



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



KSU New Retirees Ceremony 2024

On April 10, 2024, Kennesaw State University held its annual Retirement Ceremony. Sixty faculty and staff members, retiring in the 2023-24 year, were honored for their service and dedication to Kennesaw State University. We welcome our newest retirees! [Click here for a recap of the ceremony.](#)

Momoh Agbomire

Lead Groundskeeper

Ron "Ronald" Anderson

Technical Director, Event AV Tech

Judyth Barnes

Office Manager

Donna Barrett

Supervisor, VA Certifying Official

Diana Baughman

Lab Coordinator and Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing

David Baugher

Senior Institutional Research Analyst

Melea Benavides

Administrative Assistant

Harriet Bessette

Professor of Inclusive Education and Educational Leadership

Paula Bridges

Accountant

Donald "Ray" Burgos

Director, Design Services

William Carpenter

Professor of Architecture

Sandra Cobb

Senior Business Operations Manager

Judith Cole

Senior Lecturer of Music

James Cook

HVAC Technician

Jeffrey Delaney

Interim Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

Bill Diong

Interim Assistant Dean of Research and Professor of Systems Engineering

John Dziejowski

Events Coordinator

Molenda Elem

Marketing and Communications Specialist

Brenda Farrell

Degree Certifier

Florence Farley

Accounting Assistant

Susan Flinchum

Administrative Assistant

Jose Garrido

Professor of Computer Science and Information Systems

John Gentile

Professor of Performance Studies and Communication

William Gillespie

Associate Professor of Political Science

Dale Gooch

Supervisor, Custodial Services

Chan Ham

Professor of Mechatronics Engineering

Leslie Hankey

Lecturer of Technical Communication

Bernadette Haynes

Police Lieutenant

George Johnson

Lead Service Team Associate

Ping Johnson

Professor of Health Promotion and Physical Education

Mark Kremer

Professor of Political Science

Patsy Lai

Manager, Accounting

Linda Lyons

Director of Strategic Outreach and Initiatives and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Cheryl Mero

Assistant Director, Accounting and Finance

Jennifer Morris

Senior Campus Planner

Shirley "Imani" Mwangi-Davis

Document Processor

Daniel Paracka

Coordinator of Religious Studies and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies

Paul "Dave" Peebles

Instructor of Construction Management

Stephen Rahn

Senior Instructional Designer

Richard Rhodes

Director, Design and Construction

Anne Richards

Professor of English

Herbert "William" Rice

Professor of English

Jayne Rogers

Senior Accountant

Emily "Chris" Rumsey

Senior Lecturer of Management

Laurette Rust

Office Manager

Daniel Sachs

Associate Professor of Art History

Caritina Salgado

Supervisor, Custodial Services

Cheryl Shinall

Lecturer of Technical Communication

David Smith

Senior Software Engineer

Karen Smith

Executive Director, Community and Professional Education

Linda Stewart

Assistant Director for Graduate Student Support and Associate Professor of English

Joe "Joseph" Thomas

Professor of Art History

Hope Torkornoo

University Ombuds and Professor of Marketing and International Business

Zoila Torres

Museum Exhibit Designer

Carine West

Business Operations Manager

Valerie Whittlesey Mays

Professor of Psychology

Brian Wills

Director, Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History

Matthew Wilson

Professor of Geospatial Sciences

Joseph Yaccarino

Manager, Campus Maintenance

Marcella Ziegler

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing



The Golden Owls Newsletter is Back!

The KSU Retirees Association Golden Owls Newsletter is back! We want this newsletter to be helpful and informative. Please let us know what features you would like to read about, information you would find helpful, and suggestions you may have for us. You can send your comments to retirees@kennesaw.edu, and they will be shared with the Newsletter Committee.

Annual Holiday Gathering

On December 16 the KSURA hosted the Annual Holiday Gathering. Fifty five Golden Owls celebrated the season with good food, fun games, and fellowship. Donations of food and supplies were given to KSU CARES which will be used in the pantry for students.



2025 Upcoming Events

10 January Steering Committee Meeting

10-11:30a.m.
Kennesaw Campus and Zoom
Town Point, Room 4750

Topic: Learning To Lobby: The Birth and Development of the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization
Speaker: LeeAnn Lands, Ph.D.
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Kennesaw Campus
Town Point, Room 4750

14 January Speakers Colloquium*

Topic: TBA
Speaker: Heather Koopman, Ph.D.
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Kennesaw Campus
Town Point, Room 4750

11 February Speakers Colloquium*

10-11:30 a.m.
Kennesaw Campus and Zoom
Town Point, Room 4750

14 February Steering Committee Meeting

21-22 February Ga Academic Decathlon Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer Coordinator: Dee Rule
(drule2@kennesaw.edu)
Kennesaw Campus
Bagwell Education Building

Topic: TBA
Speaker: TBA
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Kennesaw Campus
Town Point, Room 4750

11 March Speakers Colloquium*

14 March Steering Committee Meeting

10-11:30 a.m.
Kennesaw Campus and Zoom
Town Point, Room 4750

10-11:30 a.m.
Kennesaw Campus and Zoom
Town Point, Room 4750

11 April Steering Committee Meeting

29 April Annual Retirement Ceremony

Time: TBA
Kennesaw Campus
KSU Center, Room 400

Volunteer Opportunity
Kennesaw Campus and
Kennesaw Campus Green
Details: TBA

6-9 May Commencement and Forever Owl Fest

*Please RSVP to retirees@kennesaw.edu by the Friday prior to the event.

KSU Retirees Association News



New Website

The KSU Retirees Association website has been updated. The new link is:

<https://www.kennesaw.edu/retirees>

On the new site, you can see information about the organization, our events and our scholarships as well as a link to photos from past events.



Survey Results Coming Soon!

Thank you to everyone who completed and submitted the survey. The results will be presented at the January Steering Committee meeting and then shared widely along with any potential action items.

Join the KSURA

The Kennesaw State University Retirees Association provides opportunities for all former KSU and SPSU employees to stay connected to one another and the University. The Retirees Association Steering Committee provides guidance and input for event planning, coordinates volunteer service in support of the University, and serves as a forum to advocate for the retired faculty and staff population. For more information, go to our website and click on "[About Us](#)".



Recent Event Attendance

Thank you to Golden Owl Retirees that attended recent KSU Retirees Association events. We had 45 attendees at the Medicare/Healthcare Benefits Update on November 15, 56 attendees at the KSU in Italy presentation on November 14, and 14 attendees at the Colloquium on November 13.

THANK YOU!

Passports and Pastimes

The KSU Retirees Association's "Passports and Pastimes" series needs both a new coordinator and volunteers to present their favorite travel, hobbies, or activities. If you would like to coordinate the "Passports and Pastimes" series or volunteer to present at a future event, please email us at retirees@kennesaw.edu and mention "Passports and Pastimes".

Steering Committee Open Seats

The KSU Retirees Association bylaws allow for up to 30 members on the Steering Committee. There are currently several open seats. Meetings are the second Friday of each month, in person or virtual, at 10 a.m. If you would like to join the Steering Committee please let us know by emailing retirees@kennesaw.edu.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

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NEEDED**

Congrats!

Professor Emeritus of History Tom Scott recently received the Nancy Smith Maxwell Award from the Save Acworth History Foundation for the roughly 80 oral histories he completed for them over the last eight years. He also received a proclamation from the mayor of Acworth on behalf of the city.

Below is a You Tube link to the awards program and to the oral histories:

[Save Acworth History Foundation - YouTube](#)



Retiree Resources

(Clicking on the link will open that page)

- [KSU Retirees Association](#)
- [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute \(OLLI\)](#)
- [KSU Fitness Center](#)
- [USG Retirees page](#)
- [AROHE - Assoc of Retired Organizations in Higher Ed](#)
- [GA-HERO - Georgia Assoc of Higher Ed Retiree Orgs](#)



Find Your Brick Ceremony

On October 11, 2024 the KSU Retirees Association hosted the annual “Find Your Brick” Ceremony (formerly “Brunch on the Bricks”). New retirees were welcomed to the Legacy Gazebo and, guided by Steering Committee members, were able to find their newly installed brick inscribed with their name.

The event also featured a memorial service with the scattering of rosemary to honor retirees who had passed in the previous year.



Those We Remember

The list below identifies KSU/SPSU colleagues who passed away since we last gathered.

Shelvie Booth
Herman L. Bradshaw Jr.
Jean Bramlett
Glenn E. Brooks
Ronald Bullock
Stephen R. Cheshier
Kalisha Dunn
Frances Fowler
Gregory A. Greenwell
Gillian Haddle
Jeanine Heming
Randy C. Hinds
Virginia Hinton

Sharon Joy Howard
Thomas Hughes
Frances Hunter
Carol S. Jelks
Kris Kathires
Kenneth O. Kiesler
Richard Lang
Mary L. Moss
Richard Myers
Lawrence R. Parris
Rebecca Peterson
Ann M. Powell
W.D. Proctor

Michael Roberts
Morris W. Roberts
Virginia Rogers
E. Howard Shealy
Nicole Small
Deborah Teilhet
Lanze Thompson
Harris T. Travis
Justin Vanoy
Stephanie Vereen
Julian A. Wilson Jr.
Ronald Young



Retirees Legacy Scholarship Info

The KSU Retirees Association has two scholarship funds for students who are direct descendants (children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren) of KSU or SPSU retirees.

Our annual scholarship fund depends on donations each year, while our endowed scholarship fund will provide scholarships for the future. Through donations and fundraising activities, we have provided scholarships to more than 50 students who are children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of former Kennesaw State University or Southern Polytechnic State University faculty or staff members.

For more info and to donate, go to our website and click on [“Scholarships.”](#)

KSU Retirees Association 2024-25 Co-Chairs

Chuck Aust
David Baugher
Herb Smith
Elaine Williams

The KSURA is an affinity group under the KSU Office of Alumni and Constituent Engagement

Thank you to Glynnis Holt, Program Manager, for assisting the KSU Retirees Association.

KSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION

www.kennesaw.edu/retirees

retirees@kennesaw.edu

470-578-2112