

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF (ARFS)
ANNUAL REUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2025

The ARFS annual reunion and annual meeting took place on Saturday, October 18, in the UWG Campus Center Ballroom. Check-in began at 9:30 am, and attendees enjoyed time to mingle, use the photo booth, and have refreshments prior to the official start of the event. Fifty-seven persons were present, including five representing various campus entities.

Shortly after 10:00, current president Micheal Crafton welcomed the group, introduced members of the Coordinating Council, and read a letter from President Michael Johnson. He explained a little bit about ARFS, saying he viewed it as having three principles/values/duties: celebration, communication, and collaboration.

Meg Cooper, current secretary of the ARFS Coordinating Council, spoke briefly about fundraising, encouraging in particular donations to the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship. She pointed out the content on page 4 of the commemorative tribute booklet, which contained information about donations and eligibility for the scholarship. Meg then introduced Claire Jennings, a junior majoring in French and on the education certification track, who is the granddaughter of retiree Chester Gibson, best known at UWG for his role as debate coach. Claire spoke to the group, addressing experiences with her grandfather and at UWG among other things.

Kate Petty, Director of Alumni & Constituent Engagement, thanked Claire and spoke about the Alumni and Friends Travel Program, including information about upcoming trips. The program also had a display table at the event.

Meg Cooper introduced Cecilia Lee, an at-large Coordinating Council member, who read her poem, "A Toast to the New UWG Retirees." This was followed by presentation of medals by Micheal Crafton, assisted by past-president Anne Richards, to the recent retirees who were present: David Boldt, Swarna Dutt, Camilla Gant, Scott Groninger, Donna Haley, Suzanne Horton, Tami Oglethorpe, Alvin Jerome Paige, and Sherri Shelnett Smith. Meg Cooper introduced each honoree and provided a little background information as they came on stage. Retirees were given an opportunity to speak to the group if they wished, and seven of them did so.

An interactive "Bucket List" activity was introduced and coordinated by Rolanda Farmer, ARFS treasurer, and Ann McCleary, an at-large Council member.

This activity was followed by the ARFS business meeting led by Micheal Crafton. He introduced Clois Reese, who is serving as the president-elect of the Council, as well as acknowledging support from various UWG personnel, some of whom were in attendance. He provided a brief update about UWG, including the arrival of a new president; record enrollment; the first full year of Division 1 Athletics (with the football team doing well); and UWG's ranking as the #1 university on Georgia for increasing social mobility. Micheal noted that ARFS has about 620 members, with approximately 400 just receiving the last issue of the ARFS newsletter via the

listserv, while the other 200 received a mailed copy; he encouraged members to submit items to include in *The Rejuvenator*. Micheal also mentioned the ARFS website; ARFS personnel participating in state and national retiree-related organizations, such as AROHE and the USGRC; and the change in health insurance related reimbursement from the USG. Anne Richards presented the slate of nominees, as follows:

Officers

President – Micheal Crafton (2024-2026)
Past President – Anne Richards (2024-2026)
Vice President/President-Elect – Clois Reese (2024-2026)
Secretary – Meg Cooper (2024-2026)
Treasurer – Rolanda Farmer (2024-2026)

At-Large Members

Lisa Ledbetter (2024-2026)	Mike Renfrow (2024-2026)
Cecilia Lee (2024-2026)	Sally Roberts (2025-2027)
Ann McCleary (2025-2027)	Erma Shooks (2025-2027)
Jerry Mock (2024-2026)	Francie Taylor (2025-2027)
Patricia Pinkard (2024-2026)	Trish Wells (2024-2026)

(Highlighted candidates are those being elected to new terms and/or new positions.) There being no additional names submitted from the floor and there being no objection to voting for the slate as a whole rather than for individuals, the slate of candidates as presented was approved unanimously (M-David Boldt, S-Javier Hasbun).

Micheal then concluded the business meeting and the event by thanking those who had attended, inviting them to continue to socialize and eat, and recognizing members of the Programs/Events Committee who had worked on this year's reunion. The meeting concluded at about 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Cooper