

# The Rejuvenator

Newsletter of the UWG Association of Retired Faculty & Staff No. 26 March 2016

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**Upcoming Retiree Reunion:** Our 2016 Retiree Reunion will be at 11:30 am on September 10, 2016 at Sunset Hills Country Club. Mark your calendars and plan to join us again for our signature ARFS event of the year. We will welcome many fine folks into retirement and enjoy a great lunch.

## Holiday Party at Alumni House with Santa

Several of our ARFS members attended up at the special December Holiday Party with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The kind folks at the Alumni House did a wonderful job of hosting the event and put out lots of refreshments in the dining room. Santa photo ops with kids and adults took place for a good while right next door in the living room, decorated beautifully for the holidays. It was a wonderful event to reconnect with retirees and see the children visit Santa & Mrs. Claus



*Do you have something to share with the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff that you would like to see in the next Rejuvenator? Contact Glenn Novak at [gnovak@westga.edu](mailto:gnovak@westga.edu)*

*university of west georgia*  
**ALUMNI WEEKEND**  
**APRIL 15-16, 2016 • CARROLLTON, GA**

## Alumni Weekend is Coming Up

ARFS is hosting a garden tea party on Saturday, April 16th at 1:30 pm at the Alumni House gardens. Please mark your calendars and try to attend this free event where retired faculty and staff will renew acquaintances with each other and former UWG students.



If you would like to reconnect with certain former students, please send Frank Pritchett (fpritch@westga.edu) their name(s) and he will reach out and invite them specially for you.

Register here: [www.alumni.westga.edu/weekend](http://www.alumni.westga.edu/weekend)

## UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship Fund

We are very excited to announce that our new UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship, created two years ago by your ARFS Coordinating Council, now has a balance of \$15,475.00. The UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship will benefit UWG students who are retirees of the institution or are direct descendants or an immediate family relation of retired faculty or staff members.

We must raise \$25,000 by 2019 for the scholarship to become endowed. If every one of our 300 retirees gives only \$32 today, our goal would be met much earlier! You might also want to consider a pledge donation. Please consider making a donation and assist us to help a student.

If you would like to make a gift, you may donate online <http://giving.westga.edu/arfslegacy> or by mailing a check to the Alumni House (1903 Maple Street, Carrollton GA 30117). Be sure to indicate on your check that your donation is designated for the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship. Please contact Bill Norris if you have any questions (bnorris@westga.edu) or call 678-839-6582 for more details on the criteria for the scholarship. THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who gave year-end gifts!



### Next Coordinating Council meeting:

Your ARFS Coordinating Council meets again at 10 am on **May 13**, in the dining room of the Alumni House

on campus. Please feel free to join us and bring ideas and suggestions.



**Your service record:** ARFS is compiling a list of all of our retirees who are generously donating their time and energies to make UWG a better place. You are rightfully proud of your volunteer efforts so send a brief note listing them to [mnesmith@westga.edu](mailto:mnesmith@westga.edu) and we will pull it all together into an annual report.

**Third Thursday ARFS Travel Programs:** Our travel program, coordinated by Jan Ruskell, is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year! It meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Neva Lomason Library.

**April 21:** “The Jewels of Russia & the Real Heartland” by Charles & Lynn Norris

**May 19:** “Road Trip to Rhode Island, Connecticut & New York” by Bob Myers

**June 16:** “If Its Tuesday, It Must Be Epinal, France” by Martha Goodson

**July 21:** “Morgan’s Trip to Egypt” by Morgan Cantrell

**August 18:** “Amazon Murders” by S.W. Lee

**September 15:** “French Quebec” by Diane Sharp & Beverly Hammack



*Want to share your travels? Contact Jan Ruskell ([jruskell@westga.edu](mailto:jruskell@westga.edu))*

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## Announcement:

The Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO) is up and running and meets at least once annually at a Georgia college campus. GA-HERO is a Georgia network of college and university-based retiree organizations. GA-HERO is trying to represent retirees' best interests and deals with issues such as insurance/retiree benefits, meaningful activities for retirees, and opportunities for life-long learning. We are pleased that Wanda McGukin continues on as our volunteer representing UWG at these meetings and bringing back information to our group. If interested in becoming an alternate/permanent member who attends meetings with Wanda or substitutes for Wanda, contact Glenn Novak at [gnovak@westga.edu](mailto:gnovak@westga.edu).

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### ***GA-HERO will be meeting on the Emory campus, Friday, April 1.***

The program will focus on making the transition into retirement, and what our retiree organizations can do to help. West Georgia is fortunate to have an organized and strong retiree council and we look forward to learning how other groups are organized and about the benefits they provide. We also look forward to sharing and learning new ideas and opportunities from the GA-Hero meeting next month.

**ARFS Website:** You're invited to take a look at our updated website full of items of interest for you! There are lots of new features on it and we are grateful to Kevin Hemphill for designing and maintaining it. You'll find the website by going to [www.westga.edu/arfs](http://www.westga.edu/arfs).

**Ideas Welcome:** Perhaps you would like to participate in a day-long visit to a museum, park, garden, or other location in our area. If so, email us at [dnovak@westga.edu](mailto:dnovak@westga.edu) or come to the next Coordinating Council meeting on May 13, and let us know.

## USG Retiree Council discusses Medicare-Eligible Retiree Healthcare Transition

The Spring meeting of the USG Retiree Council was held at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, GA on March 4, 2016. Max Burns, current chair of the Total Rewards Steering Committee (TRSC), explained the work of the TRSC as seeking to understand existing and projected challenges associated with the provision of various employee benefits, healthcare among them. Burns came into the TRSC in January, 2015, when one of its primary challenges was implementation of the difficult transition of Medicare-Eligible retirees into AON's retiree healthcare exchange.

Addressing whether the new system for retiree healthcare is better or worse, Burns said "We don't know yet." It was intended to be better. The decoupling of Medicare-Eligible retiree healthcare coverage from employee healthcare coverage was expected to provide an opportunity to offer each retiree something that would meet his or her personal needs more closely. AON was retained to assist retirees in making informed choices. "Some of you may enjoy a situation now where the USG pays for all your healthcare costs," Burns noted. And "if it doesn't," he explained, "it was never intended to do so at 100%." It was intended to provide all but approximately 1/3 of Medicare-Eligible retiree healthcare costs.

Burns and Karin Elliott (Associate Vice Chancellor for Total Rewards, USG) acknowledged that there have been "issues" and "challenges" in working with AON, but it is their understanding that AON is addressing problems that have surfaced and expectations that have not been met. They reminded USGRC members that "performance guarantees" are built into the USG contract with AON and the USG will hold them accountable for these.

Members of the USGRC reported discovering several things on their own that Benefits Advisors didn't know about or inform them of as they enrolled in various healthcare and/or prescription drug plans. Also because so many retirees had a lot of questions about the manual reimbursement process, a handout from the USG HR office, designed to clarify the process, was distributed to attendees.

Anyone interested in a complete set of notes taken by Anne Richards at this meeting should write to her at the following email address: [arichard@westga.edu](mailto:arichard@westga.edu) or the following address: 301 Dixie Street, Carrollton, GA 30117.



**To sign up for our listserv** between now and May 1, 2016, email Debbie Novak at the following address and she will sign you up: [dnovak@westga.edu](mailto:dnovak@westga.edu). Also, **remember that if you've changed your email address, you must notify us so we can update you on the ARFS listserv.** Our listserv address is [uwg-arfs-list@westga.edu](mailto:uwg-arfs-list@westga.edu). After May 1, please notify Mitch Clifton at [mclifton@westga.edu](mailto:mclifton@westga.edu) and he will sign you up or make changes.

**GO WEST! GO WOLVES!**