

Retirees Celebrated, Council Members Elected at Annual Meeting



The Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) held its annual meeting on Saturday, Oct. 29, with a healthy crowd gathered in the Campus Center Ballroom for the organization's first in-person reunion since the onset of COVID in 2020. A continental breakfast allowed retirees to socialize and mingle ahead of the morning's program, led by **Meg Cooper**, then president of the ARFS Coordinating Council. Three new retirees, **Anita Bryant** (Geosciences), **Dale Driver** (ITS) and **Tricia Durrough** (Business Excellence) received their medallions from **Dr. Brendan Kelly**, University President, while those who retired since 2019 and had only been recognized previously on-line due to the pandemic were honored in person at this event. President Kelly expressed thanks to ARFS and its members for their service to the institution, noting their input in helping solve problems, curating a 645-acre campus, and pouring positivity into their students.



Dr. Brendan Kelly, Anita Bryant



Dale Driver, Dr. Brendan Kelly



Tricia Durrough, Dr. Brendan Kelly



Retirees present from 2019-2020

Pictured (left to right) Nancy DuBose-Watkins, Doyle Folds, Mary Reid, Johnnie Samples, Wanda Calhoun, Tammy Crews, Jane Smith, and Laura Mayfield.



Retirees present from 2020-2021

Pictured (left to right) Dale Walls, Caroline Martin, Kevin Hibbard, Steven Broome, and Trish Wells.

A commemorative tribute booklet was provided to all attendees and mailed to this year's retirees and tribute writers who did not attend the event. It will be available soon on the ARFS website, as will pictures from the event. (Steven Broome of Jastesa Photographic Resources, himself a 2020-2021 retiree, took most of the photographs.)

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The program also included words of gratitude from **Ketty Cusick** (Development) for the continued financial support provided to the university from its retirees, and **Mark Janzen** (Center for Public History) encouraged retirees to be involved in the Center's efforts to collect and disseminate information about UWG's history. Additionally, the 2022-2023 ARFS Retiree Legacy Scholarship recipient, **Jordan Wagner**, was recognized (see separate story).

The event concluded with the ARFS annual general membership meeting, including the election of members of the Coordinating Council and leadership for the next year. The three new at-large council members are **Tricia Durrough** (Business Excellence, 30 years of service), **Kevin Hibbard** (Music, 31 years of service), and **Cecilia Lee** (Foreign Languages, 39 years of service).

New officers are **Anne Richards**, president; **Frank Pritchett**, vice president; **Francie Taylor**, secretary; **Sally Roberts**, treasurer; and **Meg Cooper**, past president. Returning at-large council members are **Micheal Crafton**, **Ross Miller**, **Anita Thomas**, **John von Eschenbach**, **Nancy Watkins**, and **Alice Wesley**. The ARFS Coordinating Council also



recognized three members whose terms had expired: **Jimmy Drew**, **Kathryn Grams**, and **Diane Williamson**. Each was thanked for his/her service and presented with a certificate of appreciation.

In closing, incoming Council President **Anne Richards** presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift to **Meg Cooper**, outgoing president, for her dedication to the organization and her service during a period in which the impact of COVID presented unprecedented challenges.

The date for a 2023 ARFS reunion and celebration of new retirees will be announced soon.



2022-2023 ARFS

Coordinating Council 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:

- Micheal Crafton (term 2021-2023)
- Ross Miller (term 2021-2023)
- Nancy Watkins (term 2021-2023)
- 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)

Retiree Legacy Scholarship Awarded to Wagner

The 2022-2023 Retiree Legacy Scholarship recipient, **Jordan Wagner**, joined ARFS members at its annual reunion and celebration of recent retirees. Jordan, a senior majoring in computer science and son of retiree Dr. Don Wagner, has a job lined up pending his spring graduation. Jordan's wife, Amy, and son, Milo, also attended the event.

The Retiree Legacy Scholarship benefits UWG students who are retirees or who are direct descendants or immediate relatives of retired faculty or staff members. Information about the scholarship, including how you can contribute, may be found on the ARFS website at

<https://www.westga.edu/hr/arfs/retiree-legacy-scholarship.php>



ARFS Coordinating Council member, John von Eschenbach (r), greets the Wagner family.

Retiree Directory Update

In the past year, the ARFS Coordinating Council has explored the possibility of creating an online directory of UWG retirees since this information is no longer a part of the university's online directory and the former printed directory compiled by Print

Services is no longer produced. Council leadership has met with a range of university officials, including legal counsel, and has learned that information for such a directory can be posted on the ARFS website. Details regarding the form such posting will take (whether public or accessible only to fellow retirees) will soon be determined.

If you have a preference in this regard, please notify **Anne Richards** (arichard@westga.edu or 770-834-8143). The Directory can also be made available in printed form. If you are interested in being listed and have not already notified Anne of this interest, please do so.

ARFS Annual Report Explores Past Year Activities

For the fifth year, the ARFS Annual Report was prepared, which is an action recommended by the international Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). The report documents the actions and activities, and successes and challenges, of the previous year while showing ARFS as a vibrant and necessary link between retirees and the university.

The purposes of the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff are to:

- promote the well-being of its members,
- support the UWG retiree community,
- foster continued involvement of retirees in the mission of the university,
- facilitate communication between the university and its retirees,
- seek to promote scholarly, social, and cultural interests of the retiree community,
- and - address matters related to benefits and resources for retirees.

To see the full report, visit our website (<https://www.westga.edu/hr/arfs/index.php>)

Did You Know?

ARFS is an official voting member of the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO) and the University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) and is a member of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE).

Each of these organizations advocates in various ways for the best interests of retirees in higher education.

How to Update Email and Postal Addresses

Some mailings to retirees have been returned unopened to the University or to the University System of Georgia (USG) because retirees moved or discontinued use of a previous postal or email address. **To change your email or postal mailing address with the University of West Georgia or the University System of Georgia, a retiree must personally contact both Human Resources at UWG and the USG to authorize such change. The number to call for authorizing a change with UWG is 678-839-1034 (Lauren Niedringhaus) and the number to call the USG is 844-887-4236.** To assure that you continue receiving information and materials from ARFS, including the newsletter, please notify Anne Richards of any change in your email or postal mailing address [arichard@westga.edu or 770-834-8143].

Lost Retirees: Can you help?

ARFS has lost touch with several retirees and we ask for your assistance should you have current contact information for those listed below. Please submit any contact information available to Anne Richards [arichard@westga.edu or 770-834-8143].

- James O'Malley
- Robert Reynolds
- Jinnie Davis Ackey
- Duria Lowe
- Krystyna Hanser

Update on Retiree Access to Ingram Library

While policy issues have yet to be finalized for retirees seeking access for research purposes to all electronic databases available in the Ingram library, a temporary work-around has been arranged for retirees with Emeritus status to access these databases. Contact: **Charles Sicignano**, Head Acquisitions/Electronic Resources in the Ingram Library, if you wish to make such arrangements. [charlie@westga.edu, 678-839-6369] Meanwhile, efforts are still underway at the University System level and on campus to provide greater access to campus-based library resources for all retirees.

What's Happening in Your Retirement

Dr. Ann McCleary, Professor Emerita of History, received the Georgia Association of Museums' Lifetime Achievement Award recognizing her for consistently and selflessly working over multiple decades to improve the state of museums and galleries in their communities and across the state. She remains active with UWG's Center for Public History.

The **Mitchell H. Clifton** Computing Center – named by UWG alumnus Rusty West '88 in honor of his faculty mentor and professor emeritus Mitchell Clifton – opened in the Technology-enhanced Learning Center (TLC) in Fall 2022 with a modernized design and improved technological capabilities to provide students in the College of Arts, Culture and



Dr. Ann McCleary

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Scientific Inquiry with a first-choice university experience. Clifton is a past president of the ARFS, while West co-founded Market Scan – an automotive leasing technology company – with his father the same year he graduated from West Georgia with degrees in mathematics, computer science and physics. The new space has been outfitted with industry-standard computers, flexible seating, and an aesthetically pleasing design to encourage greater collaboration and connectivity among its users.

“The impact Mr. Clifton had on me was in teaching me to believe in myself and that I was capable of anything I set my mind to,” said West at the opening of the center. “I have been fortunate in my career, in large part, because of the foundation I found at UWG, to work with some incredibly smart and talented people to solve big problems. That’s why I wanted to come back and do something to help create a space where faculty members of today can impact students’ lives like Mr. Clifton impacted mine.”

The full story can be found at this link:

<https://www.westga.edu/news/alumni-and-friends/alum-computing-center-professor.php>



Mitch Clifton (r) and alumnus Rusty West '88 at the opening of a new computing center named for Clifton.

Dr. Cecilia Castro Lee, Professor Emerita of Spanish, published a book of poetry entitled *Palabras que respiran – Breathing Words*. “I share with my readers poems that aspire to infuse life, vision, emotions, love, nostalgia, dreams and memories,” stated Lee. Additionally, the book includes “poems that depict landscapes of nature’s marvels that assail the senses, and landscapes of the soul, intimate living poems, together with the sorrows of our times, immigration, war, pandemic. I see my poems as a rose garden, a symbol of vitality and beauty, even with its thorns.” The book is written in both Spanish and English. To purchase the book (\$15), contact her at clee@westga.edu. She hopes to have a book signing event in Carrollton soon..



Dr. Joseph Tyler, Professor Emeritus of Spanish, attended the meeting of The Modern Language Association in San Francisco. Dr. Tyler is a Life Member of the MLA. He twice served as South Regional Delegate of this organization and organized several Special Sessions in Spanish American literature. Dr. Tyler's publications are included in the prestigious MLA International Bibliography with full text. While at the MLA conference, Dr. Tyler visited the de Young/Legions of Honor Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco to see the Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs exhibit, which has now returned to Cairo.

Let us Know What's Happening in Your Retirement

Getting a second wind? Feeling like you have a new lease on life?

Taking on new responsibilities?

Pursuing a new hobby? Learning another language?

Volunteering for a service-project?

Undertaking a professional project?

Spoiling your grandchildren?

Whatever you've been doing in retirement, share it with us.

To let us know your experience, please write or email.

Contact: Frank Pritchett, 15 Azalea Drive, Villa Rica, Ga. 30180,
or email fpritchett1522@gmail.com.