

ARFS LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The 2023-24 ARFS Retiree Legacy Scholarship has been awarded to Madeline Wentworth, a sophomore majoring in Early Childhood Education. Her grandfather, Jimmy Agan, worked in Continuing Education for 20 years. Madeline and several members of her family plan to join us at the 2023 annual retiree reunion.

In a letter to the scholarship donors, Wentworth thanked them for their investment in her academic goals and future. She will be awarded \$1,334 to be divided between Fall and Spring semesters.

According to John von Eschenbach, ARFS Coordinating Council member and chair of the scholarship committee, gifts to the ARFS Legacy Scholarship are encouraged. To make a gift to the endowed scholarship, visit www.westga.edu/giv, select "Other" for the dropdown gift designation field and type ARFS Legacy Scholarship, OR, mail your check to: University of West Georgia Foundation, 1601 Maple Street, Carrollton, GA 30118. Please be sure to indicate the 'Retiree Legacy Scholarship' on the check memo line.



Madeline Wentworth and her grandfather, Jimmy Agan



October 7, 2023

ARFS Annual Reunion

Location: UWG EDUCATION CENTER, Classrooms #4 and #5 (first floor)

Time: 10:00 am; followed by a Health Benefits Information Session (Schedule TBD)

FRAUD ALERT FROM ALIGHT

The University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) has become aware of at least two instances in which a USG retiree's Alight account has been hacked. You can monitor your own account using the following directions:

Locate your login information for Alight (User Name and Password). You will need it to proceed.

Log into your Alight account (<https://retiree.alight.com/usg>). This website has a new look.

Scroll down to the **Manage HRA** button.

Click on the **Manage My HRA** button.

View **Recent Activity** and, if necessary, click on **Health Care** to View More Activity.

This will enable you to see what Alight says it has reimbursed you for. If you don't recognize some of the payments or did not receive them (by direct deposit or by check), **contact Alight** at 866-212-5052.

Also, to ensure that your money is deposited in your account and not someone else's, click on **Edit Your Profile** and verify that your Direct Deposit Information is correct.

BOARD OF REGENTS ESTABLISHES NEW GUIDELINES FOR EMERITUS/EMERITA STATUS

The BOR recently revised its Policy 2.11 regarding the title of Emeritus or Emerita, calling for institutions to develop and publish their own guidelines for awarding emeritus/emerita status. The new policy outlines expectations institutions should follow as they develop their individual guidelines, and a list was provided of possible benefits, privileges, and recognitions that may be associated with this Emeritus/Emerita status. None listed were considered binding on institutions and institutions were not restricted to the listed benefits, privileges, and recognitions associated with Emeritus/Emerita status. UWG's Faculty Development Committee (chaired by Dr. Farooq Khan) is now working on the development of guidelines for UWG. Anne Richards has informed him of various concerns retirees have raised in the past and shared copies of the policies currently in place at Middle Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University. If you have suggestions for the Committee to consider in drafting UWG policy, please send them to Dr. Khan at fkhan@westga.edu and copy Anne Richards (arichard@westga.edu) so the Coordinating Council can better understand additional relevant issues.

LOOKING FOR CAMPUS POLICIES?

Go to: <https://www.westga.edu/administration/president/legal/policy/index.php>

Click on the "University Policy Stat Library" link under "Find a Policy."

Type what you are looking for into the search bar near the top of the page. You can select your choice and view this without needing to sign in.

FOR USERS OF GALILEO:

The GALILEO password was discontinued on July 2, 2023. Emeriti faculty who have been using it to access databases from home and who retired before the university transitioned to the current authentication system (roughly 8 years ago), **will need a new means of connecting**. Library personnel are working on the development of this new means of connecting. Contact Lauren Niedringhaus at HR (lniedringhaus@westga.edu, 678-839-1034) for further information.

UPDATE ON CREATION OF A DIRECTORY OF RETIREES

Following considerable investigation of legal matters and accessibility issues related to the creation of a directory of retirees, attempting to move forward with creating such a directory seems inadvisable at this time. Any viable option

proposed requires ARFS to manage this project directly, outside of Human Resources. And since only 48 retirees expressed interest in the idea (along with a handful of current employees), and the Council currently has limited time, energy, and resources available to take this on, putting additional effort into this project seems unwarranted.

PARKING HANG TAGS for 2023-2024 NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Parking and Transportation Services Office on campus still needs to update its website with current information about changes in parking regulations and the means for securing your hang tag for 2023-2024. As a result, retirees are advised to wait to fill out or submit a request for a hang tag. If current and correct information is not posted by August 1, 2023, the deadline for getting a new hang tag will be extended. A new link to an online form will be provided on the ARFS listserv and the ARFS website as soon as all information related to new regulations is available. Anyone ticketed between August 1 and the time a hang tag is requested and received should contact the Parking and Transportation Services Office to have the ticket waived. If you have already filled out and submitted a form to Parking and Transportation Services, be aware that it will only be acted upon once the above regulations have been posted.

Eventually, an online link for securing a hang tag will be again made available on the ARFS listserv and the ARFS website.

If you prefer not to handle this online or don't use a computer, you can contact Lauren and provide her with the information required to arrange a parking pass. Her phone number is 678-839-1034, and her email is lniedringhaus@westga.edu

ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRAVEL

The UWG Alumni Association has announced travel tours for three destinations in 2024 – Costa Rica (Feb. 8-16), Scotland (April 13-21), and Croatia (Aug. 23-Sept. 3).

"We hope you'll join UWG Alumni & Friends as we explore new parts of the world together," said Allyson Bretch, assistant vice president of University Advancement. "From gorgeous Scotland to Croatia and its islands, we are building experiences and creating memories that last a lifetime."

For complete information, including pricing, follow the link below or contact the UWG Alumni Association at alumni@westga.edu. See also: <https://www.westga.edu/alumni/travel-program.php>

EMAIL ACCESS FOR RETIREES – ACTION NEEDED

There has been quite an exchange of thoughts and concerns regarding the University of West Georgia's policy changes dealing with retiree retention of westga.edu email accounts. The text of the second announcement from the office of Human Resources distributed to retirees via the ARFS listserv is provided below. **Basically, retirees are losing access to their westga.edu email accounts and to associated tools, such as the Google calendar, on August 31, 2023.** There is a possibility that emeriti faculty will be able to retain their accounts, but this is still up in the air.

Remember that if you change any contact information, you should inform ARFS (Anne Richards – arichard@westga.edu, at least for now; 770-834-8143), UWG Human Resources (Lauren Niedringhaus – 678-839-1034) and the University System of Georgia (844-587-4236).



HUMAN RESOURCES

Additional Information Regarding Your UWG Email Address

Dear UWG Retiree,

You may have recently received a communication regarding retirees no longer retaining University of West Georgia email addresses as of August 31, 2023. As valued members of the UWG community, we would like to acknowledge the feedback received related to this transition.

In light of the escalating cybersecurity risks surrounding email account management, including the growing threats of phishing, ransomware, malware, hacking, and the theft of information relating to students, faculty, and staff, it has become imperative for UWG to enhance our email system management. Failure to do so could result in severe legal, regulatory, and financial consequences.

Other USG institutions have made these changes as long as a year ago and have implemented them over the past year. As initially shared, this change is necessary for UWG to align with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia expectations, cybersecurity practices, and industry standards, as well as strengthen the security and privacy of your personal information. **Please visit [this webpage](#) for additional information.**

The Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) at UWG continues to create a culture in which all retired faculty and staff feel welcomed by and re-connected to their former institution and fellow retirees. UWG will continue to support and cultivate these connections through the ARFS ListServ, social events, retiree recognition, and other resources available on the [ARFS webpage](#).

UWG's relationship with retirees is important, and we hope any inconvenience experienced related to this change will not impact our continued commitment to fostering a community of belonging and connectedness at the University of West Georgia.

If you have additional questions after visiting the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) webpage](#), please don't hesitate to email hrrservices@westga.edu or contact us via the form at the bottom of that webpage. Thank you for your continued commitment to the University of West Georgia.

Go West, and Go Wolves!

Office of Human Resources
University of West Georgia

[Read the FAQs](#)





ALIGHT: SURVIVOR TIPS FOR DEALING WITH MEDICARE WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES

Losing a loved one is never easy. As a spouse, family member or caregiver, even while you're grieving, the responsibility of handling personal and legal details may also fall on you. When having to settle the deceased's affairs, including Medicare or other health insurance, you'll want to make calls, close out paperwork and tie up loose ends quickly, so you can stop billing and payments, learn about any available survivor benefits and death or burial benefits, finalize any health-related claims not yet processed, and protect against identity theft and other fraudulent activity. Keep in mind, doctors have up to a year to submit claims to Medicare, so Medicare Summary Notices may still be mailed during that time. While Medicare covers services up until the date of death, deductibles, copayments or coinsurance may still need to be paid.

You'll likely need these documents or information they contain:

- * Social Security Number
- * Medicare and related cards or numbers
- * Life insurance policy numbers
- * Contact information for people named as Power of Attorney and Executor, if any
- * Original death certificate

After dealing with the most pressing issues, make these calls a priority:

- * **Social Security (SSA):** To advise Medicare about a death, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)—not Medicare. Social Security will report the death to Medicare and stop the deceased's benefits and future billing. This information cannot be reported online. Most funeral homes, mortuaries and crematoriums will make this call for you if you ask. If your loved one was a member of a Medicare Advantage plan and/or Medicare Part D prescription drug plan, Social Security will let those companies know, too.
- * **Medicare Supplement company:** If the person was enrolled in a Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plan, you'll need to let the insurance company know directly. Social Security doesn't alert these plans.
- * **Veterans Administration (VA):** If your loved one was receiving benefits from the VA, call 1-800-827-1000 to report the death. You can also request a military funeral, stop ongoing benefits, ask about survivor benefits, and return any medical equipment.
- * **Designated individuals:** If your loved one named a Power of Attorney, Executor, or both, reach out to them and let them know.
- * **The deceased person's former employer:** Be sure to contact the former employer's benefits department to report the date of death.

For health matters, contact doctors, clinics and other facilities where your loved one was receiving services. Cancel any outstanding appointments and settle any outstanding bills. If the deceased had Medicare retiree benefits from their employer through Alight, contact them. Alight personnel can help explain any available survivor benefits and help you with any claims or disputes.

- * There's a six-month deadline for submitting claims after the retiree's death, which must be submitted by mail within the year of the retiree's passing. And, if you're named as a survivor, you'll have online access to the HRA account starting on January 1 of the following year. At that point, you'll be able to submit claims online.
- * If the Medicare plan included a health reimbursement account (HRA), the death of a retiree or spouse may impact coverage. Alight can provide details on how benefits will be impacted and help notify the employer that contributes to the HRA.

You'll also want to alert the people handling your loved one's medical and financial affairs. These include: **Financial accounts:** Contact any banks, credit unions, brokerage firms, insurance companies, and other businesses where funds were held in the person's name, **Other government agencies and charities:** If your loved one was receiving assistance through a state or local government agency or through a charitable organization, let them know so you can stop unearned benefits and claim any available death or burial benefits.

Deadline for Reporting:

Most government agencies ask to be notified about a loved one's death "as soon as possible," without specifying an actual deadline. That notification can affect the survivors financially and can help deter fraud, so it's a good idea to

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make the calls within a week or two.

For more information on possible benefits you may be entitled to, contact Social Security and the Veterans Administration.

* **Social Security:** The person's spouse and other family members may qualify for a one-time death benefit or ongoing monthly benefits from Social Security.

* **Veterans Administration:** If the person served in the U.S. Military, the VA may offer death and burial benefits as well as survivor benefits.

If you continue to receive Social Security, Veterans or other government-funded benefits after notifying the agency, **do not cash the checks.** Return them to the agency that sent them. Contact the agency for instructions on returning funds sent in error. It takes time and patience to tie up loose ends, and you don't have to go it alone. In addition to friends and family members, advisors at Alight are both knowledgeable and compassionate—and always available to walk you through any issues and concerns.

For more detailed information about reporting the death of a retiree in the University System of Georgia, Google: "USG Retiree Survivor Information – Death of a Retiree" or contact Anne Richards (arichard@westga.edu) for a copy that can be emailed or mailed to you via post office mail.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Meeting of the USG Retiree Council (held 3-31-23 on Zoom)

USG's Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dana Nichols, is looking for persons with grant-writing, grant-management experience to assist with projects the USG would like to pursue. If you are a person with this expertise and would like to volunteer to assist the USG, contact the Vice Chancellor at dana.nichols@usg.edu

CAPTRUST investment advisory/wealth management services and webinars are available to all retirees, not just those in ORP with 403b or 457b accounts. For more information about their webinars call: 919-870-6822.

If your prescription drug plan doesn't cover a new medication you have been prescribed, check to see if your plan offers a "non-formulary" exemption process.

Meeting of the Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO), held 4-5-23 on Zoom.

The current focus of GA-HERO is bringing retirees together, either virtually or in-person. If you know of an

event being held on our campus or in our area that might interest retirees from other institutions, please share information about it with Marilynne McKay (mmckay@emory.edu) or Missy Cody (mmcody50@gmail.com), who serve as co-chairs of GA-HERO.

NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Two new student organizations at UWG seek to fight food waste and provide students with appropriate attire for job interviews. Both groups provide opportunities for retirees to participate in their missions.

Wolves Don't Waste (WDW) is a part of the larger family of the Food Recovery Network (FRN) which is a national collegiate chapter-based organization. FRN is the largest student-led movement fighting food waste and working to end hunger in America. The club's mission is to fight food insecurity and wastage through the safe recovery of food from campus events and dining halls, and the storage of the food recovered is in an easy-to-access but discreet location on campus that is open to all students. Volunteers can assist with food deliveries in the west Georgia area. Also, retirees who are food insecure can contact the organization to see if they qualify for assistance through the organization.



The Office of Career and Graduate School Connections provides valuable support and resources to the University of West Georgia students, from resumé writing to salary negotiation tactics. One of the most impactful is the **Career Closet**, an accessible professional clothing closet for students attending career fairs, interviews, conferences, or other professional engagements.



Students can show up and "shop" for a shirt, pants, ties, or a whole suit/professional dress, according to Ian Houston, Associate Director of Career Development. The Career Closet, known by other names in the past, has been an essential resource for years, and we continue to look for new ways to impact our students, one blazer at a time, said Houston. To donate, please schedule a drop-off by calling 678-839-6431 or emailing at careers@westga.edu. The Career Closet can only accept professional/interview-ready attire. Cargo pants, ball gowns, undergarments, or casual attire are not accepted. Please make sure clothes are washed before donating.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR RETIREMENT?

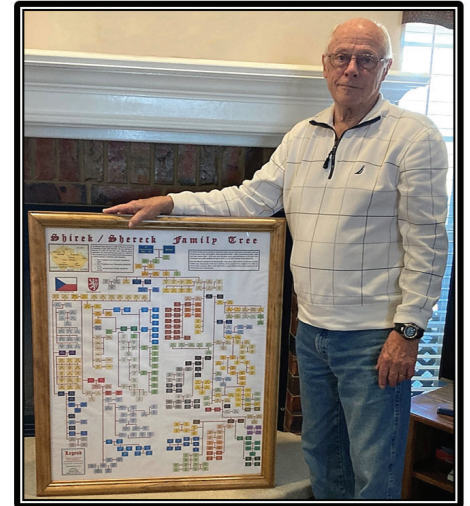
Timothy Chowns (Professor Emeritus, Geosciences) recently treated the Carrollton Golden K Kiwanis Club to a rock show that included a rock specimen estimated to be 300 million years old.

Eric Dodson (Professor of Psychology), active in the West Georgia Coin Club, serves as the auctioneer for the group. In early July of this year, he conducted his 37th auction of rare coins and currency.

Kathryn Grams (Dean, Tanner School of Nursing; Professor Emerita, Nursing) was presented the Honorary Alumna Award at the UWG Alumni Association's 46th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet in April.

Jack Johnson, who retired in 2003 as Dean Emeritus of the Richards College of Business, has been busy with a new hobby - creating family trees. "I've done around 50 family trees over the past few years, and here's what I do. I research the Internet via Ancestry.com, Geni.com, FamilySearch, WikiTree and other sources to gather information on a family. Then I work with individual family members to get info on those relatives who are still living. I put all the information together and create a family tree that is printed in color and can be framed and displayed if desired," explains Johnson.

Johnson charges clients \$35 to do all the research and printing of the tree, which is shipped in a mailing tube to respective families. If you are interested in having Jack create a family tree for you, please contact him at Jack E. Johnson, 1979 Townsend Ct., Midwest City, OK 73130, (email) hotshotzup@gmail.com or phone him at (404) 906-3088.



Jack Johnson with Family Tree

Cecilia Lee (Professor Emerita of Spanish, Foreign Languages) was nominated for the coveted Georgia Author of the Year award in the full-length poetry collection category – and came in second! The book was featured in the last issue of the REJUVENATOR.

Nancy Mims (Professor Emerita, Educational Leadership) was a charter member of the Villa Rica Golden City Lions club and remains active in that organization. She was also appointed by the city council of Villa Rica to serve as a commissioner on the Villa Rica Historical Preservation Society (which she chaired during her tenure), and is now serving on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. She was recently elected an Honorary Regent in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is the group's Parliamentarian.

IN MEMORIAM:

George Keller Remembered with Bench Dedication



A bench dedication was held earlier this year in honor of **George Keller**, former Physics Professor at West Georgia who retired from in 2010 and passed away in 2020. He taught physics for more than 40 years, served as department chair on several occasions and was well known by UWG students, faculty, and staff, as well as throughout the Carrollton community. Funding for the bench was obtained through contributions from students, faculty, and the physics program, according to Javier Hasbun, Professor of Physics at UWG.