish this National Institute every success going forward.

USG LEADERSHIP UPDATES
Christine Gallant • Professor Emerita of English (CAS) • cgallant@gsu.edu

More changes are on the way for the University System of Georgia (USG), for many of its leaders have decided to step down by next Fall. USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley has announced plans to retire July 1, 2021. The Presidents of three USG universities have announced their imminent retirement plans: President Tim Hynes of Clayton State University, President Steve Dorman of Georgia College & State University, and of course our own President Mark Becker. And in October, 2020, the Regents announced that the interim president of Savannah State University had resigned.

National searches by the Regents are underway for all these positions. Almost immediately, faculty groups began lobbying the search committees for Chancellor and the President of Georgia State to prioritize candidates with certain important qualifications, given the demands of the present time.

So the the United Campus Workers of Georgia (UCWG), comprised of USG faculty and staff, has asked the Regents to seek candidates for Chancellor with backgrounds in classroom instruction and public health.

At Georgia State, the Provost-appointed Task Force for Racial Equality and the Senate Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) both sent November letters to the GSU Search Committee requesting a diverse pool of candidates. The Task Force asked the Committee to consider the “active recruitment of . . . individuals from underrepresented minority groups that reflect the diverse demographics of the university.” (See “GSU’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Initiative,” in EmeriTies, Winter 2021.) And the CDC requested it to look especially for candidates “from underrepresented groups (i.e., women and people of color).”

Stay tuned to EmeriTies for further updates.
NEW EMERITI OF 2020-2021

Welcome to the Emeriti Association! We trust that eventually we will greet you in the flesh as well, at our traditional Holiday Party in December and Valentine’s Luncheon in February as well as our planned events throughout the year. Present emeriti: why not contact former colleagues here via GSU’s GroupWise? To get their email addresses from GroupWise, type in the full name and a list of addresses will appear. Click on the correct one.

ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES
Robert Moore, Associate Dean and Associate Professor Emeritus of Economics.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
David Bottoms, Professor Emeritus of English.
Sandra Dywer, Principal Senior Lecturer Emerita of Philosophy.
Jonathan Herman, Associate Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies.
Pearl McHaney, Professor Emerita of English.
Yi Pan, Regents Professor Emeritus of Computer Science.
Donald Reitzes, Professor Emeritus of Sociology.
Debra Snell, Senior Lecturer Emerita of Applied Linguistics and ESL.
Malinda Snow, Associate Professor Emerita of English.
Wendy Venet, Professor Emerita of History.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
William Curlette, Professor Emeritus of Educational Policy Studies.
Ramona Matthews, Professor Emerita of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.
Barbara Meyers, Associate Professor Emerita of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.
Lynn Hart, Professor Emerita of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.
Walter Thompson, Professor Emeritus of Kinesiology and Health.

COLLEGE OF LAW
Charity Scott, Professor Emerita.
Douglas Yarn, Professor Emeritus.
Julian Juergensmeyer, Professor Emeritus.
Mary Radford, Professor Emerita.
Steven Kaminshine, Dean Emeritus.

PERIMETER COLLEGE
Susan Buchholz, Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing.
Margaret Ehrlich, Professor Emerita of Mathematics.
Paul Gaustad, Associate Professor Emeritus of Humanities.
Thomas Graham, Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science.
Eva Horne, Clinical Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing.
Myung Kim, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry.
Diwana Lowe, Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing.
Jeffrey Portnoy, Professor Emeritus of English.
Tina Stern, Professor Emerita of Cultural and Behavioral Sciences.
Timothy Tarkington, Associate Professor Emeritus of English.
Dennis Tettelbach, Associate Professor Emeritus of English.

ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Pamela Barr, Professor Emerita of Managerial Sciences.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Janice Benario, Associate Professor Emerita, died of natural causes on December 3, 2019, aged 97. She received her Ph. D. in Classics from Johns Hopkins University in 1952, and came to Georgia State University in 1960. Over the next 23 years she initiated our Classics Program now Hellenic Studies. She received a Ford Foundation grant, a Fulbright award to the American Academy in Rome, and in 1982, from the American Philological Association, the prestigious National Teaching Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Classics.

Her academic training in Latin assisted the Allies’ success in the Second World War before she ever came to Georgia State, for she served on the Navy’s code-breaking team called Operation ULTRA from 1943-5. She was awarded the World War II Victory Ribbon, the Atlantic Theater Ribbon, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

Dr. Jacqueline Boles, Professor Emerita of Sociology, died on December 6, 2020. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Georgia in 1973. She published over 40 articles in professional journals, and wrote many chapters in edited volumes.

Dr. Boles was interested in people who engaged in unusual occupations and behaviors, and studied the lives of male, female, and transgender strippers, prostitutes, carnival workers, and gamblers, among others. She was curious about their lifestyle and subculture, but most of all she wanted to tell their stories from their perspective. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, she received major grants from the CDC to study the epidemiological risk factors associated with HIV infection among male and female prostitutes.

The Sociology Department created the Jacqueline Boles Teaching Fellowship in 2000 in her honor.

Dr. Carolyn Kee, Professor Emerita of Sociology and Gerontology, died November 20, 2020, of complications from a fall. She obtained her B.S. in nursing from the University of Rhode Island, M.S. in nursing from Emory University, and Ph.D. in Sociology from Georgia State University. She was a faculty member of the Gerontology Department; and named Associate Dean for Research for the then-College of Health and Human Sciences. For over 30 years she was a faculty member here, teaching and mentoring students, and conducting and publishing research. Dr. Kee had the sensibilities of a nurse and the mind of a scholar. She was smart, insightful, and had a wicked sense of humor. I nod to her New England upbringing. And she was my friend.

— Christine Rosenbloom, Professor Emerita of Nutrition.
REQUEST FOR JIT FUND DONORS...

Donations to the Just-In-Time Fund for Honors College students still are needed in this time of COVID-19. Although most academic meetings and conferences are virtual, there still will be registration fees and the need for financial support for presentation supplies and materials. Gifts to support this fund 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.

JUST-IN-TIME FUND Recipient

Kathleen Baydala Joyner • Director Communications • Honors College
kjoyer@gsu.edu

Could an apple a day really keep the doctor away? What about kale? Inside Professor Rafaela Feresin’s nutrition science lab, Honors College senior Alivia Setka is looking for answers. Her focus is on leafy, green kale, specifically the nutritional differences between kale grown in soil and kale grown directly in nutrient rich water, a style known as hydroponics.

“I chose kale because it’s become a really popular superfood without very much research into why it’s considered that,” she said.

Setka cultivates kale, other salad greens and herbs as a hydroponic farmer for Georgia State’s Leafy Green Machine, located in a converted freight container, just behind Piedmont North. Inside, there are 250 vertical towers — each one with the capacity to hold ten plants — giving Setka the ability to grow thousands of fresh vegetables year round. The hydroponic set-up allows the plants’ roots to receive water and nutrients directly, and whatever water is not immediately absorbed gets recycled and reused. “It’s really opened my eyes to the connections between technology and nature and sustainability,” she said.

Her research involves extracting phytochemicals — micronutrient compounds in plants that can help human bodies combat damage from bacteria, inflammation or cancer — from kale grown in different ways and determining which kind has the most.

“To me, undergraduate research has been very exciting and has helped me further my curiosity,” Setka said. “It’s a way to take what I’m learning from hydroponic farming a step further.” She hopes to further her research in graduate school. Her next step would be inserting phytochemicals extracted from kale into mammal cells to see if the phytochemicals could reverse or prevent or even treat heart disease.

Through the Honors College’s Just-In-Time fund, Setka was able to purchase the supplies she needed to conduct her honors thesis research.

“The funding was extremely important because I needed antibodies and cells and proteins, and without all of that, I wouldn’t have been able to start my research project at all,” Setka said. “And those supplies are actually very expensive. They’re not items that I could pay for as an undergraduate.”

EMERITI AUTHORS

(Emeriti: share your recent publications of new articles or books.)

Frank Whittington writes:
“It has been 12 years since I retired from GSU to take a job at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. I am now the proud holder of two emeritus ranks, still a strange reality for me. After I retired, I continued revising my global aging book. It is now published, so I thought I would send along the citation to let my former Georgia State colleagues know what I’m up to these days.”

VIRTUAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AROHE
Individual membership in the national-wide AROHE (the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) is now open to all of our emeriti, an excellent online resource. (See “Retiree Groups for Educators,” in the Winter 2020 issue of EmeriTies.) Our Emeriti Association is an Organizational Member, so all of our members can become “Bundle Members.” AROHE offers a free trial membership for Bundle Members till June 30, 2021, and a pro-rated membership of $60 annually at: https://www.aroha.org/ Joining AROHE also allows participation in a network of retired faculty and administrators around the country.

Emeritus Ted Wadley is a member of AROHE, and reports: “Due to the pandemic, AROHE postponed its 2020 conference, and will hold a virtual conference in October, 2021. AROHE is going strong online with ideas and resources for dealing with the restrictions and disruptions nowadays. I’ve joined two ‘Idea Exchange Webinars’ in which people talk about their retirement groups, what they had done before the pandemic, and how they’re continuing to engage members without in-person meetings.

“The webinar last September had 43 participants from 32 institutions around North America. The major challenges people said they faced were no in-person activities, difficulty communicating, and learning to use technology such as Zoom. However, they were also having some success with virtual activities like meetings, book clubs, wellness programs, and hobby sharing. We broke out into smaller groups. I was with six other people, and we finished in ‘breakout rooms.’ It was good to talk in a smaller group.”

HONORS COLLEGE
Plans are underway for the 2021 Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference to take place during the week of April 12 as a live, virtual conference, featuring a mix of live presentations, panels and interactive virtual poster sessions. The conference is open to undergraduates from all majors and from across all Georgia State campuses. Details are still being confirmed and will be shared on the GSURC website. (gsurc.honors.gsu.edu)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
Some of you 450 or more emeriti who are quarantining across the continental United States may have stories to tell or wisdom to share for EmeriTies. It’s something to do. Please send any such notes or articles, 100-300 words long, to the editor at cgallant@gsu.edu.

OUR REDESIGNED WEBSITE AT http://emeriti.gsu.edu
Our website has just been updated, with so much to offer that it’s listed here under “Events and Activities.” Webmaster Emerita Sandra Owen and her student assistants from the Honors College, Kiara Henry and Sophia Ragan, have created many opportunities for virtual participation by the viewer. Emerita Owen unveils it here.
Hated retirement. I'd rather eat toxic waste than continue in the wasted twilight zone known as retirement. But this morning it dawned on me: I love being quarantined—and am starting to like retirement!

Don't get me wrong. It's not that I enjoy the danger of the virus, the isolation from family and friends, the ever-present worries of who is infected, the elementary trials of obtaining toilet paper and fine craft beers. No. I love the personal revelations and newfound comforts that only this costly virus and forced isolation could have afforded me.

First, my wife and I live in a pretty big house. Since the kids have left, it has seemed even bigger. I grew up in a painfully cramped Brooklyn apartment; and when I moved into this house, I didn't spread out but continued to live in a New York apartment style. Now the pandemic and subsequent quarantining have made me discover enclaves, not only in the house but within myself that I never knew existed.

I turned one of my garages into a pseudo studio where I paint old wooden shipping pallets, leftover interests from an earlier career of eight years as a New York longshoreman. I do some elementary woodwork, lift weights, look in my strategically placed mirror, and drink. I love it. I have discovered a beautiful, if modest, way of being quarantined. I love my wife, my kids, my friends, and the Brooklyn neighborhood I left behind. I am discovering that I never knew existed.

I am rediscovering a beautiful, if modest, way of being quarantined. I love my wife, my kids, my friends, and the Brooklyn neighborhood I left behind. I am discovering that I never knew existed.