


REA NEWS

**Newsletter of the UWF
Retired Employees Association
Volume 12, Issue 1 - July 2023**

President's Message



REA Members,

I am excited to serve as the UWF Retired Employees Association as president for '23-'24. The REA 's goal is to keep you informed and involved with the institution you helped grow into the top ranked University it is today. Our aim is to foster fellowship among members through various initiatives such as outings and gatherings, newsletters, a holiday luncheon and member meetings . We have a history of advocating for retired employees' interests and now with the connection to the Division of Advancement we are in a better position to do so.

We strive to be a welcoming place where members can connect with one another, share experiences and have a voice in the community. Join us this fall for football games, Oktoberfest and member luncheons. I look forward to serving and welcome any ideas, feedback and suggestions you might have.

Sincerely,

William "Bill" Healey



Events

REA Holiday Social – December 5, 2022

A special business meeting and the 2022 REA Holiday Social were held December 5 in the Conference Center. At the business meeting, the membership approved adoption of a revised charter reflecting the REA's affiliation with the Division of University Advancement. Seated at tables with centerpieces by Anna Shiplee, we were treated to a plated luncheon hosted by the Division. Following the luncheon, Joe Vinson provided a most interesting program on "Lost Pensacola" featuring a series of posters of iconic Pensacola buildings that no longer exist. Joe's posters have been on exhibit at Voices of Pensacola in downtown Pensacola.



Joe Vinson



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Holiday Social (continued)



Cocoa & Camellias – February 18, 2023

Postponed a week because of bad weather and featuring only a few camellia blossoms because the unseasonably warm winter forced early blooming, we enjoyed seeing Tori's and Justin's new baby, "TJ," students visiting and using the garden, and, of course, the cocoa and cookies.



REA Baseball Outing – April 1, 2023

Hosted by Azalea Trace, we had an opportunity to visit with our Azalea Trace colleagues and friends, enjoy burgers and dogs, and watch our Argo baseball stars in action.



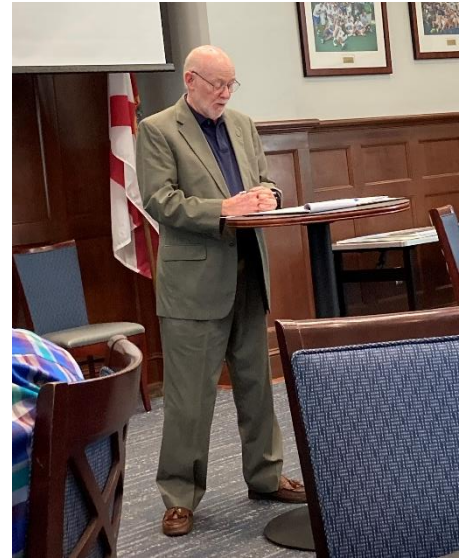
REA Spring Social & Annual Meeting – May 3, 2023

The REA 2023 Annual Meeting was held in the Argonaut Athletic Club with refreshments provided with funding from the President's Office. Business conducted at the meeting included approval of closing the REA checking account with Synovus and placing the remaining balance in the REA account in the UWF Foundation. Elected at the meeting as REA officers for 2023-2024 were:

- William "Bill" Healey, President
- Ellen Till, Vice President and President-elect
- Carl Backman, Immediate Past President
- Constance "Connie" Fleming, Director
- Rohan Hemasinha, Director
- Ewell "UL" Howard, Board
- Gabi Grosse, Sunshine Committee Chair

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Annual Meeting (continued)



REA Downtown – June 14, 2023

Dutch Treat luncheon at Seville Quarter's, then across the street to Voices of Pensacola to see Joe Vinson's "Lost Pensacola" full exhibit of posters, and then out the back door to the Pensacola Museum of History. Many thanks to Anna Wall (Ellen Till's daughter) for arranging the museum visits and to Richard Rodriguez for serving as our guide and host.



Spotlight on Members

Jacqui Berger - Dollhouse

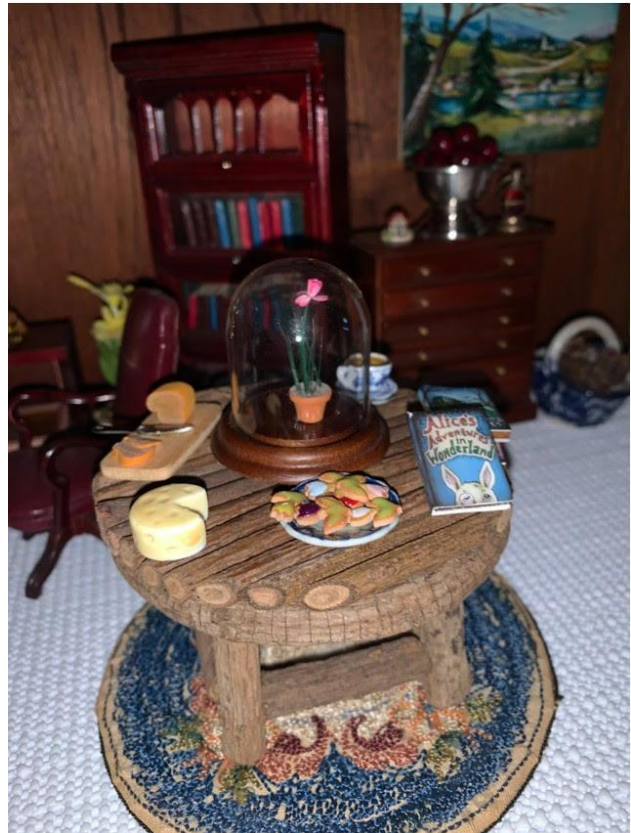
“We don’t stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.”
George Bernard Shaw

In December 2022, my inner child returned and I decided to put together dollhouse scenes in the bookshelf section of a drop down secretary desk. I had purchased some dollhouse furniture from Bombay Company in 2007 when they were closing U.S. stores. The rest I have collected over the years, as I have always loved miniatures. I particularly like the floor lamps operated by watch batteries. They add so much realism to the scene. The painting in one of the photos was done in the 1970’s by my mother’s sister. It was a place they used to ice skate as children. The silver bowl was probably a salt dish, or perhaps for a condiment. It is filled with apple-colored wooden beads. I bought the writing desk and chair from an elderly couple’s booth in Europe. They created the pieces and painted them while I watched. Note the tiny eyeglasses. The “trash can” is a salt dish.



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Doll House (continued)



Gus Harris - Guitarist



After retiring I finally had the time to perform more music, something I've been doing my entire life but never had much time for prior to retirement from UWF. But I do now!

Here's a link to a video of me recently performing with the TropX Band at Goatlips Chew and Brewhouse. The song I'm doing is "The Chair" written by Dean Dillon and a number one hit for George Strait.

Currently, I play at Goat Lips every Sunday from 12-2. *Gus Harris*

<https://www.facebook.com/marybethmn/videos/559417209356201/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

Ellen Till – Irish Splendor

Ellen Till and her daughter Anna joined the Alumni Affairs trip to Ireland in March 2023.

“Argos took the trip of a lifetime to Ireland in our very first itinerary offering through the Collette group travel program. There was so much interest, the trip sold out twice over! A total of 39 alumni and guests in two tour groups traveled all over Ireland, visiting medieval castles, stunning vistas and even the famous Guinness factory. Everyone is already talking about where they want to go in 2024. Go Argos!” [From Alumni Affairs website.]



UWF Camellia Garden

Fundraising Campaign Update

Just prior to the onset of the COVID pandemic, an anonymous donor contributed \$25,000 to support the UWF Camellia Garden and challenged the Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC) and the UWF Retired Employees Association (REA) to match the donation. The PCC and the REA are pleased to announce that the challenge match goal has been achieved. Proceeds from the Camellia Garden endowment will be used to maintain the existing garden and, eventually, to enlarge the garden space.

What the Camellia Garden Means to Me – Anna Shiplee



Camellias were a part of my life growing up in Pensacola. My parents loved gardening. My mother was the more all-around gardener. She had such a green thumb that she could grow pretty much anything. My father's love and special gardening talent was camellias. He cultivated, raised and propagated them. They were his pride and joy. I do not recall exactly how many camellia bushes we had, but they were both in our front and back yards. In the winter, the camellia bushes would break out in gorgeous blooms. I can even recall some of my favorites such as Professor Sargent and R. L. Wheeler. My mother would cut the blooms to take to her club meetings or to friends' homes. It was pretty much expected that my mother would bring camellias when they were in bloom.

The reason I am telling you this story is because of a wonderful opportunity that came about through the Pensacola Camellia Society. As you may know, the UWF Camellia Garden is a collaboration between UWF, the UWF Retired Employees Association and the Pensacola Camellia Club (PCC). The PCC recently offered an opportunity to purchase a named paver for the UWF Camellia Garden. I knew it was the perfect way to honor my parents who are no longer with us. My sister and I selected a 12 x 12 paver and we are really looking forward to seeing it placed in the garden. I know that my parents would have appreciated this honor very much.

I would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as well. If you are looking for a way to honor/commemorate someone or leave a legacy on the UWF campus, a paver would be perfect. Even if you do not purchase a paver, please consider supporting the UWF Camellia Garden with any donation. Your gift will ensure its continued upkeep. Information regarding the garden can be found on the REA website (under University Advancement). A visit to the garden, even when the camellias are not in bloom, is a treat. Enjoy! *Anna Shiplee*

Remember When



From the *Pensacola News Journal*, February 27, 2015: “As the University of West Florida moves forward with phase one development of its University Park plan, a grove of trees that includes heritage oaks will have to be cleared. Some faculty and students on campus are disappointed about the potential loss of historic oaks.” Retrieved from <https://www.pnj.com/picture-gallery/news/2015/02/27/uwf-oak-grove-area-on-campus/24142563/>

Save the Date

Oktoberfest – October 14, 2023

The old Oak Grove with its gazebo and firepit may be gone, but we are planning an REA daytime version of Herr Friedrich’s Oktoberfest on October 14. Save the date!

Notes of Appreciation

To **Gabi Grosse** for serving as the chair of our one-person Sunshine Committee. Please let us know if there are REA members to whom we should send “think of you” cards and notes.

To **Connie Marse** for her years of service as the editor/compiler of the REA News. (Due to health concerns, this is the first issue of the newsletter that Connie has not assembled for us.)

To **Dr. Howard Reddy** and **Tori Bennett** for their continued and unwavering support of the UWF REA.

REA Mascot – Connor’s Corner



“Petfleet, a division of Starfleet International, has assigned a new Commanding Officer to the group and he is revitalizing the Petfleet. This month he initiated a “Wearing the Green” Pet Photo Contest and was pleased to see many adorable pets dressed up in brilliant green colors in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. When he announced the results of the contest, I was so thrilled and honored to see that my sweet boy, Connor, Himark’s Star Trekker, was named the winner! To quote one of the judges, "Ambassador Connor looked absolutely charming in his green bowtie and top hat!" So proud of my boy!” In the “May the 4th Be with You” contest he took honorable mention. *Connie Fleming*

In Remembrance

David E. Wilson
September 21, 2022

Dr. Ramon “Ray” Oldenburg
November 21, 2022

Dr. Godfrey Franklin
December 20, 2022

Virginia Ann Peters
December 25, 2022

Sandra “Sandy” Brewer
March 1, 2023

Patricia “Pat” McNeal
March 25, 2023

Dr. Kenneth “Ken” Curtis
May 1, 2023

Dr. James “Jim” Potts
June 8, 2023