



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

Tribute to Retirees

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Fall, 2021

Sponsored by the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff,
University of West Georgia Office of Human Resources,
and University of West Georgia Foundation
Meg Cooper & Francesca Taylor (Eds.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Sharon Seneca (Human Resources), University Communications and Marketing, and Printing Services staff (especially Brooke Keener), as well as the UWG Office of Human Resources and the UWG Foundation, in the preparation of this commemorative tribute booklet.

ARFS Coordinating Council Members (2020-2021)

- Meg Cooper (President, USGRC voting member, Programs/Events Committee, Newsletter Committee), Special Education
- Kathryn Grams (Past President, GA-HERO representative, Newsletter Committee), Nursing
- Anne Richards (Vice President, USGRC alternate member, GA-HERO secretary, ARFS Listserv Manager, Newsletter Committee chairperson), Psychology
- Francesca Taylor (Secretary, Programs/Events Committee, Newsletter Committee), Academic Testing Services
- Sally Roberts (Treasurer), Publications and Printing
- Bonnie Bar, Nursing
- Jimmy Drew, Publications and Printing
- Bobby Powell, Physics
- Frank Pritchett (Programs/Events Committee), Alumni Relations
- Anita Thomas, Richards College of Business
- John von Eschenbach (Scholarship Committee), Curriculum and Instruction
- Alice Wesley (Programs/Events Committee), Graduate School
- Diane Williamson, Richards College of Business

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues:

I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate you on your retirement and let you know the depth of appreciation and admiration I have for you as you begin this new chapter in your life.

Your commitment to the university has made a positive and lasting impact. Your work has ensured generations of students will have the opportunity for a world-class, comprehensive higher education experience at the University of West Georgia.

I am grateful for the role you played in our success. Your loyalty and dedication have not gone unnoticed. I am humbled and honored to have served alongside you.

You will always remain an important part of the UWG community. It is my hope that you will stay in touch with us, so that we may share in your new experiences and adventures. Please consider participating in the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff as a way of keeping up with news about UWG and your fellow retirees. In addition, if you are interested in being part of the part-time retired employee pool to help campus units during times of employee extended leave, please contact Sharon Seneca at sseneca@westga.edu.

Wherever life takes you, I hope UWG holds a special and enduring place in your heart.

Be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Kelly". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
President
University of West Georgia

The Association of Retired Faculty & Staff (ARFS)

was established in 2004 as a voluntary association of the university's retired faculty and staff who joined together for several purposes: to promote the well-being of its members; support the University of West Georgia retiree community; foster continued involvement of retirees in the mission of the university; facilitate communication between the university and its retirees; seek to promote the scholarly, social, and cultural interests of the retiree community; and address matters related to benefits and resources for retirees.

Membership in ARFS is free and members decide for themselves how much involvement they wish to have in the organization and its activities.

Each year, ARFS recognizes persons from the faculty and staff who have retired from full-time employment at the university. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are once again planning a virtual event instead of the in-person reception we have enjoyed in the past. Participating retirees will receive a medallion from the university with their name, department, and years of service engraved on it. They may also choose to be included in this commemorative booklet. These items will be mailed out again this year. Details about the virtual reunion will be provided when plans are set up.

Many activities in which ARFS members have typically been involved were curtailed in 2020 and 2021. In the past, ARFS has sponsored programs featuring adventures of our traveling colleagues, and members have participated in various activities, including campus tours, off-campus trips, service projects, parades, plays, and concerts. Recently, participation has been limited to sharing information through the ARFS listserv, problem solving for retirees requesting information, and publishing our newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*. If you have suggestions about activities you would like to see us organize, especially once COVID-19 is contained, please do let us know.

A major activity this year for Coordinating Council personnel was preparation, administration, analysis, and follow-up activities related to a survey on UWG retirees' use of their Health Reimbursement Accounts, an important benefit for retirees age 65 and older of the University System of Georgia. Thanks to all of you who responded!! We got a lot of good information. An initial report should be available on the ARFS website (<https://www.westga.edu/hr/arfs/index.php>) soon. About one-fourth of respondents appeared to be in need of some assistance. We were able to provide information to many of those individuals but are still working on contacting others and/or trying to assist in conjunction with USG/Aon Health Exchange personnel. We also will prepare a final report that will include additional analyses.

About eight years ago, ARFS joined a national organization of retiree organizations in higher education, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Through a state subsidiary of that group, the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retirement Organizations (GA-HERO), some of us have attended meetings with retirees in higher education from all around Georgia. In the meetings, we have learned a lot about what other retiree organizations are doing. Any of you are welcome to join those who attend these meetings. Meetings have been held online, via Zoom, and will continue with in-person and/or online options in the future. AROHE will hold its annual conference virtually in October, 2021; more information can be found at <https://www.arohe.org/Conference>.

In 2015 the University System of Georgia created a retiree council (USGRC) to advise the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Regents on matters of consequence to retirees. The president of the ARFS Coordinating Council is our "official voting member" at USGRC meetings, and we are also allowed a designated "alternate member" in the event our official voting member cannot make the meeting. Currently, Anne Richards is serving as the "alternate member" in order to take notes to pass along to others. While the USGRC continues to have a focus on Medicare-eligible retirees' use of the Aon Retiree Healthcare Exchange, it is also looking at many other

issues of concern to retirees, including access to library resources on system campuses, well-being resources/services for retirees, and communication matters.

It is easy to become a member of ARFS. Just contact Meg Cooper (mcooper@westga.edu, 770-880-5078) or Sharon Seneca (sseneca@westga.edu, 678-839-5344) to let us know you want to join. We will need contact information. An e-mail address will help most since we use the ARFS listserv to share a variety of information. However, our newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*, is also distributed by postal mail when necessary. We invite you to become an active member of this organization, especially as we are able to get back to more in-person events.

We also hope you will take advantage of some or all of the benefits available to you as a retiree. There are a lot of them, such as a courtesy parking hangtag, eligibility for free membership to utilize all facilities in the Campus Center (secured in 2017), participation in well-being activities, a listing in a retiree directory if you would like, eligibility to check out books from the Ingram Library, reduced rates on West Georgia Theatre Company performances, free admission to UWG athletic events, and a 10% discount at the University Bookstore. We continue to look into the possibility of securing other benefits as well.

UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship

ARFS is pleased and proud to announce that the current recipient of the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship is Nathanael Davis, a sophomore majoring in Health and Community Wellness and a relative of UWG retiree Van Andrew Davis. We hope to hear from Nathanael as part of our virtual annual reunion.

For Future Applicants:

Students may apply by going to the University of West Georgia Scholarship Portal (https://westga.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/CMXAdmin/Cmx_Content.aspx?cpld=896) and following the instructions. Scholarship Application will open annually in October. The scholarship deadline for incoming students is February 1st. Priority will be given to students who apply before February 1st, but applications will be considered until a candidate is selected.

Eligibility Criteria:

- * Recipients will be full-time graduate or undergraduate students who are retirees of the institution or who are direct descendants or an immediate family relation of a retired faculty or staff member (with a minimum of 10 years of service to the institution).
- * Recipients will have minimum cumulative GPA 2.5, with preference given to applicants with higher GPA.
- * Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated financial need as determined by the UWG Financial Aid Office.

If you would like to make a gift to help fund this scholarship, check out <https://www.westga.edu/give/ways-to-give.php> for ways you can contribute, including through an online giving form. Be sure to designate the “UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship” if you wish to support this scholarship. Another option is to go directly to <https://giving.westga.edu/arfs/> where you can choose to donate to ARFS or to the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship online. You could also contact Ketty Cusick at kcusick@westga.edu or 678-839-6501.

Retired Faculty & Staff Tribute Booklet

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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Note: If you are aware of retirees who have been left out of this booklet, please let us know so we can recognize their service in a subsequent year.

Patricia Brooks

Positions held: Public Control Officer, Bus Driver

Departments: Public Safety, Parking & Transportation

Years of Service: 2003-2020

Tribute Statement:

I worked with Patricia in Parking & Transportation for seven years. She really seemed to love her work, and she did a great job. She drove every route we have at one time or another, driving all over campus, operating shopping shuttles, and more. Patricia (known as “Toot” by everyone) was dependable and always willing to go above and beyond, for example taking on routes for people who called out, even in the middle of the night. She knew her job and did it well. Before serving as a bus driver, Toot worked as a ticket writer, which requires a special person.

I see Toot out and about these days. She is always smiling and laughing. While we miss her, we wish her a great retirement. We hope she continues to be healthy, travels like she likes to do, and spends time with family and close friends. We want her to enjoy life. She deserves nothing but the best.

[Heather Topping, Departmental Assistant, Parking & Transportation, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Enjoying life!



Steven Broome

Positions held: Photographer, Assistant Director, Associate Director for Visual Services, Director of Photography and Video

Department: Public Relations/University Communications and Marketing

Years of Service: 1989-2020

Tribute Statement:

Steven Broome joined the University of West Georgia in November 1989 and shared his photography, videography, and technical talents with UWG for nearly 31 years. In addition to producing compelling photos and videos to elevate the reputation of UWG, attract students, and engage alumni and supporters, Steven shared stories of scholarly achievement and created excitement within our communities through his hallmark creative style.

During his tenure at UWG, Steven produced content for UWG marketing materials, publications for university events, and items for UWG's alumni magazine and newsletter. He worked to ensure that every photo or video balanced creativity and imagination with the patience and passion to focus on both tiny details and the big picture.

Special projects produced by Steven include institutional videos, television spots, and web content to showcase campus life, academics and undergraduate research, athletics, international activities, and more. His high quality of work was noted by the receipt of several regional Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) awards.

Steven has a passion for serving others. He participated in international service work by fulfilling needs in Nicaragua and capturing images for documenting these poignant experiences. Since retiring, Steven continues to hone his craft through his professional photography and videography company, Jastesa Photographic Resources LLC.

[Jami Bower, Associate Vice President for Constituent Relations and Engagement, University Advancement, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Continue to teach/consult/freelance photography and video production through my business, **Jastesa Photographic Resources**
- Continue my blog/website - **Vintage Camera Digest** - where I use, report on, and sometimes repair my vintage film camera collection - vintagecameradigestwordpress.com
- Continue to sing and play bass guitar in whatever band might have me.
- Do more traveling with my wife, Sabra.
- Try my hand at building some custom bass guitars.
- And enjoy whatever this next chapter of life provides.



Denny Chasteen

Position held: Applications Development Manager

Department: Information Technology Services

Years of Service: 2007-2020

Tribute Statement:

Denny Chasteen joined UWG during a critical time for IT and the University. We were in the midst of shifting from a decentralized to a centralized model of support for Technology campus wide. It didn't take long for Denny to distinguish himself as an experienced developer with strong leadership skills.



By the end of the first year of centralization Denny was placed in charge of a team of six full-time web developers and was responsible for bringing several processes into an online, paperless workflow, including Technology Fee Proposal Submissions, New Course Proposals, WebCV/ Online Curriculum Vitas, Room Scheduling, and more. He also oversaw development of the first UWG Mobile App, improvements to the UWG Online Campus Maps, and several revisions and expansions of the footprint of the UWG Campus Website.

Denny brought passion with him to the office every day and while he was an excellent developer and leader, his greatest role in UWG ITS was as a mentor. His commitment to work with both students and staff members in web development to help them become better developers and better colleagues will leave the longest lasting legacy.

[Blake Adams, Director of Client Services, Information Technology Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Working with younger musicians in his not-for-profit recording music studio

Becky Cole

Position held: Departmental Assistant - Intermediate

Department: Accounting & Finance

Years of Service: 1994-2020

Tribute Statement:

Mrs. Becky Cole served as the departmental assistant for the Accounting and Finance Department from December 1994 through September 2020.

Becky was an invaluable asset to both the Accounting and Finance Department and the Richards College of Business. Her knowledge about the university's processes/procedures and the curriculum made her the "Go-To Person." She was always helping faculty, staff, and students with any questions and/or concerns they might have. Their success at the university was her main focus and concern.

Additionally, Becky was a fantastic colleague to those outside her department. She was always willing to "pitch in" with large projects and/or events for other departments that needed extra help. She was and still is upbeat, conscientious, loyal, and hard working. More importantly, she is a wonderful friend and human being.

[Liz Runyan, retired administrative assistant, Management Department, UWG]

Plans for Retirement

- Gardening and other outside work
- Remodeling her home
- Making crafts of all kinds
- Planning regular trips to Michigan to see her two grandchildren



Lisa Crafton

Position held: Professor

Department: English

Years of Service: 1987-2020

Tribute Statement:

Dr. Lisa Crafton, Professor Emerita of English, retired as a beloved teacher, a dedicated and productive scholar, and a valued colleague. Her scholarly publications include the monograph *Transgressive Theatricality, Romanticism, and Mary Wollstonecraft* (2011) and two edited collections: *The French Revolution Debate in English Literature and Culture* (1997) and *The Givenness of Things: Sermons by James A. Callahan* (2014). Her many essays, journal articles, and conference presentations often fused her interest in British Romanticism with contemporary phenomena, from Maxine Hong Kingston's writings on Asian-American experience to the music of U2. Dr. Crafton's gift for illuminating the contemporary significance of Romantic literature made her a force in the classroom and an inspiration to students, and her own dedication to scholarship was reflected in her enthusiastic advocacy for undergraduate research in the classroom and beyond. Perhaps most notably, Dr. Crafton advised and helped to found the program's *Literary Undergraduate Research* journal (LURe), a student-run publication that receives submissions from the world, providing a lasting venue for the recognition and celebration of students' academic research. Dr. Crafton's contributions to UWG are too many to mention, but her principled leadership and dedication to students have helped to shape the vibrant and versatile English Program that will carry on her work.



[Margaret Mitchell, Program Coordinator and Professor of English, Department of English, Film, Languages, and Performing Arts, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Traveling
- Cooking
- Gardening

Eric Dodson

Position held: Professor

Department: Psychology

Years of Service: 1996-2020

Tribute Statement:

Eric Dodson was and is the sort of pedagogical chess grandmaster who could persuade the most dull or arrogantly intransigent student, the one most convinced of unworthiness or indifference or inability to play the game, to bring head and hand and heart to the board, to make a move. Eric Dodson was and is the kind of incendiary guitarist who roared his radical and octave-leaping music not only in clubs and bars, but in classrooms, where the notes and rhythms of his thinking leapt in triads and inversions and harmony and elegant and contrapuntal conceptual outpourings that were astoundingly and unflinchingly musical, falling on the most indifferent ear in a way that was at once comforting and challenging. Eric Dodson was nothing if not an intellectual gladiator, equally fluent in the language of embodiment and word and equally at home in ancient languages as he was in colloquial, accessible dialect. Eric Dodson was and is a person of the utmost integrity, that elusive and mystical wedding of sternness and compassion, the kind of teacher who unflinchingly shepherded and assayed and weighed the work of his students as a feather on some scales on which he also placed his heart. He was and is my friend, my teacher.



[Mark Kunkel, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Since my retirement, I have revamped and expanded my You Tube channel, started in 2014 to provide additional content for my students. The current focus of this channel has shifted to exploring everyday life, especially from psychological, philosophical, and meditative points of view. Its overall goal is to make insights of academic psychologists and philosophers accessible to a wide range of persons in a relatively easy and light-hearted form. I have also been involved in home improvement projects and in playing music

Joe Douglas

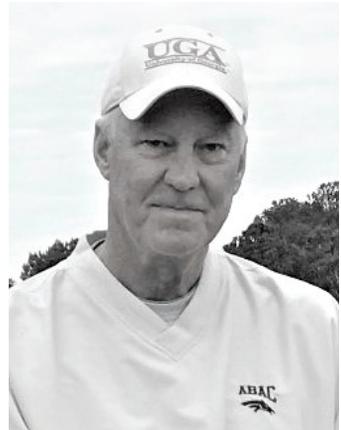
Position held: Lab Coordinator

Department: Biology

Years of Service: 1991-2020

Tribute Statement:

Mr. Joseph Douglas III (Joe) grew up in Douglas County. Following high school, he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (Tifton, GA) and received his Associate Degree in Science in 1981. Joe then enrolled at the University of Georgia and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science in 1983. Following a brief time away from academia, Joe applied for, and was accepted into, the Biology Graduate Program at the University of West Georgia and received a Master of Science Degree in 1991.



In 1991, following the completion of his thesis and the awarding of his M.S. Degree, Joe was hired by West Georgia College as a Biology/Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator. In 2007, with Joe an employee of the now University of West Georgia, his position was redefined. In addition to serving as Biology Laboratory Coordinator, he served as the principal BIOL 1010L (Fundamentals of Biology Laboratory) Instructor. He faithfully served in that position until his retirement following the 2019-2020 academic year.

Feedback from students over the years was very positive...students really loved his class. He was personable and related well with the students and was very good at simplifying key concepts and presenting them in a way students were able to understand and manage. Joe was a valued colleague and remains a professional and personal friend of the UWG Family.

[Gregory T. Payne, Professor, Biology Department, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Riding and taking care of his horses
- Continuing his work with real estate appraisals

Kay Farr

Position held: Licensed Practical Nurse

Department: Health Services

Years of Service: 2009-2020

Tribute Statement:

Mrs. Kay Farr began her career at UWG on September 1, 2009, as a Licensed Practical Nurse for Health Services. She retired on August 1, 2020, after 10 years and 11 months of service to the University of West Georgia. Kay is an outstanding nurse and brought incredible knowledge to Health Services as a seasoned nurse. She worked with a cardiologist for many years prior to her employment at the Health Center.

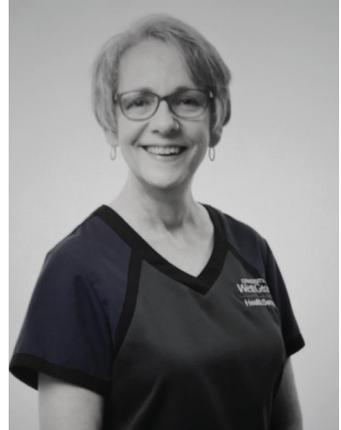
During her service to the University, she worked the home football games as the nurse for two years, assisting students and visitors with any medical needs they encountered. She has worked flu clinics, graduation ceremonies, move-in day for students, and most recently played a vital role serving students during the COVID pandemic. Kay loved the students on our campus and took great pride in her job. After her retirement, Kay has returned to work part time at the Health Center.

Kay is married to Mike Farr and has one daughter, Erin Backstrom, who also works for the University in the Tanner School of Nursing.

[Kelly Smith, Director of Nursing, Health Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Continuing to assist part-time with the UWG COVID Clinic
- Reading, biking, and walking her dog
- Spending time with her family
- Visiting all the national parks



Rodney Gibbs

Position held: Building Maintenance
Superintendent

Department: Facilities and Grounds

Years of Service: 1993-2021

Tribute Statement:

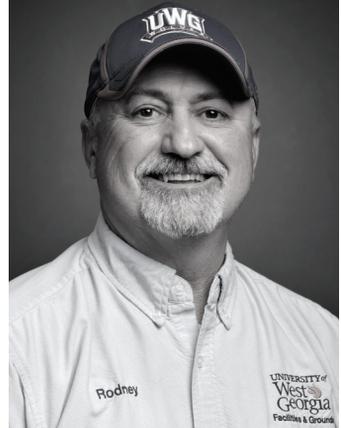
Starting in June of 1993, the Carpentry Shop gained a dedicated and passionate worker in Rodney Gibbs. Rodney previously worked for Beers Construction, where he was a project leader for multi-million dollar construction projects. However, that work required Rodney to travel hundreds of miles per week and took him away from his beloved town of Carrollton, Georgia. Working at West Georgia College meant that Rodney's life was coming full circle as he played and participated in events on the campus from childhood to adulthood.

Although Rodney started working in the Carpentry Shop, his leadership abilities were proven by his work ethic and soon he was able to take advantage of the opportunity to advance to the level of Carpentry Superintendent. As the College grew to become the University of West Georgia, Rodney's skills and leadership continued serving the University well, ensuring that the buildings on Campus were well maintained; even the minor details were handled in meticulous detail. Rodney continued his dedication to the University as his role transitioned to Building Maintenance Superintendent. All of us in Campus Planning and Facilities wish Rodney the very best in his retirement but certainly miss his skills to get the job done.

[Daniel McKinley, Assistant Director of Facilities, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Camping
- Visiting relatives out of state
- Doing "country boy" stuff like hunting and fishing



Vedat Gunay

Position held: Project Manager

Department: Information Technology Services

Years of Service: 1984-2020

Tribute Statement:

Since 1984, Vedat Gunay has been a staple of support, engagement, and advancement for information technology at UWG. Working originally with the Computer Center and transitioning to managing desktop support within Information Technology Services and finishing with serving as an IT project manager, Vedat continually brought vigor, passion, and a desire to see UWG faculty, staff, and students succeed.

Vedat invested a great deal of time and effort in being an expert in his current field and bringing knowledge and insight to any conversation he participated in. Vedat was known for making his early morning rounds each day to say good morning and to make connections with those he worked closely with. Having the privilege to work with Vedat for twenty-five years, I was able to see a passionate individual who truly loved his job and the people he worked with. Nearly a year after his retirement, UWG is still benefiting from the foundational work he completed while serving at UWG.



[Dale K. Driver, Assistant Vice President of IT/CIO, Information Technology Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Traveling
- Painting pictures
- Playing soccer

Vicki G. Hardin

Position held: Associate Director, Employer Relations

Department: Career Services

Years of Service: 2004-2020

Tribute Statement:

Vicki came to UWG Career Services with an impressive background in teaching and school administration from a local private school. That background was precisely what was needed in her role developing workshops, class presentations, and events for the College of Education students she was tasked to assist in their preparation for career job search. In addition, she was asked to develop and coordinate a new Community Involvement Fair providing volunteer opportunities for UWG students. As time passed, Vicki's roles continued to evolve, including taking on the Internship/Co-Op/Shadow program, being promoted to Associate Director, and serving as Interim Director until her retirement.

With an abundance of creativity and energy, Vicki took on every task assigned and volunteered for others. She held leadership positions in a number of professional organizations, served on advisory boards, and worked as an ambassador on behalf of the University of West Georgia and the Department of Career Services through her outreach to civic groups and businesses statewide.

In return, specifically for the tireless work and dedication to the students, she was loved and admired (still is) by every student/alum whose life she touched during her tenure at UWG. Her dedication to and impact on Career Services will be a legacy not soon forgotten.

[Wanda McGukin, retired Director of Career Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- My husband and I hope to travel. We are also building a new house - so getting settled in it. I hope to finally have time to organize and archive all of my family's pictures. I also want to volunteer some time with one of the local nonprofits but am not sure which one at this time.



Melba Haynes

Position held: Postal Head

Department: Mail Services

Years of Service: 2000-2021

Tribute Statement:

Melba Haynes served as the campus Postmaster and was an excellent leader who always strived for accuracy and dependability. She was hands-on and helped work the mail every day, often running the daily routes. While Melba always had the highest of expectations in quality and assurance, she was also a leader who cared deeply about her employees. She never missed birthdays and anniversaries and always had a seasonal tree up in the office to celebrate whatever special day or week it was.

Managing a campus post office was not easy and required tremendous planning, execution, and follow-up; Melba and her team always carried out the mission with phenomenal accuracy. However, I believe Melba will be most remembered for her love for and dedication to our UWG students. Melba and her team always went out of their way to do whatever it took to help these young, often homesick, students get acclimated and established; they made them feel loved and an important part of this very big community. Melba and her team have always been the model that we all seek to achieve in Customer Service. While I am happy Melba has gotten to retire healthy and sees her daughter and grandbabies every day, we sure miss her and her spectacular Red Velvet Cakes!

[Mark Reeves, Senior Associate VP, Auxiliary Enterprises & Business Services, UWG]



Plans for Retirement:

- Enjoying grandbabies
- Doing whatever I want
- Organizing my new home
- Traveling

Jill Hendricks

Position held: Associate Director

Departments: Admissions, Health Services

Years of Service: 1981-1990; 2003-2020

Tribute Statement:

Jill Hendricks began and ended her career at University of West Georgia but touched many lives in many locations along the way. Her first employment, with what was then West Georgia College, was as a Resident Assistant. She later became Hall Director and then began a career in Admissions. Jill went on to earn Master's and Specialist's degrees in School Counseling, and she addressed all manner of crises while serving at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Challenges such as abject poverty, abuse, suicide, and severe mental illness would deter most, but Jill faced each situation with unwavering calmness and unending compassion.



In 2003, Jill became the first Patient Advocate of the University System of Georgia when she returned to UWG. In this role, she blazed a trail as a gifted professional capable of helping students navigate almost any obstacle in the path toward their academic goals. Jill guided students through treatment as they addressed their mental health needs, cared for families in fear as their student struggled, and served as a fierce advocate for students impacted by physical and sexual violence transitioning from victim to survivor. She also served as a founding member of the Critical Incident Team, an instructor for UWG 1101 and Sociology courses, and author and project director for grants that brought over \$1 million in funding to the university.

[Angie Bradley, Director of Health Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- I am so grateful for this time in my life and want to enjoy my wonderful family and friends to the fullest. Steve and I are thrilled that we will soon have grandchildren to love and spoil! I also love our pets who bring us much joy and enjoy gardening, traveling, reading, and hiking.

Kevin Hibbard

Positions held: Director of Choirs, 1988-2020; Assistant Professor, 1988; Associate Professor with tenure, 1995; Professor, 2001; Chair, 2003-2020

Department: Music

Years of Service: 1988-2020

Tribute Statement:

Dr. Kevin Hibbard began his choral career as a young choir boy. Choral singing activities were uninterrupted, including his days at the choral-renown Luther College. He continued his love of choral activities with a doctorate in choral conducting and singing with the Atlanta Symphony Chorus under Robert Shaw. He currently sings with a male choir of mostly professional musicians called Orpheum and directs the Collegium Vocale.

At UWG, he took two choirs to Europe and for many years directed the famed annual madrigal dinners that were featured at a GMEA Conference. His university choirs have performed many well-attended concerts. The music department initiatives are too numerous to list but include a recruiting event, Destination Music, successful NASM accreditation, and curricula initiatives.

Over the years, he spent many a night in his office, writing major reports in support of the UWG Music Department. In the summer, he covered the many activities that are unique to a music department with auditions, equipment management, and faculty needs. Unbeknownst to many, he quietly sought out ways to help students progress when they had missed deadlines or had unique needs. They often did not know of his behind-the-scene efforts. They just knew that their issue had gone away. He is an advocate for all things music and UWG. He is a bona fide Wolf for the university.

[Dawn McCord, retired Professor of Music, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Resume conducting my community chorus and church choir when it is safe to do so, exercise (walk, bike, perhaps take up Pickleball), travel, play piano, read.



Alice Pearl Holland

Position held: Custodian-Associate

Department: Campus Planning and Facilities/
Custodial Services

Years of Service: 1999-2020

Tribute Statement:

I started working with Ms. Alice quite a while ago. We were both Custodial Associates who worked together in buildings and departments scattered all over campus. We regularly took breaks together with a couple other employees as well. We were part of a team, and everybody helped each other out. Ms. Alice was a real team player.

Ms. Alice is an awesome person, and everybody she worked with loved her. She was kind of like a mama bear to everyone, helping and supporting us. I most appreciated the way she is with people -- her character - and her smile. Ms. Alice will be missed here at UWG, but my wish for her in retirement is that she should enjoy life and enjoy her retirement.

[Lacey Deese, Custodial Supervisor, Facilities and Grounds, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Traveling after the pandemic
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Attending the Senior Center
- Walking daily

Lisa Wood Jackson

Position held: Assistant Director for Administrative Operations

Department: Health Services

Years of Service: 2009-2021

Tribute Statement:

Lisa Jackson began her career at the University of West Georgia in July of 2009. She was initially hired as a part-time Immunization Clerk; at the time, she was the owner of an embroidery shop in Carrollton. As Lisa's talents for hard work, reliability, and customer service were recognized, demand for her services on campus increased and her part-time position grew to a full-time role. Despite having never worked in health care or higher education, Lisa adapted and stepped into the role of interim Assistant Director. She became the champion of the chart string, the principal of the P-card, the wunderkind of the work order, the boss of the budget, and a PAR professional. Serving as Assistant Director of Business Administration, Lisa was known to be patient, knowledgeable, and a persistent resource who knew the answer to any concern related to operations or had collaborative relationships with those who could make the answer available.

Even though she will be missed at UWG, Lisa plans to spend her retirement with her grandchildren, traveling with friends and family, and taking care of her father.

[Angie Bradley, Director of Health Services, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Working as a retiree, back at UWG
- Spending time with children and grandchildren
- Traveling

Deborah Lovvorn

Positions held: Custodian, Painter

Departments: Campus Planning and Facilities/
Custodial Services, Maintenance

Years of Service: 2001-2020

Tribute Statement:

Deborah Lovvorn was a valued asset to the University and a valued employee in the paint shop. She always came to work with a smile on her face. She was a team player and loved all of her co-workers like one big family. We all called her granny! She was like our department mom -- she kept everyone in line and she was highly respected.

Deborah always went above and beyond her job duties and would out-work most co-workers. She kept everyone's spirit lifted on a daily basis. Deborah overcame many adversities during her time at UWG and is one of the strongest people I know. I hope she will enjoy all that she has planned in retirement. She talked about spending time with her family and waking up early to observe all the items at the local yard sales. She planned to spend the spring and summer fishing the lakes and rivers of Alabama with her husband. Deborah is loved and missed by her UWG family. Facilities and Grounds will never be the same without her.

[Josh Higgins, Paint Shop Supervisor, Facilities and Grounds, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Going fishing with her husband
- Spending time with her grandchildren
- Going to estate and yard/garage sales
- Having a booth at Ruth's Flea Market in Roanoke (on most Wednesdays)

Sheryl Bostwick Marlar

Positions Held: Records Coordinator/Public Safety; Communications Specialist/UCM

Department: University Police; University Communications & Marketing

Years of Service: 1998-2020

Tribute Statement:

A University of West Georgia alumna, Sheryl Marlar '90 devoted her career to serving the institution in a variety of roles for three decades. Empowered by a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from then-West Georgia College, Sheryl began in University Police as a records coordinator shortly after graduating – cementing her lifelong passion for public service.

In 1997, Sheryl transitioned to the public relations arm of the university, now known as University Communications and Marketing, where she remained until her well-deserved retirement in 2020. Initially serving as Coordinator of Office Services, she delivered exceptional service and support to all members of the team, and in 2016, she transitioned to a full-time writing role as a Communications Specialist.

In this position, she promoted the successful students, alumni, faculty, and initiatives of the institution, particularly in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing and the former College of Social Sciences. Through her work, Sheryl elevated the visibility and reputation of the University of West Georgia.

[Colton Campbell, Director of Strategic Communications, University Advancement, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Working part-time in Villa Rica
- Taking care of family, especially mom
- Traveling, particularly to Colorado, Montana, and the Virgin Islands
- Tending to their family's farmland



Caroline Martin

Position held: Master Patrol Officer

Department: University Police

Years of Service: 1991-2020

Tribute Statement:

Caroline Martin would best be described as an Angel in Blue. Caroline started her career at the University of West Georgia, aka West Georgia College, in 1991 as a communications officer on the evening shift. She then transferred to the day shift to take the unenviable job of a parking control officer writing parking tickets. Even with the job as parking control officer, she created relationships and mentored all students she contacted. This style is the hallmark of what a community police officer is all about.

In 1994 Caroline decided to advance her skills as a sworn police officer. She became a fixture as a community police officer helping students, staff, and faculty on the University Campus. Caroline's last posting was the UWG-Newnan Campus in 2016. At Newnan, she established and solidified the community police officer tradition by mentoring students and assisting the public wherever and whenever needed.

Police officers like Caroline are a rare breed. She was an officer who encountered everyone with a smile and a kind word to soothe anxiety, and she was "that officer" when someone needed a little touch of mamma in their lives so they could be reminded of home. Caroline is one of the best UWG Police had to offer and the one everyone wanted to talk to. Her style of policing will be missed.

[Ned Watson, Chief, University Police, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Spending time with family
- Working part-time



Terri M. Murphy

Positions held: Administrative Assistant (SCS);
Senior Benefits Administrator (HR)

Departments: Student Counseling Services;
Human Resources

Years of Service: 1993-2021

Tribute Statement:

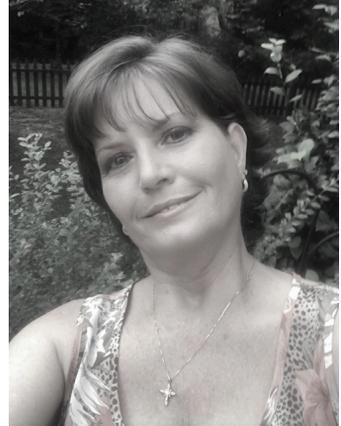
As the Senior Benefits Administrator, Terri Murphy was one of the first people employees met during the onboarding process at UWG and one of the last people in Human Resources that employees met with to discuss benefits when leaving UWG. Having served the university for almost 30 years, Terri was a wealth of information and experience. She served in almost every area of HR, understood the policies and procedures, and was always willing to assist others in the department. Peers within the HR group stated, "Terri has always been helpful and kind. She goes above and beyond to help anyone in need."

I would say that Terri is one of the most compassionate and giving persons I have ever worked with. She taught me a lot during my limited time working with her, and I miss seeing her making the rounds and talking daily with our coworkers. We all miss her smile and her positive attitude. It was a sad day when Terri announced her retirement from UWG. The wealth of experience, history, and knowledge she took with her will be greatly missed. However, the time has come to go enjoy the next phase of her life. UWG's loss will be a huge gain for her family and friends.

[Sandra Huey, Classification & Compensation Manager, Human Resources, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Reading
- Taking care of her four dogs and four cats
- Traveling with family, especially frequent trips to Florida



Alan Pope

Position held: Professor

Department: Psychology

Years of Service: 2001-2020

Tribute Statement:

Professor Alan Pope started his graduate work in the field of Artificial Intelligence and then took a turn toward the study of natural intelligence, receiving his Ph.D. in Clinical Existential-Phenomenological Psychology from Duquesne University in 2000. His work has involved immersion in the study and practice of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism particularly, and the process of psychospiritual transformation in general. His reach has spanned intimate understanding of the inner life through contemplative science, the study of loss and grief, Buddhist psychology, and much more. Fittingly, his first interview as a candidate for West Georgia came by way of a phone booth in India while he was exploring the inner and outer life on his journey there. He has been a mainstay in the psychology program. His courses in Buddhist Psychology, loss, radical happiness, meditation, and more have been powerfully influential for our psychology community. He served as Acting Chair, was appointed a Georgia Governor's Teaching Fellow, and has been a globally recognized scholar. His keen analytic thought, sensitive and compassionate awareness, and playful heart brought balance, clarity, and love to his colleagues and his students. Just as he was as a professor, he continues, along with his wife Shu-chin Wu, to be deeply engaged in using his unique talents toward the ultimate goal of awakening wisdom and compassion in the world.



[Dr. Tobin Hart, Professor of Psychology, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Alongside paring down and simplifying, my retirement plan is to learn to listen to situations and respond to them, abandon plans in favor of ideas, embrace ambiguity over certainty, develop creativity over habit, and use head in the service of heart. But that's my plan. The likely reality is that I'll continue, to borrow the words of the poet Gary Snyder, to think my own kind of dry crusty thoughts.

Josefina Rangel

Position held: Custodian Associate

Department: Custodial Services

Years of Service: 2008-2021

Tribute Statement:

Josefina Rangel Aguilar served as the custodian in Adamson Hall for many years and was a valued partner for the Richards College of Business. She quietly worked in the background to make sure our building was pristine, and she never once complained.

Josefina was quick with a smile and hello in the morning, and she was diligent in her job far beyond what anyone would have expected. I remember seeing her on hands and knees to clean around the newel posts in the Adamson atrium and being amazed at both her dexterity and her dedication!

Josefina has a strong faith and was especially proud of her family, beaming as she introduced me to her daughter at an event several years ago. We miss having Josefina in our RCOB family and wish her every happiness in retirement! .

[Faye S. McIntyre, PhD, former Dean and Sewell Chair of Private Enterprise, Richards College of Business, UWG]



Plans for Retirement:

- Enjoying the time spent with family

Janice Ridgway

Position held: Departmental Assistant

Departments: Theatre; History; Art, History & Philosophy

Years of Service: 2006-2020

Tribute Statement:

It is an honor to write a tribute statement for Jan Ridgway. Jan joined West Georgia in 2006 and worked in two different departments within the former College of Arts and Humanities. I had the pleasure of working with her in her first position as a departmental associate for Theatre.

Jan immediately bonded with both faculty and students and proceeded to organize our lives. Likewise, she developed many close relationships with students and faculty of History after joining that department in 2012. What made her so special was her ability to not only manage the day-to-day affairs of her department with precision, but to do so with kindheartedness, creativity, and genuine care and belief in our students and the UWG mission.

Jan had exceptional abilities when it came to creating spectacular events! She recognized the importance of marking milestones like semester endings and birthdays. Her themed parties, always imaginative and always color coordinated, were appreciated by all and made us feel like family. Together with her amazing skills at keeping the business of an academic department running smoothly, Jan's legacy was making sure we all took time for celebration and to recognize that time spent on these events were of great value. She is missed by all and we wish her nothing but happiness and great parties in her retirement.

[Pauline Gagnon, Professor and Dean, College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Moving to North Carolina
- Doing home projects
- Doing craft projects
- Spending more time with family



James Randall Rollins

Position held: Maintenance and Carpentry
Supervisor

Department: Facilities and Grounds/Maintenance
and Carpentry

Years of Service: 2001-2021

Tribute Statement:

Randall and I worked together in the carpenter shop for 15 years. At first, it was just him and me and we did some big jobs together, including big remodeling jobs like an entire wing of Row Hall. Now there are eight people in the shop doing both maintenance and carpentry. But it was only Randall and me working together for six or seven years.

Randall was always great to work with. And when he became lead in the carpenter shop, he became a great boss. He led by example and was the anchor of our group. We could rely on him.

In addition to working together, we were also friends away from work. We shared family events. We were fishing buddies and hunted together.

Randall was a great leader, and he is a great friend. Facilities will miss him. The whole campus will miss him. But we hope he enjoys more hunting and fishing in his retirement.

[Matt Eidson, Campus Planning and Facilities, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Doing some fishing and hunting
- Doing a little traveling
- Watching football and softball (especially college)



Liz Runyan

Position held: Administrative Assistant

Department: Management

Years of Service: 1992-2020

Tribute Statement:

For decades, Liz Runyan was the heart of the Department of Management. Liz as a coworker was truly the best gift any of us could have wanted. She is an incredibly caring and hardworking person. She looked out for everyone in the department and for every student who came by. Liz was an expert at anticipating our needs and going above and beyond every single day. She kept us all together, especially during crazy times.

Liz will be remembered not only for the things she did, but mostly for how she took care of all of us. We know that retirement for Liz Runyan means that she will be busier than ever being the best friend, wife, mom, grandmom, quilter, gardener, and crafting innovator around! She left a lasting impression on everyone she met at UWG and will be greatly missed. Congratulations on retirement.

[Jeannie Pridmore, Associate Professor, Management, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Enjoying crafts such as quilting, stained glass, and woodwork
- Working on the family's 18 acres of land
- Making trips to Missouri to visit her daughter and granddaughter



James (Jim) Sutherland

Position held: Administrative Vice President

Department: Business and Finance

Years of Service: 2007-2020

Tribute Statement:

James Sutherland served as UWG's Chief Business Officer and had a broad range of departments reporting to him. Initiatives completed under his helm include the Bookstore, UWG Athletic Complex, East Commons, and the Center for Business Excellence. As a Certified Public Accountant, he committed a great deal of time establishing formal processes and procedures throughout UWG Business and Finance; those operations performed well and were highly respected across the University System of Georgia.

Jim's "principle centered" leadership evolved around trust, empowerment, and alignment and provided the perfect platform for him to invest in others while also achieving organizational success. He was sincere, honest, and at times quite candid. Working in Business & Finance under Mr. Sutherland's leadership was truly a privilege and a learning experience for all. He led with courage, faith, and character every day.

Mr. Sutherland's personal experiences helped mold him as a leader. Growing up in a military family, Jim moved quite often; this helped shape his vision of the world and appreciation of people from all walks. His personal service in the US Air Force served as a platform for refining his leadership skills. However, without a doubt, the most influential people in Jim's life are his wife Victoria, daughter Sarah, and granddaughter Adrienne; nothing brought a warm smile to his face like a visit or phone call from his family.

[Mark Reeves and Business & Finance staff, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- He and his wife would like to travel and photograph wildlife in their natural habitats.



Dale Walls

Position held: Master Sergeant

Department: University Police

Years of Service: 1986-1995; 2000-2021

Tribute Statement:

Dale Walls started at the University of West Georgia, aka West Georgia College, in February 1986 as a part-time security guard while attending West Georgia as a music student, playing the trombone. He moved quickly to full-time security and then as a radio operator on the night shift (midnight- 8 am), working with his mentor Sgt Bailey “JT.” Dale was promoted to patrol officer in September 1987. He saw that helping people using his affable personal style worked for him, and Dale wanted to further his calling to public service.

Dale worked for the Douglasville Police Department and the Villa Rica Police Department between 1995 and 2000. However, Dale knew his heart was still at the University of West Georgia, so he returned to work as a patrol officer at UWGPD in 2000, rising to shift Sergeant in 2011 on the night shift.

I know what “Ole Dale” is doing. He enjoys his retirement, his family, and playing trombone at his church and with the Carroll County Wind Ensemble. He still is helping people whenever and wherever asked to. I have known Dale for forty-two years. In that time, I have always seen him put others before himself; whether in law enforcement or another issue such as helping someone pump water out of their basement late at night, he is always there helping someone else.

[Ned Watson, Chief, University Police, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Gardening
- Working part-time with his brother in their construction business



Patricia (Trish) Wells

Position held: Graduate Studies Associate

Department: Dean's Office, College of Social Sciences

Years of Service: 1987-2020

Tribute Statement:

I first met Patricia (Trish) Wells when I was hired as the Admissions Specialist in the Graduate School in 2000 and she was the Records Coordinator. This was the beginning of our longstanding friendship.

Trish's work ethics were very present in the office. She was committed to helping the students in whatever way she could, working to get them admitted to Graduate School. She was a leader, problem-solver, and a visionary.

Trish is all about her family in Ocilla, Georgia. We often talked about our family members, especially her father and his farming. His farm would produce items that were not normal, so much bigger than any that I've seen in Mississippi or Georgia. One time, she brought in a sweet potato as large as a baby.

She is often told that she was in the wrong profession, that she should have been a comedian. She keeps you laughing anytime you are with her. She is a great friend!

[Alice DeBose Wesley, retired Departmental Assistant, Graduate School, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- My plans are to visit family and friends, volunteer with the IRS, and volunteer with church communities as the beginning to a great retirement.



Ricky Lee West

Position held: Mechanic

Department: Campus Planning and Facilities/
Motor Pool

Years of Service: 1992-2020

Tribute Statement:

Rick West saw UWG evolve, change, and grow from a college to a university. As the number of students, faculty, and staff increased in his 28 years of service, so did the challenges - from increasing services in order to maintain more vehicles to the ever-changing technology impacting the services of the Motor Pool. Rick had the wonderful luck to work with Ronnie Mayfield and they built a great relationship based on trust, mutual respect, and professionalism.

Rick was one of the behind-the-scenes unsung heroes of Facilities and Grounds, always performing in exceptional fashion to provide exceptional customer service in a safe and professional manner. In the earlier years, many vehicles were acquired from Georgia's Surplus Property, so were worn out when the College received them. Funds were very limited and maintaining the vehicles a major challenge.

Rick has a tremendous sense of humor, "always willing to stir the pot" and share his infectious laugh. He has been blessed with a wonderful partner in Dawn and is certainly proud of his boys who are attending UWG.

Rick loved the work, and his admiration and love for UWG remains one of his great attributes. His customers sincerely appreciated his professionalism and his best efforts to create a safe environment for those he served. What a wonderful tribute to another of UWG's unsung heroes!

[Mike Renfrow, retired Asst. Vice President, Campus Planning and Facilities, UWG]

Plans for Retirement:

- Relaxing!



In MEMORIAM (2020-2021)

Dr. Paul Douglas Baker - Professor and Chairperson, Department of Accounting and Finance

Dr. Arthur Bruce Brewer - Director, Career Services

Dr. Fran E. Chalfant - Professor, English

Romeree Cospy - Custodian, Facilities and Grounds/Custodial Services

**Joseph B. Cumming - Assistant Professor, Mass Communications/
Theatre**

Dr. Alfred (Al) Duquette - Professor, Mathematics

Sandra Edge - Administrative Specialist/Coordinator, Registrar's Office

Dr. George Keller - Professor, Physics

Frances J. Miller - Staff Assistant, Advanced Academy

Mary Louise Shackleford - Accounting Clerk, Purchasing

**Sylvia Shortt - Counselor, Student Development Center; Associate
Director, International Services and Programs**

Dr. William T. (Ted) Simons - Chairperson, Sociology

Kenneth Tucker - HV Mechanic, Facilities and Grounds/Maintenance

**Archie J. White - Head Baseball Coach, Athletics; Instructor, Physical
Education**



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