

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 1994

Contact: Sara Pilger, Acting Director of Communications, 638-6294

## AGNES SCOTT NAMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES

Agnes Scott College named two new members to its Board of Trustees at its May meeting. D. Gayle Gellerstedt and Louise McKinney Hill Reaves will be filling current vacancies on the Board.

Gayle Gellerstedt of Decatur, Georgia, is a 1971 Agnes Scott graduate with a major in psychology and a 1992 graduate of Georgia State University with a master's degree in the field of early childhood education. She has been a kindergarten teacher for 26 high-risk children at College Heights Elementary since 1992. Previously, Gellerstedt served as the Associate Director of the Institute for Fund-Raising Leadership of Coxe and Associates.

She has also served as the past president of both the Agnes Scott Alumnae Association and the Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. Additionally, she is an elder at Central Presbyterian Church. She was recognized as one of Ten Outstanding Young People of Atlanta and named one of the most influential people in the city under the age of 40 by Atlanta Magazine in 1985. She is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Georgia and was recognized in the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers in 1993.

Gellerstedt is the daughter of Lawrence and Mary Gellerstedt of Atlanta, both previous Agnes Scott College board members.

Louise McKinney Hill Reaves of Stone Mountain, Georgia, is a member of the Agnes Scott class of 1954 with a major in English. At Agnes Scott she was recognized not only as a member of Mortar Board, but also as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Reaves is currently serving as executive secretary for Sanders and

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AGNES  
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Decatur, Georgia 30030

# NEWS RELEASE

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## AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE ALUMNAE HONOR LOCAL RETIRED PROFESSOR

As a tribute to her many years of service to Agnes Scott College, dedicated former students have established a fund in honor of former history professor Catherine Strateman Sims (Peachtree Road, Atlanta, 30305). The Catherine S. Sims Faculty Enrichment Fund will provide additional financial support for the professional growth of ASC faculty members.

A long-time supporter of women's colleges, Sims graduated with honors in history from Barnard College in 1934 where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After a year spent at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, she earned master's and doctorate degrees from Columbia. She then taught at ASC for 22 years, with a 3-year leave during that time to serve as the dean of the American College for Girls in Istanbul, Turkey. She was dean of Sweet Briar College for nine years, returning to ASC as a visiting professor in 1975 and as interim dean of the college in 1989-90.

Throughout her distinguished academic career, she has worked to uphold the standards of private education. She served as a senator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society for 18 years and was a long-time member and chairman of the Committee on Qualifications. From 1982 until 1985, she was president of the Society.

Ruby Rosser Davis '43, one of the many alumnae organizing the fund, says, "Dr.

Sims has chosen the most caring avenue possible. She recognized the need for funds to subsidize research and professional growth among faculty members, and she knows that this will enrich the education of ASC students."



AGNES  
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Decatur, Georgia 30030-3797

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 1994

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INTERNATIONAL DANCERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, AND NEW STUDIO  
INAUGURATE KESSLER DANCE PROGRAM AT AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

The Martha Wilson Kessler Dance Program at Agnes Scott College is underway this fall with a full complement of programming and new physical facilities. Following the complete renovation of the Kessler Dance Studio and the appointment of visiting artists this fall, the Kessler Program will highlight dance at Agnes Scott for years to come.

Agnes Scott College received an accumulated gift of \$368,800 dollars as a gift from Richard and Martha Kessler in honor of Martha, a 1969 graduate of Agnes Scott and a trustee since 1986. The gift has established the Martha Wilson Kessler Dance Studio, providing funds for facility and program enhancement over the next five years. The Kessler Dance Studio was dedicated in April then renovated over the summer.

Part of the gift was used to make performances possible in the Kessler Studio by adding a lighting and sound system, teasers and tormentors, a new marley floor, and motorized shades. The funds have also been used to purchase instructional equipment including video recording equipment, tapedecks and CD players, pilates and two new studio pianos.

Of the remaining portions of the gift, \$100 thousand was allocated to the College's endowment for the program and the balance is being used to provide residencies by visiting artists, ballet and modern dance accompanists, commissions of choreographic works, and student internships. Programmatic changes in the dance program began in the fall of 1993

with the residency of Jane Comfort, New York choreographer, who has worked with Merce Cunningham, Maggie Black, and Janet Panetta. She set

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a new dance for Agnes Scott's Studio Dance Theatre titled "Pretty Is As Pretty Does." Also Jude Woodcock and Robby Barnett, two of four artistic directors for Pilobolus, worked at Agnes Scott last spring in a four-week residency to adapt a Pilobolus piece for Studio Dance Theatre.

A private inaugural performance in the newly refurbished and state-of-the-art Kessler Dance Studio is planned for 8:15 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3. Titled "Pivotal Points," the performance features visiting artists Simi and David Roche and the Ronin/Redfins from the University of Adelaide in Australia, in concert with Agnes Scott's own Studio Dance Theatre. Ronin is the "pick-up company" from the University of Adelaide comprised of eleven dancers, including the Roches. Redfins is the musical ensemble of five jazz-rock musicians which has worked as composers for live dance performances and as the accompanists for dance classes at Adelaide University for 11 years.

This spring Simi and David Roche are the visiting artists-in-residence in the Kessler Program. The Roches are currently on the faculty at the University of Adelaide. David is the senior lecturer and head of the department of dance, as well as the co-director of "Champagne Fairs" in the Madley Dance Space. At Agnes Scott this fall as a visiting artist-in-residence, David is a former dancer with the Pearl Lang Dance Company and the Martha Graham Apprentice Company, among many others. He has taught at Florida State University, where he founded and directed the FSU Dance Touring Theatre. Other teaching experience includes work with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Centre and as a visiting artist in schools around the U.S. He has set numerous pieces during his career and will choreograph a piece for Studio Dance Theatre to be performed at its spring concert.

Simi is a tenured lecturer in dance at the University of Adelaide and coordinator for the touring programme of the dance department. Having set nearly 40 pieces, Simi has built on her experience teaching and performing modern dance in colleges across the U.S. including Florida State University, the University of Utah, and in Boulder, Colorado, and

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Toronto, Canada. Her dance experience includes work with Merce Cunningham, Bella Lewitsky, Martha Graham, Pearl Lang, among many others. While at Agnes Scott, Simi will set an original piece for the Nov. 3 concert titled "Women Without Shoes" based on a phrase from the History of Atlanta -1879 in which the only reference to the female population is as "pioneer babes" and "women without shoes."

The Roches will teach a modern dance master class open to experienced dancers in the Atlanta area from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Nov. 4, in the Kessler Dance Studio in the Alston Campus Center. Dancers at the intermediate level with several years of dance experience are invited to register for the class by calling 638-6430. The cost is \$8. The class, led by David Roche who will be assisted by Simi, will be accompanied by Redfins. Class size is limited due to space. Booking in advance is essential.