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## WRITING A BOOK DURING COVID

**Susan Easterbrooks** • Professor Emerita of Education • [seasterbrooks@gsu.edu](mailto:seasterbrooks@gsu.edu)

**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." (<https://www.amazon.com/Time-Ela-Gandhi-Susan-Easterbrooks/dp/0996237186/>)

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.



# CHAIR'S COLUMN

**WILLIAM FELDHAUS**

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## 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](mailto:cgallant@gsu.edu)

**M**ore 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.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*EmeriTies*: By Emeriti and For Emeriti

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**T**his year, the University System of Georgia (USG) has appointed a Task Force to examine the success of its Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs), first given to retired USG faculty and administrators in 2016. They will compare the present balances remaining in accounts at year's end and the level of premiums used (such as Medicare, Supplemental Advantage, and drug plans) with those of 2016. It seems possible that they're thinking of reducing the HRAs. Our HRAs may be at risk of being cut if they aren't used.

They're easy to use, and cover so much: health supplies, Medicare and health insurance premiums, hospital costs, and more. See our webpage for information on what's covered and how to be reimbursed. I've set up automatic direct deposit reimbursement for my monthly health insurance and Medicare premiums through my HRA; and, as I noted in the Fall 2020 issue of *EmeriTies*, was grateful for this financial resource last April after I made a sudden crash landing onto Kroger's parking lot. I encourage all emeriti — use your HRAs!

# EMERITIES

## Events & Activities

### 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 Dwyer**, 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.

# EMERITIES

## Events & News



JIT Fund Recipient **Alivia Setka** and her indoor growing lights.

## JUST-IN-TIME FUND Recipient

**Kathleen Baydala Joyner** • Director Communications • Honors College  
[kjoyner@gsu.edu](mailto:kjoyner@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."

## 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.

## 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."*

### Frank Whittington.

Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Gerontology ([fwhittin@gmu.edu](mailto:fwhittin@gmu.edu)). *Global Aging: Comparative Perspectives on Aging and the Life Course*, revised 2nd edition, by Frank J. Whittington, Suzanne R. Kunkel, & Kate de Medeiros. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 2021.

# VIRTUAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## AROHE

Individual membership in the nation-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.arohe.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](https://gsurc.honors.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.

**JUST A CLICK AWAY**  
by Sandra Owen, Emerita, webmaster

**HOME.** Members’ academic stories; COVID CORNER with emeriti postings of their intellectual, creative, and social pandemic activities.

**ABOUT US.** History of the Emeriti Association; Emeriti Association Benefits and Resources with links to various Wellness and Aging resources; the Retiree Health Exchange with links to USG Retiree Benefits, OneUSG Connect, USG Aon Health Exchange, and HRA Reimbursements; and link to Georgia State’s Campus Construction Plans.

**PEOPLE.** Lists of emeriti and emeriti Regents’ Professors arranged by college; the Emeriti Coordinating Board; and Photo Gallery of emeriti.

**NEWSLETTER.** The Winter 2021 and Fall 2020 issues of *EmeriTies*; and a link to ScholarWorks, with an archive of former issues.

**GIVING.** Programs supported by the Emeriti Association, including the Just-In-Time Fund for Honors College students.

**EVENTS.** Virtual events, listed by college.

## 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](mailto:cgallant@gsu.edu).

## EMERITI ASSOCIATION

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Atlanta, GA  
Permit No. 152



Paul Gaustad in his studio.

ated 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 new craft beers. No, I love the personal revelations and new found 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 rediscovered a beautiful conversant, and supportive wife. I'm even taking piano lessons. As with many things, I suck at most of these activities (*well, maybe not the drinking*) but I have discovered that it's *all right to suck*.

Any way, the virus sucks—but the quarantining has had a profound positive impact on me. I often say that it's important to look at counter-arguments (*an important step in critical thinking*), so my counter-argument to the reader is: look hard, find something to do that you enjoy, find your smile—and then consider craft beer.

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## LOVING QUARANTINE

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