



GCRA: January Newsletter 2026

Happy New Year!

We're pleased to announce that Dave Groseclose has joined the Georgia College Retiree Association (GCRA) Executive Council. Dave brings extensive experience in Facilities and Campus Administration and remains an active supporter of the University. Please join us in welcoming him.

The President's Holiday Brunch was a vibrant event filled with engaging conversations and good food. In President Cox's absence, Dr. Seth Walker welcomed attendees and provided updates. We included a few of the photos at the end of the newsletter.

As the Spring Semester is well underway, we are excited to share several upcoming annual events. And, as Georgia College retirees, you are invited to attend any or all of them!

February

President Cox will share the State of the University address in Russell Auditorium on February 6.

The Alumni Welcome Center will host Biscuits & Brew for local alumni and alumni employees on February 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Homecoming and Alumni Weekend – February 20 and 21

Please visit: <https://www.gcsu.edu/alumni/homecoming> for more details and to register.

The next Usery Forum on Leadership will be in the Magnolia Ballroom from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. on February 23. The presenter is Chris Bradford, President, Morehead-Cain Foundation, Founder and Chair, African Leadership Academy. Registration is required for in-person and virtual attendance. Registration information will be available on their website closer to the event. Reminders and updates will be posted on our website and the GCRA list.

[Homecoming Registration & Details](#)

April

The Celebration of Excellence will be on April 17 in Russell Auditorium. As part of this special event, the 2026 recipients of the prestigious Hemphill-Sallstrom Faculty and Staff Award will be announced. Dr. Paul Jahr recently visited Dr. John Sallstrom, where he took this photo of Dr. Sallstrom proudly holding the Hemphill-Sallstrom Award plaque. We hope you will be able to join us as the ceremony honors this year's recipients.



May

We are working on plans for our Spring event in May. Additional details will be shared on our [website](#), GCRA list, and [Front Page](#).

Member Benefits

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to exercise more? Retirees can join the Wellness Recreation Center for \$25 a month!

GCSU Retiree Membership is available to faculty/staff who have retired from GCSU. There are two payment options. All GCSU Retiree Memberships are \$25/month.

For full details, visit [Wellness Recreation Memberships – GCSU Retirees](#)

GCSU Email Users

If you retained your work email, please check for the email from GCSU Information Security about the GCSU Spring 2026 Required Information Security Awareness Training. The email contains the information needed to complete the training. Following USG policy, GCSU performs semi-annual Information Security Awareness training required of everyone with an account (faculty, staff, retirees, contractors, and student workers). The training must be **completed by the end of the day on Friday, March 6th**. If you need help accessing the training, contact [AskIT](#) for assistance.

If interested in learning more about why Universities are particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks, this article from Campus Safety provides a great summary:

<https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/insights/why-schools-and-universities-are-cybercrime-hotbeds/173326/>

Spotlight on Retirees

Our retirees continue to make remarkable contributions and pursue exciting new adventures in retirement. Do you have a retirement journey or achievement you'd like to share, or do you know a fellow retiree whose story deserves the spotlight? We invite you to submit your experiences and recommendations to ggra@gcsu.edu.

Spotlight on Georgia College History by Dr. Bob Wilson



Georgia College & State University recently received a nine-million-dollar gift from the estate of Dr. Gertrude Erlich, a 1943 graduate of GCSW. The gift provides need-based scholarship and housing support. Gertrude Ehrlich came to our campus in 1939 as one of the first international students, an Austrian refugee from Hitler. She went on to become a figure of national prominence in the field of mathematics.

Erlich's mentor at our college was Dr. Sara Nelson, one of our most distinguished faculty. Sara Nelson came from Oglethorpe, Georgia. Like so many rural girls from South Georgia, she was able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by our college. Sara was nurtured by Alice Napier, the woman who built our math department. Nelson graduated from Georgia State College for Women in 1926 with a major in mathematics. She joined the faculty in 1930 and worked for many years with Alice Napier to build a first-rate math curriculum. Sara's own area of interest was in projective geometry, although work in higher math did not preclude her from becoming a strong advocate for programs in math education. President Guy Wells supported Nelson's desire to pursue a Ph.D. at Cornell. She received her degree in 1939 in the field of algebraic geometry and algebraic analysis.

In the early 1940s, Sara Nelson took the reins from her mentor, Alice Napier, who was retiring. Like Napier and other faculty leaders, Sara Nelson was a staunch supporter of the YWCA and by 1945 was also serving as assistant registrar of the college. In the 50s and 60s, she took the lead in developing math and science workshops for secondary teachers, in response to the "space race" with the Soviet Union. As Dr. Edward Dawson, one of the authors of the history of Georgia College wrote, "...until her retirement in 1968, she was the guiding spirit of the math department and indeed of the entire woman's college." Her legacy is sustained through the math students who annually benefit from the Sara Nelson scholarship.

GCRA Group Listserv Reminder

The GCRA Executive Council uses the GCRA listserv to improve communication with retirees. We were forced to find a solution as increased email security features targeted the bulk messages from our individual email accounts to be marked as Spam or Junk. Options available through GCSU were limited and required us to meet University guidelines. While University Advancement was very accommodating in sharing messages, it wasn't a good solution. The listserv platform supports two-way group communication. Any

member may share relevant news with retirees. An update has been made on the Reply All options. It will now include the email address for the list and the poster. If you want to respond to the poster only, you can delete the list address.

If you are not already receiving our messages and would like to subscribe, please email GCRA-request@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU with the subject line "Subscribe" and include your full name and retirement date in the message field. Any email address may be used.

Events on the Horizon

Here are the anticipated events for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. We will share additional information on our [website](#) and GCRA list as events are confirmed and finalized. We would love to see you back on campus for any or all of these events - retirees are welcome!

- ~ State of the University | February 6 | Russell Auditorium | 2:00 p.m.
- ~ Alumni Welcome Center Biscuits & Brew | February 18 | 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- ~ Homecoming and Alumni Weekend | February 20-21, 2026
- ~ Celebration of Excellence | April 17 | Russell Auditorium
- ~ Spring GCRA Get Together | May

Campus Engagement Opportunities

[User Forum on Leadership](#) - Registration is required for in-person and virtual attendance.

[TEDxGeorgiaCollege](#) - retirees can get discount tickets by contacting us: gcra@gcsu.edu

[Learning in Retirement](#)

[62 or Older Program](#)

[Continuing and Professional Education](#)

We Would Value Your Input

Short Google Docs feedback form to share your thoughts with the GCRA Executive Council.

[Feedback Form](#)

Website

gcsu.edu/retireeassociation

Email

gcra@gcsu.edu

GCRA Executive Council 2025 - 2026

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

Scenes from the President's Holiday Brunch



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 gcura@gcsu.edu or Cindy Bowen at cindy.bowen@gcsu.edu

Please also visit our website at www.gcsu.edu/retireeassociation for additional information

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