

University of West Georgia Association of Retired Faculty and Staff

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by
Kathryn Grams, President
April 30, 2020

Introduction

On March 22, 2019, The University of West Georgia (UWG) Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) Coordinating Council amended its Bylaws to state that the President of the Council should “prepare a report of ARFS activities to submit annually to the Vice President of Advancement and other administrative offices as appropriate.” [Article 5, Section 2, (h)]. Mitch Clifton submitted the first Annual Report (8/27/17 – 8/11/18) to the Council on March 29, 2019. This second ARFS Annual Report represents the time period of August 11, 2018 to September 7, 2019, the time period between the 2018 and 2019 ARFS Annual Reunions.

ARFS Overview

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

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

Active membership includes faculty and staff who have retired from UWG and meet the established Board of Regents retirement criteria. There are currently about 495 active UWG retirees in the database. Officers of the association include a president, vice-president, past president, secretary and treasurer who are elected by the membership at the ARFS Annual Reunion held each fall. The officers and at least six active members (elected at the Annual Reunion) comprise the Coordinating Council, which provides leadership for the association and directs its activities on behalf of the members. The ARFS Bylaws can be found in the Document Center on the ARFS website at

https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/images/gid2/editor_documents/arfs/arfs_bylaws_adopted_9-13-14_-_amended_3-22-19.pdf?gid=2&pgid=504

Contributions of Retirees to the University and the Community

Denice King-Perdue has reported that in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019), UWG retirees gave a total of \$114,678 in contributions to the University. Many retirees have given and continue to give generously to UWG. Since 2004 retirees have given \$1,208,514.

Individual retirees continue to be involved with UWG in many ways, including speaking to student groups, serving on University committees, and volunteering for special projects.

Endowed Retiree Legacy Scholarship

ARFS created and endowed the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship to benefit for perpetuity deserving University of West Georgia students who are direct descendants or an immediate family relation of retired faculty or staff members. The scholarship has been awarded in 2018 and 2019. Information about the scholarship and award criteria can be found at: <https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/16/interior-2col.aspx?sid=1639&gid=2&pgid=777>

ARFS Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council is composed of elected retirees and a UWG staff liaison member, Denice King-Perdue (Assistant Director, Alumni Relations). 2018-2019 Council members elected at the 2018 Annual Reunion included:

Officers:

- Kathryn Grams, President
- Mitch Clifton, Past President
- Linda Picklesimer, Vice President
- Bruce Lyon, Secretary
- Bob Reeves, Treasurer (resigned 11/18)

Members-at-Large:

- Jimmy Drew (appointed as Treasurer with Reeves resignation)
- Daniel Flinn
- Tom Mackel
- Melanie McClellan
- Anne Richards
- Gail Reid
- Martha Ann Saunders
- Swain Harris

Current members of the Council are listed on the ARFS website at

<https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/16/interior-2col.aspx?sid=1639&gid=2&pgid=557>

ARFS Activities

ARFS supports the University's mission and values and seeks to foster closer relations between retirees and the University. 2018-2019 activities that meet the purposes of the association are highlighted in this report.

➤ **ARFS Coordinating Council Meetings:**

Four meetings were held during the period of this report on campus in the UWG Alumni House Conference Room:

- August 24, 2018 (7 members in attendance)
- January 11, 2019 (14 members in attendance)
- March 22, 2019 (12 members in attendance)
- June 14, 2019 (11 members in attendance)

The meeting minutes are available online in the Document Center of the UWG ARFS webpage at <https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/16/interior-2col.aspx?sid=1639&gid=2&pgid=1462>

➤ **Council Member Events and Meetings with the UWG Community:**

- UWG Benefits Fair – October 24, 2018
 - Mitch Clifton, Anne Richards, Dan Flinn and Bob Reeves staffed the ARFS table from 10 am to 3 pm and spoke with dozens of University faculty and staff about ARFS and matters relating to retirement. They also handed out copies of the ARFS pamphlet “Steps to Retirement for Faculty/Staff” that was produced jointly by Human Resources and Coordinating Council members. This was the second time that ARFS has had a table at the Benefits Fair. A copy of the UWG ARFS “Steps to Retirement” pamphlet can be found on the ARFS website at https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/images/gid2/editor_documents/arfs/arfs_brochure_final.pdf?gid=2&pgid=504
 - An ARFS brochure was also distributed at the Benefits Fair. It was prepared in fall 2018 to provide information about what ARFS is, how one becomes a member, and the activities and benefits of membership. It can be found in the Document Center of the ARFS webpage at https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/images/gid2/editor_documents/arfs/arfs_brochure_final_2018.pdf?gid=2&pgid=504
- Meeting with Terri Murphy, Senior Benefits Administrator
 - Kathryn Grams, Mitch Clifton and Anne Richards met with Terri Murphy on February 22, 2019 to discuss the retirement process and communication between retirees and ARFS members.

- Meeting with Dave Fraboni, Vice President for Advancement
 - Kathryn Grams, Mitch Clifton, Anne Richards and Denice King-Perdue met with Mr. Fraboni on April 12, 2019 to present/discuss the 2017-18 ARFS Annual Report and thank him for his support.
- Meeting with Christina Brogdon, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources
 - Kathryn Grams, Mitch Clifton and Anne Richards met with Ms. Brogdon and staff (Terri Murphy and Paula Kepes) on May 2, 2019 to orient her to ARFS. She had recently been hired as the new Assistant VP for HR and was new to UWG. They discussed strategies to maintain communications between retirees and UWG Human Resources at the meeting.

➤ **Interface with National and State Retiree Organizations:**

- ARFS is an official voting member of the Georgia Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO), the University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC), and a member of the International Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE).
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 - Mitch Clifton and Anne Richards attended the AROHE meeting in Atlanta on October 7-9, 2018 and were members of a panel that was part of a Resource Exchange Fair, discussing the ARFS Annual Reunion and distributing copies of the *2018 Tribute Booklet*.
- University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC)
 - Kathryn Grams is the official UWG representative for the USGRC
 - Anne Richards serves as the UWG alternate representative to the USGRC
 - Anne Richards attended the October 25, 2018 meeting at Georgia Tech and Kathryn Grams and Anne Richards attended the April 2, 2019 meeting at Middle Georgia University.
- Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO)
 - Mitch Clifton is the official UWG representative for GA-HERO
 - Anne Richards is the official GA-HERO Secretary
 - Kathryn Grams and Anne Richards attended the November 9, 2018 meeting at Georgia Tech and the April 16, 2019 meeting at Middle Georgia State University.

➤ **Activities Related to Maintaining Communication with Retirees:**

- **Email Listserv:**
 - Membership on the ARFS listserv provides retiree members with important reminders and university news. Members may also use the listserv to send information, questions/concerns, and announcements. The listserv currently has 350 members.

- **Newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*:**

- Three issues of the ARFS Newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*, were published and distributed to retirees via electronic and regular mail on:
 - November 2018 (No. 34)
 - April 2019 (No. 35)
 - August 2019 (No. 36)

These issues were assembled by Denice King-Perdue and her staff, with articles written by Denice and Coordinating Council members. The issues can be seen on the UWG ARFS website at <https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/16/interior-2col.aspx?sid=1639&gid=2&pgid=555>

Annual Reunion and General ARFS Meeting:

- The 2019 Annual Reunion and general meeting of ARFS members was held on September 7, 2019, at Sunset Hills Country Club. Ninety-eight Guests attended, including 14 new UWG retirees.
- After a buffet lunch, there were remarks by Kathryn Grams, Jami Bower (UWG Interim Vice President for University Advancement) and Michael Crafton (UWG Interim President). A general membership meeting was called to order and members approved the slate of candidates for Coordinating Council officers and members-at-large. Medallions were then presented to the new retirees and photographs were taken.
- Each new retiree was presented with a copy of the *2019 Tribute Booklet*, which includes individual tributes written about new retirees. The booklet was edited by Anne Richards and Martha Ann Saunders and a copy of it can be found on the UWG ARFS website at https://www.alumni.westga.edu/s/1639/images/gid2/editor_documents/arfs/21374_retiree_tribute_19.pdf?gid=2&pgid=504.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Grams, President
University of West Georgia
Association of Retired Faculty and Staff