

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

2025 RETIREE RECOGNITION

C E R E M O N Y

Karen McDonnell

Vice President of Human Resources, CHRO



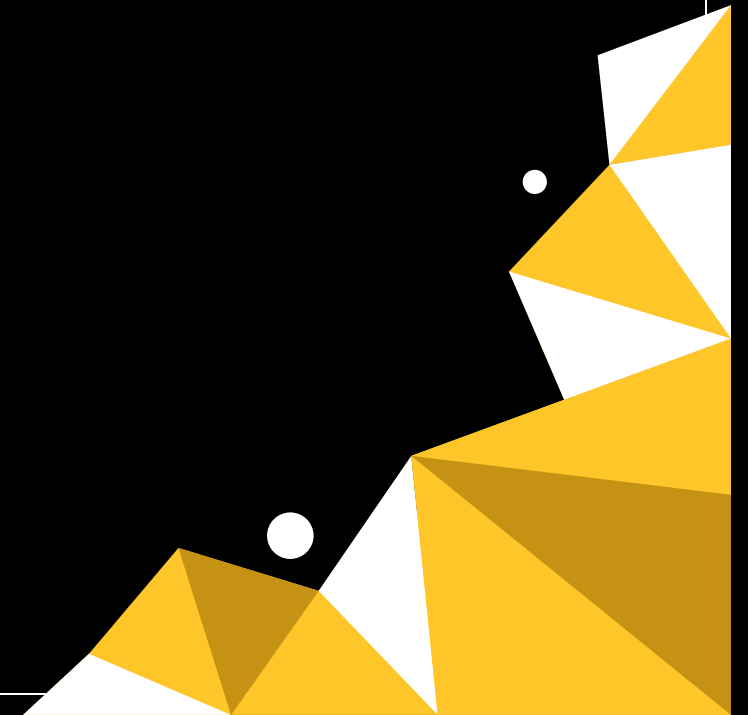
Dr. Kathy Schwaig

President, Kennesaw State University



Amy Phillips

Deputy CHRO, HR Operations



David Baughner

Co-Chair, Kennesaw State University
Retirees Association Steering Committee




Karen McDonnell

Vice President of Human Resources, CHRO



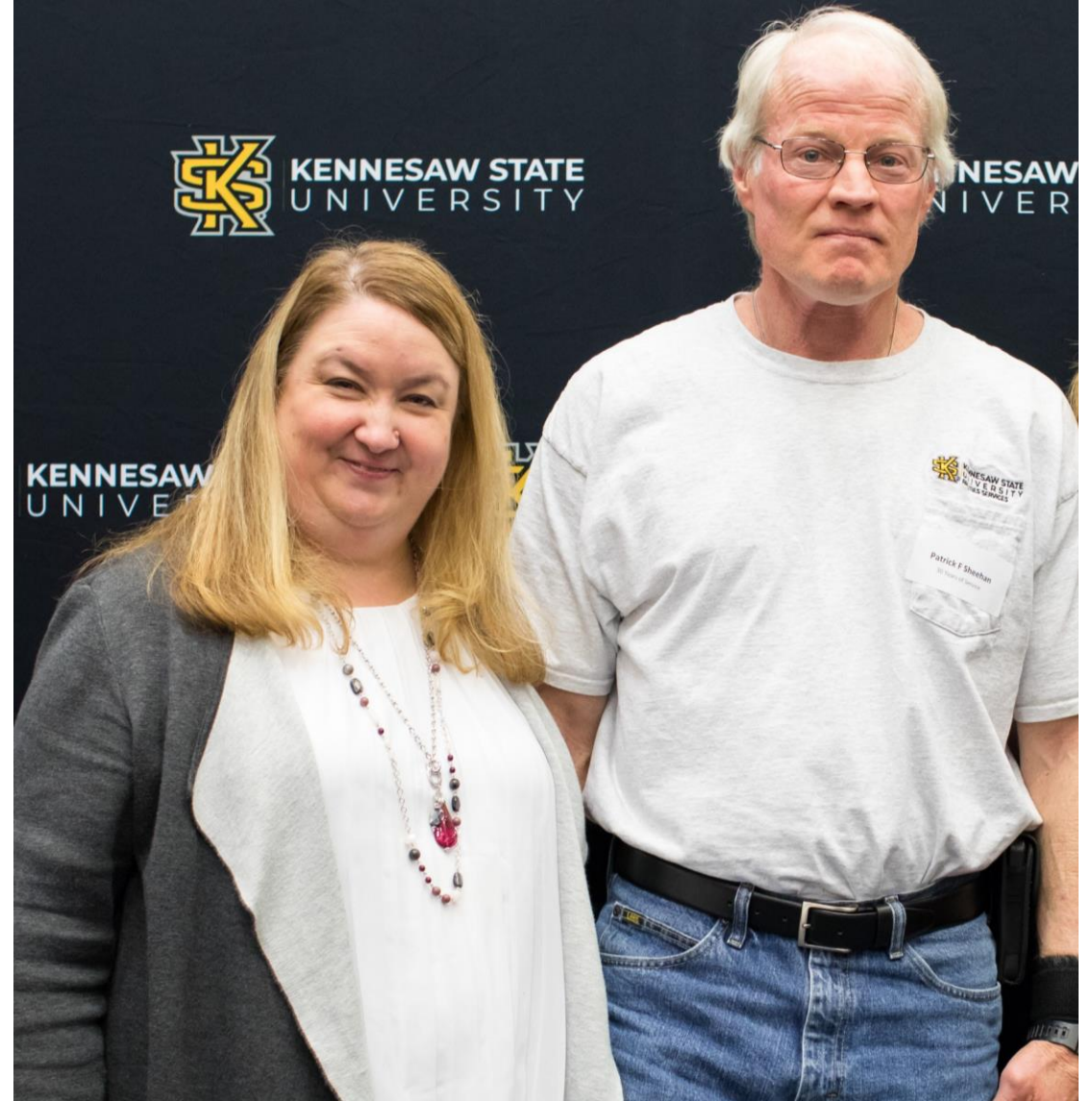


Jon Marc Anderson

- 36 years of service to KSU
 - Marc was a great employee. He was always on time and ready to work.
 - Marc spent more than 30 years at KSU. His dedication and willingness to do any job without complaints made him a very valuable employee, he is surely missed.
 - Thanks to Marc for his help.
 - Marc has the Solitaire record for games played and won in the Grounds department.
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Patrick Sheehan

- 35 years of service to KSU
- Facilities - Planning, Design & Construction
- His full 35 years was supporting our facilities especially in grounds.
- He did most of the beautiful stonework for KSU.





Dr. Robert (Keith) Tudor

- 33 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of Marketing & Professional Sales/Coles College of Business/Interim Chair
- **Longest-Serving Department Chair** – Keith Tudor led the MPS with steady and supportive leadership, fostering collaboration and academic growth.
- **Champion of Global Education** – He played a key role in establishing and expanding the KSU Study Abroad program, enhancing international learning opportunities for students.
- **A Renaissance man** – His vast knowledge extended beyond marketing to include military and Civil War history, making him a well-rounded intellectual.
- **Lasting Legacy** – His contributions to leadership, education, and global engagement left a lasting impact on the university and its students.



Dr. Akanmu Adebayo

- 32 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of History & Philosophy
- He has consistently mentored undergraduate, doctoral and fellow faculty members over the years, which has left a lasting impact. He has always been described as an incredible scholar, teacher, and friend.
- Served as the Director of Center of Conflict Management (2011-2016), Executive Director of the Division of Global Affairs (2003-2009), Assistant Dean for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (2002-2003) and Assistant Director in the Office of International Programs (1995-1997). He also served as Chair of USC's Committee on International Students and Scholars. He also served as a KSU Ombuds.
- During his time as Executive Director of DGA, he helped strengthen KSU's international focus on education, public service and research. He also gave back to his home country of Nigeria by introducing programs and workshops and partnering with Nigerian and African universities along with other international institutions.
- He has written, edited and co-edited several publications in various books and journals. His work on global policy, international education, the African economy, etc., has become an inspiration to the field. He has also received several awards and grants for his research and to commemorate his teaching.



Shannon West

- 32 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Fiscal Services – Office of Budget & Planning
- Shannon is a breath of fresh air! In her 32 years, Shannon was the Director of Grants & Contracts Accounting prior to retiring as a Senior Budget Analyst.
- If there was a question about position management or budget inquiries, everyone knew Shannon was the subject matter expert! Shannon created several job aids and video trainings for the Office of Budget & Planning.
- Shannon LOVES crafting and attending craft shows. I truly hope Shannon is enjoying her retirement, crafting away.





Terri Kennedy

- 30 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Worked with Financial Aid
- An Extra In some Series and Movies Example The Walking Dead
- She is a climber
- Worked with the Athletic Department and was the point of contact in the Admissions Office

RETIRED



ELECTRICIAN

**JUST LIKE REGULAR
ELECTRICIAN**

ONLY WAY HAPPIER



Terry Debord

- 29 years (and 11 months) of service with Kennesaw State University
- Plant Operations/Electrical Technician
- Dependable, Dedicated, Team Builder
- Hobbies include Hiking, Mowing Lawn, Driving his mustang

Ben Huck

- 29 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Ben decided to become a chemist in the eighth grade. In the early years at KSU he was our sole lab coordinator. As KSU grew, he became the lab manager and hired, 1, then 2, then 3, then 4 and finally 5 lab coordinators to help laboratory courses run smoothly.
- In the early years, he would answer student chemistry questions as his office was the first one down the hallway. He always gave you his time. He always tried to find the humor in every task. He is always smiling.
- He helped faculty with their research and is a co-author on a few papers.
- He was a recipient of both the College Level Staff Service Award and the University Wide Staff Service Award.





Dr. Kimberly Loomis

- 29 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of Secondary and Middle Grades Education
- Dr. Loomis was a drummer and band nerd through high school
- Dr. Loomis will offer a graduate course at the International Wolf Center in the summer of 2025
- Dr. Loomis began and ended her KSU teaching focusing on early field experiences

Dr. Barbara Neuby

- 29 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- School of Government and International Affairs
- Loves spending time with students
- She is very detail-oriented in her work and receives many help requests from public offices.
- Deserves lots of recognition but hates it (not aware of this slide)
- If looking for Barbara, just check her office. She is always there.





Dr. Audry Garcia

- 27 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of World Languages and Cultures
- Was part of the core team of language and culture faculty
- Offered beloved classes in Spanish language, Mexican culture, and Latin American literatures
- Prepared ML&C Majors for career success with advanced classes and senior seminar
- Supported her WLC colleagues as a mentor and advisor

Tamara Grooms

- 27 years of service.
- Retired as Operations Manager in the Office of the President, but served in various roles, including Associate Dean for the College of Continuing and Professional Education.
- Family is Tamara's #1 priority.
- In April, Tamara and Scott welcomed healthy twin grandbabies!
- Their son and family live in Saudia Arabia, a recent move from Dubai.
- Tamara is traveling to Greece in August.
- KSU was fortunate to have Tamara among our family and professional team for many years. She left a lasting impact through her policies, practices, and steadfast friendship.





Dr. Laurence Sherr

- 27 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Robert S. Geer Family College of the Arts, Bailey School of Music
- Sherr is internationally acclaimed for his work in Holocaust remembrance music, beginning with a commission from the Carter Presidential Center in 1993.
- He has received several prestigious awards, including the University Distinguished Professor Award (2018), the Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Faculty Award for Distinguished International Achievement, and multiple Global Engagement grants.
- Sherr's compositions have been performed on five continents and featured in album releases in Europe and the U.S. His album "Fugitive Footsteps: Remembrance Music" won a gold medal in the Global Music Award competition in 2023.
- He has been instrumental in developing the BSOM curriculum, introducing new courses and degree programs, and hosting new music concerts, fostering collaboration with living composers and performers.

Dr. Sabine Smith

- 27 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of World Languages and Cultures
- Created and led the KSU German Studies Program
- KSU German Studies was designated a “National Center of Excellence” by the American Association of Teachers of German
- Awarded over \$1 million in funding to support KSU students
- Received the USG Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame Award (2011)



Walt Thain

- 27 years of service to Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University in Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Maintained and updated the circuits and electronics lab spaces
- Completed the vast majority of the work for several major curriculum changes
- Developed new technical electives in several important areas
- Spent countless hours helping students build printed circuit boards (PCBs) for their projects





Dr. Ronny Richardson

- 26 years of service to Kennesaw State University (including 16 years at SPSU)
- Leven School of Management, Entrepreneurship, & Hospitality
- Twenty years at Georgia Power Company, with four years off for the Air Force
- Published 22 non-fiction books including two textbooks
- Honored with the Coles College Teaching Award

Dr. Sam Abaidoo

- 24 Years of Service to Kennesaw State University
- Sociology and Criminal Justice (SCJ)
- Former Chair of Sociology, Geography, and Anthropology, and Criminal Justice; Former Chair SCJ
- Co-founder of AADS major (now Black Studies)
- Led the creation of the 1st fully online undergraduate degree program in RCHSS and one of the 1st fully online sociology programs in the U.S.
- When asked the biggest challenge he overcame during his career at KSU, Dr. Abaidoo said, "Skepticism about the possible ...!"
- Led multiple study abroad trips to Ghana and won awards for Outstanding Engagement & Distinguished Intl. Achievement

Colleagues had this to say about **Dr. Abaidoo**:

"Sam Abaidoo is one of the most calm and caring people you will ever meet. He embodies such a sweet spirit, it is contagious. He has a way that makes you realize everything (personal, or professional) is going to be alright. Nothing is insurmountable! Zen is his superpower."



Cheryl Cooley

- 22 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- College of Science & Mathematics/GA Youth Science & Technology Centers (GYSTC)
- She earned her undergraduate degree from KSU and was first employed by KSU's Human Resources Division
- She is a lifelong learner, recently completing her Masters of Public Administration
- She is a consummate professional, being a role model to all she works with, as she holds herself to the highest of standards and leads by example
- She is a wonderful mother & grandmother, a talented pianist, and a US Army Veteran



Angela DeAngelo

- 22 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of History & Philosophy
- Students are often intimidated by Angie's high expectations when they first meet her. What they find after working with her for a few months is that she is absolutely committed to their success and growth not just as teachers but as human beings. She provides tremendous support to them and has counseled them through challenging classroom and personal situations. She doesn't hesitate to talk to them on the phone after hours, or to make extra visits to their field school when they need her guidance. She continues to stay close to HIED alumni and mentor them after they've left KSU.
- I remember my first year, I supervised four student teachers. Angie was the YCE coordinator, so during the first HIED Methods class, she came to speak to the students and give them the guidelines for YCE. After she finished speaking to the class, I left thinking to myself that I hope I was that scary to my middle school students. If so, well done!
- Angie's yard is basically a little farm, with dogs, geese, chickens, muscadines, and a huge vegetable garden. She's a great cook and shares the abundance: cookies for History Ed gatherings, strawberry preserves, and incredible dill pickles.



Dr. Terry Loe

- 22 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of Marketing & Professional Sales/Coles College of Business/Professor of Marketing
- Driving Force Behind NCSC – Under his leadership, the National Collegiate Sales Competition has grown into a premier event, gaining national and international recognition.
- Pioneer in Sales Education – He played a crucial role in integrating professional sales into academic curricula, shaping sales education at Kennesaw State University.
- Accomplished Scholar – His research on professional sales education and business ethics has established him as a thought leader and sought-after speaker.
- Dedicated mentor – He is committed to mentoring students and colleagues, generously sharing his expertise to guide and support their professional growth.



Patricia Tilbian

- 21 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of World Languages and Cultures
- Managed student-facing activities and supervised tutors in the World Languages Resource Collections
- Provided support for thousands of language students across KSU
- Trained and supervised international tutors preparing them for career success
- Supported WLC faculty with all technology needs





Sharon Chesser

- 20 years of service with KSU, working at the KSU Bookstore and 16 years of prior service working at SPSU in the Admissions & Registrar's Office
- 36 total years of service with the USG
- Assistant Director-General Merchandise, KSU Bookstore
- Proud mother of 2 current KSU employees, Cate & Tyler. Cate is a KSU alum and Tyler is currently working on his degree at KSU.
- Instrumental in the growth of the KSU brand, having overseen the expansion of Bookstore retail operations at 5th-3rd Stadium, the Convocation Center, Marietta, online, and elsewhere. Also directed the growth of technology sales, school supplies, art & engineering supplies, and saw to the commencement needs of countless KSU graduates
- Friend, mentor, and invaluable resource to all



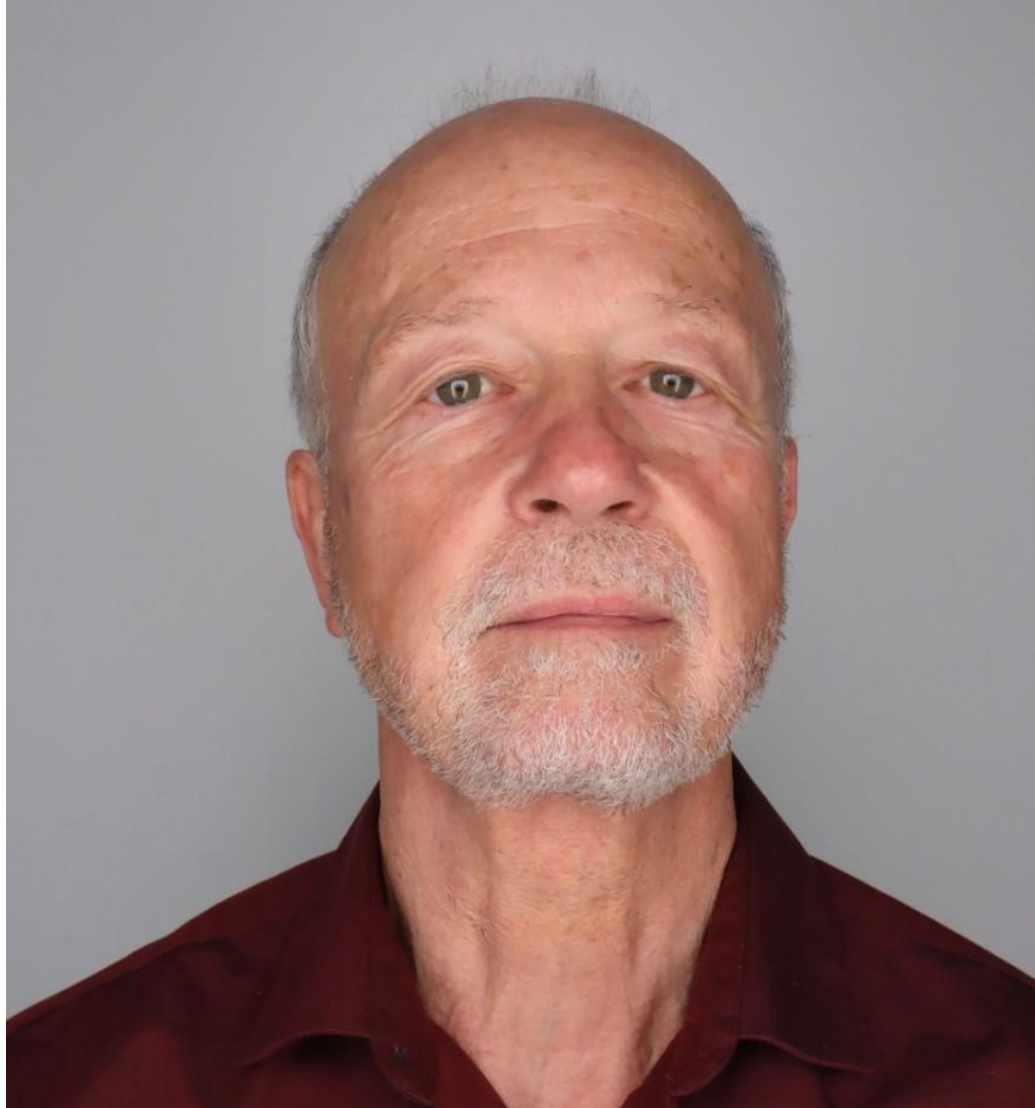
Valerie Patrick

- 20 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Retiring from: KSU Foundation
- Completed 41,956 total journal entries under her watch
- Account and Finance staff Tripled (2 to 9)
- Net Assets increased by 1,287% (from \$16M to \$217M)
- 20 years of financial statement audits



Dr. Deborah N. Smith

- 20 years of service to Kennesaw State University (and 6 years part-time)
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Worked in two colleges and four academic departments; has had ten different offices!
- 2019 University College Distinguished Faculty Award Recipient
- Founding director of the Leadership Studies program



Rick Pugh

- 18 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Facilities - Planning, Design & Construction
- Rick was previously a part of Facilities and specifically Campus Operations
- He was known for being the go-to person to get jobs done!
- One of his strongest attributes was a “can-do” attitude and a spirit of collaboration.
- Rick managed an extensive variety of project types including roof replacements, building renovations, exterior hardscape, and more!

Dr. Ethel Kay Traille

- 17 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of History & Philosophy
- I remember attending my first History and Philosophy faculty meeting. I sat next to Kay and distinctly recall having to stifle my laughter several times. At the end of the meeting, I walked out thinking to myself, “My God. I am working with Queen Charlotte from Bridgerton!”
- Kay is described as a wonderful friend and colleague. She was a great person to go to with questions and was always helpful and friendly to newcomers.
- Kay is a natural teacher, drawing her students into fascinating discussions that weave unpredictably through the semester and foster a community of learning. I once saw her use “blobby trees” throughout the semester as a way of gauging student well-being and it became a kind of touchstone for the class.



Rick Hofelich



- 15 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Director of Campus Landscape and Grounds
- **Green Thumb & Expert** – Certified arborist with a BS Degree in Horticulture who planted over 500 trees at KSU and received several notable awards from KSU leadership.
- **Respected Leader** – Known as a great director who leads by example, outworking even the youngest employees.
- **Dedicated Mentor** – Supports his team with genuine care, balancing professionalism with a big heart.
- **Skilled Mediator** – Celebrated for bringing people together through active listening, feedback, and collaboration.





Pamela Walters

- 15 years of service
- Admissions Department
- Fun Fact: No grandkids yet.
- They are building a mountain house in north GA.
- She loves family travel trips

Dr. Linda Galloway

- 13 years of service to Kennesaw State University
 - School of Data Science and Analytics
 - Leadership in STAT 1401 and the Statistics Pathway initiative
 - Transformational mentorship of Graduate Teaching Assistants
 - Excellence in teaching and peer support
 - Talented musician and singer
-





Kathryn Negrelli

- 12 years of service to Kennesaw State University
- Department of World Languages and Cultures
- Created and led the KSU Japanese Program
- Was named one of the “25 Most Influential Asian Americans in GA”
- Received an Entrepreneurship Fellowship by the Robin and Doug Shore Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center
- Received the Southeast America Teachers of Japanese “2021 Teacher of the Year” award

Cpl Russell A. Midkiff

- 10 years of service to Kennesaw State University
 - Department of Public Safety, Special Operations
 - Cpl Midkiff has a great sense of humor
 - He did a great job investigating and clearing hit and run cases
 - He loves to tell Army stories we have all heard before
 - He loves his dogs like they are his kids
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**Congratulations
To Our Retirees!**