



# UGA RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*Keeping Informed, Staying Involved...*

University of Georgia

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

March 2007

## **UGARA Council 2006-2007**

Chair: Helen Mills  
Vice Chair: Clif Pannell  
Acting Secretary:  
Marsha Gruner  
Membership Chair:  
Nancy Canolty  
Travel Chair:  
Marsha Gruner  
Communications Chair:  
Margaret Anderson  
Social Chair:  
Janine Bethel  
  
Members:  
Sara Potts  
Archie Carroll  
Gene Michaels  
Debra Watson

### Ex-Officio Representatives

Dot Cofer  
Cooperative Extension  
Service  
Lydia Lanier  
Human Resources  
Susan Landrum  
Office of the Provost  
Claude McBride  
Alumni Relations  
Becca Atchison  
Special Events  
Scott Weinberg  
University Council  
Shea Landers  
Alumni Relations  
Ursula Butler  
Staff Council  
Marcus Jennings  
Alumni Relations  
Elizabeth Pape  
Listserv and  
Web Page Editor

## **Greetings from the Chair**

If you haven't already, you will soon receive a separate invitation to the Spring Retirement and UGARA Social on April 3. This social also serves as the UGARA Annual Meeting and members present will elect new Council members to serve three-year terms. Clif Pannell becomes Council chair and seeks nominations for Council openings.

The travel committee continues to provide interesting and exciting opportunities. Should you have an occasion, please extend your appreciation to Marsha Gruner and the committee. We also appreciate the Alumni Association staff for their continued support of UGARA and for developing the "Remembering UGA" project. The value of capturing these reflections and memories is immeasurable.

In fact, as you attend the social on April 3 at the Georgia Center, you can see many photographs that have been displayed in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening. Now that brings many treasured memories to mind for me! Look forward to seeing you at a UGARA event this spring.

*Helen Mills  
UGARA Council Chair*

## **UGARA Council Vacancies**

There will be two UGARA Council vacancies in the next academic year. If you wish to serve on the UGARA Council and be involved in working for the benefit of retired UGA employees, please contact C.W. (Clif) Pannell at 706-353-8696 or [cpan@uga.edu](mailto:cpan@uga.edu).

## **Upcoming Events**

***Spring Retirement and UGARA Social*** on April 3 from 4:30pm - 6:00pm at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Conference Center.

***SoloSENIORS First Thursday Dinners:*** Join your friends at 6:00 pm on April 5 at Harry Bissett's on Mitchell Bridge Road and on May 3 at Loco's Grill and Pub Westside on Timothy Road. On June 7 a dinner is planned for the Wray-Nicholson House. 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](mailto:bhowardphd@earthlink.net); 706.548.4507) or Nancy Canolty ([ncanolty@gmail.com](mailto:ncanolty@gmail.com); 706.202.9152).

## **In Memoriam**

Dr. Norman H. Giles (10/16/2006)  
Mr. Harry Jordan Hutcheson (2/2/2007)

## Retiree Benefits

Several UGARA members have asked the question “**What should you do about health insurance when you reach 65 years old, if you retired before 65?**” First of all, several months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, you will receive your Medicare card in the mail with instructions on what you should do. If you have questions once you have received your Medicare card and coverage information, you should call the Benefits office at 706-542-2222 to discuss how your Medicare coverage will coordinate with your University System of Georgia coverage and if your rate will change.

A good source for information on retiree and health benefits is the Human Resources web site at [http://www.busfin.uga.edu/benefits/ret\\_bensumm.html](http://www.busfin.uga.edu/benefits/ret_bensumm.html). On this site you will find the following: “Once you and *all your covered dependents* have acquired Medicare coverage, your University System of Georgia insurance coverage will change to a plan that coordinates benefits between Medicare and your health insurance coverage. Medicare will then become your primary coverage and your University System of Georgia insurance coverage will be secondary. At this point, your premium will be changed to a reduced rate (not applicable to the HMO plan). In order to receive the premium rate reduction, you must provide a copy of *all* Medicare cards to Employee Benefits. The rate reduction will appear on your billing statement or bank draft on the first month after the copies of all cards are received by Employee Benefits.”

The Human Resources web site is also a source for information about other questions you might have in retirement, such as what to do if you have experienced a change in your family status. You can also find information about Part D Medicare and your prescription coverage through your UGA health plan.

All of us in UGARA appreciate the staff of Human Resources and Employee Benefits and the help they provide. For more information about retiree benefits, call Human Resources at 706-542-2222 or email them at [benefits@uga.edu](mailto:benefits@uga.edu).

## UGARA Volunteers to the Alumni Association

A number of UGARA members volunteer their time to help the UGA Alumni Association with various tasks. The active UGARA volunteers are: Nancy Canolty, Roland Brooks, Helen Mills, Marsha and Chuck Gruner, and Gene Michaels. Sometimes these volunteers assist Membership Services with labeling and stuffing envelopes for large mailings. They serve as receptionists by receiving and routing incoming calls, and they also answer questions for people who drop by the Alumni Office. In essence, these UGARA volunteers provide support for all staff of the Alumni Association when it is needed.

## UGA Alumni Association Support for UGARA

The UGA Alumni Association provides much support for UGARA. Marcus Jennings with Alumni Relations is very helpful in preparing membership reports, soliciting new retirees monthly, and processing payments. He is shown in one of the pictures below with Claude McBride, Associate Director of the Alumni Association, ex-officio representative to UGARA and one of its original organizers. Claude also assists in planning special events sponsored by UGARA and is our liaison to the UGA Alumni Association. Shea Landers, business manager for the UGA Alumni Association, manages the budget and handles financial issues associated with UGARA.



Gene Michaels, Marsha Gruner,  
and Nancy Canolty



Marcus Jennings and Claude McBride



Chuck Gruner

## Travel Plans for Spring, Summer and Fall 2007

The Travel Committee has been busy planning what we hope will be an interesting spring, summer, and fall for UGARA members. In early May we plan to go to South Georgia and the Okefenokee Swamp (see info below). 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.

### Trip to Waycross and the Okefenokee - May 15 and 16

Join us on May 15-16 for a trip to Waycross, GA and the Okefenokee Swamp. On Tuesday, May 15, we will bus to Waycross. When we arrive in Waycross we will go to Obediah's Okefenokee, a pioneer homestead that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the Homestead there are other things to see at this site, including the critter center, race pond bridge, and the Obediah Tatum Museum.

We will stay at the Holiday Inn in Waycross. Dinner is on your own. The Holiday Inn has a nice buffet (\$9.90), and there are other restaurants within a two block walk, including an Applebee's. The Holiday Inn provides a full breakfast buffet with the price of the room (beverage is extra).

Wednesday morning, May 16, we will go to the Okefenokee Swamp Park. The price of admission here includes exhibit buildings, "Eye on Nature" program (a live show), a guided railroad tour that includes Pioneer Island, and a 20-minute boat tour, assuming there is sufficient water for the boats. We will have a catered lunch at the Swamp Park. After lunch we will return to Athens.

For **\$105.00** double occupancy (**\$139.00** single occupancy) you get the bus, Obediah's, room with full breakfast buffet, entrance to the Swamp Park including the above sites, and lunch. The reservation form and check for the total amount should be sent in by **April 16, 2007**. This deadline gives us time to get the paperwork processed. Instructions for meeting the bus and other details will be sent to participants.

*Marsha Gruner  
Travel Chair*

### Reservation form for the Okefenokee Swamp 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 (**\$105.00 or \$139.00 per person**) made payable to the UGA Alumni Association c/o Marcus Jennings, Wray-Nicholson House, 298 Hull Street, Athens, GA 30602-6372 by **April 16, 2007**. Please note **Okefenokee Swamp Trip** on your check.



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

**Non-Profit Org.**  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 390  
Athens, GA

Email us with your comments and suggestions, or subscribe to the UGARA-L listserv to stay informed. Just send an email to *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>*

Photos from the December Retirees Reception are on the UGARA web page at

*<http://www.uga.edu/ugara/photos/reception-12-06/>*