

2011-2012 Leadership

Replace * with "aauwatlanta.org" in all email addresses

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ATLANTA BRANCH NEWS

Vol. 62, No. 1 ❖ September 2011

AAUW Atlanta Branch Kickoff Meeting

Our 2011–12 meeting year begins on September 18, as members of our Georgia State University (GSU) Collegiate Affiliate Branch hosts our Branch at a meeting at the GSU Student Center, located at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and Gilmer Street. The meeting will be held in the Court Salon on the first floor of the Student Center. We will start at 3:00 p.m. and end by 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The program features students from Agnes Scott College, Georgia State University, and Oglethorpe University, who will share their experiences while attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) this summer. Our Branch provided financial support for these students to attend this annual event (see article, p. 3). Local and national scholarship winners will also be recognized. And there will be plenty of time to sign up to volunteer at Bookfair, our one and only fundraising event.

For this meeting only, please RSVP to either co-president (Mary Lynn Merkle or Ruth Yurchuck) by Wednesday, September 14. We urge members to carpool to this event. Members who have indicated they will attend will be contacted and directed to meet at designated locations.

Members can be dropped off at the Student Center building, and drivers will then proceed to the G parking deck. This is the only deck open on Sunday for GSU functions; there is no charge for parking. While there are several entrances to G deck, the only entrance that is open on Sunday is on Collins Street (see below).

Directions:

From I-75/85 south, take the MLK Drive Exit (248A). Keep right on MLK and turn right on Piedmont and left on Gilmer; the Student Center is at this intersection and you can let people out in front of the center on Gilmer.

To get to the parking deck, continue on Gilmer and turn left on Courtland (ignore G Deck signs because the only entrance that is open is on Collins). Continue on Courtland to MLK Drive, and turn right on MLK to Central Avenue. Turn right on Central, then right on Decatur Street. Continue for about a half block—Collins Street is under the viaduct on the right; the G deck is located at the end of the street on the right.

Walking to the Student Center is easy. From Collins, go right on Decatur, left on Piedmont, and one block up to Gilmer. �

Co-Presidents' Article: Looking Ahead

by Mary Lynn Merkle and Ruth Yurchuck





Welcome to our new Branch Year and the new Fiscal Year! Plans are underway to make it the best one ever. The Atlanta Branch Board of Directors met on June 14 to plan activities and programs for 2011–2012. Discussion was lively, with the primary objective

being the planning of activities and programs for the 2011-2012 year.

Many of you had a positive response to last year's flexible schedule of meeting times and venues. So we will do it again this year and continue to get your feedback about this approach. We know that holding meetings at good local restaurants remains popular, and some of our meetings will indeed continue this option. Knowing that busy schedules make it difficult for some members to take most of a weekend day for AAUW activities, some of our meetings will be program only. Your Board is working hard to plan programs and venues that will be well worth your time.

(continued on p. 6)

Remembering Carol

by Mary Lynn Merkle

We recently lost our dear friend and fellow Atlanta Branch member Carol Fetters. She passed away in May after a long but courageous battle with cancer. Following are some of the memories that our members have about Carol's many years as part of Atlanta Branch.

Betty Slater: "Carol was so willing to give a very informative program to our group on ovarian cancer. She was so upbeat in whatever she did. She always sent David along with his friend Bill to help put up books for Bookfair."

Phyllis Miller: "I'm remembering that Carol and her daughter won the top award for a flower hat creation at the Southeastern Flower Show. She included us in her good fortune, and many of us went to see her fanciful creation. She was so talented."

Marcy Nader: "I recently rejoined AAUW after many years away, and I found the book discussion group meeting as in days of old at Carol's lovely home in Dunwoody. It was bittersweet to share a reminiscent hug with her, knowing that our new time together would likely be brief. Many things change over time, but Carol's lovely smile, warm hospitality, and intelligence stayed just the same as always. May her memory be a blessing."



Connie Eshenour: "Carol loved chocolate. She loved to plan the menu around dessert. Lamb and veggies with chocolate dessert. She loved to play bridge and to catch up on *Vanity Fair* magazine news."

Mary Hanson: "It was truly a pleasure and blessing to have known Carol. Not only did I know her through our Contemporary Literature group, but about a year after joining AAUW, I shared the position of

Program Chair with her. A tough job for a rookie, but so much fun with Carol. She was gracious, helpful, and had a great sense of humor. I so enjoyed those two years we worked on programs. She is irreplaceable!"

Dot Ransom: "Carol was a very special lady. She loved flowers, and several years ago entered a flower arrangement (with her daughter-in-law, I think) in the Southeastern Garden Show and won. Her home often had fresh flowers. There was always a floral wreath on her front door.

Many years ago Carol let a former AAUW member, Ti Woodruff, use her home for Ti's BSF Bible study group lunch when Carol was out of town and it was Ti's month to be hostess for the group.

If everyone were as kind, loving, and lovely as Carol, the world would be a better place. I miss her lovely smile and stunning clothes. Carol had a knack for fashions and had the height to look stunning."

Carol's presence always made a difference. She was informed, well-read, thoughtful, and a good friend! We are all better for her having been a part of us for so many years!

Public Policy Initiatives, 2011–2012

by Diana Witt, Public Policy Chair

The Public Policy committee has been busy already in 2011. On August 16, Sharon Bevis-Hoover and Diana Witt met with U. S. Congressman Ron Woodall (R-Gwinnett County) to discuss three initiatives that are the focus of AAUW national for the upcoming Congressional session:

- 1. Congressional approval of the Women's History Museum project;
- 2. AAUW's objection to means testing for Social Security;
- 3. Approval of the Campus SaVE Act to reduce sexual violence on campuses.

Representative Woodall asked whether the need for a separate museum was due to existing museums doing an inadequate job of representing women or due to a collection so large that a separate space is needed. He expressed concern that having a separate museum creates divisiveness and balkanization. Regarding Social Security, he questioned AAUW's objection to means testing. On the Campus SaVE Act, he agreed that it is good for parents and consumers

to have more information, but he is concerned about requiring additional reporting, and he questioned whether new requirements would motivate people to change their behavior to get better reported results without meeting the intent of the Act. He suggested that he would follow up with his colleague Congressman John Kline, who is Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

In other news, Public Policy Chair Diana Witt will represent the Atlanta Branch at the Georgia 2012 Project on September 23, in the Capitol, in Room 230. The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm how to get more Georgia women to run for elected offices at the local, state, and national levels. AAUW is one of the sponsors for this event.

On November 10, Georgia Women for a Change will hold its annual Georgia Women's Assembly workshop. The Board has allocated \$500 to sponsor this event. This amount allows us two free registrations and a listing in the program. Please let our co-presidents know if you would like to attend this event. ��

Scholarships Awarded for Fall 2011

by Barbara Buchanan

Atlanta Branch has awarded four Esther Davis Memorial Scholarships to outstanding Georgia State University (GSU) students. You will see that all four scholarship recipients are high achievers, both academically and as volunteers, giving back to their community. We should all be truly proud to be able to support these women.

We were very fortunate to be able to award two of our scholarships to women who are already members of our branch. The first, Diana Dey, began her college education in her native country, Ghana, and is currently a Managerial Sciences major at GSU. Diana was very active in women's issues in Ghana, serving as the National Chairperson of the Women's Affairs Commission of the National Union of Ghana Students. In the U. S., she has served Stand Up for Kids as a mentor for homeless youth, and she has been a community organizer as president of her neighborhood association. Diana has worked hard to found the new AAUW Student Collegiate Affiliate Branch on the GSU campus and is the president of that Branch. She has also been an active participant in Atlanta Branch activities, including volunteering at our Bookfair and working on the CARE partnership committee. After she finishes her degree at GSU, she plans to start a nonprofit organization focused on working with young people and also to work with an international organization for relief to other countries. Diana has maintained very good grades while showing her commitment

to "improve communities by uniting, educating, supporting and inspiring others."

We should all be truly proud to be able to support these women.

Another Atlanta Branch member to receive an Esther Davis Scholarship this year is Adria Griffin. She has overcome extreme obstacles to pursue her education, in the face of which others with less strength of character might have quit. Not only has she pursued a degree, she has maintained a perfect A+ grade-point average at GSU. Adria is a Social Work major who understands that the political process is the guiding force behind our social welfare system. She has volunteered with the Atlanta Children's Shelter for more than three years and is described by their staff as a creative problem solver, always ready to take on responsibility. This truly outstanding woman is also employed 25-30 hours per week. There is no doubt that she will become the person she aspires to be, able to guide other young girls on the path to healthy living.

Nora Ayala came to the U. S. from Colombia, South America. She has been very active in health-related work, helping in educational programs for pregnant women while she was in Colombia and teaching

after-school classes to Latino youth in a nonprofit, behavioral-health treatment and education program in the Atlanta area. Additionally, she has volunteered with a teacher-training workshop and helped to form a Latino support group providing education on brain disorders. She is currently a Nursing major at GSU making very high grades. When she was a student at Perimeter College, she was named "student of the semester" of the Microbiology class. Nora is interested in nursing education and feels that diversity will allow her to play a role as an academic and social advocate for minority groups. She wants to be able to provide services and support to international organizations and communities.

Our remaining scholarship recipient is **Diem Tran**. She is a Chemistry major who wants to attend dental school upon graduation from GSU. She has maintained a very high GPA even though she has two part-time jobs and still finds time to volunteer at free dental clinics as well as the American Cancer Society. At GSU, Diem has been named a University Scholar and a Faculty Scholar, and she has made the Dean's list for three years and the President's List once. This is even more impressive since she didn't speak English when she arrived in the U. S. eleven years ago. Despite financial worries due to a divorce and ineligibility for Pell or Hope funds (since she has a previous college degree from Vietnam), she says that she wants to finish school as soon as she can to help her family back in Vietnam.



Student Leaders Send Thank-Yous

by Betty Slater

I received thank-you notes from all of the students who attended the 2011 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which was held on the campus of the University of Maryland! We will be hearing the specifics of their learning experience at our September meeting. These women were able to attend because of our branch members' work with Bookfair. Continue to support Bookfair, especially the Bookroom, so that we can earn money to support our future women leaders! ��

Atlanta Branch's sponsored students at the conference (from left): Klaretta Young, Rhinehardt College; Lauren Kenney, Agnes Scott College; Annie Morgan, Oglethorpe University; and Diana Dey, Georgia State University

Bookfair Sign-up

			9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	12:30 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.– 9:30 p.m.
Sunday	10/2	Set-up				PEAK Set-up starts: 7:00 p.m. ends: approx. 10:30 p.m.
Monday	10/3	Set-up				
Tuesday	10/4	Set-up				
Tuesday.	10/4	Preview sale				PEAK (150% credit for time worked) Preview sale shift is from 5:45–9:45 p.m.
Wed.	10/5	Sale	PEAK (200% credit for time worked)	PEAK (200% credit for time worked)	(200% credit for time worked))	(200% credit for time worked)
Thursday	10/6	Sale				
Friday	10/7	Sale				CRITICAL
Saturday	10/8	Sale	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL
Sunday	10/9	Sale		PEAK This shift starts: 11:30 a.m. ends: 3:00 p.m.	CRITICAL This shift starts: 3:00 p.m. ends: 7:00 p.m.	
Sunday	10/9	Tear- down				PEAK This shift starts: 7:00 p.m. ends: when finished

Please put a check in the chart above in the WHITE space of the shifts that you prefer to work. (Shaded spaces not available.)

PEAK: Shifts that are busy, requiring many staff. CRITICAL: Shifts not quite as busy as Peak shifts but usually under-staffed.

Please select three or more shifts! Try to choose at least 1 or 2 Peak or Critical shifts.

Name:			_
Branch:	Phone:	E-mail:	
Please indicate whether you have a stror sale. Cashiering and cashier's assistant a require unpacking books. Evening shifts a security/information job. If you do not	re sedentary jobs, but you mu should help clean and cover to	ist be able to operate our calculators ables after closing. If you must sit but	accurately and quickly. All set-up shifts
Preferred duty: cashier/assistant			ou in your preferred duty, as much as
If you can serve as a Shift Chair check her mation to AAUW personnel, as well as wo Chair. Please volunteer for Shift Chair if y	orking as a relief cashier and me	erchandiser during the shift. Someon	
Comments:			

52nd ANNUAL AAUW BOOKFAIR!!!

Bookroom volunteers have been working hard throughout the year to make this year's Bookfair a successful event, but we cannot do that without YOU!!!! Please think about your commitment to AAUW and all the good work that we do in the community. It would be impossible to fund all of our local scholarships, national fellowships, grants, and local community action grants without a large fundraiser like our Bookfair.

We need every member of AAUW to participate. If we all share the work, the work will be lighter for everyone.

Please Sign Up NOW!!! Help us to plan staffing and avoid the last-minute confusion.

MAKE AAUW WORK: Work At The Bookfair!

Mail your form to: Barbara Buchanan • xxxx xxxxxxxxx xx or e-mail: scholarship@aauwatlanta.org

IMPORTANT: If you have been recruited to work on the BANKING COMMITTEE (OR "FINANCE COMMITTEE") **DO NOT** use the form above. The Banking Committee Chair will assign and keep track of your Banking shifts. They are different times than the shifts listed above. Please use the form above ONLY to sign up for additional shifts which are different from your Banking Shifts.

Questions? Call Barbara: xxx-xxx-xxxx

2011 AAUW National Convention

by Sharon Bevis-Hoover

Eleven women from the state of Georgia, including AAUW President Carolyn Garfein and Atlanta Branch President-elect Sharon Bevis-Hoover, attended the 2011 AAUW National Convention in Washington, D.C., this June. The "big teal machine" spent one day on Capitol Hill visiting Senators and Representatives to lobby them on three policy priorities:

- 1) Passage of the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011 (H.R. 1269). This bill directs the government to convey to the National Women's History Museum specified property in the District of Columbia at its fair market value. The Museum, which is privately funded, has already raised the funds to construct the museum. This bill directs the sale of property and currently has 65 co-sponsors in the House.
- 2) Preservation of Social Security. AAUW emphatically opposes slashing or means-testing benefits, raising the retirement age, toying with risky privatization schemes, or raiding the program in a misguided attempt to reduce the deficit. The program, which has over 70 years of success, is one of our nation's best anti-poverty programs and provides critical benefits to millions of children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. We support strengthening Social Security while enacting common-sense reforms and improvements.
- 3) Passage of the Campus SaVE Act (H.R. 2016). The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act amends Title IV of the Higher

Education Act of 1965 to require that institutions of higher education improve their efforts to combat sexual violence on campuses through clearer policies, more thorough reporting, improved education, and confidentiality protection. The bill currently has 25 co-sponsors in the House.

With the 2010 election, the number of women in Congress fell for the first time in 20 years. Over the next 14 months, AAUW will place significant focus on a campaign titled Get Out the Vote 2012, including toolkits for branches and a series of new public service announcements.

Convention attendees also participated in a number of workshops, panel discussions, and presentations. Legislators from both sides of the aisle gave their perspective on topics of importance to women and girls. A panel of women in power in the Obama administration described the administration's priorities, which include paycheck fairness, compliance with anti-discrimination laws in Federal contracting, prosecution of sexual harassment and trafficking, access to reproductive health services, and compliance with Title IX.

The next National Convention will be held in 2013 in New Orleans.

More information on the 2011 Convention is available at AAUW.org and at AAUWAtlanta.org. ❖

Proposed Signature Project In Partnership With Cool Girls

by Sharon Bevis-Hoover

During our September meeting, the Branch will vote on a proposal by the Board to establish a Signature Project focused on the college application process for local high-school girls in collaboration with Cool Girls. Last year, Cool Girls participated in our Branch meeting on strategies to combat sex trafficking, where they described their efforts to break cycles of poverty, low self-esteem, and teen pregnancy through education and exposure to a broader world of opportunity.

Cool Girls works with 505 girls in 2nd through 12th grade at eleven schools in Fulton and DeKalb counties. Of those girls, 21 are in high school. They meet weekly after school and on Saturdays. The Cool Girls program focuses on life skills, pregnancy prevention, fitness, technology, relationship building, and positive conflict resolution. They collaborate with researchers at Georgia State University and the Center for Disease Control to establish effective strategies.

Ruth Yurchuck, Mary Lynn Merkle, and Sharon Bevis-Hoover met with a Cool Girls representative over the summer to explore opportunities for the Atlanta Branch to develop and implement a program for these girls. Targeting the successful transition of the high-school girls into colleges is an area of opportunity that fits well with our AAUW mission. Our project

You Can Help!

We know that our members have the skills and experience to make a difference for Cool Girls' high-school contingent. We just don't know how yet! Pam Antinori and Susan Diffenderfer have agreed to be team leaders as we continue to explore this partnership. AND now they need a committee of enthusiastic members to help the process. If you are interested in being a part of this team, contact Pam, Susan, or either of the co-presidents.

could include preparation for college admissions tests and the Georgia High School Graduation Test; selecting a college; completing college applications and essays; and applying for financial aid. We could also establish a scholarship in the Branch's name for one or more girls. The Board is recommending that the Branch approve this Signature Project, which would begin with assigning a committee to fully define the project for implementation by the Branch. If approved, the Committee would report the results and future plans at our November meeting.

More information about Cool Girls is available on their website: http://www.thecoolgirls.org/ �

AAUW at Georgia State University

AAUW Atlanta Branch has initiated its first collegiate affiliate branch at Georgia State University. Many people contributed to this effort, including our national President, Carolyn Garfein, and Dr. Jill Birdwhistell, AAUW Chief of Strategic Advancement. But the real hero here is Diana Dey, a GSU student. The following article reflects her perspective on the process and outcome.

by Diana Dey



The idea for a collegiate branch of AAUW at Georgia State University was conceived when I attended my first AAUW Atlanta branch meeting on

June 5, 2010. At this meeting, the speaker, Audrey Salgado of the AAUW Leadership Corps, challenged us to engage in a serious membership drive, especially in diversifying the group and also bringing in more college students.

I realized as a student I can do my part by starting a branch at my school, knowing Georgia State University will be a great school to begin with because of its diversity of student population. I then discussed it with Betty Slater, who gave me directions

on starting the organization and encouraged me to talk to fellow students about AAUW. The students' response was encouraging, with several of them expressing interest in joining the organization.

I later discussed these developments with Dr. Myra Carmon and asked her about serving as the Georgia State University staff coordinator, and she wholeheartedly accepted. She helped me write the petition to the school administration and has been instrumental in communicating with the school with all our paperwork. Finally, on April 25, 2011, the school approved our petition to start the organization on campus.

AAUW at Georgia State University will focus on campus activities based upon current AAUW projects such as, teaching salary negotiation skills, combatting sexual discrimination, encouraging interest in politics for women, and providing ongoing leadership training. We will also engage in projects with other organizations on campus in order to spread the news and participate in other programs that affect women and girls on our campuses.

I want to sincerely thank all AAUW Atlanta branch members who have been very encouraging and helped make this happen. A million thanks. ❖

AAUW at GSU—Fall Term Update

The officers have already met twice to discuss projects for our Fall semester which will include those of AAUW's 2011–2012 Leadership Programs for students. We will also be having joint programs with other student organizations on campus in order to raise awareness of issues affecting college women on a wider scale and also increase our membership.

One of our major projects will be on Human Trafficking, which has become a major issue on an international scale. Other campus programs will include Career Development and Exploration, Communication Skills, Employment Skills, and Personal Attributes. We have created a Facebook page and a website, and we will soon begin posting articles about our programs.

Our membership is growing at a steady pace, and we currently have about twenty members. We know this is the beginning of a great experience as students are equipped to be future leaders!

Diana A. Dey, President, AAUW at Georgia State University

Volunteering Can Prolong Your Life

By Barbara Buchanan

A book reviewed recently in the Wall Street Journal, *The Longevity Project* by psychologists Howard S. Friedman and Leslie R. Martin, probes data gathered over an eight-decade research effort originally intended to follow bright youth to determine early signs of intellectual giftedness. What resulted was an eighty-year study that most significantly brought forth characteristics associated with longevity.

Reading this book review immediately made me think about volunteering in the Bookroom. We are all aware of the benefits of social activity (think of lunch in the Bookroom and stimulating conversations with your fellow volunteers) and physical activity (sorting books for a few hours keeps you moving, and picking up books from our bookdrops builds muscles), not to mention mental activity (again, sorting books keeps you thinking while remembering the floor plan of the Bookroom's bookshelves). But *The Longevity Project* defines additional characteristics of the study's subjects who lived the longest. The best childhood predictor of longevity is defined by the authors as "conscientiousness: the often complex pattern of persistence, prudence, hard work, and close involvement with friends and communities". That last portion jumped out at me when I read

the statement that "a habit of giving back to your community" ranks with physical and mental activity as a longevity predictor!

You may be tired of hearing me ask for volunteers in the Bookroom as well as at Bookfair. Well, here is the best way I know to convince you that volunteering in the Bookroom is not only fun to do and beneficial to the financial needs of the Atlanta Branch: Volunteering in the Bookroom can help you live longer!

Now is the time to get involved! The Bookfair is approaching fast (the sign-up form is on page 4) and there's plenty of work needed in the Bookroom before Bookfair. We also have a number of bookdrops that need new volunteers now to bring the books into the Bookroom.

The Bookroom is located in Buckhead, in the ground floor of a high-rise condominium at 3060 Pharr Court North, Atlanta 30305. It is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Contact Bea Meyer, Barbara Buchanan, or Alta Birdsong, call the Bookroom at 404/261-7646 and visit our web site www. bookfairaauw.org for more info. ❖

Proposed General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

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	Cash Balance 6-30-2011		\$9,708	

Contemporary Literature Group

Our Contemporary Literature group will meet on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the home of Connie Eshenour, xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx, xxxx; xxx/xxx-xxxx. We will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

Please note that our October meeting will be the second Wednesday of the month (the 12th) to avoid conflict with Bookfair. We will be discussing *Tinkers* by Paul Harding. If you have questions, contact Kay Collins at xxx/xxx-xxxx.

Travel Group

The Travel Group will meet at the Atlanta History Center at 10:30 a.m. on October 13 to see two exciting new exhibits that are opening in October: "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment" and "Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy." Travelers will enjoy lunch together following. Call Betty Arden at xxx/xxx-xxxx for more information or to reserve a space. •

Co-Presidents' Article

Having an updated NEW handbook is another priority for the coming year. The handbook will be distributed at our September meeting and will contain all of our program information and up-to-date member information. Please take a moment to check your own listing for accuracy and completeness. Should corrections be necessary, please inform our membership vice-president, Dot Ransom. And right now, circle September 18th on your calendar—that is the date of our September meeting.

There is great enthusiasm about our Signature Project options. This is the year that we will, as a Branch, decide which project focus (Sex Trafficking or CARE) best fits us. We are continuing to develop ways in which Atlanta Branch can become an integral part of whichever project we choose. Input from ALL of our members is critical as we work on refining what our Branch can do best and what is the best fit for our mission. Please contact your co-presidents with comments and suggestions about either of the potential projects. We're counting on you to help us meet our goal of making this the "best year ever." *

Calendar

September

- 7 Contemporary Lit Group
- 17 Last day for book pick-up
- 18 Branch meeting
- 20 Last day for sorting books
- 25 Board meeting

October

- 2–9 Bookfair (Perimeter Mall)
- 12 Contemporary Lit Group
- 13 Travel Group
- 22 AAUW Leadership Meeting (Atlanta Branch hosts)

November

12 Branch meeting

Board Meeting

Our board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Frances Smith. ❖

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ATLANTA NEWS

Atlanta Branch AAUW 1651 Executive Park Lane Atlanta, GA 30329