



# UGA RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

University of Georgia

October 2005

## Greetings from the Chair

October already! UGARA has several activities planned for this month and the Council hopes that you will find them interesting and beneficial.

At the September meeting of the Council officers, Alumni Staff Alice Vernon presented an idea concerning the welcoming of new faculty to UGA. She asked, and we approved, that UGARA members be made aware of opportunities to befriend a new faculty member by sharing a small gift from the Alumni Association and perhaps some time over coffee, lunch or a walk through campus. While we would all have liked to include the larger family of UGA new staff in such a welcome, we were happy to begin this effort with the smaller number of new faculty. Please see information elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

This effort highlights the relationship between UGARA and our host organization situated at Wray-Nicholson House, the National UGA Alumni Association. John Finley, new associate director, greeted us at our last Council meeting there. Marcus Jennings of that group is our new membership contact, and Shea Landers continues to manage our account. Of course, we continue to enjoy Claude McBride serving as the official liaison. Several UGARA members volunteer regularly at the Wray-Nicholson House and I had the pleasure of recently serving as a host for one of the Bulldog Breakfast series. Deborah Deitzler and her staff are full of ideas and activities and are a welcoming group to UGARA.

As you see Alumni Association staff, please tell them, "Thank you!" for all they are doing for UGARA.

Email us with your comments and suggestions, or subscribe to the UGARA-L listserv to stay informed: [ugara@uga.edu](mailto:ugara@uga.edu). Be sure to visit our web site for upcoming events, trip reports, contacts and other useful information.

<http://www.uga.edu/ugara>

*Helen Mills  
UGARA Council Chair*

## **Retiree Health Benefits Update Scheduled for October 11, 2005**

**Time: 2:00 p.m • Place: Athens Regional Library Auditorium**

UGARA has arranged again this year to host an informational retiree update concerning UGA health benefit plans. All UGA retirees or those planning to retire soon are invited to attend. Presenters will include David Williamson, Director of Employee Benefits, Lydia Lanier, Employee Benefit Manager and UGA retirees' direct link to benefit information, and a representative from the Social Security Administration. The anticipated Medicare prescription drug benefit and available options in regard to it will be discussed, and the presenters will take questions from the audience.

The sessions that UGARA has hosted on health benefits have been well attended and well received in past years, and we anticipate the same response or a larger level of interest this year. We hope that you will plan to be with us on October 11.

### **"Welcoming New Faculty" to begin at UGA**

The UGA Alumni Association and the "Welcoming New Faculty" effort will begin this fall with the help of UGARA. UGARA volunteers are needed for this project to work. The Alumni Association would like for all new faculty to have someone welcome each of them personally to UGA and the Athens area. There will be approximately 120 new faculty members this fall and there are a couple of ways that you can participate in welcoming them.

You can drop off a small gift that the Alumni Association will provide, call and see if that person would like to meet for 5 minutes so that you can welcome them, or you can take a walk, have a cup of coffee, or whatever that new person on campus might have time for. This is a chance for new members of the UGA community to be welcomed by people who are informed and may be of help or assistance, or it can be just an opportunity to make a new acquaintance on campus.

If you are interested in participating in the project, please call Alice Vernon at the UGA

### **Meet Shannon Scott, new Council member representing UGA staff**

Shannon Scott is the Assistant Editor for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) in Georgia, having worked for ICLE for 5 years and currently as the current Vice President for UGA's Staff Council. On the UGA Staff Council Shannon represents the Law School and also currently works on the SSTEAM committee for their upcoming statewide conference. On accepting new responsibilities with UGARA, Shannon said, "I love working for UGA and very much enjoy working toward positive goals on the UGA Staff Council. My interest in joining the UGARA Council as well is based solely on my decision that knowledge of the system gives each employee power to make informed decisions and helps them to make plans that will help themselves and their families. I hope to learn a great deal and look forward to it."



### Travel Plans: Christmas visit to Marietta

We are making plans now for our Christmas outing . . . a trip to the **Marietta Theatre in the Square** to see a matinee of the hilarious musical “A Sanders Family Christmas”. UGARA has been introduced to the Sanders Family thanks to Gus Staub, who arranged for us to see “Smoke on the Mountain,” a play written by a UGA drama graduate. “A Sanders Family Christmas” picks up on this wonderful musical family. The talents of the cast on numerous musical instruments, the interaction of the family members, and the tremendous overall humor make this a theatre event to be enjoyed. Your travel chair has seen this production and is excited about having another opportunity to do so.

The **Marietta Square** is also an interesting place. We will be leaving Athens in time for our group to have lunch in their choice of the numerous restaurants on the square (including the famous **Shillings on the Square**.) There will be time to investigate the **boutiques** and **antique places** as well, within walking distance of the theatre.

The date of this event is **Wednesday, December 14, 2005**.

The cost per person is **\$45.00 per person**.

The reservation deadline is **Tuesday, November 22, 2005**.

The reason the deadline is that far in advance of the event is that at this time 40 tickets are on the credit card of the travel Chair. November 23 is the last date that we can specify the exact number of tickets we need. **Please make your reservations early**. I know that you will enjoy this Christmas theatre event.

*Marsha Gruner, Travel Chair*

#### **Registration Form for Marietta Christmas Trip**

Name(s) (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) to which instructions should be sent:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and a check for the full amount (\$45.00 per person) made payable to the UGA Alumni Association and sent to Marcus Jennings, Wray-Nicholson House, 298 Hull St., Athens, GA 30602-6372 by **Tuesday, November 22, 2005**. *Please note UGARA Marietta Trip* on your check.



UGARA Retirees Association  
Wray-Nicholson House  
298 Hull Street  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-6372

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*In this newsletter . . .*

- an opportunity to be a part of a new effort on campus to welcome new faculty.
- an invitation to visit Marietta Theatre and to eat and shop on Marietta Square.
- information about UGARA's new representative from the UGA Staff Council.

**To be added to our confidential and receive UGARA announcements, email Elizabeth Pape our Webmaster at <epape@TERRY>UGA>EDU>. Web address is <www.uga.edu/ugara>.**