

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

# Tribute to Retirees

July 1, 2019 — June 30, 2020

August 22, 2020 – Virtual Reunion and Recognition of Retirees was held

Spring, 2021 – Distribution of Commemorative Tribute Booklet and Medallions

Sponsored by the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff, University of West Georgia Office of Human Resources, and University of West Georgia Foundation

Meg Cooper & Francesca Taylor (Eds.)

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Association of Retired Faculty and Staff (ARFS) gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Steven Broome (University Communications and Marketing), Therese Dingle (Human Resources), Julia Mothersole (University Communications and Marketing), Terri Murphy (Human Resources), and Printing Services staff (especially Brooke Keener), as well as the UWG Office of Human Resources and the UWG Foundation, in preparation of this commemorative tribute booklet. We also want to thank Denice King-Perdue (University Advancement) for a variety of support services.

# ARFS Coordinating Council Members (2019-2020)

Kathryn Grams (President, USGRC voting member), Nursing Mitchell Clifton (Past President, GA-HERO representative), Computer Science Bruce Lyon (Secretary), Student Services Jimmy Drew (Treasurer), Publications and Printing

Bonnie Bar, Nursing

Meg Cooper (Co-Chair Programs/Events Committee, Scholarship Committee), Special Education
Tom Mackel, University Police
Bobby Powell, Physics

Frank Pritchett, Alumni Relations

Karen Smith (Co-Chair Scholarship Committee), Math Francesca Taylor (Co-Chair Programs Events Committee), Academic Testing Services

# UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA





# Dear Colleagues:

I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate you on your retirement and let you know the depth of appreciation and admiration I have for you as you begin this new chapter in your life.

Your years of commitment to the university have made a positive and lasting impact, and your quality of work has ensured generations of students will have the opportunity for a world-class, comprehensive higher education experience at the University of West Georgia.

I am grateful for the role you played in our success. Your loyalty and dedication have not gone unnoticed. I am humbled and honored to have served alongside you.

You will always remain an important part of the UWG community. It is my hope that you will stay in touch with us, so that we may share in your new experiences and adventures. Please consider participating in the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff as a way of keeping up with news about UWG and your fellow retirees. In addition, if you are interested in being part of the part-time retired employee pool to help campus units during times of employee extended leave, please contact Therese Dingle at tdingle@westga.edu.

Wherever life takes you, I hope UWG holds a special and enduring place in your heart and mind.

Be well.

Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

President

University of West Georgi

# The Association of Retired Faculty & Staff (ARFS)

was established in 2004 as a voluntary association of the university's retired faculty and staff who joined together for several purposes: to promote the well-being of its members; support the University of West Georgia retiree community; foster continued involvement of retirees in the mission of the university; facilitate communication between the university and its retirees; seek to promote the scholarly, social, and cultural interests of the retiree community; and address matters related to benefits and resources for retirees.

Membership in ARFS is free and members decide for themselves how much involvement they wish to have in the organization and its activities.

Each year, ARFS recognizes persons from the faculty and staff who have retired from full-time employment at the university. This past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that recognition was implemented a bit differently. A retiree celebration and annual reunion was held virtually on August 22, 2020, the date originally scheduled for an inperson luncheon celebration. The video prepared for that celebration can be accessed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzGJkjYizqs . The video includes an update and welcome from ARFS Coordinating Council president Kathryn Grams; remarks from UWG president Brendan Kelly; remarks from Allyson Bretch, then Interim Executive Director of Alumni Relations/Director of Annual Giving; and a feature on Allen Ledbetter, the recipient of the 2020 UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship. The highlight, of course, was the powerpoint prepared to honor this year's 32 retirees, which was narrated by Denice King-Perdue, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations. The ARFS annual meeting was held online that same day.

Other activities in which ARFS members have typically been involved have also been curtailed in 2020. In the past, ARFS has sponsored programs featuring adventures of our traveling colleagues, and members have participated in various activities, including campus tours, off-campus trips, service projects, parades, plays, and concerts. Recently, participation has been more limited to sharing information through the ARFS listserv, problem solving for retirees requesting information, and publishing our newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*. If you have suggestions about activities you would like to see us organize, especially once COVID-19 is contained, please do let us know.

About seven years ago, ARFS joined a national organization of retiree organizations in higher education, known as AROHE. Through a state subsidiary of that group, GA-HERO, some of us have attended meetings with retirees in higher education from all around Georgia. UWG hosted the November, 2019 GA-HERO meeting at the Newnan campus. In the meetings, we have learned a lot about what other retiree organizations are doing. Any of you are welcome to join those who attend these meetings. Meetings have been held online, via Zoom, and may continue with both in-person and online options in the future.

In 2015 the University System of Georgia created a retiree council (USGRC) to advise the Chancellor's Office and the Board of Regents on matters of consequence to retirees. The president of ARFS is our "official voting member" at USGRC meetings, and we are also allowed a designated "alternate member" in the event our official voting member cannot make the meeting. Currently, Anne Richards is serving as the "alternate member" in order to take notes to pass along to others. While the USGRC continues to have a focus on Medicare-eligible retirees' use of the Aon Retiree Healthcare Exchange, it is also looking at many other issues of concern to retirees, including access to library resources on system campuses, well-being resources/ services for retirees, and communication matters.

To become a member of ARFS is easy. Just contact Meg Cooper (mcooper@westga.edu, 770-880-5078) or Sharon Seneca (sseneca@westga.edu, 678-839-5344) to let

us know you want to join. We will need contact information. An e-mail address will help most since we use the ARFS listserv to share a variety of information. However, our newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*, is also distributed by postal mail when necessary. We invite you to become an active member of this organization, especially as we are able to get back to more in-person events.

We also hope you will take advantage of some or all of the benefits available to you as a retiree. There are a lot of them, such as a courtesy parking hang tag, eligibility for free membership to utilize all facilities in the Campus Center (secured in 2017), participation in well-being activities, a listing in the Campus Directory if you would like, eligibility to check out books from the Ingram Library, reduced rates on West Georgia Theatre Company performances, free admission to UWG athletic events, and a 10% discount at the University Bookstore. We continue to look into the possibility of securing other benefits as well.

# **UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship**

ARFS is pleased and proud to announce that the current recipient of the UWG Retiree Legacy Scholarship is Allen Ledbetter, a graduate student in the MBA program in Richards College of Business and a relative of UWG retiree Lisa Ledbetter. Allen and his family make an appearance in the video from the August 2020 recognition of retirees.

### For Future Applicants:

Students may apply by going to the University of West Georgia Scholarship Portal (https://westga.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/CMXAdmin/Cmx\_Content. aspx?cpld=896) and following the instructions. Scholarship Application will open annually in October. The scholarship deadline for incoming students is February 1st. Priority will be given to students who apply before February 1st, but applications will be considered until a candidate is selected.

# Eligibility Criteria:

- \* Recipients will be full-time graduate or undergraduate students who are retirees of the institution or who are direct descendants or an immediate family relation of a retired faculty or staff member (with a minimum of 10 years of service to the institution).
- \* Recipients will have minimum cumulative GPA 2.5, with preference given to applicants with higher GPA.
- \* Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated financial need as determined by the UWG Financial Aid Office.

If you would like to make a gift to help fund this scholarship, you can contribute online through the Online Giving Form

(https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1639/m20/interior.aspx?sid=1639&gid=2&pgid=390&cid=1061&dids=53) or by contacting Ketty Cusick at kcusick@westga.edu or 678-839-6501.

# Retired Faculty & Staff Tribute Booklet

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

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# Jerry Allen

**Position held:** Manager of System Administration and Data Center

**Department:** Information Technology Services

**Years of Service:** 2015-2019 (14 years of related experience at Georgia State University)

# **Tribute Statement:**

Mr. Gerald (Jerry) Allen served as the Manager of Systems Administration and Data Center Operations for the University of West Georgia from March 2, 2015 to October 1, 2019. During his tenure at West Georgia, Jerry worked diligently to enhance procedures that improved



the operational success of his group. He led a major data center renovation project that vastly improved security and overall functionality of operations. Jerry brought a wealth of knowledge with him from an 18-year career at Georgia State University, where he served in many roles including Network Operations & Data Center Manager; Application Services Manager; Manager of Labs, Classroom, Workstation and A/V -Engineering; and Operations and Information Security Coordinator. Prior to his career with the University System of Georgia Jerry served his country proudly and is a retired United States Navy Chief Petty Officer. During his Navy career Jerry was an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist, Aviation Enlisted Warfare Specialist, Combat Veteran - Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and Certified Combat Systems Readiness Inspector.

[Brian Henderson, Director of Infrastructure & Operations, Information Technology Services, UWG1

- experiencing the adventure of visiting every national park in the United States
- completing the Coweta County Extension Service Master Gardener course as of 4/1/19

# Billy R. Bearden

Position held: HV Mechanic-Intermediate

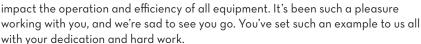
**Department:** Campus Planning and Facilities/

Maintenance

**Years of Service: 2001-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Randy, congratulations on your retirement!
I would like to humbly thank you for all of the hard work and dedication that you have shown continuously during your time at the University. You have been a mentor and a leader for so many of your colleagues. The work that you have performed throughout the University will forever positively



Wishing you a wonderful retirement. Enjoy this new chapter of your life, and we hope it's filled with good health, relaxation, and fun! Enjoy your new-found freedom, and we wish you continued success in your retirement

[Jason Lawler, HVAC Superintendent, Campus Planning and Facilities, UWG]

- · continuing to recover from surgery he had shortly after retiring
- getting around on a knee scooter and golf cart for a while, but looking forward to fishing and more gardening in the future



# Carolyn Berry (BS, Sociology, 2010)

**Position held:** Administrative Assistant (and other positions)

**Department:** College of Education (various departments and programs)

**Years of Service:** 2000-2019

# **Tribute Statement:**

I first encountered Carolyn when she was working as the assistant to the dean of the College of Education. In that position, she was involved in many different facets of keeping the COE going. She had several other positions in the College of Education through the years, including as



Department Assistant for the COE Graduate School office. When I visited that office, I frequently found her working hard to help potential and current students. Carolyn's last position in the COE was in the Comprehensive Community Clinic. I interacted with her a lot in arranging for my students in special education to use the tests housed there. One of the things that I remember most about Carolyn is that she was always finding additional ways to serve the College. For example, she helped with collection of money for holiday gifts for our Education Center and Education Annex custodians, and she collected items that COE students slated for study abroad would find helpful. She will definitely be missed.

[Meg Cooper, Associate Professor Emerita, Special Education, UWG]

- traveling, including travel across the United States by train
- visiting family, including spending time with grandchildren
- · reading; staying active in the community

# **Peggy Boston**

Position held: Custodian-Associate

Department: Campus Planning and Facilities/

**Custodial Services** 

**Years of Service: 1992-2019** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Peggy retired from the Campus Planning & Facilities - Custodial Department after working as a Custodial Associate for twenty-six years. She worked at the Bowdon Hall residence. Peggy is a hard worker, always taking pride in her job and helping others. She is a dedicated employee; for example, she has shown up to work on snow days



and been the only employee in her shop working. Peggy enjoyed meeting our students in her building and became a second mother to them.

When I first came to work in 1999, I remember walking in to work with Peggy, Cherrie Almon, and Martha Bonner in the mornings. They always had a great time talking and cutting up. While working with Peggy we have seen a lot of changes and longtime employees retire. She always kept me updated on past employees in our department.

We wish Peggy all the best in her retirement and hope that she and her husband, Jerry, enjoy spending time with their family and also taking care of her great grandchild. When I see Peggy in town, she always has a smile on her face and enjoys talking about our great UWG memories.

[Lori Hobbs w/ Carmen Toole, Campus Planning and Facilities, UWG]

- · looking after grandchildren
- providing transportation for people who can't drive or have no means of transportation on their own

# **Judy Davis Butler**

Position held: Professor

Department: Secondary Education (College of

Education)

**Years of Service: 1996-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

It is impossible to summarize Dr. Judy Butler's scholarly achievements, accolades, service, and giving during her 50-year profession into a small tribute statement. Her curriculum vitae speaks for itself. However, her curriculum vitae does not include what I believe to be her true legacy - the



long-lasting impact she has made on her students' lives and careers. I know this first-hand as I am a former student of Dr. Butler's. The relationships and mentoring Dr. Butler provides are the cornerstone of her career and life. To her students, she is wise, sincere, patient, empathetic, engaging, and effective, and she sets high expectations. Ensuring her students are prepared to be the best educators and are ready for what the future will hold in social studies education is what inspires Dr. Butler every day. Her monumental influence stretches wide in the social studies classrooms of Georgia and that influence will continue for generations to come. When I think of Dr. Butler, a quote from businessman and author Robert Kiyosaki comes to mind - "Your mentors in life are important, so choose them wisely." Dr. Butler has been my teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend. I believe I, as well as many of her other students, have chosen wisely.

[Terrie L. Ponder, Director of UWG Simulations & Clinical Instructor, Department of Educational Technology & Foundations, College of Education, UWG]

- traveling around the world, including writing a blog ---Judy's Sojourns https://judydavisbutler.blogspot.com
- · continuing to work on accreditation visits
- · working with church and community

# Wanda Walker Calhoun

Positions held: Instructor, Director

**Departments:** Early Childhood Education and Office of Field Experiences (College of Education)

**Years of Service: 2009-2019** 

### **Tribute Statement:**

Wanda Calhoun is a lifetime Carrolltonian, with an exemplary career in education. She was a classroom teacher for 20 years at Central Elementary School, Carroll County Schools, before coming to UWG.



Her career on campus spanned the university's progression from West Georgia College, where she served as the Director of the (then) Campus Daycare Center, to University of West Georgia, where she served as Director of Field Experiences for the College of Education (COE). In this role she worked with over 100 schools and medical facilities and was known for the positive relationships she built with community partners. She was instrumental in modernizing and streamlining field placements, which enabled the COE to expand enrollment and ensure that students received a high-quality experience.

She is better known as "the closer," who would swoop in when students in the field ran into difficulty. She also was the designated event host for the COE, opening her home for numerous events. As a matter of fact, we have her home booked for the next several years as part of her retirement plan!

Wanda was always an upbeat and dedicated employee. She will be sorely missed.

[Dianne L. Hoff, Dean and Professor, and Laura H. Smith, Associate Dean, College of Education, UWG]

# Plans for Retirement: -enjoying

- family
- traveling
- gardening

# John Congleton

Position held: Senior Lab Coordinator

Department: Geosciences (College of Science

and Mathematics)

**Years of Service:** 1998-2019

# **Tribute Statement:**

John Congleton began working for the nowabolished Geology Department in Fall 1998. He was initially hired to teach labs and serve as inhouse tech support. He proved to be technically adept, a conscientious teacher, and willing to tackle new responsibilities. His presence within the department grew accordingly.



He gradually took on many additional technical tasks including operation of the department's ICP instrument and Scanning Electron Microscope. Both devices are horrendously complicated to maintain and operate. He was instrumental in designing, building, and operating our "Augmented Reality Sandbox"—a cutting-edge apparatus for visualizing 3-D landscapes. All the while he kept our large-format printers and other computer hardware functioning.

Much of John's work was behind the scenes (which he, wisely, seemed to prefer), but was foundational in terms of our everyday operation. A source of constant frustration for John was the deeply ingrained tendency for faculty and students to neglect to organize lab spaces or put items away after use. Entirely on his own volition, John embarked on epic organizational projects that benefitted teaching, research, and general sanity. I think that today the only reason anyone can find any piece of laboratory apparatus, rock, or mineral specimen is because John organized our lab space and badgered us to maintain order. John will be sorely missed. He was one of a kind.

[Dr. James Mayer, Chair, Geosciences Department, College of Science and Mathematics, UWG]

- · working with the environmental consulting group he established
- looking forward to traveling up and down the East Coast

# Micheal Crafton

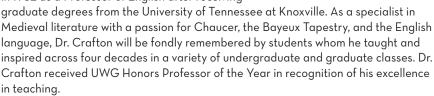
Positions held: Professor, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Interim President (UWG); Provost (Clayton State University); Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (USG)

**Departments:** English (UWG), Academic Affairs (UWG, Clayton State, USG)

**Years of Service: 1982-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

John Micheal Crafton joined West Georgia in 1982 as a Professor of English after receiving



Teaching and scholarship alone would comprise an extraordinary academic career, but Dr. Crafton has also served in a variety of influential administrative roles on campus, including Enrollment Management, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and UWG Interim President. Beyond UWG, Dr. Crafton also served as Provost at Clayton State University and Executive Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs for the USG.

Dr. Crafton's legacy lives on in initiatives that have strengthened student success and faculty involvement in the life of the university. These include designing and leading the UWG Chairs Academy, organizing the first Administrative (now Provost's) Council, and starting the Help West fund to assist UWG employees in time of financial need. His work on bringing AAC&U's LEAP initiatives to UWG has led to increased opportunities for students to engage in dynamic learning experiences. Through his leadership the USG achieved classification as the thirteenth LEAP State nationally. In retirement, Dr. Crafton will continue to be involved in LEAP at the state level and nationally as an AAC&U Senior Fellow. We hope that retirement will also provide him with more time to spend on the things he truly loves: his family, cooking, travel, furniture making, and time with friends and colleagues.

[Dr. David Newton, Professor of English, and Dr. Meg Pearson, Dean of University College and Professor of English, UWG]

**Plans for Retirement:** enjoying the art world, learning languages, remaining active professionally in teaching and other activities, and traveling

# Tammy B. Crews (AS, Office Administration, 1981)

**Position held:** Senior Customer Service Representative

**Department:** Information Technology Services

**Years of Service: 1982-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Tammy Crews retired from Information Technology Services as a Senior Helpdesk Specialist. Her career began in the fall of 1981 when she was hired as a temporary assistant and transitioned to a full time position at the Computer



Center in January 1982. Tammy contributed 38 years of service to UWG's technology organization.

Tammy was part of many significant technology changes on campus. She supported the move of the student information system from an IBM mainframe to the current system, known as Banner, and assisted with the first use of email by students and employees. In the mid-9Os she helped design and plan the first help desk implementation where her patient, kind, and caring personality made her a perfect fit. She had top-notch problem solving skills and always had time to work with users on technology issues. Over the years, Tammy probably helped every UWG employee and many of our students in one way or another. Within Information Technology Services she was the "knowledge-base" we all used when no one else could remember how or when we had made a change.

Tammy will be remembered as one of those individuals you could always rely on to help, no matter what the problem or task. Her sense of humor, calm demeanor, and positive attitude will be missed.

[Kathy Kral, retired Deputy Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services, UWG]

- · looking forward to traveling, with beach trips a favorite
- attending concerts

# Nancy DuBose-Watkins

Position held: Senior Administrative Support

**Department:** Center for Diversity and Inclusion

**Years of Service: 2009-2020** 

### **Tribute Statement:**

August 1, 2009, was a pivotal day for the University of West Georgia because Nancy Watkins became a part of the UWG family through the Office of Institutional Diversity, now known as the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI).

As an administrative assistant, Nancy was able to strengthen, organize, and bring more



stability to the office as our central team member contact for a variety of needs. She handled CDI budgets, student assistants, graduate assistants, and the CDI website; she supported student organizations (Black Student Alliance, Alpha Phi Alpha, United Voices, Black Student Alliance, Place of Refuge Ministry, and the African Student Association to name a few) that other CDI team members advised. Additionally, Nancy supported novel signature events such as the Inaugural Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, cultural recognitions, Multicultural Conversations, Controversies of Culture, World Festival, World Book Night, Oxfam Hunger Banquet, Mix It Up at Lunch, Alumni Panel.

Nancy's willingness to tackle new endeavors, as well as her intelligence, tenacity, corporate experience and empathic spirit, aided in making CDI an office known for collaboration and infusing various aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout UWG. The energy and spirit Nancy bought to the office is invaluable and unmatched. She is simply irreplaceable.

[Deirdre Rouse, Director of Diversity Education and Community Initiatives, Center for Diversity and Inclusion, UWG]

- enjoying her first grandchild, who with the family is moving to Carrollton
- having the chance for more extensive travelling, especially Italy

# Dale K. Duffey

**Positions held:** Administrative Assistant, Office Manager, Gift Entry Accountant

Departments: Continuing Education, Alumni

House, UWG Foundation

Vears of Service: 1994-2020

# **Tribute Statement:**

Dale came to West Georgia in April 1994 to work in Continuing Education, where she stayed for ten years before moving to the Alumni House to work for University Advancement in May 2004. Dale became a fixture in all alumni events, especially ADay and Homecoming, developing



many close relationships with faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community. Our loyal donors and friends always said, "I'll just come by and see Dale." Now we have to break the news to them that she has moved on to her next chapter. Dale is greatly missed already by so many, but we are so happy for her and wish her all the excitement and fun retirement has to offer.

[April Duffie, Department of Development, and Tiffany Christman, Assistant to Vice President, University Advancement, UWG]

- gardening
- · taking beach trips
- · keeping up with grandchildren
- getting together with coworkers

# **Doyle Folds**

Position held: Communications Officer

**Department:** University Police **Years of Service:** 1989-2020

### **Tribute Statement:**

When I first met Doyle, I was working as a patrol sergeant and he was working traffic for the Campus Police. He then moved to being a dispatcher and was the lead dispatcher for many years. This was where he really excelled. Working the day shift, Doyle took calls that came in on the general WGC/UWG line in addition to emergency calls and police calls. He was very good at



multitasking, a necessity for the job. He was passionate about his job and both polite and compassionate with people. Helping people over the phone can be very different than working with people face-to-face, but Doyle handled even stressful calls well.

Doyle was loyal to the institution, as well as his job. He took on extra duties when needed and enjoyed attending WGC/UWG sporting events. He was a stalwart in the communications room. Although we wish him well in retirement, which is well deserved and well earned, he will be difficult for the University Police to replace. He is well loved on our campus and will be missed.

[Ned Watson, Chief of Police, University Police, UWG]

- · looking forward to a new grandchild
- traveling when conditions permit

# **Chris Geiger**

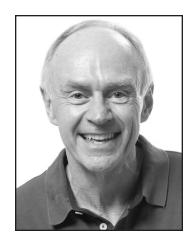
Position held: Director

**Department:** Center for Student Involvement

**Years of Service:** 1986-2019

### **Tribute Statement:**

Chris Geiger came to West Georgia College in 1986, after completing his Master's degree in Student Personnel Services in Higher Education at the University of South Carolina. A Wisconsin native, he must have adjusted well to Georgia because he stayed for 34 years, moving into progressively more responsible positions as the institution grew and went through several



reorganizations. He served as both Assistant Director and Associate Director of Student Activities and Associate Director of the Campus Center before being named Director of the Center for Student Involvement in 2010.

Chris was a key leader in developing the student life program as the institution doubled in size – working with student organizations, student activities, and student leadership groups including Summer Orientation Leaders, Campus Ambassadors, and the Student Government Association and also chairing the Student Activity Fee Budget Allocation Committee. He directed Homecoming half-time activities after several weeks of coordinating many events leading up to the game and taught classes, including the XIDS class What Do You Know About Leadership?.

In 2009 he was selected to participate in the USG Executive Leadership Institute and served as Chair of the Board of Directors in the National Association of Campus Activities. He has mentored thousands of students and young staff and is appreciated by colleagues and friends for his dry wit and ability to meet challenges.

[Melanie McClellan, Community Engagement, UWG]

- anticipating travel to New York, as well as Wisconsin to visit family
- gardening
- reading

# Karen Gibbs

**Positions held:** Cashier, Work Information Specialist

**Departments:** Bursar's Office, Campus Planning and Facilities

**Years of Service: 2005-2020** 

### **Tribute Statement:**

Karen Gibbs came to work at University of West Georgia in December of 2005. She was an exciting addition to the Bursar's Office with her lovable personality. Karen could get along with anybody, and it was a pleasure to supervise her. Along with her banking experience and



professionalism, she brought with her wit and a gregarious personality. Karen totally embraced the vibrancy of the University of West Georgia. She loved a challenge and would keep digging to find not just an answer to a question, but the best answer. If a student asked how much it cost to attend UWG, she would help him/her understand the entire cost, not just the cost of tuition. She never said "It's not my job" when asked to help in other areas. She was always willing to help wherever needed. Her "mom" came out when handing out advice to students. Once students had some of Karen's advice when paying their charges, they would come back with any questions they had, and she became a friend for life. She was patient and understanding no matter how many times she had to explain the situation. Karen would go the extra mile to help a student stay at school and succeed. Karen took pride in her service to UWG, and her most rewarding experience at UWG was helping students.

[Pat Murphy, retired Bursar, UWG]

Plans for Retirement: traveling with her husband to "see America"

# Linda Ann Henson

Position held: Custodian-Associate

Department: Campus Planning and Facilities/

**Custodial Services** 

**Years of Service: 2007-2019** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Twelve years ago, Linda Henson began her journey with the University of West Georgia, working in the custodial department. Ms. Linda, as we call her, is loved by everyone. She is a leader in her church and her community. She always wears a smile and usually has a delightful story to share. Soon after I came to work in Aycock Hall, I began



looking forward to Ms. Linda coming to the Human Resources department to do her duties. She was a major part of our daily lives, and we included her in all our social gatherings. Ms. Linda was conscientious about work and went above and beyond to provide us a clean and safe environment. She rarely missed days from work, and we all missed her when she was on vacation. She has an infectious smile and laugh and she makes friends easily. Ms. Linda is warm and kind, and she is a beautiful lady, inside and out. She has a special gift for making others feel special. It was a somber day in Aycock Hall when Ms. Linda announced her approaching retirement. However, the time has come for her to enjoy a life outside of work, and she deserves every minute of it! People come and go, but Ms. Linda will always be a fond memory when I reflect on my days at UWG.

[Sandra Huey, Human Resources, UWG]

- · enjoying life
- taking care of patients at a nursing home where she works part-time

# Kim Ingram

Position held: Cashier

**Department:** Bursar's Office **Years of Service:** 2003-2019

### **Tribute Statement:**

I had the pleasure of supervising Kim Ingram for many years. She was reliable and rarely took time off. She showed an attention to detail and was passionate about her job. Kim kept the cashier's office running for many years. Most people do not realize the amount of responsibility the cashier's office has, but she embraced the responsibilities. She would research problems before asking for



further assistance. She was always willing to help coworkers, even those in other departments, without complaint. I never heard her say, "That's not my job." She was funny and could make me laugh at some of oddest situations. One thing that most people did not know about Kim was she had a big heart. She was always quietly helping coworkers and students in need and never wanted any recognition. If Kim saw a need, she just took care of it. She was always glad to lend a hand to coworkers and students. Kim loved the University of West Georgia and took pride in her years of service to UWG.

[Pat Murphy, retired Bursar, UWG]

**Plans for Retirement:** looking forward to traveling not only to Texas, but also returning for another Alaska trip and getting to Greece

# **Doris Railey Kieh**

Position held: Program Coordinator

**Department:** Center for Diversity and Inclusion

**Years of Service: 2009-2019** 

### **Tribute Statement:**

Doris Kieh came to Georgia from her home country of Liberia by way of Texas and Michigan, where she had been working in education her entire career. Doris soon found another home in UWG's Center for Diversity and Inclusion when she was hired to extend and enhance programming at the university.



For ten years, Doris coordinated the majority of the CDI's growing and evolving programming, including the Multicultural/World Festival; Conversations of Culture; the annual Spring Book Discussion that brought Georgia authors to campus; the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program; Black History Month; and the Native American, Asian American, Women, and LGBTIQA+ programs.

All told, Doris was responsible for more than twenty programs a year! But she did not see it as a one-person job. For Doris, her work was all about teamwork with her colleagues in the CDI and their collaborating partners – the colleges, departments, and student organizations of UWG and the Carrollton community. They worked together to make things happen!

Doris is pleased that over the years tens of thousands of people attended the CDI's programs, but what has always mattered more to her is that those who came enjoyed the experience and took something away as part of their education. For Doris, it has been a "great feeling" these past ten years to be part of preparing students to be global citizens.

[Catherine Hendricks, Processing Archivist, Special Collections, Ingram Library, UWG]

- · working in her church library for now
- planning to go back to work once the pandemic is contained

# Dan Lewis (MBA, 2017)

**Positions Held:** Coordinator of Business and Finance Development, Executive Director

**Department:** Center for Business Excellence

**Years of Service: 2004-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Transitioning from a career in high-speed manufacturing to higher education, Dan was able to reapply the disciplines and skillsets of continuous improvement to further advance the administrative processes and customer focus of the Business and Finance division at UWG. Starting as a business coordinator in Campus Planning and Facilities,



he successfully guided that organization to achieve the 2009 APPA Award for Excellence.

Dan was subsequently asked to develop a unit within the Business and Finance Division to enhance process improvement and customer service. In collaboration with UWG veteran Tricia Durrough, the Center for Business Excellence (CBE) was created in 2011 to develop and maintain a proactive culture of continuous improvement and professional development. Among other activities, CBE has administered professional development opportunities to UWG employees through the learning management system – DevelopWest. Dan also used the benefits to help improve himself, earning black belt certifications in Six Sigma (2012) and Lean Six Sigma (2019) and graduating with an MBA in 2017.

In addition, Dan served as the founding chair for UWG's policy committee, guided the Business and Finance Division in SACSCOC metrics and Payment Card industry standards, served as a member of the President's Advisory Committee, and assisted in the formulation of a new employee onboarding and an employee recognition program – Best of the West! He actively promotes employee engagement and focuses on the needs of students, pointing out that "It's important for us to convey our care for them. Without them – we wouldn't have jobs."

[Teresa D'Emilio, UWG Policy Administrator, Office of the General Counsel]

Plans for Retirement: continuing to exercise, play golf, and enjoy the beach

# Laura White Mayfield

**Positions held:** Textbook Manager, Records Coordinator, Departmental Assistant

**Departments:** University Bookstore, Human

Resources

Years of Service: 1992-2020

### **Tribute Statement:**

I am elated to write a tribute to Laura Mayfield, a beloved colleague to so many at UWG. She was dedicated, funny, amiable and courteous. Laura embodied excellence, integrity, service and professionalism in her work. She demonstrated a "can-do" attitude and worked hard to fulfill



institutional and departmental goals and objectives. Laura was definitely not afraid to speak truth to power. For this, I have great respect and admiration for her courage and determination to seek solutions and get the job done. I appreciate her ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds. She could find something in common with most of the people she encountered. Laura could see the best in others and put employees, students, and visitors at ease with her genuine warmth. She has a heart of gold, especially for her students. Her devotion to and care for students could be seen by their countless return visits to see her. In some instances, these visits were years after graduation. She knew their parents and their significant others and was a trusted confidante in times of distress. This is student engagement at its best. Laura Mayfield is the best of the West and I will be forever grateful for our time together at UWG.

[Christina K. Brogdon, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, UWG]

- spending more time with family and friends
- spending time at her home in Laguna Beach, Florida
- enjoying her two corgis

# Patresa Murphy (BBA, Accounting, 2008; MACC, Professional Accounting, 2010)

Position held: Bursar

**Department:** Bursar's Office **Years of Service:** 1991-2020

### **Tribute Statement:**

Student success has always been important to Pat Murphy. She was a non-traditional student and received her undergraduate and master degrees later in her career. She understood the value of a degree and how having one can change lives.



Pat didn't just talk with students; she connected with students. As a result, Pat was instrumental in developing the 'one student, one account' model where a student would receive a consolidated bill for all of their charges -- not just tuition, but other charges including parking tickets, health visits, and fines. Prior to this model, a student would travel across campus to multiple offices to pay these fines or charges. Pat was actively involved in the development and implementation of the UWG Last Chance installment plan that helps approximately 60 students every semester stay in class. UWG was the first comprehensive institution approved to offer this plan to its students. Lastly, Pat was intimately familiar with the problems international students would experience in currency conversions for the payment of tuition and fees, and she identified a provider that would work with these students in their native currencies and provide payment in US dollars. You can't stay in class if you don't pay your fees, and Pat made that easier for all students. Student success was always important to Pat Murphy.

[Richard Sears, Associate Vice President for Finance, Business and Finance, UWG]

- enjoying grandchildren
- · sewing
- reading
- doing crafts
- grant writing

# Karen S. O'Connor

Position held: Senior Administrative Assistant

Department: Dean's Office, Richards College of

Business

**Years of Service: 2009-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

When Karen joined the Richards College of Business in June of 2009, the College gained an excellent employee, and I gained a friend that I will cherish for a lifetime. As the administrative assistant in the RCOB Student Success Center of the Dean's Office, she was often the first face students, parents, and others saw when they



entered the College. Hers was always smiling and welcoming. She was a joy to work with, and her impact on the College and University as a whole will be felt for years to come.

Karen was always willing to serve in any capacity which often meant wearing different hats - from helping students and advisors to assisting with managing facilities and scheduling, overseeing equipment inventory, and helping with the many events and activities that the RCOB is known for. She was kind and helpful, had a great attitude, and possessed a sense of humor that was most helpful, especially in stressful times.

Karen is a consummate professional and was well known as a person who could get things done with joy and a servant's heart. We wish her well as she retires to Florida with her husband, John. She will be missed!

[Diane Williamson, retired Assistant Dean, Richards College of Business, UWG]

- · moving and getting settled in Florida home
- traveling
- searching for new hobbies (such as pet sitting, gardening, and kayaking)

# Faramarz Parsa

Position held: Professor

Department: Management (Richards College of

Business)

**Years of service:** 1986-2019

# **Tribute Statement:**

Dr. Faramarz Parsa came to UWG in 1986 and retired in December 2019 after 33 years as a Professor in the Management Department of the Richards College of Business. Dr. Parsa received his Ph.D. in Business Policy from Georgia State University and taught primarily in the areas of Operations Management and



Strategic Management at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. He was an outstanding member of the UWG community. In 2016, Dr. Parsa was named Faculty Member of the Year by Beta Gamma Sigma. He was actively involved in committees, service to his profession, publication and presentation of papers domestically and internationally, and community educational endeavors. Dr. Parsa was known both for the intellectual rigor of his courses and for his availability to and unfailing patience with students. He willingly undertook any service role asked of him, served as guest lecturer for many years on Iran and the Middle East for a cultural differences course, was generous with his time and expertise, and was very supportive of his colleagues. His service orientation extended beyond the immediate community. While at UWG, he was also a volunteer faculty member at the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education.

[Mary-Kathryn Zachary, retired Professor, Department of Management, Richards College of Business, UWG]

- · traveling in the future
- · staying active in the field of business

# **Mary Reid**

Positions held: Instructor, Director

Departments: Literacy and Special Education,

UWG Pre-Kindergarten Program

**Years of Service: 2016-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Mary Reid retired after 21 years of dedicated service in the field of education. At the University of West Georgia, Mary served as the Director of the UWG Pre-K program for five years and also taught as a part-time instructor in the College of Education's Reading program. Under Mary's leadership, the Pre-K program was reaccredited by



NAEYC, which was no easy task! Mary's wisdom, kindness, calm demeanor, and never ending patience will always be admired and respected by parents, faculty, staff and even the children! Mary is a wonderful writer and her passion for writing has made her a valuable fellow with the Cherokee Writing Project where she has served for many years as a teacher consultant. We celebrate with Mary as she retires to devote more time to two of her loves: writing and traveling!

[Laura H. Smith, Associate Dean for Educator Preparation and Student Affairs, College of Education, UWG]

- · working on a memoir about living in East Africa
- traveling, maybe even back to East Africa

# **Johnnie Samples**

Position held: Lead Teacher

Department: UWG Pre-Kindergarten Program

(College of Education)

Years of Service: 1999-2020

# **Tribute Statement:**

Johnnie Samples, known to many as Miss Johnnie, dedicated her life to the instruction and nurturing of young children. She wore many hats in her long career - assistant teacher, school secretary, and a lead teacher in the Bright From the Start PreK program at UWG.



but said, "I'd rather work with kids than money." And so she returned to education, earning her bachelor's degree at night and on weekends while continuing to teach.

Johnnie has influenced hundreds of children (and many student teachers) in the west Georgia community. It is impossible to have a quiet lunch or dinner out with Johnnie because wherever you go in Carrollton, someone will recognize her. When she is approached by former students and/or parents in restaurants, she remembers names and families and she always has time to recall memories of when they were in her classroom.

Johnnie's love of children is evident in the way she conducted her Friendly Frogs classroom throughout the years. Even the pandemic didn't stop Johnnie. She continued to engage her students through on-line instruction until her retirement in May.

Besides being an educator, Johnnie is a dearly loved sister, mom, grandma, and aunt to many in the community.

[Mary Reid, Director, Pre-Kindergarten Program, UWG]

- enjoying family
- spending time with grandchildren and great grandchildren
- · doing some traveling with her husband



# Robert M. Sanders

Position held: Professor

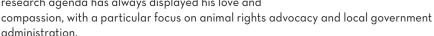
**Department:** Political Science (College of Social

Sciences)

**Years of Service: 1992-2020** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Dr. Rob Sanders has been a great colleague in the Political Science Department for nearly thirty years. Rob is also a remarkably gifted teacher who cares very much for students and knows how to get them interested and excited about things that are important to all human beings. Rob's research agenda has always displayed his love and



Students really loved his friendliness, openness, humor, and knowledge in the subject matter. There were always laughs and "aha moments" in his classes.

Faculty members knew every time they would walk into Rob's office they would receive wise counsel, friendly conversation, constant reminders to always see the best in people, and, of course, the most up-to-date news on Atlanta United football! Rob Sanders has been a pillar of our department since 1992 and he will be greatly missed by our department and UWG as a whole

[Chapman Rackaway, Professor and Chair, Political Science, UWG]

- continuing work with Democratic party and Humane Society
- · eventually moving to Florida
- writing (coauthor of a book on presidential impeachment, Politics of Impeachment)



# Jane W. Smith

Position held: Office Coordinator

**Department:** Small Business Development Center

**Years of Service:** 1999-2019

### **Tribute Statement:**

I had the pleasure of working with one of the most wonderful persons I could ever have hoped for when Jane Smith worked as an Administrator for the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at UWG. Her years of experience produced a thorough understanding of her work and the requirements of the job, and, in my opinion, the office couldn't function without her.



Even though the job changed on a daily basis, she always adjusted to the situation extremely well.

There was an art form to the way Jane completed the job requirements. From maintaining 3 office budgets, 2 foundation accounts, and countless files and programs to the coordinating of schedules for office personnel, she always went above and beyond. She was the first contact for many business owners and community officials, and it showed when the clients came to the office. She always communicated with clients and coworkers in a manner that put them at ease and found different ways to make the job better and easier when dealing with clients.

The role of Office Coordinator between two Universities is more difficult than most, but Jane handled it with professionalism and grace. She was an integral part of the SBDC as well as UWG and was essential to the running of the Carrollton office and the direct satisfaction of the clients.

[Todd Anduze, Area Director, Small Business Development Center, UWG]

- · gardening
- reading
- · looking forward to travel adventures with friends

# Phyllis Robinson Snipes (BSEd, 1974 and MEd, 1978; Early Childhood Education)

Position held: Professor

**Department:** School Library Media & Technology Program, Department of Technology and Foundations (College of Education)

**Years of Service:** 1987-2004 (part time); 2005-2019 (full time)

# **Tribute Statement:**

Dr. Phyllis Snipes is a consummate professional and friend. From the time you appear in one of her



classes, or begin work on campus, or actually cross her path, Phyllis reaches out to make you feel comfortable. She always has time for you. Phyllis was always working to improve the School Library Media Specialist program and to encourage those involved in the program to give their best effort. Phyllis is the most important asset any library program could have. One of the things that Phyllis spearheaded was an evaluation instrument that truly measured what librarians did on the job. Not only did she help create the project, but she also went around and explained the instrument, and then worked tirelessly to help school systems implement this instrument. I know I have shared this instrument with several other school systems throughout the United States that found it to be invaluable as they began to create their own evaluation instruments.

Phyllis lived the idea that creating relationships allowed you to be a better teacher and to create a sense of community even when your classes were all online. Adding the personal touch with videos, synchronous sessions, and supportive emails made her an award-winning online teacher. Although Phyllis has retired from the day-to-day teaching at UWG, she still checks her email daily and still helps us find the right path to take to engage our students and to grow in our own knowledge about the profession. I consider myself lucky to have spent time with this amazing educator and to call her friend

[Angela Branyon, Assistant Professor, Educational Technology and Foundations, UWG]

- · working with professional organizations
- · continuing to work on state-level issues
- · enjoying family time

# Teresa Steadman

Position held: Executive Assistant

Department: Student Affairs and Enrollment

Management

**Years of Service: 2009-2019** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

It is my pleasure to write a few words about Teresa Steadman upon her retirement. Teresa is a servant leader who always puts others ahead of herself. She started out in Admissions at West Georgia and spent the last 9 years as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. When I hired her into



this capacity, I knew she would become not only a leader of our Division, but also of the entire University. She was known as a person you could go to for anything. Many times, she stepped up to take on major projects for the division, but the most lasting was her leadership of our division's onboarding process. She completely managed the mentorship program and made a lasting impression on new employees for many years. Many around campus looked to Teresa when they needed to implement a similar program and the University-wide onboarding program found its roots in the SAEM program built by Teresa. I could go on all day about her attributes and why Teresa was so successful. However, it really all boils down to her servant heart, her undying loyalty, her ability to see around corners, and her care for the students we serve. I wish Teresa well on her retirement and hope that she spends her time basking in the glow of those who care deeply for her!

[Scot Lingrell, Vice President of Enrollment Management, Georgia Southern University; formerly VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, UWG]

- visiting national parks
- bird watching
- spending time with grandchildren
- · being active in the community
- "doing whatever I want when I want to do it"

# Lynn Weathers Wilkinson

Position held: Administrative Assistant

**Department:** Academic Advisement Center

(College of Education)

**Years of Service: 2009-2019** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Lynn Wilkinson served as the departmental assistant for the College of Education Academic Advisement Center. She started this role in 2009, and for over a decade was the constant in the office, greeting students warmly and always making them feel welcome. Students consistently were extremely happy with the service Lynn provided



and often stopped to thank her before they graduated for all of her help during their time at UWG. Lynn also served as the supervisor for student workers in the Advisement Center. She went above and beyond for these students to help them to develop into the successful professionals that many are now. Lynn grew her role tremendously during her time at UWG and was instrumental in streamlining the College of Education change of major and advisor assignment process.

Lynn was the epitome of a good coworker. She worked hard all the time, was dependable, and was always kind to the advisors with whom she worked and all the other faculty and staff who came through her office. To those who worked in the Advisement Center, she is family and will be greatly missed.

[Bethany Schmelzer, Academic Advisor, College of Education, UWG]

- · having more opportunity and time to serve God
- walking
- · traveling in the future
- reading
- container gardening

# **Howard Williams**

Position held: Application Programmer

**Department:** Information Technology Services

**Years of Service: 2007-2019** 

### **Tribute Statement:**

Howard Williams joined Information Technology Services in the summer of 2007 as a Unix systems engineer and was originally responsible for managing and maintaining the student portal. At the time, this application provided students and faculty/staff with access to email, calendaring, course material, and the student information system (Banweb). Howard came to UWG with a



wide range of technology experience and skills, and as technology changed over the years, those skills were put to use planning and designing other systems. Howard implemented the first single sign-on solution used on campus and in doing so laid the ground work for many of the "one password for all systems" advances that we benefit from today. Over the last few years, Howard became involved in cybersecurity efforts, including improving Banner user account and role management. During the Banner 9 migration, Howard was a key member of the team that deployed and configured a completely new Banner architecture.

In addition to his technical skills, Howard is an accomplished musician and would occasionally perform at ITS staff events. During retirement Howard plans to devote more time to his music, improve his golf game, and work on some development projects on the side. His contributions to the advancement of technology at UWG will be missed by his ITS colleagues and all of UWG.

[Kathy Kral, retired Deputy Corporate Information Officer, Information Technology Services, UWG]

- playing golf
- · writing music
- · traveling the world
- gardening
- Drive-Thru Graduation -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_XOOQjOa458 -- written April 2020, published May 2020 my condolences to the Class of 2020 and to John Prine (rip 2020)

# **Howard Winters**

Position held: Custodial Superintendent

Department: Campus Planning and Facilities/

**Custodial Services** 

**Years of Service:** 1985-2019

# **Tribute Statement:**

Mr. Howard worked at the University of West Georgia for many years. I was able to work under his supervision. He was a great leader for our team over the years and has set a great example. Mr. Howard was a positive influence for our team, not only professionally but personally as well. Through his compassionate support and fearless leadership,



he has put smiles on all of our faces time and time again. His many contributions to our success are immeasurable. I know I speak for everyone when I say having him as a leader made working here easy, enjoyable, and definitely rewarding. We thank him for creating so many opportunities for our team and for being so passionate about our well-being. Mr. Howard is truly the definition of a mentor. I and my team will forever be grateful for the investments he put into our team. A great mentor is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget. I thank him for everything he's taught me over the years and wish him the best in his retirement. He absolutely deserves it!

[Alvin Jerome Paige, Planning and Grounds, Department of Campus Planning and Facilities. UWG]

- · working around the house
- · helping take care of parents
- traveling
- sleeping
- · taking it easy

# Mary-Kathryn Zachary, J.D. (BA, History, 1971)

Position held: Professor

**Department:** Management (Richards College of

Business)

**Years of Service: 1987-2019** 

# **Tribute Statement:**

Dr. Mary-Kathryn Zachary joined the University of West Georgia in 1987 and spent 32 years as a faculty member in the Richards College of Business (RCOB), retiring at the end of Fall 2019 after an exceptional career at UWG. She was a valuable



part of the RCOB family and a dedicated member of the UWG community. Dr. Zachary earned her J.D. at the University of Georgia and received numerous awards for her research, service, and teaching in the business law area. In 2011, she was named Beta Gamma Sigma Faculty Member of the Year. For the past 23 years, Dr. Zachary served as a contributing editor for Supervision, publishing more than 250 articles. Additionally, she presented more than 30 papers at academic conferences. During her time at UWG, she served on more than one hundred fifty committees, was active in service to her profession, and was involved in many community initiatives.

Dr. Zachary was an exceptional teacher and mentor of students. Just as important, she has been a mentor and friend to her colleagues in the Richards College and across campus. Her love of life and her love of travel are exceeded only by her love of those who are fortunate enough to call her "friend."

[Faye McIntyre, Dean, Richards College of Business, UWG]

# **Hobbies/Plans for Retirement:**

- cooking and entertaining: I have purchased a cookbook while at every international and domestic conference during my career, and I look forward to working my way through them.
- international and domestic "bucket list" traveling and visiting with family and friends locally and throughout the U.S.
- pursuing family genealogy and history
- developing more foreign language skills and becoming more technologically savvy
- writing and publishing nonacademic works
- helping libraries with transcribing historical letters
- reading whatever I want!
- working on health and fitness plans

In MEMORIAM (2019-2020)

Dr. James W. Carr - Professor, Management and Business Information Systems

Dr. Louis Carri - Professor, Special Education

Dr. Thomas A. Chisholm - Professor, Management

Mary Ann Cripe - Administrative Assistant, College of Education

Robert Bruce Daniel – Director of Communication Studies and Lecturer, Mass Communications (\*\*NOTE: Mr. Daniel was scheduled to retire January 1, 2020 and was to be recognized in this Commemorative Tribute Booklet honoring 2019-2020 retirees\*\*)

Bobby Lee Farris - Custodian, Campus Planning and Facilities

Dr. Evelyn Fulbright - Dean, College of Education

J. W. Inman - Professor, College of Business

Kathryn West McKenzie - Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Edward G. Murphy - Director, Athletics Administration

Dr. Robert M. Reeves - Professor, Physical Education & Recreation

Charles A. Scudder - Assistant Professor, Political Science/Planning

John R. Wells - Associate Dean, College of Business



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