

**University of West Georgia
Association of Retired Faculty and Staff
Annual Reunion and Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 7, 2023**

The University of West Georgia Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) held its annual reunion and reception on Saturday, October 7, 2023, in the Education Center Rooms 4 and 5. Of the 57 persons present, nine were current retirees being honored.

WELCOME

Anne Richards, ARFS president, welcomed those present at 10:00 am and encouraged them to socialize with friends and colleagues and enjoy a continental breakfast consisting of a variety of food items as well as juices, coffee, tea, and water.

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Welcome to the College of Education: Dr. Logan Arrington, interim chair of the Department of Technical Educational Foundations, welcomed retirees and their guests to the College of Education, provided a brief background of his connection with UWG, and presented a graph depicting the reach of the College of Education with 5000 students, primarily those seeking graduate degrees.

ARFS Retiree Legacy Scholarship: MaKena Burns, assistant director of Alumni Constituent and Involvement, introduced this year's recipient of the ARFS Retiree Legacy Scholarship. Madeline Wentworth is an education major and the granddaughter of retiree Jimmy Agan. She spoke of her appreciation for her family and their support as well as her appreciation for the donors who have made this scholarship possible.

Life after Retirement:

Cecilia Lee, a UWG retiree and a finalist for the Georgia Writers Association Author of the Year, extended her congratulations to the current retirees, reminded them to continue to reinvent themselves post-retirement, and recited a poem she had written with advice she hoped they would heed.

MaKena Burns spoke on the opportunities for involvement available to retirees interested in areas such as food insecurity assistance, mentoring, and homecoming activities as well as perks such as free attendance at athletic events and other campus functions.

Mark Janzen, director of the Center for Public History, described the oral history project and the university history project and reminded retirees that their background with and knowledge of the university were important in building the knowledge base that is included in annual reports, standard information about the university, and so forth. He described the Center for Public History as a learning laboratory for student research in a variety of areas.

Recognition of Retirees:

Nine current retirees attended and were introduced by Meg Cooper, each received a medallion from Anne Richards, and each had the opportunity to say a few words if desired: Blaise Bergiel, Jami Bower, Matthew Clay, Rolanda Farmer, John Frevert, Brian Henderson, Greta Kirby, Ann McCleary, and JoAnn Morgan. The full list of retirees is as follows:

Blaise J. Bergiel	Dianne L. Hoff
Jami Payne Bower (2021-2022 retiree)	Alan Jones
Brandy James Chambless	Greta K. Kirby (2021-2022 retiree)
Matthew Clay	Teresa Leslie
Eilis Crean	Ann McCleary
Janet Donohoe	Jo Ann Morgan
Rolanda Farmer	Denise Overfield
John Frevert	Sandra Pollard
William L. Gates	Mark Reeves
Lisa L. Gezon	Debrah Santini
Arturo Gonzales (2021-2022 retiree)	Wanda Walker
Brian Lee Henderson	

ARFS Annual General Meeting:

ARFS Update from Anne Richards:

- The elimination of campus email for retirees was an unnerving, unhappy, and challenging reality, but the help from Lauren Niedringhaus in HR and ITS support staff was appreciated as approximately 400 retirees obtained new email addresses, and ARFS did not lose contact with them.

- Of the approximate 600 retirees receiving ARFS information, 400 do so through email addresses, and 200 do so through postal mail. When critical information has to be relayed to the ARFS members in a very timely manner, those without email addresses are often left unaware.
- A BOR request for a policy change regarding emeritus status is in process of being developed at UWG. Any thoughts regarding this issue should be directed to Amy Cuomo, chair of the Faculty Development Committee.
- Due to escalating costs of health care, effective January 1, 2024, the BOR is reducing the health reimbursement amount available to retirees from \$2760/year to \$2640/year.
- This year saw the loss of a large number of retirees, among them Glenn Novak, one of the founding members of ARFS. His contributions and his legacy will be honored on the 20th anniversary of ARFS at next year's event.
- ARFS has entered into a new hybrid relationship falling under the auspices of both Human Resources and University Advancement. HR will continue to be the contact in issues involving retirees and their benefits, and University Advancement will assist and support other various endeavors undertaken by ARFS, primarily the annual reunion/reception honoring new retirees.
- The home page on the ARFS website has a new look with an updated and brighter image thanks to Beverly Dittmer, HR.
- A document identifying endowments/scholarships created by or named for retirees—a work in progress for some time—has finally been compiled. Copies were available for attendees.

Slate of Candidates for Coordinating Council:

- A motion by Matthew Clay and a second by Priscilla Bennett to approve the slate as submitted to the membership passed. Current officers will continue in their positions; newly elected at-large members Rolanda Farmer and Ann McCleary will join the seven continuing at-large members. The full slate presented is as follows:

Officers

President - Anne Richards (term 2022-2024)

Vice President – Frank Pritchett (term 2022-2024)

Secretary – Francie Taylor (term 2022-2024)

Treasurer – Sally Roberts (term 2022-2024)

Past President – Meg Cooper (term 2022-2024)

At-Large Members

Tricia Durrough (term 2022-2024)
Kevin Hibbard (term 2022-2024)
Cecilia Lee (term 2022-2024)
Anita Thomas (term 2022-2024)
John von Eschenbach (term 2022-2024)
Alice Wesley (term 2022-2024)
Micheal Crafton (term 2023-2025)
Rolanda Farmer (term 2023-2025)
Ann McCleary (term 2023-2025)

Recognition of Service on ARFS Coordinating Council

- Anne Richards recognized three persons whose assistance with and for ARFS this year has been greatly appreciated: MaKena Burns (University Advancement), Lauren Niedringhaus (HR), and ARFS past-president Meg Cooper for her work with numerous projects including updating ARFS members regarding retirees who have passed away, handling countless details related to the organization of the annual retiree reunion/reception, and picking up additional responsibilities when others on the Coordinating Council were unable to take care of them.

Information Sessions for Retirees:

ITS staff member Mardel Shumake spoke on cybersecurity issues and provided attendees with a number of resources (such as the FBI, the National Cybersecurity Alliance, the Smartphone Security Checker, and the State Attorney General's Office) available for retirees to review with regard to their concerns. In addition, he warned retirees to watch out for scams cyber criminals seek to carry out, playing on the sympathy of persons in order to get personal information. He reminded retirees never to pay any money up front with regard to these types of requests, and Anne indicated that upcoming issues of *The Rejuvenator* will contain security tips.

Lauren Niedringhaus, HR, provided an update on the open enrollment timeline, reminded retirees to be sure they know what their plans cover based on their specific needs, and had printouts with information on Health Reimbursement Accounts available to those present. She also responded to general questions and urged those with specific questions relating to personal accounts to meet with her individually.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment:

Anne Richards thanked those present for their role in making the annual reunion informative and successful, congratulated the newest retirees, and adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Taylor, Secretary