

The Rejuvenator

Newsletter of the UWG Association of Retired Faculty & Staff No. 35 April 2019

SAVE THE DATE

Association of Retired Faculty & Staff Annual Reunion

September 7th, 2019 - 11:30 AM

Campus Center Ballroom

We are excited to announce a change in venue for this year's reunion. The UWG Alumni Relations team and ARFS will host the Annual Reunion at the UWG Campus Center Ballroom.

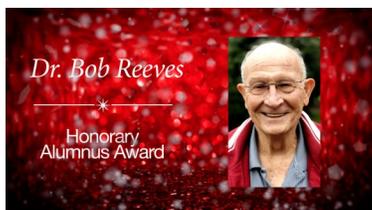
So mark your calendars and plan to come back to campus for this wonderful event!

Retired and Former Faculty Honored April 6th, 2019 At Alumni Awards Ceremony

Hosted by veteran sports reporter and television anchor Sam Crenshaw ('81), the 43rd Annual UWG Alumni Awards Celebration – An Evening with the Stars – showcased two former faculty members.



Dr. Richard M. Ingle ('67), graduate of the College of Science and Mathematics and former professor from 1975-1979 and again from 1981-1985 received the Achievement Award for the College of Science & Mathematics.



Dr. Bob Reeves came to University of West Georgia as Director of Intramurals and Instruction. During his 27 years at UWG, he served as interim chair of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department where he taught a wide variety of courses. He received the Honorary Alumnus Award.

Other stars honored during the event include:

Dr. Swarna Dutt and Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt – J. Owen Moore Faculty Award

Josh Rachel ('08) – Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Wendy Rosenbalm Bell – H. Franklin Pritchett Jr. Service to Humanity Award

Debbie Dowis Reeves ('73, '92) – Thelma Harman Turner Alumni Loyalty Award

John C. Garner ('08, '13) – College of Arts and Humanities Achievement Award

Cary Ichter ('81) – College of Social Sciences Achievement Award

John P. Dudley ('73) – Richards College of Business Achievement Award

Dr. Connie Stevenson ('94, '97, '98) - College of Education Achievement Award

Betty Spier, MSN, RN, CHSE ('93, '95, '07) – Tanner Health System School of Nursing Achievement Award

Dr. Micheal Crafton Announced as Interim President

By Colton Campbell

Dr. Crafton has taken the reins of the University of West Georgia as interim president, after former UWG President Dr. Kyle Marrero stepped down to become president of Georgia Southern University.



“To say I’m honored to serve as interim president of this institution I’ve called home for many years is a vast understatement,” Crafton said. “I am proud of all the work that’s been done at this university since I first came to campus in 1982. During his tenure as president, Dr. Marrero and our highly skilled faculty and staff have pushed forward many new initiatives, programs and changes of all sorts. There’s a sense of momentum that’s been set in motion and that would be very hard to stop.”

The veteran English professor – who’s spent more than three decades teaching more than a dozen courses at UWG – most recently served as the university’s provost and vice president of academic affairs. His vision for his interim presidency is to continue UWG’s momentum “with as little disruption as possible.”

As provost, Crafton worked with a variety of faculty and administrators locally and across the state and nation to promote the initiative of American Association of Colleges and Universities known as LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise), a significant academic quality assurance program. In addition, he’s overseen Engage West! Faculty Edition, an evidence-based leadership development program under UWG’s larger culture transformation project that is known as Engage West.

Crafton also hopes to continue UWG’s upward trend of achievement in online educational and graduate programming, as well as continuing the powerful work in progress with the Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative. This is a partnership that aligns the strengths of UWG, West Georgia Technical College, Carrollton City Schools, Carroll County Schools and community partners to ensure all students graduate high school with a plan to enlist in the military, become employed, or enroll in college.

“I’m very fortunate to have this opportunity, and I look forward to continuing the good work UWG is doing in all aspects of its operation,” Crafton said. “With the support of our amazing faculty and staff – and the daily inspiration I receive from our students – I believe I can be up to the task.”

Crafton said he’s committed his life’s work to higher education because “it has to be one of the top, most positively transformative enterprises in American society.”

Full article available at <https://www.westga.edu/news/around-uwg/crafton-interim-president.php>

The Coordinating Council

The next meeting of the ARFS Coordinating Council is scheduled for Friday, June 14, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room of the Alumni House. Please feel free to join us for this meeting.



You're Invited!

UWG School of Arts and Humanities Upcoming Event

THE MANY FACES OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

with Dr. Patrick Erben, Professor of English

Tuesday, April 23 | 6:00 pm reception, 6:30 pm talk

Carnegie Library, Newnan

Printer, politician, scientist, and philanthropist, Benjamin Franklin was above all a master at creating self-images that served many situations--from the pomp of the French court to the muddy streets of Philadelphia. Join us as we consider the ways in which Franklin turned himself into one of American's most enduring cultural myths.

Visit the SOTA website to register at <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/sota/featured-events.php>

Community Engagement Opportunities

The UWG Office of Community Engagement highlights local events open to the public—check out their website! <https://www.westga.edu/community/index.php>

Also follow their Facebook page called [UWG Office of Community Engagement](#) where they post community involvement opportunities every two weeks!

ARFS 2018 Annual Report

An Annual Report has been submitted to the VP for University Advancement and will be made available on the ARFS website. The report covers activities of the group from August 2017 to August 2018. Topics covered in the report include:

- ARFS Support for University Mission and Values
- Coordinating Council Meetings
- The Rejuvenator Newsletter
- Benefits Fair Participation
- University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) Involvement
- Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organization (GA-HERO) Involvement
- The 2018 Annual Reunion

Thank you to all involved in this important work!



Retiree Spotlight: Dr. John Ferling By Debbie Novak, ARFS Coordinating Council

Dr. John Ferling is a History Professor Emeritus at the University of West Georgia, nationally recognized scholar/historian on the American Revolution, and prolific author. While this is all true, there is much more to his life's story. John grew up in Texas as an only child. Planning to teach history at the high school level, he enrolled at Sam Houston State University. While enrolled in his last core history class, Western Civilization, John decided he HATED history. The classes consisted of memorizing dull and boring facts. Well, John decided he needed to select a different major. What?



In a twist of fate, the professor assigned to this Western Civics class took ill and was replaced by a junior faculty member, Dr. William Painter, who had a totally different teaching style. On his first day in class, he tore up the syllabus and sent the students to the bookstore to purchase several paperbacks, one dealing with George Washington. Dr. Painter's classes, in contrast to the others, were fascinating and John decided he wanted to write books on history, but how does one do that? During the course of many meetings in Dr. Painter's office, he learned all this was possible if he went to graduate school. John subsequently earned his MA from Baylor University and Ph.D. from West Virginia University. In John's book, *Setting the World Ablaze*, he acknowledged Dr. Painter for reigniting his interest in History. Dr. Painter was made aware of being mentioned in the preface and contacted Dr. Ferling. They corresponded for about five years until Dr. Painter passed away.

John has been married to Carol Ferling for 54 years. They met while attending West Virginia University in a history class and were married the following September. Carol is also a retiree of UWG where she worked in the Financial Aid Office for over 20 years. They and their up-to-five cats have lived in Carrollton since 1971, the year John began his 33-year teaching career at UWG. John and Carol love antiquing and collecting glass. Carol collects Early American glass manufactured between 1870-1915 and John collects Elegant Glass from the 1920's and 1930's. Previously, John was heavily into photography and had his own dark room in his home. Carol is a genealogical expert. They both also like to go hiking when they have time.

Adams vs. Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800, one of John's recent books, received some free unplanned and surprising publicity in January 2017. Newly-elected President Donald Trump was giving ABC's David Muir a tour of the Oval Office when he picked up a copy of John's book from his desk and told Muir the book was given to him by a previous "combatant" from the campaign trail. John's editor told him that after that TV publicity, his book spiked up in the top of the Amazon charts for several days. To enjoy the video go to <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/video/president-trump-white-house-interview-part-45052461>

John was interviewed regarding his latest book, *Apostles of Revolution: Jefferson, Paine, Monroe, and the Struggle Against the Old Order in America and Europe*, on C-Span's Q&A program. To see the hour interview which aired July 25, 2018 go to: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?448934-1/qa-john-ferling>. John currently serves in his 10th year as the Penelope Melson Society's President and has another book in the works that will probably come out next year. He keeps very busy in his "retired" life.

ARFS Website: For more information on the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff, check out our website at www.westga.edu/arfs.

To sign up for our listserv, please email Debbie Novak at dnovak@westga.edu. Also, remember that if you've changed your email address, you must notify us so we can continue to contact you on the ARFS listserv. Our listserv address is uwg-arfs-list@westga.edu.