

Silver Jackets Meeting

Tuesday February 14, 2017

Georgia Tech Student Center, Room 343

Minutes

Members Attending (22) Kathy Tamajko (Library), Tom Morley (Math), Sara Moore (GTRI), Nannette Dooley (Library), Don Runnion, Pat Davis ((COS), Eugene Patronis (Physics), Annette Satterfield (Office of the Registrar), Jo McIver (Office of the Registrar), Bill Leslie (Office of the Registrar), Ed Rondeau (Real Estate Dev.), Len Parsons (Mgt.), Janis Goddard (OSP), Walter Allen (Purchasing), Ward O. Winer (ME/COE), Tim Long (EAS), Harriet Thuesen, Jerry Thuesen (ISYE), Andy Smith (Psych), Ian Gatland (Phys), Ron Bohlander (GTRI), Roz Meyers (Campus Services)

Business Meeting

Ron Bohlander, President, called the meeting to order and had members introduce themselves. He announced that Human Resources will be providing Credible Coverage documents, needed by personnel still under GT health insurance when they become eligible for Medicare. He also reported that all benefits to employees and retirees would be overseen by the University System of Georgia beginning July 1, 2017. He understood that AON would be administering this on behalf of the USG.

Len Parsons suggested that retirees set up a separate senior bank account for Aon health insurance reimbursements and premium deductions.

Program

Kathy Tomajko, Vice-President, introduced our speaker Marilyn Somers and her assistant Kinsley Okep. Marilyn Somers is the founder and Director of the Georgia Tech Living History Program. She has documented the history of over 1,000 Georgia Tech alumni and retired faculty and staff. As an oral historian, she produces documentaries on Georgia Tech history and travels for Georgia Tech events.

Ms. Somers provided a number of interesting stories on Georgia Tech from over the years. Since it was Valentine's Day, she began with three GT love stories. George and Genie Griffin were married in 1923 for 67 years. Bobby and Alice Dodd were married in 1933 for 55 years. Dean Jim and Gay Dull were married in 1955 for 54 years.

Following are some highlights of the history Ms. Somers shared. Georgia Tech was founded in 1885 and opened in October 1888. The location was picked to be near Peters Park, a work-live community. Because enrollment was down, it was determined that the school needed a place for the boys to live. Buildings E and F (the Shacks) were built to house the students. The first women employee (Ms. Kapers) was hired to monitor the boys. In 1897 the first dorm, Knowles Dorm was built.

The Flats, now Grant field, were the first Tech Athletic and Recreation Park. Ms. Somers told us stories about the first coach, John Heisman, who was hired in 1904 from Clemson to coach 3 sports for a salary (of \$2,250) plus 30% of the Gate.

Ms. Somers told us stories about George P. Burdell, and his connection to UGA; the drown proofing requirement for early students; Buzz, who first appeared in 1980; and the rat caps which freshmen wore until 1960s. She had numerous other stories to share, but we ran out of time.

Kathy Tomajko announced that the next meeting on March 14 would feature Assoc. Prof. Benjamin Flowers speaking to us about cultural aspects of stadiums and skyscrapers in architecture.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Goddard
Secretary