



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Spring is Here!

The arrival of Spring brings with it the time to nominate two new co-chairs for the KSU Retirees Association Steering Committee. We have four co-chair positions, two are faculty and two are staff. Each serves a two-year term with one faculty and one staff rolling off each year. This year Chuck Aust (faculty) and Elaine Williams (staff) will leave their co-chair positions. Herb Smith (faculty) and David Baugher (staff) will continue into their second year as co-chairs. Please contact one of the current co-chairs or email retirees@kennesaw.edu if you have questions about the position, would like to nominate someone, or want to self-nominate. We vote on the incoming co-chairs at the May Steering Committee meeting.

We also need additional members for the Steering Committee. Our by-laws allow for up to 30 members total. The Steering Committee members help shape and guide the events of the Association. If you would like to be a voice for retirees of KSU, please consider joining as a Steering Committee member.

2025 Retirement Ceremony

Date: 29 April 2025
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Location: KSU Center Room 400

New Retirees will gather at the KSU Center by 9:30 a.m. to board buses to the KSU Legacy Gazebo to locate their newly placed legacy brick. We will also remember those retirees that have passed in the previous year with a brief ceremony while at the Legacy Gazebo. Then retirees will take buses back to the KSU Center for a 10:30 a.m. reception followed by the Retirement Ceremony which will begin promptly at 11 a.m., where each retiree in attendance will be honored.

Previous retirees are welcomed and encouraged to attend any part of the morning. Please watch for an email invitation and RSVP if you plan to attend. [Click here for RSVP link.](#)

Golden Owl Member Spotlight

Linda Akanbi, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita of Reading Education



In 1992, Linda Akanbi made history by being hired as the first African American female to head an academic department at Kennesaw State University. She was hired as Chair of the Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department.

Besides serving as Chair for 7 years, Linda also served as the Director of the Reading Institute in the Bagwell College of Education, Site Coordinator for the Ford Foundation Teacher-Scholar program, Director of the Future Scholars Summer Program for High School Students, and was a member of the Leadership KSU class of 1992-1993. She also leaves a legacy of supporting students with her Dr. Linda B Akanbi Annual Scholarship for Education Majors.

In her retirement, Linda has kept quite busy. As her family's historian, she wrote a personal memoir, *My Father's Daughter: An Untold Story*, which follows the on-again, off-again relationship between a woman and her estranged father after she learns the truth. She also started her own company, ARS Educational Services, to provide consultant services to parents, schools and daycare centers seeking solutions to literacy development and literacy underachievement for their students. Linda also enjoys listening to music, traveling and decorating.

If you would like to see more Golden Owls spotlighted in future newsletters, please email retirees@kennesaw.edu and let us know!

Upcoming Events

11 April Steering Committee Meeting

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

Highlighting the importance of collective impact while providing opportunities for donors to give to specific areas for which they are passionate.

[Click here for more info](#)

26 April Hornets Homecoming

1-4 p.m.
Marietta Campus
K-Fields Outside of Stingers
Dining Hall

[Click here for more info](#)

9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Kennesaw Campus
KSU Center, Room 400
See details on page 1

29 April Annual Retirement Ceremony

6-9 May Commencement & Forever Owl Fest

Volunteer Opportunity
Kennesaw Campus and
Kennesaw Campus Green
Various time slots

[Click here for volunteer sign up](#)

10-11:30 a.m.
Kennesaw Campus and Zoom
Town Point, Room 4750
**Please note date change
from previous listing.**

16 May Steering Committee Meeting

Avoiding Cyber Fraud Highlights from the March 25 Brown Bag

1. Don't respond to unknown contacts - if you don't recognize a phone number, email or text, it's okay not to answer or reply
2. Watch for urgency - scammers use high-pressure tactics to create fear or urgency; take your time and don't rush into decisions.
3. Be skeptical - research any claims made in unexpected messages or calls before acting on them - don't trust unsolicited information
4. Make sure you are shopping on valid websites; check the URL (uniform resource locator, the unique address for that online entity) for correct spelling of the company name.
5. Use two-factor authentication where available; the KSU email system uses such a method, called "DUO"
6. Agree on a code word among loved ones/family in advance in case you get a fake emergency call from a fraudster pretending to be one of them.

Resources:

- AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline - 877-908-3360; aarp.org/fraudsupport
- Federal Trade Commission: reportfraud.ftc.gov; 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
- FBI: tips.fbi.gov; 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324)

KSU Retirees Association News

Survey Results

Here are key points from the survey sent out last fall. Eighty-three (83) retirees completed the survey.



- 99% of respondents prefer to hear from us by email.
- 26% often or very often participate in Association events.
- 46% participated in an event in the past 12 months.
- When asked what types of activities were of interest “information workshops” (73%) and “social events” (59%) were selected by more than half of respondents.
- When asked why you have not participated in events “geographic distance” (42%) and “other commitments” (45%) were common answers.
- The survey respondents were 57% faculty and 43% staff; 72% female and 26% male.

The survey results will be used by the co-chairs and Steering Committee in planning future events. Thank you to everyone that completed the survey. Also, thank you to Chris Ziegler and Suzy Millwood for working on the survey!

Recent Event Attendance

Thank you to Golden Owl Retirees who attended recent KSU Retirees Association events. We had 13 attendees at the January Colloquium with Dr. Lands, 8 attendees at the February Colloquium with Dr. Koopman, 17 attendees at the March Colloquium with Dr. Wooten and Dr. Ziegler, and 7 attended the Brown Bag lunch on Cyber Fraud.



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](#)”.

No Meetings in June and July

The KSU Retirees Association will not meet during June and July. We will return with a Steering Committee meeting on August 8, 2025. If you have suggestions for programs or activities that you would like us to consider for next year, please email us at retirees@kennesaw.edu. Any emails over the summer will be forwarded to the co-chairs. We hope everyone has a great summer!



Retiree Resources

(Click the link to open that resource)

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

KSU in Italy

There are still a few spots left for the KSU trip to Italy. See details below.



Join KSU Alumni & Friends in

Italy

✈ October 4 - 14, 2025 ✈



Retirees Legacy Scholarship Info

The KSU Retirees Association has two scholarship funds for KSU students. 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.

In total, the KSU Retirees Association has raised over \$100,000 for the endowed scholarship since the association began. Here are the amounts raised in recent years.

Year	Endowed Scholarship	Annual Scholarship	Total Scholarship Dollars
FY25*	\$4,205.00	\$3,230.00	\$7,435.00
FY24	\$4,370.00	\$2,860.00	\$7,230.00
FY23	\$5,465.00	\$5,665.00	\$11,130.00
FY22	\$3,871.00	\$4,945.00	\$8,816.00
FY21	\$5,015.00	\$3,325.00	\$8,340.00
*year to date			

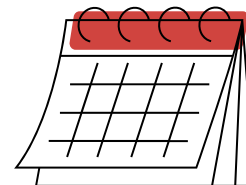
We appreciate the contributions retirees have made to our scholarships! For more info and to donate, go to our website and click on "[Scholarships.](#)"



Your Golden Owls Newsletter

The KSU Retirees Association Golden Owls Newsletter is for you. 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.

Community Corner



12 April, Saturday - Cobb County Recycling Event including electronics, metals, textiles, sneakers, paper for shredding, and more. [Link for more info.](#)

23 April - Cobb County Senior Services Expo. Discover a variety of vendors offering services in life enrichment, transportation, nutrition, senior living, Medicare, wellness, safety, and much more. Plus, Northside Hospital will be providing free health screenings, and we'll have informative seminars on important topics throughout the day. [Link for more info.](#)

23 April, Wednesday - Aloha to Aging Benefit Concert at Glover Park Brewery. Join our very own Chuck Aust as he and his band Saints & Sinners performs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. [Link for more info on Aloha to Aging.](#)

25 April, Friday - Cherokee County Earth Day Recycling Event Many items accepted, do not need to be a Cherokee county resident. [Link for more info.](#)

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

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