

UPCOMING 2024 REUNION/RECEPTION/MEETING/BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

As previously announced online, our annual reunion/recognition of retirees and ARFS membership meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 starting at 10:00 am in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Previous retirees – remember to wear your medallions!

The event includes a social and continental breakfast brunch, retiree recognition program, ARFS Annual Meeting, and a celebration of ARFS' 20th birthday (complete with a birthday cake). The birthday celebration will include recognition of people we are calling the Founders – those who worked to get ARFS started. As part of this recognition, Andy Leavitt, who was instrumental in developing retiree support while serving as Executive Director of the West Georgia Foundation and Associate Vice President for Advancement and Development, will address the group.

To help celebrate our Founders, **we are seeking photographs** (recent and earlier) of the following individuals:

Henry Setter, Jerry and Lucy Garmon, Frank Pritchett, Clois Reese, Burdett and Shirley Wantland, Carole Scott, Andy Leavitt, Debbie and Glenn Novak, Tom Carrere, Mel Steely, Dale Duffey, Dotti Green, Steven Broome, Carolyn Scherm, Louis Larson, Nancy Pollard, and Mary Creamer. Please contact Meg Cooper (770-880-5078; mcooper@emeriti.westga.edu) or Anne Richards (770-301-1589; arichard@emeriti.westga.edu) to submit photos.

We are also planning a **UWG Trivia Contest** as part of the 2024 Retiree Reunion. **We need questions!** We are thinking of multiple-choice questions with 4 of 5 possible answers (one of which is correct, obviously).

Please send suggested questions to Meg Cooper (mcooper@emeriti.westga.edu; 770-880-5078).

Due to a donor's generosity, there will be no charge for this event. To ensure adequate seating and food, however, everyone planning to attend, including honorees and their guests, should register by 5:00 pm on Thursday, October 17th by calling 678-839-6582 or emailing alumni@westga.edu.

The following retirees will be honored

Lynn S. Anderson
Janet S. Barden
Amin Boumenir
Subhan Jim Burton (2022-2023 retiree)
Julie Chibbaro
Kelley Christopher
Melanie Nunnally Clay
David Dean

Amy Farmer
Myrna W. Gantner
Vickie J. Geisler
A. Bart Gillespie
Steve Goodson
B. Keith Harris
Jennifer A. Hayes
Javier E. Hasbun

Robyn Huss
Mark A. Kunkel
Brian McCrary
Elsa V. Pena
Stacey L. Rowland
Mardel Shumake
Renee Sparks
James A. Yoder

2023 ANNUAL RETIREE REUNION



The annual reunion for UWG retirees, held in conjunction with the annual ARFS business meeting and recognition of recent retirees, was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. The group met this year in the Education Center and was welcomed to the COE by Dr. Logan Arrington representing Dean Mike Dishman, who was unable to attend at the last minute. Catering was provided by LG's Magical Affairs (Douglasville). It was paid for by a donor, who wished to remain anonymous, but noted that we could share that the donation was "paid for by future ARFS members, in acknowledgment and appreciation of your service to our university." We had a delicious continental breakfast and opportunities to mingle and greet friends before and after the formal parts of the reunion.



continued from page 1

2023 ANNUAL RETIREE REUNION Cont'd

Anne Richards, president of the ARFS Coordinating Council, led the event and reported on ARFS activities since the 2022 reunion. Additional program speakers were Mark Janzen, who shared information about the Center for Public History and encouraged retirees to participate in its mission; MaKena Burns, representing University Advancement, who discussed opportunities for involvement with UWG; and Cecilia Lee, member, of the ARFS Coordinating Council and Georgia Writers Association of the Year Finalist for 2023, who spoke about life after retirement and shared a poem she had written specifically for this occasion – see pages 3-4. MaKena also introduced Madeline Wentworth, the 2023 Retiree Legacy Scholarship awardee, who spoke to the group. (See separate article in this newsletter.)



Retirees honored in 2023 were:

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

Nine of these retirees attended the event, receiving their medallions and the commemorative tribute booklet in person. (We also had five reunion attendees who will be honored next year; hopefully they will be back for the 2024 event!)



Recent UWG retirees honored at the 2023 reunion, with Council President Anne Richards. Back row: Ann McCleary, Blaise Bergiel, Anne Richards. Front row – John Frevert, Rolanda Farmer, Jami Bower, Matthew Clay, JoAnn Morgan, Greta Kirby, Brian Henderson

During the ARFS annual General Meeting, the slate of nominees for the 2023-2024 ARFS Coordinating Council was presented by Meg Cooper, chairperson of the Nominating Committee. (Micheal Crafton, Frank Pritchett, Anne Richards, and Nancy Watkins also served on this committee.) The following individuals were elected to serve:

Officers

President – Anne Richards (2022-2024)

Vice President – Frank Pritchett (2022-2024)

Secretary – Francie Taylor (2022-2024)

Treasurer – Sally Roberts (2022-2024)

Past-President – Meg Cooper (2022-2024)

At-Large Members

Micheal Crafton (2023-2025)

Rolanda Farmer (2023-2025)

Kevin Hibbard (2022-2024)

Cecilia Lee (2022-2024)

Ann McCleary (2023-2025)

Anita Thomas (2022-2024)

John Von Eschenbach (2022-2024)

Alice Wesley (2022-2024)

Two Coordinating Council members whose terms on the ARFS Coordinating Council ended (Ross Miller and Nancy Watkins) also were honored for their service as part of the ARFS business meeting.

This year we added a new component to the annual retiree reunion, an Information Session. Lauren Niedringhaus, an invaluable support to UWG retirees and ARFS and a Benefits Specialist in the Department of Human Resources, discussed health benefits.

Mardel Shumake, Information Security Officer in Information Technology Services at UWG, presented on cybersecurity. Some information provided in his powerpoint was already shared with the ARFS listserv.



Mardel Shumake

Additional photographs from the 2023 Annual Retiree Reunion are available on the ARFS website. (Photos were taken by Retiree Steven Broome of Jastesa Photographic Services.)

COMMENTS by CECILIA C. LEE:

Dear Retirees:

It is my honor and my pleasure to congratulate you on your retirement from the University of West Georgia. This is a milestone in your lives and a day to celebrate your legacy of excellency and dedication. Some of you have served the University as members of the faculty, others as administrators, staff, and in other capacities. All of you have contributed to the growth of our institution and the success of the students. Your colleagues and friends will miss you, but your impact guided and encouraged them. You will live on.

As you reflect on your careers, you must feel proud of the good that you have provided. You have imparted knowledge and wisdom to many generations of students. You have guided and encouraged them. You have also witnessed their intellectual and personal growth and their success in their own careers. On the other hand, all of us should be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a better society and a better world.

Yes, there is life after retirement. “Retirement is like a new chapter in a book. The pages are blank, but the possibilities are endless.” This is the time to fulfill old dreams and to enjoy a well-deserved freedom. Reinvent yourselves. Remember “Wisdom dwells in your heart.”

I have written a poem, inviting all of you to cross the threshold and begin your life reaching for the stars:



Cecilia C. Lee

continued from page 3

COMMENTS by CECILIA C. LEE: Cont'd

A TOAST TO THE NEW UWG RETIREES

Cecilia Lee, October 7, 2023

Wishing you a rich life and happy times ahead.

May the grass grow greener in your garden.
May you find what you are looking for.
May each day bring you laughter and excitement.
May you be blessed with love and faithful friends.

Enjoy your success. You deserved it. You have worked hard. Keep doing what you like. Let others do the rest. Let the sun brighten your days. Let the wind caress your face.

Remember the good. Forget the bad. Be wise. Seize the day and find the magical sense of life. Cry if you need to, but try to keep a smile. Do not believe your mirror. Pretend it tells a lie.

Explore the unknown. Let go of the past. Keep your fire burning. Be amazed. Be surprised. Discover a new bird in your yard, a new star in the sky. Be aware. Be bold. This is your chance.

It is a new beginning, take a stance. Fight against routines. Get off the beaten path. Charge your creativity. Be inspired. Break new ground. Reach for the stars.

RETIREE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP



The 2023-2024 awardee, Madeline Wentworth, attended the annual UWG Retiree Reunion and shared some remarks from the stage. She is an Early Childhood Education major, especially fitting since the 2023 event was held in the Education Center. She was accompanied to the reunion by her grandparents, Jimmy and Ann Agan, as well as her mother and stepfather, Nicolette and James Agan. Retiree Jimmy Agan worked in Continuing Education.

Eligibility Criteria for the Retiree Legacy Scholarship

- Recipients will be full-time graduate or undergraduate students who are retirees of the institution or who are direct descendants or an immediate family relation of a retired faculty or staff member (with a minimum of 10 years of service to the institution).
- Recipients will have a minimum cumulative GPA 2.5, with preference given to applicants with a higher GPA.
- Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated financial need as determined by the UWG Financial Aid Office.

If you would like to make a gift to help fund this scholarship, check out <https://www.westga.edu/give/how-to-give> for ways you can contribute, including through an online giving form. Be sure to designate the “UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship” if you wish to support this scholarship. Another option is to go directly to <https://giving.westga.edu/arfs/> where you can choose to donate to ARFS or to the USG Retiree legacy Scholarship online. You could also contact Development at 678-839-6501 if you have any questions about giving to UWG.

CYBERSECURITY TIPS



- Don't use the same password across multiple accounts.
- Be very cautious about opening any link you receive over email. Check the address of the email to be sure it is coming from a legitimate company.
- Set up a multi-factor authentication (MFA) process on each account that requires the use of an additional one-time password or passcode every time you log in. This password or code could be sent to your phone or email. While this is sometimes a hassle for you, it makes things that much harder for a hacker.
- Don't have a company save your payment information for your credit card to make future purchases easier.

PARKING PASSES for 2024-2025

To secure a parking pass on campus for the coming academic year, use the following link: [Courtesy Parking Pass Form](#). If you are not using a computer, be advised that the Parking Office on campus has moved to The

continued on page 6

WHAT RETIREES ARE DOING IN RETIREMENT:

Susan Colgate has been a Librarian Assistant at the Neva Lomason Memorial Library in Carrollton for the past 10 years (since her retirement). In that capacity, she assisted with library programming during Black History Month and sought to make it more relevant to Carroll County. Along the way, she (1) discovered that LeRoy Childs, former Director of the Library, was the first black Director in the Georgia Library Association, and (2) brought attention to the first black postal worker in the county, which led to Postal Way being re-named Thomas Newell Way in his honor.

Rolanda Farmer: A few years ago, Rolanda set up an eBay account to help declutter, and it eventually grew into a small business. She now has an eBay storefront featuring an assortment of new merchandise. In 2023, Rolanda was a recipient of eBay's annual \$10,000 Up and Running Grant program that helps small businesses succeed on the platform. This year, in May, she accompanied 20 other sellers from around the U.S. to Washington, D.C. to voice their concerns about legislative bills that could hurt small businesses. She is an eBay Small Business Ambassador Network member who met with congressional staffers and eBay leaders while in Washington, D.C.



Rolanda Farmer with CEO of eBay, Jamie Iannone

Hellen Jeanette Jackson, 93, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Coker University in Hartsville, SC on December 8, 2023, at Winter Commencement. She attended Hartsville High School where she was honored as Valedictorian at the age of 16 in 1947. After graduating high school, she received a scholarship from an anonymous friend to attend college and graduated from Coker in 1951, majoring in History and Spanish. Hellen was also part of the Coker newspaper her senior year. She received a master's degree

in History from Emory University in Atlanta in 1953 and began teaching History and Spanish at Carrollton High School before teaching at what was then West Georgia College. While teaching at West Georgia, she completed the course work for a Ph.D. at Auburn University. She had all but her dissertation completed and due to family illness did not complete it. When she retired from West Georgia College in 1992, following a teaching career that spanned 40 years, she received a commendation from the Georgia House of Representatives, was awarded the title of Assistant Professor Emerita by the Board of Regents, and was honored by the mayor of Carrollton who proclaimed "Hellen Jackson Recognition Day" shortly thereafter.

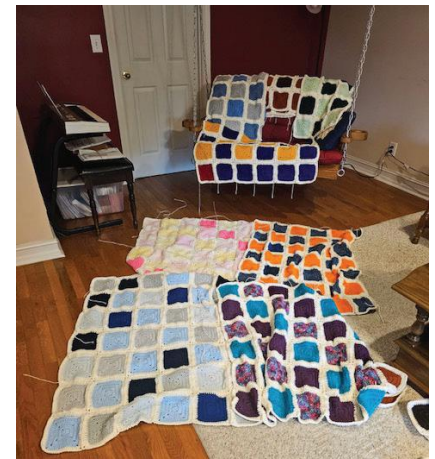
Anne C. Richards received the Honorary Alumna Award from the UWG Alumni Association at its annual Alumni Awards event held 4-27-24.

Madhavi Sethna crocheted 12 blankets and donated them to the Pine Knoll Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Francie Taylor says she hasn't travelled as much as she and her husband wanted due to the pandemic and family-related health issues,

including her hip replacement surgery which rules out the possibility of her being on "Dancing with the Stars," but she and her husband and son had the opportunity over the last two years to spend ten days in London and five days in New York City. Taking advantage of travel opportunities is still part of her post-retirement plans.

In the meantime, Dr. Martha Ann Saunders, long-time ARFS member, invited her in the fall of 2022 to a luncheon meeting of the Carrollton Civic Woman's Club (CCWC). Her recruitment effort was successful and Francie has assisted with various fund-raisers and chaired the Education and Libraries Community Service Project (CSP) which supports local schools by providing needed supplies for both teachers and children and participates in various reading-related programs; it also recognizes staff at the local library during National Library Week and provides refreshments for the end-of-the-summer children's reading program party. Francie was honored for this service with the 2023 "New Member of the Year" award from the CCWC and hopes to continue her involvement for years to come.



Madhavi's Blankets

Parking continued from page 4

Momentum Center (the round building that used to house Health Services in the distant past). The number there is 678-839-6525. You can go there in person to arrange for a parking pass or call the number provided for more information. You will need to present some type of campus ID to finalize the process, but staff in the Parking office should be able to find this for you in their records. If you are having difficulties securing a pass, do let Anne Richards know at arichard@emeriti.westga.edu or call 770-301-1589.

ALERT: LIBRARY PRIVILEGES FOR EMERITI FACULTY

A sub-committee of the USG Retiree Council (USGRC) worked for several years to address concerns about library access for retired faculty who remain active in their professional fields. The sub-committee, consisting of Ron Bohlander (Georgia Tech), Dennis Marks (Valdosta State University), Kathy Tomajko (Georgia Tech), and Dorothy Zinsmeister (Kennesaw State University), met with Chair Lucy Harrison of the Regents Academic Committee on Libraries (RACL) in an effort to develop relevant policy. Early on, it became clear that access to particular library resources used for research purposes is quite costly to each educational institution. As a result, a compromise was reached and recommended. **What emerged from the committee's deliberations was a policy recommendation to the USG that granted emeriti faculty "the same" access to library resources (level A-3) as was the case for all currently employed faculty.** All other retirees would be granted the same access available to students and alumni.

This policy was jointly recommended by RACL and the USGRC to the USG. Dr. Dana Nichols (Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the USG) embraced it and took it to Provosts and it became policy on **January 9, 2020**. It is applicable to ALL emeriti faculty, even though the guidelines for the development of Emeriti policy approved by the Board of Regents in April of 2023 stipulate that such access might be subject to the discretion of each institution in the system. According to Dr. Nichols, BOR approval is NOT required for the USG to allow for such access for emeriti.

The USGRC Committee has subsequently urged that, on each campus, Emeriti faculty be informed about what they are entitled to by University System policy, retiring faculty be informed about the library access afforded to those with emeriti status, interested retiring faculty seek emeritus/emerita status when first eligible, and retirees and currently employed faculty work with the administration at each institution to ensure that information about library access granted to emeriti faculty is widely disseminated to and understood by faculty.

Anyone having problems securing this access should

contact Anne Richards at arichard@emeriti.westga.edu or call 770-301-1589.

GA-HERO Meet-up in Valdosta

The Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO), an association of public and private institutions of higher education in Georgia, held a meeting in Valdosta on June 6, 2024 that was intended to be informative and, simultaneously, provide an opportunity to mix and mingle with other retirees from across the state. Participants enjoyed a tour of the Art in Odum Galleries in the Valdosta State University Odum Library by Emerita Archives Director Deborah Davis, a tour of various notable buildings around the VSU campus by Dennis Marks, a series of First Friday activities in downtown Valdosta, and the opening season reception at the VSU Fine Arts Center's Sawyer Auditorium prior to the performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." People also signed up for dinners at local restaurants and attended a presentation from the Historical Society highlighting the history of Valdosta and Lowndes County, including the beginnings of VSU.

At the business meeting discussion focused on topics of concern to many retirees, including:

- Security of materials saved in institutional Microsoft Office accounts, which may be deleted when a retiree passes away. Important research, access, information and communications could be lost if it is not saved somewhere else.
- The discrepancy between the policy to drop a faculty member's email access upon retirement and the requirement of the library access policy for emeriti which requires an institutional email address.
- The significance of the USG Retiree Council for keeping retirees informed about USG policy on benefits and access to same.

CIRCLES OF WEST GEORGIA SEEKS MENTORSHIP VOLUNTEERS for CIRCLES TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING INITIATIVE

Circles of West Georgia is a non-profit organization that provides training and support to help families to thrive and end poverty through an innovative, community-driven approach. In collaboration with partners, the group is currently designing a pilot test for a mentorship initiative designed to aid High School Seniors who can gain from the wisdom of older adults. The proposed program seeks to offer individualized advice, backing, and instruction on topics such as financial understanding, preparedness for careers, and crucial life competencies to empower these pupils to attain stability. The group is seeking individuals willing to volunteer around 1 hour per month to engage with a student at school and be accessible throughout the month for extra assistance. If interested, please contact Mary Hart, Director, at 678-292-8942.