Greetings from the Chair

We were happy to welcome a new group of UGA retirees to our ranks at the December Retiree Reception and to enjoy a scrumptious holiday feast and fellowship with other UGARA members (see photos, page 2). This reception will be repeated in the spring for those who retire in the second half of the year.

There are several other UGARA sponsored events to look forward to and they are featured throughout the newsletter. The travel committee has been exploring a number of opportunities for the upcoming year, both as day trips and overnight excursions.

We are mindful of several news stories reporting on Governor Purdue’s possible exploration into health benefits for state employees. The governor is quoted as saying that “Georgia will treat its state retirees respectfully as it wrestles with how to handle an expected multibillion dollar price tag in the coming years for health care benefits.” This bears watching, and we will keep you posted on any developments. If you have an opportunity to speak with anyone who has knowledge and/or influence in this area, please be sure to express concern and to pass along any pertinent information.

Helen Mills
UGARA Council Chair

Upcoming Events

Annual Founders’ Day Lecture: Join alumni, faculty, staff, and students on Thursday January 25, at 3:00 pm in the UGA Chapel to celebrate the 222nd anniversary of the nation’s state-chartered University. In its sixth year, this lecture is jointly sponsored by the UGA Alumni Association and the Emeriti Scholars. This year’s lecture “The China Challenge: Outlook for the Century” will be given by Emeritus Professor Clifton W. Pannell, Vice Chair of UGARA.

SoloSENIORS First Thursday Dinners: 6:00 pm on February 1 at the Savannah Room of the Georgia Center for Continuing Education and March 1 at the Hilltop Grill. To participate in SoloSENIORS you must be single, at least 50 years old, and a member of the UGA Alumni Association. For more information contact Bonnie Howard (bhowardphd@earthlink.net; 706.548.4507) or Nancy Canolty (ncanolty@gmail.com; 706.202.9152).

“GOING BACK” - Remembering UGA - In early spring watch for notice of interviews with UGA leaders from the past, including Louise McBee, Dan Magill, Charlie Trippi and others. This will be a very informative and entertaining event.

Travel: The Travel Committee has been busy planning trips for 2007. The first trip is on March 13 to visit the Titanic Exhibit and the Louvre Exhibit in Atlanta (more info on page 3).
Kudos

Helen Mills, UGARA Council Chair, has been selected as the Northeast Georgia Girl Scout Council 2007 Woman of Distinction. She will be honored on May 4th during a luncheon at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Former recipients with a UGA connection include Louise McBee and Barbara Dooley.

Annual Members to Become Life Members after Seven Years

Over 540 retirees have joined UGARA, the majority as life members at a one-time rate of $50. At a recent UGARA Council meeting, Council members recommended that members who have joined annually for seven or more years should receive the benefit of having their annual membership converted automatically to life membership. Currently this will affect twelve long-standing members. Notice to these members will be mailed in July at the time of our annual enrollment. This change recognizes the commitment of members over a long period of time and will also reduce the administrative costs of the membership renewal process. Understanding that some may wish to continue to support UGARA through annual membership dues, anyone receiving the new life member status may, of course, opt to continue as an annual member.

Annual Retirement Benefits Review

The annual retirement benefits review was held on November 17. Marvin Marcum from Human Resources gave a very informative PowerPoint presentation. If you were not able to attend the benefits review, or if you would like to review the annual enrollment information, the PowerPoint presentation is available on the UGARA web site. Go to [http://www.uga.edu/ugara](http://www.uga.edu/ugara) and look under “Announcements”.

December Retiree Reception

The December Retiree Reception was well attended, and all could see the new UGARA banner shown in the first photo below. Among those joining the ranks of retirees were former Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, Hank Huckaby, and Regents Professor Emeritus and former Vice President for Instruction, Del Dunn. Provost Arnett Mace explained the value of becoming a member of UGARA, then greeted the new retirees and presented each with a certificate.
Travel Plans for 2007

The Travel Committee has been busy planning what we hope will be an interesting 2007 for UGARA members. On March 13 we have a trip to Atlanta planned to take in the Titanic Exhibit and the Louvre Exhibit at the High Museum. Details regarding this trip appear below. In early May we plan to go to South Georgia and the Okefenokee Swamp. During the summer we plan to take in a play at the North Carolina Theatre at the Flat Rock Playhouse. In the fall we are planning a trip to the North Georgia Mountains, including the new pottery museum and the Kangaroo Conservation Center. Finally, in early December we will go to Callaway Gardens for the Festival of Lights.

Marsha Gruner
Travel Chair

The Titanic/Louvre Trip on March 13

On March 13 we will go to Atlanta to see the Titanic Exhibit at the Atlantic Civic Center. After that exhibit we will have an elegant lunch at Mary Mac’s Tearoom. Following lunch we will go to the High Museum where we will see the Louvre Exhibit as well as the High’s permanent collection.

The cost of this trip is $62.00 per person which includes the bus, lunch, and tickets to the two exhibits. We think this will be a popular trip, so get your reservations in early. We have forty tickets to each exhibit.

Return the attached reservation form and a check for the total amount by Friday, March 2. Instructions for meeting the bus and other details will be sent to participants.

Reservation form for the Titanic/Louvre Trip

Names
(1) ____________________________________________________
(2) ____________________________________________________
Address(es) to which instructions should be sent:
(1) ____________________________________________________
(2) ____________________________________________________
Contact Phone ________________________________ Date __________
Signature ___________________________________________

Send form and check for the full amount ($62.00 per person) made payable to the UGA Alumni Association c/o Marcus Jennings, Wray-Nicholson House, 298 Hull Street, Athens, GA 30602-6372 by Friday, March 2, 2007. Please note Titanic/Louvre trip on your check.