Greetings from the Chair

Keeping Informed, Staying Involved. This is the new phrase adopted by your Council to capture in just a few words the essence of UGARA. Of course, it has a double meaning since members both inform and are informed by our association with UGA. Staying involved doesn’t have to be explained to retirees! Maybe we could coin a new word – involvees – to more actively represent this “retired” life.

And speaking of active – please don’t miss our spring reception honoring new UGA retirees on April 25 (invitation inside). The reception will also serve as our annual meeting. This is our second reception and has replaced the concept of one annual banquet. Even better, there is no additional charge to you. So come and enjoy a scrumptious reception and participate in providing a gracious welcome to your new retiree companions; be sure to RSVP.

You are also invited to participate in the kickoff for the Faculty/Staff Archway to Excellence Campaign to be held on March 21 from 3-5 p.m. at the Georgia Hall in the Tate Student Center. More information will be shared in Columns.

Many of you will be interested in the upcoming excursion planned by Marsha Gruner and others (see Travel) and you will find a short profile on Claude McBride. Claude has been a vital part of UGARA since its inception in 1992 having helped form the Council (along with Joe Hammock). We hope to periodically include such profiles in the newsletter. In fact, we will have lots of stories to share after the past chairs get together for lunch on March 13. I’m looking forward to hosting this luncheon and know that it will be a great time of reflection.

Helen Mills
UGARA Council Chair

In Memoriam

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Dr. Mervin Reines</td>
<td>Oct 2005</td>
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<td>Mr. James Nelson Maddux</td>
<td>Dec 2005</td>
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<td>Mr. Calvin F. Stansell, Jr.</td>
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Claude McBride, UGA Class of ‘53

**How long have you been affiliated with UGA?** Of course, I went to school here starting in 1949. I returned to Athens in ‘64. After I retired as the Pastor of Milledge Avenue Baptist church in 1983, I was offered a position at UGA – Associate Director of Alumni Relations. Then our Alumni Tours program grew to the point that it became its own entity and I became the director.

**What has inspired you to be such a long-time supporter of UGA?** Since I was nine years old and living on a farm outside of Columbus, Georgia, I always wanted to come to the University of Georgia. I did, and I majored in journalism, was in the band for a year and a cheerleader for three years. Now I’m retired from UGA, but I still work part-time with the Alumni Association as a consultant, the liaison to UGARA, and in planning 50th reunions. I’ve done three so far and we’ve had about 100 attendees. UGA has always been a part of my identity.

**Tell us about some of the changes you’ve seen at UGA.** Oh, there have been millions of changes. Mainly physically, it has grown tremendously. The student population and Alumni growth have also been significant. Most of the changes have been dictated by this growth – demand for more buildings and faculty and staff to support the growth in students. One result of this growth has been that UGA has become a major research institution and the population has become more cosmopolitan with a huge international influence. But even with this growth, UGA has managed to preserve its traditions and historical buildings while the focus is leading the way into the future. The university’s great status today is because of the flexibility and vision of the administrations through the years. We’ve been very fortunate in the vision of our leadership. They have sought to attract high quality faculty, staff and students.

**What would you like to see more or less of at UGA?** I think we are headed in the right direction. Even though we have a large and very supportive Alumni group, I would like to see more commitment by larger numbers of alumni, with them taking on some kind of ownership and support in financial and other ways.

**Why would someone choose to come to UGA?** Academic reputation! We have a high academic reputation, but tradition and loyalty is also a big item. We have students who are children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren of our Alumni. Loyalty to UGA is passed down through the generations. Academics and traditions, that’s why they come here.

**Note to Retired Veterans**

Coinciding with Veterans’ Day this fall The University of Georgia, working through the Alumni Association, will honor UGA’s Greatest Generation, its veterans fifty years old or older, and will be collecting veterans’ stories of war. For more information, please contact Claude McBride at the Wray-Nicholson House, 706-542-2251.
The Office of the President, The Office of the Provost, and The University of Georgia Retirees Association cordially invite you and your guest to a reception honoring New Retirees April 25, 2006 The Georgia Center for Continuing Education 1197 South Lumpkin Street 5:00-6:30 p.m. Certificate Presentation at 6:00 p.m. A brief annual meeting will follow the presentation R.s.v.p. by April 11 (706) 542-4983 Business Attire Republic3uga@uga.edu

TRAVEL NOTES

The Travel Committee has planned an exciting April trip for UGARA. On April 17 we are going to the Georgia Aquarium. Not only are we going to see this fabulous aquarium, we will have a special “behind the scenes” tour conducted by the Director of Public Relations. This tour will take us to feeding stations and special quarters not open to the general public, where in partnership with UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine, veterinarians especially trained in aquiculture work to maintain the health of the aquarium residents.

We will arrive at the Aquarium at 10:00 a.m. Detailed instructions for the time and meeting place to depart Athens by bus will be mailed to participants. We will have the behind the scenes tour followed by lunch on your own in the Aquarium cafeteria. Then we will spend time seeing the Aquarium proper. The cost of this trip is $40, which will include the bus trip and Aquarium entrance fee. There will be water and snacks on the bus.

The deadline for making reservations is Friday, April 7. Get your reservations in quickly. I’m sure this will be a popular event.

Marsha Gruner, Travel Chair

Registration Form for trip to the Georgia Aquarium:

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________
Address to which instructions should be sent: ________________________________
Contact Phone ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Signature ____________________________________________________________

Attach standard reservation form with checks being made payable to UGA Alumni Association, and send to Marcus Jennings, Wray-Nicholson House, 298 Hull St., Athens, GA 30602-6372.
In this newsletter . . .

➤ upcoming retiree trip information
➤ interview with Claude McBride
➤ invitation to retirees reception
➤ new slogan for UGARA!