



## GCRA July 2025 Newsletter & Updates

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### Note from the Chair

Welcome to the 2025-2026 academic year! As the incoming Chair of the Georgia College Retiree Association Executive Council (GCRAEC), I am pleased to share our latest newsletter.

A huge thank you to Dr. Sandy Gangstead for her leadership as our chair. She will continue her leadership and service in the role of Past Chair.

I would also like to thank members of the GCRAEC and University Advancement (UA) for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our retirement organization. They work year-round to develop documentation, events, and newsletters to support our association. UA also continues to provide us with essential financial and resource support. Kelly Pope, our UA liaison, also actively participates in the regularly scheduled meetings of the GCRAEC.

This year, we will begin to use a UGA Listserv for our communications and the sharing of information, which should provide the ability to share more information outside of a newsletter. Additional information will be shared in August.

Our spring meeting yielded great comments and suggestions to improve the GCRA. We look forward to incorporating these ideas and will collaborate with departments to provide more information for retirees. Suggestions included sending out more newsletters, adding a spotlight on retirees, a brag board and an in-memoriam section. To accomplish this, we need content from our retirees. We know our retirees are doing fun things and have news to share! Send your submissions to:  
[cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu](mailto:cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu).

I look forward to the new year and hope you will be able to join us at events. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me ([cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu](mailto:cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu)) or any member of the GCRAEC know.

Best Wishes,

**Cindy Bowen**

**Chair, Georgia College Retiree Association**

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## Volunteer for the Cat Crew

Move-In Day is coming! CatCrew volunteers are needed to help welcome students and their families to Georgia College & State University and assist more than 1,500 students move into their campus homes.

**Central Campus Move-In Day – Wednesday, August 13 from 7:45-noon.**

**West Campus Move-In Day – Thursday, August 14 from 7:45-noon.**

Volunteers are needed to assist with checking paperwork, distributing water, providing directions and most importantly, helping unload students' cars and get their belongings into their new rooms.

If you can assist the CatCrew on Wednesday, Aug. 13, and/or Thursday, Aug. 14, please complete the sign-up sheets at: [www.gcsu.edu/housing/cat-crew](http://www.gcsu.edu/housing/cat-crew).

Volunteer for Cat Crew

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## Call for Nominations for the Hemphill-Sallstrom Faculty Staff Honors Award

The Hemphill-Sallstrom Faculty-Staff Honors Award recognizes retired faculty and staff who have provided outstanding service to Georgia College & State University. This award is presented annually at the Celebration of Excellence Ceremony to at most one retired faculty member and at most one retired staff member. Nominees shall have been retired for at least one year.

Award recipients will identify at least one student organization in which they have an interest to receive a financial award to use to support one of the organization's projects. Award recipients will receive a certificate and have their names engraved on a permanent plaque, which is on display in Heritage Hall.

Please send your nominee's name, along with a minimum of two paragraphs describing their outstanding service to the College, to Paul Jahr ([paul.jahr@gcsu.edu](mailto:paul.jahr@gcsu.edu)), Chair of the Nominating Committee. The deadline for nominations is September 1.

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## April Meeting Recap

The GCRA Spring Meeting followed the Celebration of Excellence ceremony. The meeting included brunch and social time with the newest Hemphill-Sallstrom Award Winners:

**Faculty: Dr. Lucretia Coleman | Staff: Mr. Artis Williamson**

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Seth Walker and Sandy recognized the newest honorees. In addition to the honoree recognition, Seth dedicated the official Hemphill-Sallstrom Award plaque. The plaque will have a permanent home in Heritage Hall.



Sandy asked participants to work in groups to discuss ways the GCRA can best serve retirees. The sessions yielded great ideas.



### Feedback from the April Meeting

- Keep retirees connected to the university
- Keep retirees up to date on events
- Recognize GCRA members
- Use multiple resources for communication with retirees: Facebook, email, posting newsletters, announcements on Frontpage; promote retiree updates or news on the website or newsletters
- Spotlight retirees, brag board, in memoriam, etc.
- Offer more small group functions and face-to-face meetings, lunches or coffees
- Benefits information and retiree perks



Dr. Dan Nadler shared updates from Student life and President Cathy Cox shared campus updates.

### ElevateU Conference

In May, Staff Council and Human Resources invited the GCRA to participate in the ElevateU staff conference. A presentation developed by Cindy Bowen, Barbara Funke, Sandy Gangstead, and Carol Ward focused on planning, preparing and enjoying a healthy retirement. The GCRA presentation is available on our website.

### Benefits of Being a Retiree

Did you know. . .as a Georgia College retiree, we have:

- A discounted membership fee (\$25 per month!) at the Wellness and Recreation Center, allowing access to the indoor pool and all recreation equipment



- Continued use of your @[gcsu.edu](https://www.gcsu.edu) email
- Free tours of the Old Governor's Mansion, Sallie Ellis Davis House, and Andalusia
- Invitations to campus events such as the Fall Benefits Fair, athletic events catered to us, and our annual Retiree Association meeting
- Access to the Russell Library
- Discounted tickets to theatre events, dance events, musical events, and other campus activities
- Discounts at the Georgia College Bookstore
- Membership in the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)

Full details on these benefits are on our website: [www.gcsu.edu/retireeassociation](https://www.gcsu.edu/retireeassociation)

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## Spotlight on Georgia College History by Dr. Bob Wilson



GCSU is fortunate to have many of our campus buildings named for distinguished faculty and administrators. One of the best examples is the Maxwell Student Union, often called by students simply the 'Max.' Few probably know that the "Max" commemorates one of the most popular teachers that ever graced our university—Mary Thomas Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell came to GSCW in 1936 from her home in Elberton. She taught in the English Department, but her administrative talents led her into campus-wide roles. For many years, she supervised student teaching, and from 1952-1956, she served as Dean of Women.

Maxwell was passionate about teaching and a colleague remarked that whatever course she taught, she made it her own. She had a special interest in George Bernard Shaw. She was the only child of Thomas Martin Maxwell and Janie Hulme—the Thomas in her name was her father's first name. She was popularly known as "Tommie" but the students would never call her that in person. To the Jessies, Ms. Maxwell was the embodiment of poise and grace. She combined a quick wit with gentility, and to quote another faculty member, she "personified the spirit and ideals of the college." She provided a role model for her time and was especially interested in helping freshmen girls successfully navigate their new surroundings. Maxwell lived in Beeson Hall and never married, though many of the students thought that she and an equally popular English professor, Ed Dawson, would tie the knot. Among her many activities, Tommie Maxwell advised The Corinthian, the student literary magazine. In 1944-45, the student editor of The Corinthian was Mary Flannery O'Connor, and the accompanying picture shows Mary Thomas Maxwell standing just behind O'Connor.

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## Events on the Horizon

Here are the anticipated events for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Details will be shared when events are confirmed and finalized.

- Fall Retiree Get Together - September/October
- Benefits Fair – September/October
- President Cox's Holiday Brunch - November/December

- State of the University - February
  - Homecoming – February
  - Celebration of Excellence with a retiree reception following the event - April
  - Spring Retiree Get Together and Meeting – May
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## **GCRA Executive Council 2025 - 2026**

**Mike Augustine, Cindy Bowen, Ken Farr, Sandy Gangstead, Robin Harris, Paul Jahr, Kelly Pope, Craig Turner, Carol Ward, Artis Williamson and Bob Wilson**

### **Website**

[gcsu.edu/retireeassociation](https://gcsu.edu/retireeassociation)

### **Facebook**

Georgia College Retiree Association

### **Email**

[gcra@gcsu.edu](mailto:gcra@gcsu.edu)

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Thank you to University Advancement for their assistance and support to the GCRA and the production of our newsletter.

For assistance or information regarding the Georgia College Retiree Association or information in this newsletter, please contact the GCRA at [gcra@gcsu.edu](mailto:gcra@gcsu.edu) or Cindy Bowen at [cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu](mailto:cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu)

Please also visit our website at [www.gcsu.edu/retireeassociation](https://www.gcsu.edu/retireeassociation) for additional information

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