Fall 2015

Golden Owls

Brunch on the Bricks 2015

Over 60 retirees and guests gathered at the Legacy Gazebo on October 9 to honor new retirees and those who have passed away in the past year with an engraved brick set in the patio around the Gazebo. Mike Harders opened the program with recognition of the continuing importance of retirees to the university. He then introduced Dr. Papp who noted some of the accomplishments of the Retirees Association and thanked retirees for their contributions to the growth and success of Kennesaw State. Our featured speaker, Nancy Prochaska, took us back to her early experiences at Kennesaw State which reminded us of what the university was like in previous times. Diana Ward read a poem, and Grace Ward, Diana’s granddaughter and daughter of KSU webmaster Chris Ward, sang and played guitar while guests located their bricks and scattered rosemary around the patio for remembrance.

Following the ceremony, retirees moved to the Leadership Room to enjoy brunch and hear from Justin Rabideau, curator of the Zuckerman Art Museum. In addition to introducing us to the latest events at the art museums across both campuses, Justin also offered ways that retirees can get involved in museum events either as participants or volunteers. Everyone agreed that even the brief smattering of rain did not dampen the festivities of the day.

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2016—Steering Committee Mtg. 10:00am, Burruss 327A

February 20, 2016—Second Biennial Social/Reunion, 12:00–???, KSU Center 400

Retirees at the 2015 “Brunch on the Bricks” program.
Passports & Pastimes

Christmas Markets in Europe

On December 4, Elsa Nystrom, retired history professor, treated a group of 22 retirees to a delightful virtual trip along the Danube to visit the famed Christmas Markets and other beautiful sites along the river. Places of interest included Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Salzburg, and Passau. Elsa delighted the group with stories of how she and her husband endured cold, rainy days to tour the towns and, between stops, enjoyed the luxury of the river cruise ship Beatrice and German treats prepared by master chefs on the riverboat. They even attended demonstrations on how to make strudel and gingerbread. We learned that there are actually three different kinds of gingerbread! Who knew!

Following this delightful virtual journey, retirees dug into a feast of German-inspired goodies and shared some holiday cheer. Elsa contributed Mozart candies and real German gingerbread (lebkuchen) that she had brought back from their trip.

Our next Passports and Pastimes will be in March (date to be determined) when Ed Bostick will share his crafts made from gourds and kudzu vines. Many of us remember the beautiful gourd bowl that Ed donated to the Silent Auction two years ago and look forward to learning more about his craft.

Fall Golf Outing

The KSU Retirees Association Golf Outing for fall was held at the Cobblestone Golf Course in Acworth on September 21. Retirees Larry Parris and George Olney were pitted against KSURA co-chair Harry Trendell and his friend Linton Hopkins in a friendly match-play challenge. While the team of Larry and George prevailed in the hole-by-hole match play, the stroke count for each team was equal. All players thoroughly enjoyed the game and heartily agreed that the time spent on the course beat any yard work waiting at home.
New Steering Committee
Co-Chair Linda Stanley

Linda worked for 20 years, until 2005, in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) as the Administrative Secretary to the Chair of the department. She was active in Leadership Kennesaw in 1992-93 and also in GAEO (Georgia Association of Education Office Professionals). Linda still meets regularly with a few colleagues for lunch.

Linda volunteers every Wednesday at MUST Ministries in Marietta. She says it’s a great way to give not only food but also encouragement to those who need it.

Linda has served on the Steering Committee for five years and is excited about assuming the role of co-chair for the coming year. “I am so proud of the Association for the work they have done in raising money for scholarships for family members of retirees and want this work to continue into the future. Hopefully, I can contribute some ideas that will help with this goal of having both an annual and an endowed scholarship available for family members of retirees.”

Passports & Pastimes

A Celtic Experience: Ireland, Scotland, Wales & England

Over 30 retirees gathered on October 23 when Laura Dabundo, retired English faculty and former department chair, took us on an interesting historical tour of the British Isles featuring many beautiful locations as well as Celtic history, lore and legends. Did you know that Halloween originated as a Celtic celebration of the time when the wall between this world and the afterworld grows thin? Celebrants wore masks to disguise themselves from evil spirits that might cross the divide on that night. That’s why masks are usually scary! We also learned where St. Patrick is buried and why there is a figure of a woman over the doorway to many old churches. Wouldn’t you like to know??

After the trip, attendees enjoyed a “high tea” with a variety of foods that are traditional to the British Isles (disclaimer: no Scottish whiskey was served!). Some folks were even brave enough to try the pickle-and-cheese sandwiches. We all had an enjoyable time with Laura.

Summer Concert Fundraiser Successful Again

Again this summer, the Retirees Association sponsored a table at the Summer Patriotic Concert on campus. We sold snow cones and other items such as glow sticks and flags to raise money for our scholarship fund. We had been challenged by Crystal Caldwell, gift & Donor Records Coordinator for University Development, to beat last year’s record, and we did! A total of $1,149 was added to the scholarships from this event. Thanks to the volunteers who came and helped with this event—Kaye Anderson and her husband John, Wanda Blanar, Crystal Caldwell, Mary Lou Fish, Bill Hamrick, Carol Pope, Janice Sanders and her husband Gerald and granddaughters Emma and Chloe, Linda Stanley and her husband Larry, and Harry Trendell.
Montaluce Winery Tour

Nine KSURA members made the drive to the Montaluce Winery near Dahlonega, Georgia, on a beautiful, early fall day in September. The group was given an extensive tour of the winery and the vineyard by the Montaluce business manager. The RA members were duly impressed by the exquisite attention to detail required to produce a bottle of fine wine, from care of the grapes on the vineyard, to harvesting, to processing, to bottling, as well as aging, marketing, and consumption. Lunch in the Le Vigne Restaurant at the winery was a delightful affair of gourmet food and wine. Even our non-drinking members enjoyed the outing and information about wine making. KSURA co-chair, Harry Trendell, even gave the members an impromptu tasting lesson before lunch, based on knowledge gained while teaching in KSU's study abroad program in Montepulciano, Italy. The impressive facility, beautiful mountains, and animated conversation made this a memorable KSURA outing!

Siegel Recreation and Activities Center Tour

Where can you find a 40-foot rock climbing wall, an indoor competition swimming pool and an outdoor recreational swimming pool, an indoor running track, four basketball courts, a weight lifting area, nearly 100 treadmills, a bicycle repair shop, a spin room, a cardio workout room, and a multi-sport court large enough for playing soccer, all in one beautiful new building? The new Betty L. Siegel Student Recreation and Activities Center, of course! A group of retirees was treated to a tour of the new building led by Donald Brookshire, Associate Director of Facilities for this award-winning new feature on the Kennesaw campus, on November 6, following the Steering Committee meeting. Over 20 retirees “oooh”ed and “aaaah”ed as we were led through the maze of hallways and activity areas. Most of us could not even tell when we were in the “old” part of the building, although some of us had worked in that building or used it on a regular basis. The two facilities join seamlessly into one extraordinary amenity for students, faculty and staff to enjoy. Drs. Joel and Betty Siegel were part of the retiree tour group, which made it even more special for those attending.
Annual Scholarship Appeal

The annual scholarship appeal letters have just been mailed from the Development office to all retirees. When you receive your letter, please respond with a donation to our legacy scholarship funds so that we can continue to benefit the relatives of KSU retirees who are attending KSU.

The Retirees Association currently has two scholarship funds to which you can donate. The endowed scholarship will provide funding in perpetuity for a scholarship once the account has achieved sufficient growth. The annual scholarship provides $1,000 scholarships to a select number of retiree relatives depending on the amount that is in the scholarship account that year.

The requirements for receiving either of these scholarships are on the website at retirees.kennesaw.edu under “Scholarships.”

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

On Saturday, July 11, a small group of KSU retirees gathered at the Marietta Wine Market to enjoy an afternoon wine-tasting and raise money for our scholarship fund. On a blazing hot afternoon, the Wine Market was a welcome respite from enjoying the Marietta Artists’ Market and other attractions around the Square. Wine Market hosts Randall and Karen Heard and Nelson, the resident dog, treated us to tasty hors d’oeuvres while a representative from a California Winery introduced its line of fine wines for tasting and purchase. Even with the small turnout, we raised $200 for the scholarship fund. Thank you to those of you who attended and donated!

Donations for KSU CARE Center

Thanks to all retirees who donated food items for the KSU CARE Center. The "Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment Center" (CARE) is the University Systems of Georgia designated point of contact for students dealing with: Homelessness or are at-risk of being homeless; food Insecurity; have been or are in Foster Care. The CARE Center operates purely on tangible and monetary donations. Thanks to your donations, students dealing with these issues will be provided food and toiletry items during the upcoming holiday season.

Missing Communication from the University?

If you do not have an active email address, you may be missing important information from KSU and the Retirees Association. Is there someone (family member, neighbor, friend, etc.) who would share their email address with you and pass along any information received? Please let us know so we can update your record with us. Call us at 470-578-7984 to update.
Travel to Montepulciano in Tuscany

Kennesaw State University is inviting alumni, friends of the University, and all connoisseurs of fine wine and food to experience the sensory delights of Italy's Tuscan region. While you're traveling, you will also be helping to support international education. Only a limited number of travelers can take advantage of this adventure, so act fast!

For details, go to this link: http://dga.kennesaw.edu/ksuintuscany/adventure

We Would Love to Hear from YOU

We welcome your suggestions for programs and activities for the Retirees Association, particularly for the Marietta campus. Please let us know what you would like your Association to be doing for the coming year.

Call us at 470-578-7984, email us at retirees@kennesaw.edu or drop by the office between 9:00 and 2:00 Tuesday through Friday. We are located in KSU Center in the Burruss Institute suite.

Computer Security Workshops

Chris Dehner, an information security specialist from the KSU ITS Security Office, conducted workshops especially for retirees on November 18 on the Marietta campus and November 19 on the Kennesaw campus. Chris guided attendees through the maze of devices which could potentially pose security risks and steps to take to improve the security of your computer, tablet, phone, security cameras, wi-fi router, and even your car and your refrigerator! The presentation included links to helpful websites and instructions for tasks such as setting passwords on your phone and cleaning malicious software from your computer. Attendees agreed that the session was extremely helpful to understanding the risks inherent in today’s technology and creating safeguards to protect your personal information and your identity. A copy of the Powerpoint used in the presentation, which includes links to helpful resources, is available upon request from the Retirees Association office.

Chris Dehner leads workshop for retirees at KSU Center.
A Very Special Display and Story

Those of us who toured the new Recreation Center on campus learned that a display in the Center features one of our own, Elaine Williams. When the Center opened, Elaine donated her childhood bicycle, a rare English touring bike, to the Center to put on display. Included with the display is a story that Elaine wrote about her bicycle. The excerpt below is just the beginning of that story.

“My first memories are of being assembled piece by piece in England, tested, disassembled, carefully wrapped and placed in a shipping crate for the United States. I was delivered to a bike shop in Massachusetts where I was reassembled and became a beautiful shining black Raleigh English bike. I was no “ordinary” bike, I was a custom top-of-the-line touring bicycle with a three-speed rear axle controlled by a thumb shifter, an emergency air pump for my “tyres”, a genuine Brooks leather seat, front and rear hand-controlled caliper brakes with replaceable wear pads and even a leather saddlebag attached to my seat that held a pouch filled with tools for emergency use. I also sported two rare items; a speedometer/odometer on my handlebars that ran off my front wheel hub and a light on my handlebars powered by a real generator that ran off my tire - I didn’t need batteries for night driving! I was not a mere bike; I was a proud Raleigh Three-Speed English Ladies Touring Bicycle!

One spring day a young girl came into the bike shop, looked at me and got all excited. She gave my owner some money (actually a whole lot of money for a young girl in 1960 – around $120 – I was not cheap!) and her Daddy strapped me to the roof of his car (that was not fun). Over the next few days, I discovered the girl had seen me (or one of my sisters) years before (I was, after all, the special-order bicycle in the shop display window with all available factory options.) She used all her savings and babysitting money ($0.50/hour back then) to purchase me although I think her parents helped her out a little. I was happy to belong to her because I didn’t like having people come in, look at me, and walk away. I was lonely and wanted a home where I’d be ridden, appreciated, cared for, and loved!”

Want to hear “the rest of the story?” Visit the new Recreation Center on campus and find your way to the Bicycle Repair Shop near the climbing wall to see Elaine’s very special bicycle and read her story.

Second Biennial Reunion/Social Coming February 20

Mark your calendar and get ready to enjoy a great time of laughter, fellowship, and good food at the second Biennial Reunion/Social. We will gather on Saturday, February 20, at 12 noon in the KSU Center, room 400. Following a lunch of warm soup or chili and a cool salad, Chris Ward will regale us with a rousing game of KSU trivia followed by a time of casual chatting with old friends, making new friends, dancing to oldies, or playing table or card games. We will also be drawing for door prizes all during the afternoon, so bring your good luck with you. This will be a relaxed, come-as-you-are kind of afternoon with plenty of time for socializing. Other entertainment is being planned, but it’s still under wraps!

Watch for your invitation via email after the holidays and plan to join us for an entertaining “leap” into the new year!
Join the Retirees Association

If you have not done so already, we invite you to become a member of the Retirees Association and maintain your connection with the University. Benefits of membership include free parking on campus, use of Library services, access to the Employee Fitness Center on request, and discounts at the KSU Bookstore as well as many local businesses. To join the Retirees Association, visit www.kennesaw.edu/retirees and click on “Membership.” To learn more about the Retirees Association, check out the website or “like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kennesaw.retirees.

Donate to the Retirees Legacy Scholarship Fund

Donations, including memorial donations, may be made to the Retirees Legacy Scholarship annual and endowment funds with checks made payable to KSU Foundation, 3391 Town Point Dr., NW, Suite 4000, MD 9102, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Or you may make a donation online at https://community.kennesaw.edu/givetoscholarships. Select the Retiree Legacy Scholarship from the menu. Families of memorials will receive a notification of the memorial gift donation.

KSU Retirees Association: Connecting retirees to the University and each other.

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