



Volunteerism on Staten Island

Bonnie Fritz, Assistant Professor Emerita, Counseling, College of Education

Georgia State University will always hold a very meaningful place in our hearts. The special bonds we formed with Georgia State students, faculty and staff continue with us “up north” in Staten Island, known as New York City’s Borough of Parks, at the College of Staten Island (CSI) where emeritus Bill Fritz is president.

We feel at home here in many ways because Staten Island shares the value of service to community we found at Georgia State. Perhaps the best example of this spirit occurred in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy when we were able to join neighbors across the island working alongside our dedicated elected officials of both parties.

During Sandy, the storm surge poured onto the eastern shore of Staten Island, taking victims and decimating homes, property and the lives of thousands. It crippled this beachfront community of longtime residents and bustling shops, as well as many other parts of New York City.

I found my volunteer role as a front-line responder. A friend of mine from Atlanta, Nell Jones, came to New York, and together we worked out of a distribution center near one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods on the island, Midland Beach. We went door to door, visited with the families whose lives and homes had

been instantly uprooted, and helped to provide residents with basic food items and cleaning supplies. My little Smart car was able to navigate the streets filled with debris, allowing us to provide for those in the hardest-to-reach areas in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

On campus, we worked with many response units such as CSI’s social work program and Student Life. Hundreds of student volunteers sprang into action, helping with the cleanup and distribution and preparation of food, as well as providing solace and relief to members of our college community, many of whom were directly affected by the surge.

Bill, along with other members of the college administration, worked with elected officials, the Board of Realtors and local faith-based organizations to arrange the setup of an international volunteer coordination center. When CNN’s Anderson Cooper donated 128 turkeys in appreciation of one of our student volunteers, Bill and I joined our college team and delivered the turkeys to multiple support centers and shelters serving those with the greatest need.

Bill’s major role in storm recovery also took a different turn. Before the storm hit, Bill and a team of scientists at the college had modeled storm surge impact to New York harbor



Bonnie Fritz delivering goods

at the college’s High Performance Computational Center. They could not have anticipated that Mother Nature was crafting her recipe for a brutal new storm that had many of the same ingredients as their “worst-case” scenario.

A week before they were scheduled to present their findings to the Geological Society of America (GSA), Mother Nature hurled her fury at New York with little rain but an immense storm surge. New York was unexpectedly flooded from the bottom up. Bill’s team had projected water-level impact accurate to within inches, validating the methodology with a sudden surge of reality and creating scientific data of interest to the GSA and community leaders.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

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Spring and summer were busy for emeriti. Many of you were traveling, some were gardening, some were rehabbing, and the list goes on. Thank you for sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us in newsletter articles, conversations and emails.

This summer the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) held its biennial conference at the University of Minnesota. AROHE is a member network focused on developing a culture that promotes retirees' continuing contributions to their campuses and community life. Our Emeriti Association is a member of AROHE. Dave Ewert (past chair for Georgia State's Emeriti Association and Board member for AROHE) and Lynn Hogue (Board member for the Georgia State Emeriti Coordinating Committee) were the Georgia State representatives to the AROHE conference. Three Georgia university retirement organizations made presentations – Georgia State University, Kennesaw University and Emory University. We are well represented as a state and for the university.

It's the start of a new year. I've counted the beginning of school as the start of the official new year for six decades, since starting

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Phonographs: A Look Back

Dennis Thompson, Professor Emeritus, Educational Psychology and Special Education, College of Education

I have had an interest in early phonographs and recordings ever since an uncle acquired a 1919 Columbia Grafonola when I was 11 years old. I began my collection by visiting thrift stores in my hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, where for five cents I could acquire a 1920s-vintage copy of a Caruso, McCormack or Heifetz recording, often in pretty worn condition.

Today, I have a collection of more than 3,000 records spanning from the 1890s to the 1930s, and I have examples of most formats in use during that time. I now acquire records through auctions that specialize in antique recordings. I concentrate on recordings of critical performances and leading performers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Recent additions include a recording of Ellen Terry (1847-1928), a leading Shakespearean actress who made a few brief recordings of her work late in life, and a 1903 recording by Joseph Jefferson (1829-1905), who introduced Washington Irving's Rip Van Winkle to the stage in the 1850s.

The recording industry advanced rapidly after commercial recording began in 1890. The first cylinders were made of soft wax (known today as "brown wax" cylinders) and were almost entirely targeted for coin-in-the-slot machines found in amusement parks and arcades. The first records we would recognize as a "78" (the format that dominated the market until the 1950s) were introduced by German-American inventor Emile Berliner in 1894. These were referred to at the time as plates, or slightly later as discs. In the 1890s both of these formats had one significant limitation, which make them very rare today: Neither format had developed the technology suitable for making large numbers of copies. In some cases a master would wear out after only making 25 duplicates.

However, two things happened in 1902. By then both formats could be

duplicated enough to supply a mass market. Second, the Italian tenor Enrico Caruso made his first recordings in Milan. Caruso's efforts became an immediate success (which is why, contrary to popular belief, most of his records are not particularly rare today). Caruso was also one of the first celebrities to make records, and his status as an artist was an early incentive for others of the era to follow.

In the early 20th century, cylinder records began to fall into decline, and Berliner's disc became the dominant format. By 1901 his company had become known as the Victor Talking Machine Company, and in 1929 it merged with RCA to become RCA Victor. In 1925 the technology for making records underwent a major change when it transitioned from acoustical to electrical recording. Until that time all records were made



A Victor V from 1906

by collecting sound by means of a large amplifying horn in a cramped studio. With the advent of electrical recording, microphones and amplifiers using vacuum tubes came into use and the frequency response more than doubled. For the first time, entire symphony orchestras could be recorded, along with live performances such as full-length operas, right from the stage.

Artists whose careers stretched back into the 19th century came out of retirement to take advantage of the new technology. One example was George Henschel (1850-1934), who from 1881 to 1884 had been the first conductor of the Boston Symphony. His only recording as a conductor was made in London in 1926, and a copy of this recording is in my collection. I am looking for a library or an archive in which to donate the collection along with a number of antique machines. One of these is at our own Georgia State University. I am hoping the next generation of students will find them as interesting as I have.

BOOK REVIEW *L. Lynn Hogue, Professor Emeritus, College of Law*

Faculty Retirement: Best Practices for Navigating the Transition, edited by Clair A. Van Ummersen, Jean M. McLaughlin and Lauren J. Duranleau (Stylus 2014).

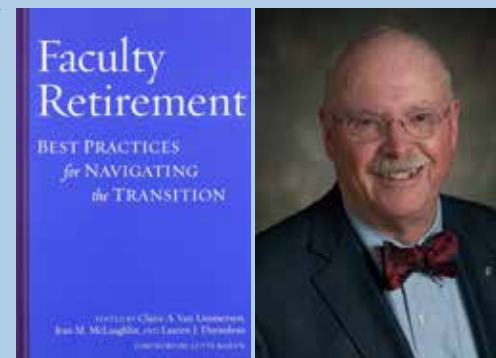
This book presents models from 15 colleges and universities, identified by the American Council on Education through a competition funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, recognizing their innovative and effective ways to help faculty transition into retirement. It offers clear messages and "best practices" guidance for institutions — human resources personnel, senior administrators and department chairs — as well as for faculty members. The 15 institutions broadly represent three Carnegie institutional classifications (doctoral/research universities, master's large universities and baccalaureate).

It is clear from the institutional experiences reported in the book that retirement from college or university teaching or research differs from retirement from other callings. For example, at the threshold of retirement, teachers may experience anxiety over the possible loss of intellectual engagement, contributions to the community and ties to colleagues and students, a "cognitive recognition and emotional resonance" resulting from being deeply invested in an institution. Most teachers are drawn to the profession by personal, non-economic choices. Institutions can address this anxiety and profit from the human capital those teachers represent by recognizing the value of retired faculty members

to the academic community and fostering the continued engagement of those who wish it.

One of the strengths of the book is its inclusion of specific, practical steps faculty members and institutions can take to prepare for transitioning into retirement. For faculty, these include such steps as seeking out a retired faculty member to serve as a mentor through the transition, joining retired teacher groups and staying engaged with the institution through events, and using facilities such as the library and fitness center. For institutions, these include providing financial planning assistance, developing transparent communications about transition policies and programs, offering part-time teaching opportunities to interested faculty and sponsoring retiree groups.

A number of forces, legal, demographic and economic, have interacted to raise awareness of the need for examining retirement practices in higher education and were the impetus for this volume. First, federal law outlawing age discrimination effectively ended compulsory retirement (generally, mandatory retirement at age 70). Now, faculty members tell their institutions when they will retire rather than the other way around. Planning for retirement became not only an individual but an institutional concern. Larger numbers of faculty



moved toward the age of retirement as the tail of the Silent Generation and the beginnings of the Baby Boomers completed 20 to 30 years of teaching or more. And the Great Recession that began in 2008 affected retirement plans by wiping out anticipated wealth and lowering house values, which some had looked to as a retirement nest egg. Collectively, these forces have restructured thinking about transitioning into retirement for many in the academy. For those seeking insight, this book is more than helpful.

Of special interest to Georgia State emeriti will be the scattered nuggets in the book addressing their circumstances, the special resource they represent to the scholarly community because of their likelihood to "continue to produce scholarly work, represent the college to alumnae and give lectures at other universities." At the same time, emeriti groups at model institutions have successfully opened their programs to other retired faculty and staff to share enrichment opportunities with others.

A most gratifying aspect of the book was the number of "best practices" which are already in place at Georgia State. Good to know.

Emeriti Association Leadership for 2014-2015

The nominating committee of the Emeriti Association Coordinating Board recommended the re-election of the current officers of the association and the Board approved. Re-elected were Mildred (Missy) Cody, School of Nursing and Health Professions, chairman; Harry Dangel, College of Education, vice-chairman; L. Lynn Hogue, College of Law, secretary; John Hogan, College of Business, treasurer; and Rankin Cooter, College of Education, immediate past chairman. Teryl Frey, College of Arts and Sciences, assumes

the position of activities chairman. All the other committee chairmen remain the same — Harry Dangel, membership; Dave Ewert, College of Business, GA-HERO (Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations) and AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education); Glen Abney, College of Arts and Sciences, bylaws; Anne Page Mosby, library, Author Series; Sandra Owen, College of Education, website; and Pat Sartain, Alumni Association, Emerities newsletter.

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The team became integral to the planning for future events. Bill presented his five-point plan to rebuild and strengthen New York to the city and state, gaining national attention for the college's research in the New Yorker, on Huffington Post, WABC-TV and the Weather Channel as a panel presenter at Pratt Institute, and as a keynote speaker for Crain's Rebuilding New York conference. The college has also hosted a planning forum focused on rebuilding with resiliency and been active in the governor's planning group, where Bill introduced the practice of warning signs similar to those posted along northwestern coasts.

Two years later, the island is still punctuated by stark reminders of the devastation, and the commitment Bill and I feel toward renewing and protecting our many diverse communities grows. The work we valued at Georgia State now continues at CSI and across New York as we rebuild for a more secure future.

CHAIR'S COLUMN

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kindergarten at age 3. Even in Atlanta's heat, you can feel the start of fall activities, among them the Emeriti events. We will be back in school in September with our author series presentation and introduction to the newest library go-to area, CURVE. We'll continue in October with our welcome from the provost, State of the University presentation from the President and benefits update. We'll host in November another author presentation, and in December we'll celebrate the holidays with an Emeriti reception and the School of Music Holiday Gala. It will be a big year, and your Coordinating Board is looking forward to sharing it with you.

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EMERITIES

Events & Activities

2014 Upcoming Events:

We will send all emeriti invitations with complete information about each event closer to the event date. Updated information will also appear on the Emeriti website, emeriti.gsu.edu.

■ SEPTEMBER

Author Series

Wednesday, September 10 • 11 a.m. • Library South
8th Floor, Colloquial Room

Start the new academic year with a book conversation with the next featured Georgia State faculty author. Dr. Glenn Eskew will talk about his recent book, "Johnny Mercer: Southern Songwriter for the World." He will be joined by Kevin Fleming, University Library music archivist, who will present items from the Johnny Mercer Archive.

CURVE Event

Wednesday, September 10 • 12:30 p.m. • Library South
8th Floor, Colloquial Room

Emeriti will enjoy a light reception and presentation of CURVE: Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment, followed by the official grand-opening ceremony.

■ OCTOBER

Benefits Presentation

October 2014 • Details to come

Annual Address by Provost Palm

Oct. 8 • 1 p.m. • Location to be announced.

Emeriti will enjoy a light reception and hear Provost Risa Palm's annual university update followed by the State of the University Address by President Mark Becker.

■ NOVEMBER

Author Series

Date TBD • 11 a.m. • Library South, 8th floor
Colloquium Room

■ DECEMBER

Emeriti Holiday Party

Dec. 7 • 1 p.m. • Rialto Theater, SunTrust Suite

After the holiday reception, guests are invited to attend the 17th annual Georgia State Music Department Holiday Concert. Tickets can be purchased at www.rialtocenter.org or by calling 404-413-9849.

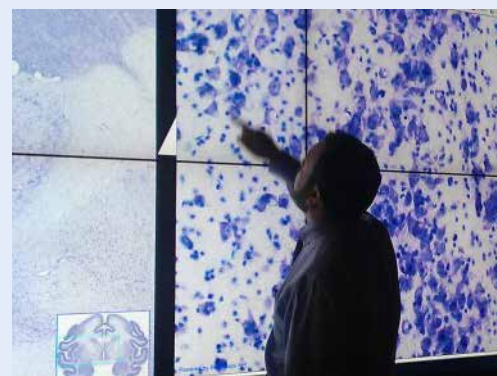
Emeriti Happenings



Emeriti listen intently at the CDC tour



Bill Fritz gives a presentation on storm recovery



CURVE

EMERITIES

Events & Activities

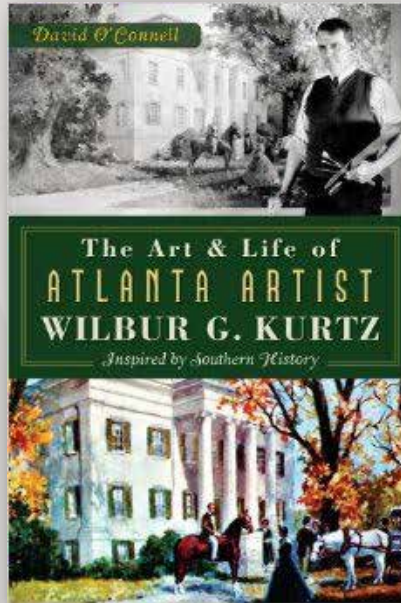
RECAP: AUTHOR SERIES

By Anne Page Mosby, professor emerita,
University Library

DAVID O'CONNELL

Book: *The Art & Life of Atlanta Artist
Wilbur G. Kurtz: Inspired by Southern
History*

Timing for the most recently featured book discussion by a Georgia State author couldn't have been better. At the same time commemorations for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Georgia were being planned, David O'Connell, professor emeritus of French, described his study of Wilbur Kurtz, the transplanted Northerner who became Georgia's preeminent artist-historian. Kurtz was obsessed with authenticity and technical detail in the subject matter he found most interesting: the antebellum South, the Great Locomotive Chase of 1862 and the Civil War. As an authority on Atlanta history, Kurtz was selected by Margaret Mitchell to be technical adviser and artistic director for the movie version of "Gone with the Wind." O'Connell proposed the idea of gathering much of Kurtz's artistic accomplishments into a new local museum, allowing a wider audience to know and appreciate his work.



In Memoriam

Joseph Perrin, professor emeritus of Art and Design and nationally recognized artist, died April 4, 2014. After receiving a degree in fine arts from the University of Georgia, he received a Danforth grant to do postgraduate work in drawing, painting and sculpture at UCLA. He joined the Georgia State faculty in 1953 and later established the School of Art and Design. During his 30 years of leadership, the Georgia State Art Department expanded from a one-studio program with 40 students to a nationally respected program serving thousands of students.

His paintings are in the permanent collection of the High Museum of Art, the Coca-Cola collection, Mead collection, the Georgia Museum of Art, the Carter Presidential Center and the Metropolitan Museum in Recife, Brazil. Promoting the arts in Atlanta with great zeal, he was president of the Atlanta Arts Festival, worked with the Atlanta Civic Design Commission, chaired the MARTA Arts Council, assisted in planning the original Atlanta Underground and made many other contributions to the arts community.

RECAP: CDC DAVID J. SENCER MUSEUM TOUR – Jean Ellen Jones, professor emerita, College of Arts and Sciences

Seventeen emeriti submitted to multiple ID checks and a car search on May 20 to visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) headquarters on Clifton Road in Atlanta. Led by two retired-scientist docents, the group gathered at the CDC David Sencer Museum for an introductory video and tour of two levels of the museum. Exhibits illustrated how CDC scientists used detective work, technology and science to crack mystery diseases such as Legionnaires' disease and the 1950s polio epidemic. With

visitor access to dangerous materials labs highly restricted, the group was nonetheless able to get an idea of that scene through a video of scientists working during the 9/11 anthrax scare. A highlight of the trip was arranged by emeritus Glenn Abney, whose neighbor, Bill Mavin, director of the CDC Emergency Operations Center, volunteered to take the group to that nearby building. Standing in the space often seen on TV during a crisis, Georgia State emeriti watched CDC workers monitoring the

MERS outbreak in the Middle East and an Ebola outbreak in Africa. It was quite a finish for a highly informative afternoon.



CDC group tour