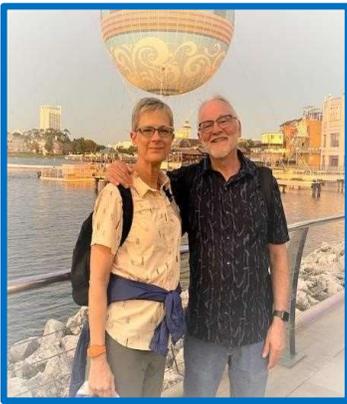


Senior University of Greater Atlanta, Inc.

Fall Newsletter

September 2020

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2020-2021 PRESIDENT, CATHY WHITE



A Senior University of Greater Atlanta (SUGA) has certainly experienced challenges in the times of COVID-19. The virus began affecting our lives just as we approached Spring Quarter. In mid-March, an Executive Committee (EC) under the direction of

SUGA President Larry Pinson, Executive Director Bill Beeson, Chief Financial Officer Art Slavin, Curriculum Committee Chair Ann Levine, Rehoboth Baptist Church Liaison Tom Hawkins, and myself as Board Representative, faced many challenges. The health and safety of our membership were always at the top of the list when making our recommendations to the Board, closely followed by our desire to make it through these uncertain times while still furnishing quality learning opportunities. Eventually, the governor's shelter-in-place order required the cancelation of Spring Quarter. After much deliberation, it was also decided there was no safe way we could conduct in-person summer classes nor support online classes. Consequently,

we decided to connect our students directly with former SUGA instructors who had expressed a desire to personally administer their own on-line summer classes. We felt these independent classes would accomplish two things, support students who wanted to seek out summer learning opportunities, and to give students the opportunity to experience online learning via Zoom.

In planning the Fall Quarter, it became apparent in-person classes were still not feasible so the EC created an ad hoc Zoom Team. The team, comprised of SUGA Board Members, Committee Chairs, and members of SUGA with Zoom experience and expertise, was led by George Wieder and Mary Jones. The Zoom Team, charged with researching the ability of SUGA to offer online classes determined "YES, SUGA CAN DO THIS!" and has established protocols and methods to provide support for students and instructors. The critical task of arranging fall courses was accomplished by our experienced Curriculum Committee. The EC also decided that because we had to cancel spring and summer classes, we should honor our members' personal financial commitment to SUGA and will waive the customary SUGA membership fee in September. Instead, we will establish a January 2021 through December 2021 school year and collect membership fees at that time.

During the final SUGA Board Meeting of SUGA FY 2020, conducted by Zoom on July 22nd, the Board approved the proposed slate of officers for FY 2020. I became President, newly elected Board member Gisela McClellan is Vice President/Treasurer, and Judy Skinner takes on the role of Secretary. We also welcomed new Board members Dwight Tabor and George Wieder.

As you can see, we have been busy these past 5+ months. We have worked closely as a team while always soliciting and encouraging member input during the process. Bill Beeson has been sending updates to keep members connected and informed. Our devoted SUGA members are its life force and maintaining that close relationship is critical. We realize as the threat of COVID-19 continues, we may be required to make adjustments as we proceed, but together we will get through these difficult times and all be together again soon. As your new SUGA President for FY 2020, I am humbled and honored to serve this organization comprised of friends learning and growing together. Stay healthy, safe, and connected and always know, **You Are SUGA!** Cathy White, SUGA President, 2020-2021

Meet SUGA's Executive Director, Bill Beeson

Bill first came to Senior University as a member a few years after moving to Atlanta from New York in 2009, when classes were still being held at Mercer University. When he became a member, he was introduced to members as Peggy Heinisch's brother. Peggy now says that she is known as Bill Beeson's sister.

Bill has lived in many cities after being born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but lived most of his youthful years in Chappaqua, New York. After completing school Bill did a stint in the Navy as his ship's personnel man. He then moved to the little river town of Croton-on-Hudson in New York, where he started a career in retail management. It was also there that he met and married a woman with 4 children ages 7 to 12. Bill then moved his family to Atlanta for a few years where he worked for Richway stores. When Richway started closing stores he moved back to New York to Croton-on-Hudson. There he worked in management for several retail chain stores. Bill and his wife RuthAnn were very busy with babysitting in Croton, having nine grandchildren. Bill and his wife also had one child of their own, Lauren. Bill is very proud of his daughter as she is now a Master Social worker for the Newtown public school system in Connecticut. Bill's wife of 26 years unfortunately passed away in 1999.



With his return to Atlanta, besides his involvement in Senior University, he was very active in a Doraville church before it closed its doors a few years ago. It was at this church, and through his sister, that he met his sister's good friend, Gretchen Turner. Bill and Gretchen have been together for over 9 years now enjoying activities in Atlanta such as Symphonies, plays, trips, etc., and a new church. It was only natural that Bill and Gretchen married in October 2017, in a unique setting (you may ask them for the details).

Bill became the Executive Director of SUGA in August 2015, and all the tasks he is responsible for on school days make him instrumental in the success of Senior University. Bill is also quite occupied on non-school days, working at home behind the scenes, with numerous details such as accounting, emailing, preparing paperwork for meetings and announcements. We are very grateful for his dedication to SUGA to make sure your school days run smoothly!

Meet New Board Member Gisella McClellan



Born in Germany, Gisela immigrated to the US with her scientist parents at age 11 and grew up in the Boston area. She received a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and an MSCE from Texas A&M University. After short residences in Dallas and Fayetteville, Arkansas she moved to Atlanta with her then husband and son in 1971, which almost makes her a native. Following a divorce, she went to work at Lockheed Martin in Marietta as an aircraft structures engineer and stayed there for 30 years. She married Don McClellan, an Atlanta TV reporter, and they moved to Smyrna in 1986. She enjoys reading, traveling, walking, knitting, volunteering at the Smyrna library, and spending all too infrequent time with their grandchildren in Albuquerque. She is also a musician, playing early music on period instruments

Following retirement in 2005, Gisela immediately enrolled in Senior University to help keep her mind active. Since then she has been involved with SUGA primarily as the announcers coordinator and keeper of instructor biographies, as well as having taught a couple of courses. Helping SUGA run smoothly and efficiently is Gisela's goal for the next couple of years and she feels honored to join the board this year.

Meet New Board Member George Wieder

Growing up in Weehawken, New Jersey (site of the Alexander Hamilton-Aaron Burr duel) and minutes away from New York City, I realized that there was a lot to experience in the world. After my sophomore year at Rutgers University, I worked at the New York World's Fair as a busboy. The waitresses were from Florida State University and Judy instantly pulled at my heart strings. We married after college and began a 21-year Air Force career. Retiring to Atlanta in 1987, our son and daughter both attended Georgia Tech, and eventually blessed us with six grandchildren. A second career in the cellular business was followed by a few years at a non-profit museum before retirement and membership in the Atlanta Kiwanis Club. Through Kiwanis I have interacted with numerous non-profits and enjoy creating baskets for their silent auction fundraisers. Over the years my inventory of gift items took over the basement and I frequently commented that "If I ever was trapped in the house, I could get everything organized." Well, the COVID-19 pandemic made that a reality. I now have 90 labelled bins ready to create baskets in record speed. The only problem is that nobody is having any fundraisers!



Judy joined SUGA about 7 years ago, and she encouraged me to become a member. I am glad that I finally "got smart." I am humbled to join the SUGA Board and marvel at the talented leadership that has created and led this great organization. While we are in our temporary virtual experience, I am honored to be part of the SUGA Zoom Team and look forward to a safe and educational fall semester.

Wondering about the picture? Always game for an adventure, when a friend asked if I would help with an art project at Clarkston in 2018, I readily accepted. Collecting 10,000 recycled water bottles was the first challenge. One of the creations was this 25-foot Stegosaurus. Then we needed to find Steg a home after he had to leave Clarkston. First stop was at the Georgia Tech library where he was renamed Recyclosaurus; followed by a lengthy visit at Fernbank Museum. Last year we transported him to Drew Charter Elementary School as a symbol of their recycling program. Any interest in a dinosaur creation class?

Meet New Board Member Dwight Tabor



Dwight is a native of small-town Americus and rural Franklin County, Georgia. He graduated from Georgia Tech and Georgia State (MBA and PhD in Economics). He retired from Georgia State after 30 years as professor, chair of the Masters' Programs, and chair of the Decision Sciences Department in the Robinson College of Business. He worked for Southern Bell and served three years in the USAF before entering academia.

He and his wife, Wynn, live in Decatur. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Since his retirement from GSU in 1997, he has enjoyed reading, racquetball, growing pine trees on his ancestral farm in Franklin County, and kicking back in his cabin on Lake Hartwell. He and Wynn walk in their neighborhood near Druid Hills Middle School nearly every day.

Art's Corner

The Economy is So Bad...

- My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
- CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- ExxonMobil laid off 25 Congress
- I saw a Mormon with only one wife.
- McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce.
- Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America
- Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.
- A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.
- A picture is now only worth 200 words.
- The Treasure Island casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.
- And, finally...
- I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Afghanistan, and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited, and asked if I could drive a truck...

Children are Quick

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor? **JOHN:** You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile?"

STUDENT: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L **TEACHER:** No that is wrong.

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago. **WINNIE:** Me!

TEACHER: Mark, why do you always get so dirty?

MARK: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him? **LOUIE:** Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.