

# The Rejuvenator

Newsletter of the UWG Association of Retired Faculty & Staff No. 31 November 2017

## The ARFS Annual Reunion

The Annual Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) Reunion was held on August 26, 2017 at Sunset Hills Country Club in Carrollton. Over 130 guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together reconnecting with friends and honoring the new retirees. Dr. Marrero shared his appreciation for the retirees' service to UWG and wished them well in this next exciting stage of life. A delicious lunch was sponsored by ARFS and the University of West Georgia Foundation and catered by Sunset Hills. A special thanks to Anne Richards and Martha Ann Saunders for their diligent work to create the Tribute to Retirees booklet.

The reunion celebrated *the following 2016-2017 retirees:*

Steve Arrington	Debra L. Hytower	Don Rice
Ed Croy	Mills Lane	Sheila D. Rivera
Van Edwards	Shirley Oliver Lankford	H. Denise Robinson
Cynthia D. Epps	Tim J. McWhorter	Dennie Sears
E. Lorene Flanders	Thomas J. Mackel	Diane C. Shackelford
Kathy H. Gibbs	Charles K. (Charlie) Marlar	Elaine R. Shirey
Joey Hannaford	Sandra S. Nix	Wayne Walker
Donna M. Harkins	Dinuabhai C. Patel	Laurie Jowers Ware
Linda P. Harris	Patricia D. Pinkard	Bob Watkins
Deborah B. Holcombe*	Shelia Redwine	L. Dean Wilburn, Jr.

\* Honoring Posthumously

*(L-R back row) Denise Robinson, Diane Shackelford, Laurie Ware, Don Rice, Shelia Redwine, Patricia Pinkard, Sandra Nix, Tom Mackel, Tim McWhorter, (L-R front row) Wayne Walker, Debra Hytower, Linda Harris, Donna Harkins, Kathy Gibbs, Cynthia Epps, Van Edwards, Ed Croy, and Steve Arrington.*



## Enjoying the Free Membership at UWG Campus Center!

By Mitch Clifton

Early in October I signed up for my free membership to the Campus Center, a new benefit that the University of West Georgia is making available to UWG retirees this year. It was easy to do so. First, I visited the Wolves Card Office, on the top floor of the University Community Center where I had my picture taken, turned in my old UWG ID card, and was issued a new UWG Retired Faculty ID. Then, I went to the administration desk inside the main entrance of the Campus Center, and told them I wanted to get the retiree membership. The person who helped me knew about the free retiree membership, but had not registered a retiree yet, and had to make a few phone calls before he could complete the process, but in a few minutes I was signed up and my retiree ID allowed me access to the exercise area.

Since then, I have visited the exercise area a number of times. The only part I have used so far is the 1/8th mile track on the second floor. It was a pleasant place to walk and run during the hot, humid days in early October and the rainy days since. When I visited the Campus Center in the morning, the exercise area was lightly used; in the afternoons a lot more students were exercising. All of the staff working in the building were very friendly. See below for further details regarding membership:

### **Campus Center Access Guidelines for Association of Retired Faculty & Staff**

UWG retirees within the Association of Retired Faculty & Staff are eligible for Campus Center access that began August 5, 2017 and runs through July 2018. Following this inaugural year, the program will be reevaluated for any needed revisions.

Access to the facilities will begin upon completion of the registration process.

- Retirees must visit the Card Office located on the third floor of University Community Center (UCC) to turn in their prior UWG employee ID card to obtain a new UWG ID card that identifies them as “retiree.” This allows Campus Center staff to ensure retirees receive appropriate access. UWG Card Office is open Mon-Fri, 8 am – 5 pm.
- Retirees must then visit the UREC administration desk at the front of the Campus Center Mon-Fri, 8 am - 7:30 pm to complete UREC account setup and gain facility access.
- IF you no longer have your UWG ID card, a replacement card must be purchased for a \$20 fee at UCC Card Office. Retirees will be asked to comply with all Campus Center policies including the ID policy.
- In compliance with the University of West Georgia Student and Employee Handbooks, all students, faculty, and staff must have their UWG ID card to enter controlled access within the Campus Center. This includes both recreational and event space. The first two times that patrons forget their cards, they will receive a forgotten card warning linked to their account but will still be granted access. On the third violation, patrons will not be granted access.

Please be advised that the Campus Center is funded by student fees.

- Programs and offerings are student-centered (types of classes offered, music played in facility, building hours, etc.). Only UWG retirees are eligible for this access; spouses and dependents are not eligible.

Retirees will not have access to the MyRec portal to make online reservations for fitness classes.

- Any registrations for group fitness classes can be accommodated in person at the UREC administration desk or by phone at [678-839-5500](tel:678-839-5500).
- Although you may show up at class time and register at the door, there is limited space available for each class. So we encourage registering in advance when possible.
- The group fitness class schedule is attached and can also be accessed on the Campus Center website: <https://www.westga.edu/campus-life/urec/fitness-and-wellness.php>

Those seeking more information may stop by UREC administration desk at the front of the Campus Center for a facility tour and program brochures. If you have further questions, please contact Denice King ([dking@westga.edu](mailto:dking@westga.edu)) or Mitch Clifton ([mclifton@westga.edu](mailto:mclifton@westga.edu)). Thank you & enjoy!



Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming!

Join us December 5th for photos with Santa

UWG Alumni House 5:00—7:00 pm

Bring your own camera to capture pictures with Santa, and enjoy light refreshments and crafts for the children!

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## ARFS New “Travel” Program

The ARFS Coordinating Council is excited to offer a different kind of travel experience.

We are planning outings right here in Carrollton that will provide retirees opportunities for social gathering and tours of sites on the UWG campus. There are so many amazing things happening at UWG, and many of them are unknown even to the people who have worked on campus for many years.

For our first “Back to Campus” experience we will be touring the incredible **Visual Arts Building**. This behind-the-scenes tour promises to be quite interesting—you don’t want to miss this!

Please join us on **Monday, Dec 4th at 10:00 am** for the tour of the Visual Arts Building!

Parking is available in the lot across from Z6. We will be providing golf cart rides up to the Visual Arts building starting at 9:40 am. The group is invited to gather for lunch after the tour at the Z6 cafeteria. Many delicious options are available for only \$6.96 per person.

**Kindly RSVP to Denice King in the Alumni Relations Department at [dking@westga.edu](mailto:dking@westga.edu) or 678-839-6384**

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### *Photos from 2017 Annual Reunion*





## Steps to Retirement for Faculty & Staff Brochure



This year Anne Richards and the ARFS Coordinating Council, together with West Georgia's Human Resources Department, have been working on a one page brochure that would list important steps and decisions that future retirees need to make five years prior to retirement, four years prior to retirements, and so on, together with contact information that would be useful to future and current retirees. Recently this document, called "Steps to Retirement for Faculty/Staff," was finalized and a number of copies were printed by Human Resources.

At the annual UWG Benefits Fair, held on the first floor of Z6 on Oct. 17, five ARFS Coordinating Council members and officers staffed a table and talked with a number of UWG employees who are contemplating retirement. Many of them took a copy of our recently prepared Retirement brochure. The Steps to Retirement for Faculty & Staff brochures are available in the UWG Human Resources office on the first floor of Aycock Hall.

### *Photos from 2017 Reunion*



### **The Coordinating Council**

The next meeting of the ARFS Coordinating Council is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2018 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room of the Alumni House. Please feel free to join us for this meeting.

## Dr. Bobby Powell Retirement Reception

Dr. Bobby Powell was honored with a reception held on Friday, November 3 in UWG's Campus Center Ballroom. Dr. Powell was celebrated as he retires at the end of Fall semester for his **50 years** of service to UWG as Physics Professor, Physics Department Chair, and Director of the Observatory.

ARFS past President, Dr. Glenn Novak, presented Dr. Powell with a beautiful "Golden Wolf" plaque on behalf of the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff to commemorate this special occasion.

The reception was well attended. In addition to Dr. Powell's wife and family being present, a large crowd of current and former faculty, staff, and alumni came to offer their good wishes. Many of them also delivered remarks as testimony to the impact Dr. Powell had on their lives.

Dr. Powell seemed very pleased with the many photos, hugs and re-connections he experienced at his retirement party. ARFS wishes Dr. Powell all the best in his upcoming retirement.



**ARFS Website:** For more information on the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff, check out our website at [www.westga.edu/arfs](http://www.westga.edu/arfs).

To sign up for our listserv, please email Debbie Novak at [dnovak@westga.edu](mailto:dnovak@westga.edu). Also, remember that if you've changed your email address, you must notify us so we can update you on the ARFS listserv. Our listserv address is [uwg-arfs-list@westga.edu](mailto:uwg-arfs-list@westga.edu).

## University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) Meeting (11-3-17)

Mitch Clifton and Anne Richards attended this meeting, held at Middle Georgia State University. USG HR office representatives present were Karin Elliott (Associate Vice Chancellor for Total Rewards) and Monica Fenton (Director of System Benefits).

The following representatives from Aon Retiree Health Exchange were present: Mark Chandler (Retiree Health Solutions), Jane Funk (General Manager, Retiree Division), Robert Gazzo (contact person for Karin Elliott and Monica Fenton), and Kristi Schneider (Carrier Engagement/Contracting).

Karin Elliott provided a review of the presentation made by the USG to the Board of Regents in August, 2017. She announced that, **for 2018, the USG recommended that the amount of the HRA for retirees will remain \$2,736** - the same as it was in 2016 and 2017. The USG is aware that, since 2016, supplemental premiums have increased about 4.5%. The USG is continuing to provide a **catastrophic HRA to help retirees with very expensive drug costs**. When retirees fall into this category, they will be notified by their insurance carriers. In turn, they will be required to notify Aon (through their Benefits Adviser) in order for the USG catastrophic HRA to be put in place.

Kristi Fuller and Bill Rencher from the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) at Georgia State University provided a **Healthcare Policy Overview** to the group. The GHPC was established in 1995 in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Those associated with it study healthcare and provide evidence-based research program development and policy guidance locally, state-wide, and nationally.

Kristi explained that, between 1960 and 2013, healthcare costs have risen as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 1960, healthcare costs were 5% of the overall economy. Today, they represent 20% of the overall economy and are rising faster than inflation, wages, and GDP.

So far as Medicare-covered benefits are concerned, Costs for all of Medicare are up 4.3%. Total costs for Medicare Part A are up 3.2%. Those for B are up 4.6%, and those for D (prescription drugs) are up 5.8%.

In her presentation on behalf of the Aon Retiree Health Exchange, Kristi Schneider explained that, in accordance with the Medicare Access and Chip Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), **by January 1, 2020, Medicare plans C and F cannot be sold to newly-eligible retirees. They will be allowed instead to enroll in Plans D and G** (which do not cover the cost of Medicare Part B's deductible). These options are being removed as an attempt to "find ways to reduce Medicare spending" and "have retirees take more responsibility for the costs of their healthcare."

For more information on these and other issues, go to [www.gsu.edu/ghpc](http://www.gsu.edu/ghpc).

**Your service record:** ARFS is compiling a list of all of our retirees who are generously donating their time and energies to make UWG a better place. For example, serving on a committee or board. You are rightfully proud of your volunteer efforts. So, send a brief note listing them to Denice King, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, [dking@westga.edu](mailto:dking@westga.edu), and we will pull it all together into an annual report.