

**Minutes of the
Georgia Tech Retirees Association
Silver Jackets Meeting**

**March 11, 2008
11:00 AM
GT Student Center, Room 343**

Attending: Sandra Thornton, Maureen Glass, Annette Satterfield, Mary Anne Salter, David Clifton, Gail Dalton, Linda Oliver, Celia Grams, Mary Kay Daley, Pat Davis, Candy Carson, James Stevenson, Jo McIver, Jim Garner, Carole Gaines, Nancy Farr.

Sandra Thornton introduced Martin Ludwig, Director of Travel for the GT Alumni Association. The travel program is provided for GT alumni, friends and GT associates. A variety of trip are available with new ones being added. There are approximately 500 travelers each year with 36% being Alumni, 31% spouses/friends, 3% staff, and 1% retirees. A sign-up sheet was passed around for anyone who wanted more information. Approximately 30 tours a year are planned. Other universities, usually from the southeast, may be included by the travel companies that manage these trips. Some of the more popular trips are to Ireland, Italy, Russia, & China. Trips range from all inclusive to providing basic travel with add ons paid by the individual. There is a GT Staff host who will take care of the GT travelers (help them if they get sick, answer questions, etc.) Martin mostly handles the up front details then tour operators take over. Air travel reservations can be made on your own if desired. Travel insurance is offered. Recently a GT group of 86 went on an cruise to Italy. This was the largest group they have had in years. There may be local tour guides who share the experience of the regions such as cooking, history, art and lectures. Martin trains hosts to go on the trips and he actually travels 2-3 times a year himself with a group. The hosts help you choose restaurants, day activities, side trips, etc. If you want to get in touch with Martin he can be reached at (404) 894-0758.

Sandra spoke with Amy Bass-Henry of the Office of International Education at Tech in reference to trips. These trips are usually for college credit. There are many different types of trips including history and politics. Amy is looking to see what might be attractive for retirees. Gail Dalton, one of our members, had been a host on the GT Oxford Summer Program.

There were 4 new members attending the meeting – Celia Grams, Linda Oliver, Nancy Farr and Gail Dalton. Maureen stated that the Silver Jacket information post card should go out by the end of the week to all 1400 retirees and spouses. Maureen has set-up an e-mail address to use for the association: silverjackets@gatech.edu . She sent an invitation to Sue Ann Bidstrup-Allen, the President's Office Liaison, to attend our meetings and copies of minutes. Thanks to Sue Ann we were given the funds to cover our postcard mail out.

Maureen attended a Benefits Pre-Retirement Meeting last week and represented us. She suggested we rotate representation at this event.

We are considering joining the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). At Jim Stevenson's request Maureen completed the AROHE survey for Georgia Tech. AROHE is an association of universities/colleges retiree organizations. Jim Stevenson was a member at one time.

Maureen asked for volunteers for the Membership Committee to contact respondees to the mailout. Needed are a few members to provide information on the GTRA and also to encourage them to attend meetings. Mary Kay Daley, Nancy Farr & Pat Davis volunteered. Maureen will send minutes of all the previous meetings in order for them to use them for reference. Annette reminded everyone to contact retirees from their former departments and encourage them to join.

Maureen added that an Advisory Committee will be formed to consider chartering the organization, establishing by-laws etc.

Sandra mentioned that she had stopped by the STA Travel Office. They will arrange travel for retirees but mostly they are for groups usually is in the ages 18-35. It was noted that they may have good rates on air travel.

Approximately 10 members remained after the meeting and enjoyed visiting over lunch.

The next meeting is April 8, 2008, 11:00 AM, Room 343, GT Student Center.