

Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS)
MINUTES
13th Annual Reunion and 3rd General Membership Meeting
Saturday, August 26, 2017, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Sunset Hills Country Club

1. As retirees and guests arrived at the 13th annual reunion/reception, Bernie Wong played musical selections on the piano and attendees mingled and socialized.

2. At noon, Mitch Clifton, President of ARFS, **welcomed those in attendance** at the event and outlined the agenda for today's gathering. Calling attention to documents on each table, including a slate of candidates for positions on the Coordinating Council (to be voted on during the General Membership meeting), Mitch invited persons willing to serve as Secretary of the Council to let him know of their interest in the position since a candidate had not yet been found to serve in this role. He then introduced Dave Fraboni, Vice President for University Advancement.

3. **Remarks. Dave Fraboni, Vice President for University Advancement, UWG.** Dave stated that this gathering is his "most favorite event" because it reveals how the institution has grown "on the shoulders of greatness that has come before us" and how the success the institution enjoys has been built on the efforts so many made to help students achieve. He expressed appreciation for all the family, friends, colleagues, and retirees who were present and noted "what a great turnout" it was for the occasion. In addition to his words of welcome, Vice President Fraboni announced that, as of this week, the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship had reached full-funding, and he thanked the group for its support for this scholarship. He then introduced President Kyle Marrero.

4. **Remarks. Dr. Kyle Marrero, President, UWG.** Dr. Marrero commented on how beautiful a day it was for this event. He also explained that, when he was new to the campus and first began attending this event, he only learned second-hand about contributions made by those retiring from the campus. Now going into his fourth year as President, he said he has first-hand knowledge of significant contributions and efforts made by those retiring, and how these impact campus life. The institution is continuing to make exciting progress, however, he went on to say. This academic year started earlier than usual - on August 9th - and will go for 15 weeks with one break. It felt somewhat unnatural beginning so early, Marrero mentioned, but the institution has experienced a **record enrollment** (13, 550) and has grown 18% in enrollment over the past 4 years. Other records have been broken along the way also, including **incoming Freshman GPA** (now **at the highest ever in the history of the institution**), as well as the highest 4-year and 5-year **graduation rates** for enrolled students, and the highest overall number of graduates (2,610) in a given year. An independent study involving 45 institutions in Georgia focusing on how well graduates of institutions of higher education in the state are doing in terms of **earning power** revealed that UWG is 7th in the line-up, with mean earnings among those graduating with a BA being \$42,000 and rising to over \$70,000 within 10-20 years after graduation. While the

survey results show that UGA, GA Tech and Emory graduates are ahead of us, our graduates are still doing very well.

With regard to the **development of campus facilities**, Dr. Marrero reported that the Biology building is being renovated. It will be 80,000 square feet in size when renovations are completed next summer. He also mentioned that the Biology Department now has over 800 majors. The former Watson Hall will be the new home of the Richards College of Business. Consisting of 60,000 square feet of space when completed, it will be able to house all departments in Business in one location. The baseball stadium will be moved to the athletic complex. The substation (behind the Campus Center) has been moved and the tennis courts will soon be moved also. And within the coming year, the latter space will be transformed into a parking lot stretching from Love Valley to Back Campus Drive. It will also include a drop-off point with covered access to the Campus Center Ballroom [an announcement that brought cheers from the audience]

In addition, **181 new faculty and staff have been hired in the last four years** and the university was granted the **largest budget allocation in its history**. A considerable amount of these funds have been invested in UWG faculty and staff - with 10.05 million dollars going for equity and merit pay increases.

Football season 2017 begins August 31st. David Dean, who worked on campus from 1992-1999 as a coach and then became a coach at Valdosta State University (where he was twice named Coach of the Year), is now back as UWG's Head Coach.

Homecoming is September 21-23, 2017. It includes a Presidential 5K run, a night-time "Glow Parade" (where all floats glow in the dark), a bonfire/pep rally on Friday, an alumni breakfast and lunch on Saturday, followed by a football game and a Scholarship Gala on Saturday evening. Last year, the Gala raised over \$100,000 for need-based scholarships. As of this past Tuesday night, Dr. Marrero explained that 1,008 of the students enrolled this semester still had a balance due to the university for enrollment fees. By noon on that day, State statutes require that institutions drop students who aren't paid in full. Because of the funds raised at the Gala, however, the institution was able to provide over 240 qualified students with the financial support or "gap funding" they needed to stay in school. Dr. Marrero also mentioned that the recidivism rate among students receiving such support is only 8%. For the most part, after being provided with gap funding on a one-time basis, students are able to get back on track and keep going.

Dr. Marrero thanked those in attendance for all they've done for the institution and announced a new benefit for retirees that came about after considerable analysis: free membership in the state-of-the-art Recreation Center in the Campus Center. While aware that only retirees (and not their spouses) are granted this free membership, the news was warmly received by the group.

5. **Lunch.** Mitch Clifton then introduced Brandy Rogers from Sunset Hills Country Club, who had the responsibility of determining the order of attendees going through the buffet line for lunch. Lunch consisted of a sumptuous and delicious Thanksgiving menu

of ham, turkey, dressing, salad items, green beans, squash casserole, mashed potatoes and sweet potato soufflé followed by blueberry and cherry cobbler for dessert.

5. Following lunch, Mitch Clifton **called to order the 3rd General Membership Meeting of the Association of Retired Faculty & Staff.**

a. Dr. Karen Smith, Treasurer, provided the **Scholarship Report**, announcing that the scholarship fund had reached \$25,117 and had achieved endowment status. These funds are now required to sit in the UWG Foundation for one year while earning interest. The interest on the principal can be given out for the first time in the Fall of 2018. Karen also called attention to the envelopes on each table in the room for those who wanted to make additional contributions to this scholarship. She also mentioned that it is possible to make donations to it on-line.

b. Mitch asked Glenn Novak, Chair of the **Nominating Committee** to come forward and present the slate of proposed new members of the Coordinating Council (to serve as Officers and At-Large Members of the Coordinating Council between now and 2019). Copies of this slate were available on all tables in the room and included the following:

Officers (also members of Coordinating Council)

President: Mitch Clifton (term 2016-2018)

Vice President: Jan Ruskell (also Scholarship) (term 2016-2018)

Past President: Glenn Novak (term 2016-2018)

Secretary: need candidate (term 2017-2019)

Treasurer: Karen Smith (term 2016-2018)

At Large Members of Coordinating Council (minimum of six)

Jimmy Drew (term 2016-2018)

Dan Flinn (term 2017-2019)

Kathryn Grams (term 2017-2019)

Swain Harris (term 2017-2019)

Bruce Lyon (term 2017-2019)

Debbie Novak (Scholarship Committee) (term 2017-2019)

Linda Picklesimer (term 2017-2019)

Bob Reeves (term 2017-2019)

Gail Reid (term 2017-2019)

Anne Richards (Co-Chair, Programs/Events Committee) (term 2017-2019)

Martha Ann Saunders (Co-Chair, Programs/Events Committee) (term 2017-2019)

Once the slate was presented, a motion was made and seconded (Jimmy Drew/Martha Ann Saunders) to vote on supporting it. It was voted on and passed on a voice vote.

The only vacant position is for Secretary of the organization. Mitch called for nominations from the floor for this position. There being none, and no volunteers, the position was left vacant for the time being.

6. Mitch recognized the following **outgoing members of the Coordinating Council:** Frances Jackson (At Large member), Wanda McGukin (At Large member and also the ARFS representative to GA-HERO), Anne Richards (Secretary), and Linda Wagner (Chair of the Widow/Widower/Surviving Partner Committee).

7. Recognition of Retirees.

The following current retirees were recognized individually:

Steve Arrington	Tim J. McWhorter
Ed Croy	Thomas J. Mackel
Van Edwards	Sandra S. Nix
Cynthia D. Epps, Ph.D., RN, CNE	Patricia D. Pinkard
Kathy H. Gibbs	Shelia Redwine
Donna M. Harkins, Ed.D.	Don Rice
Linda P. Harris	H. Denise Robinson
Deborah B. Holcombe (post-humously)	Diane C. Shackelford
Debra L. Hytower	Wayne Walker
	Laurie Jowers Ware, Ph.D., RN, CNL

As they came up to the front of the room, Mitch Clifton presented them with their medallion, President Marrero congratulated them, and their picture was taken with President Marrero. Retirees were also given the opportunity to address the group and several chose to do so, sharing aspects of their experience over the years at the institution, including the changes they had seen taking place and the meaningful relationships they had developed with others on campus. Anne explained that retirees who were unable to join us for today's presentation [E. Lorene Flanders, Joey Hannaford, Mills Lane, Shirley Oliver Lankford, Charles K. (Charlie) Marlar, Dinuabhai C. (Dino) Patel, Sheila D. Rivera, Dennie Sears, Elaine R. Shirey, Bob Watkins, and L. Dean Wilburn, Jr.] would receive a medallion and commemorative booklet following today's gathering.

8. Closing Remarks

Mitch Clifton announced that if any retirees had not yet signed in to the OneUSG administrative system for benefits (that has replaced ADP), they should let him or other members of the Coordinating Council know this as soon as possible and should contact the UWG HR Office to be sure they get registered and don't lose their benefits.

Mitch also thanked the following individuals for their contributions to the success of today's event:

Brandy Rogers, Anita Wilson, and staff at the Sunset Hills Country Club
Denice King-Perdue, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations, UWG
Ali Rosborough, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, UWG
Kevin Hemphill, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations, UWG
The Blue Coats
Dave Fraboni
President Marrero

He also thanked the President again for the free membership provided to retirees for use of the Campus Center recreation facilities.

9. Photos were taken of the group of retirees recognized during today's program and of the members of the Coordinating Council who will be serving in the upcoming term. The meeting adjourned at about 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted - Anne C. Richards, Secretary

