TRAINING CRIME FIGHTERS

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY GIVES CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS CAREER BOOST
The 2015 UNG women’s softball team won the university’s first-ever national championship on May 25 in Oklahoma City.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the UNG Nighthawks,
NATIONAL NCAA D-II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS!

Morgan Beshears (Covington, Ga.)
Katie Block (Lilburn, Ga.)
Tiffanie Burns (Sylvania, Ga.)
Alexis Collis (Blue Ridge, Ga.)
Jessica Finch (Acworth, Ga.)
Candace German (Blue Ridge, Ga.)
Hannah Harden (Watkinsville, Ga.)
Amanda Hawkins (Covington, Ga.)
Meredith Heyer (Marietta, Ga.)
Ally LeGette (Lawrenceville, Ga.)
Meagan May (Berlin, Ga.)

Kim McMillan (Powder Springs, Ga.)
Hannah McSwain (Loganville, Ga.)
Taylor Anne Merritt (Monroe, Ga.)
Kimberly Perkins (Fayetteville, Ga.)
Ansley Phillips (Ellaville, Ga.)
Courtney Poole (Watkinsville, Ga.)
Victoria Prince (Suwanee, Ga.)
Hayley Robinson (Ringgold, Ga.)
Rochelle Shuman (Sylvania, Ga.)
Laura Spivey (Montrose, Ga.)
Meagan Stover (McDonough, Ga.)

Mike Davenport, Head Softball Coach
Sarah Phillips, Assistant Softball Coach
Karlie Gillam, Graduate Assistant Softball Coach
Lindsay Reeves, Athletic Director

The University of North Georgia proudly sponsors NCAA teams in baseball, softball, women’s cross country, mixed rifle, and men’s and women’s basketball, tennis, golf, and soccer.

Learn more about UNG athletics at www.ungathletics.com.
New public safety academy provides career credentials

Students cREATe new possibilities for physically disabled

University press thriving amid shifts in publishing process
‘Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other’

As John F. Kennedy wrote in a speech he prepared to deliver in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. The advancement of learning depends on community leadership for financial and political support and the products of that learning, in turn, are essential to the leadership’s hopes for continued progress and prosperity.”

At UNG, learning and leadership are truly entwined in our mission to prepare students to be regionally and globally competitive.

Our educational initiatives – a new campus in Blue Ridge, new and expanded programs in high-demand fields, and dramatically increased enrollment in dual-enrollment and online learning opportunities – help students complete college, respond to workforce needs, and support economic development efforts across our region.

UNG’s commitment to leadership development is visible on every campus and in every program. UNG faculty and staff are invested in student success and are privileged to mentor students as they become engaged citizens, earn nationally competitive scholarships, or train to become future military officers.

Our collective vision is that UNG will be considered a regional and national leader for academic excellence, engagement, educational opportunity, and leadership development.

As you read through this issue of UNG magazine, take pride in the remarkable achievements by our students, graduates, faculty and staff. Their accomplishments just scratch the surface of this bold vision and our growing reputation!

Sincerely,

Bonita C. Jacobs, Ph.D.
President
TOP SCHOLARS
UNG’s initiative for students to pursue nationally competitive scholarships is paying off with life-changing opportunities.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS
Jacob Dietrich and Erika Evans were two of only 1,900 people in the nation selected for the prestigious 10-month Fulbright program for international study and research.

UDALL SCHOLAR
John Dees, an environmental and spatial analysis major, earned one of 50 Udall Scholars for his outstanding work in the field of environmental policy in 2014. He has since earned a full scholarship to graduate school at the University of California – Berkeley.

NIH SCHOLARS
Obadi Obadi became the second UNG student to receive a highly competitive National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship—a scholarship that funds a summer NIH internship and a year of employment at the NIH following graduation.

NACHSHON FELLOW
Rachel Glazer, a psychology major and Newman Civic Fellow, was one of 21 students around the world to earn a flagship Nachshon Fellowship to spend a semester in Israel.

BOREN SCHOLARS
After studying Arabic at the Center for International Learning in Oman, Noah McDaniel spent a school year in Oman on full scholarship as a prestigious David L. Boren Scholar. He is one of three UNG students to earn the scholarship.

GILMAN SCHOLARS
Jonathan Shepard and Anita Renfroe are studying Arabic in Oman through the Gilman International Scholarship, a congressionally-funded scholarship program for students studying or interning internationally. Eleven UNG students have earned this scholarship since 2013.

JACK KENT COOKE SCHOLARS
Teri Jones became the second UNG student to earn a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Only 90 of these scholarships are awarded nationally each year.

NEW CAMPUS
UNG’s new Blue Ridge Campus welcomed its first students in August 2015. Courses leading to associate and bachelor’s degrees have been expanded for spring 2016.

NEW PROGRAMS
FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA
UNG’s new, four-year film program offers the latest technology and supports the state’s growing movie and television industry.

NURSING
This spring, UNG expands the Bachelor of Science in Nursing to the Gainesville Campus, prompted by the projected regional and national shortage of registered nurses that is expected to continue through 2030.

SUMMER DUAL-ENROLLMENT
In summer 2016, Georgia high-school students interested in studying languages can choose from two three-week study abroad programs – in Germany or France. The programs are funded by Move on When Ready, a state program that covers tuition costs for qualifying high school juniors and seniors to earn high school and college credit.

MBA
Did you know that 80 percent of companies planned to hire an MBA graduate last year? UNG has expanded the MBA program to the Gainesville Campus, offering courses two nights a week.
Honor2Lead: Military Values in Business, featuring best-selling author Dr. John Maxwell and Lt. Gen. James L. Terry, created an international platform that highlighted UNG’s roles as a state leadership institution and as The Military College of Georgia. Hosted this fall at UNG’s Dahlonega Campus, the event was simulcast to a virtual, global audience of thousands.

In welcoming participants, President Bonita C. Jacobs said UNG’s unique identity and history of producing military and business leaders created the ideal context to bring together experts from academia, military and business to talk about the critical role of ethics in leadership.

UNG, with a mission that includes developing students into leaders for a diverse and global society, is one of only six senior military colleges in the nation. Honor2Lead was developed and sponsored by the university, the Corps of Cadets, and the BB&T Center for Ethical Business Leadership, a unit of UNG’s Mike Cottrell College of Business. The event was simulcast to colleges, high schools, businesses, military bases, and military Reserve components, including the Georgia Army National Guard.

Terry, one of some 50 general officers produced by UNG and commander of U.S. Army Central, spoke about what leaders must do if they are to build successful organizations.

“Leaders must continually gauge their environment, and must maintain a dynamic leading style that is built on personal values,” Terry said. “In today’s environment, it is not enough to fight your way through complexity – organizations must learn their way through. It’s also important to spend time in reflection. Reflective time results in less reflexive time.”

John Maxwell told participants that leadership is something that can be in and benefit every situation.

“Leadership begins with me being the person I need to be before I ask others to be the people they need to be,” Maxwell said. “All followers, though they may not ask the questions, essentially want to know three things from their leaders: do you have my best interest at heart, can you help me, and can I trust you? Likewise, good leaders need to consistently ask those questions of themselves: do I have people’s best interest at heart, can I help them, and am I deserving of their trust?”

During the event, the inaugural Honor2Lead Award was presented to FedEx, founded by former Marine and CEO Frederick W. Smith, in recognition of the organization’s noteworthy success while maintaining an ethical culture and promoting shared values.
Corps strengths

UNG's Corps of Cadets has had a banner year of national recognition, including boasting the eighth-ranked cadet in the nation.

CADET IN TOP 10

Cadet 1st Lt. Eric E. Gleason of Marietta, Georgia, is ranked the number eight Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet in the nation from among 5,557 cadets. Cadets are ranked on the national Order of Merit List by achieving superior grade point averages, strong performance in the Army physical fitness test, proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training, and their performance at the Leader Development and Assessment Course. Gleason, who has a 3.96 GPA, attends UNG on the state-funded Georgia Military Scholarship.

NEW INSTITUTE CREATED

UNG created the Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies, which is led by Dr. Billy Wells, senior vice president for executive affairs, who is also a retired Army colonel and a former professor of military science at the university.

The new Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies, through collaboration with the university’s academic affairs units, may result in new programs related to security and strategic studies. The institute is a cross-disciplinary organizational structure to support coordination of academic, co-curricular, career placement, and leadership development programs related to UNG’s Corps of Cadets.

“The concept of an institute to unify the diverse programmatic elements of our military leadership and students has been studied for the past two years and is being realized through collaboration among the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Student Affairs, the College of Arts & Letters, and the Office of Executive Affairs,” said UNG President Bonita Jacobs. “I applaud their work, and I am certain it will further strengthen the leadership development component of the UNG mission.”

DMS STUDENTS HONORED

UNG honored 15 cadets as Distinguished Military Students this fall for their academic and leadership accomplishments.

The group’s cumulative GPA is 3.68. Eleven are attending UNG on either the national Army ROTC Scholarship or the Georgia Military Scholarship.

Six have successfully graduated from Basic Combat Training and are currently serving in either the U.S. Army Reserve or the Georgia National Guard.

UNG HOSTS SENIOR MILITARY COLLEGES

UNG hosted the Senior Military Colleges Conference on the Dahlonega Campus, an event that welcomed administrators and cadets from the Citadel, Mary Baldwin College, Norwich University, Texas A&M University, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia Tech. The event also drew national ROTC representatives for the two-day conference that features discussions about current issues and concerns common among the military colleges.

NEW PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

Col. Brent Cummings has joined UNG as the new professor of military science. A career infantryman, Cummings is committed to continuing the Corps of Cadets’ legacy of excellence. Cummings arrived at UNG in mid-August, fresh from a yearlong assignment with the U.S. Security Coordinators office and U.S. State Department at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, Israel. Cummings coordinated training for Palestinian Authority Security Forces in the West Bank with the approval of the Israeli government to facilitate a two state solution — the second time he was given that assignment.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAM SENDS FIRST COHORT TO CHINA

The first cohort of cadets to participate in the capstone year for the university’s Chinese Language Flagship Program started their academic year in China. The Chinese Language Flagship program at UNG was established in 2011 as one of only three pilot ROTC programs in the nation. It is funded by the Defense Language National Security Education Office and is designed to provide intensive Chinese language and culture education in conjunction with ROTC requirements.

During the first four years of the Chinese Flagship, students take courses both at UNG and in China. During the fifth, or capstone, year in China, students take classes the first semester and participate in an internship the second semester.
This year, the University of North Georgia received two, five-year federal grants totaling more than $2.7 million to encourage students to enroll in and succeed in college.

The larger of the two grants, $2,123,342 from the U.S. Department of Education, establishes a College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) as part of a federally-funded initiative to increase college attendance and graduation among the nation’s migrant youth.

CAMP serves approximately 2,400 migrant participants annually through more than 35 colleges and universities. This grant will support up to 40 students each year at UNG’s Gainesville Campus through the University College, an academic unit particularly focused on student success initiatives and associate degree programs.

“The college-going rate for children of migrant and seasonal farm workers in Georgia tends to be much lower than other populations,” said Dr. Harriett Allison, associate professor of English as a Second Language and the program’s leader. “This grant will enable us to provide support to mitigate the educational, economic and cultural barriers that make it difficult for these students to enroll in or succeed in college initially.”

Students accepted into the program will receive support services that foster success to include a comprehensive orientation; academic, career and financial coaching; tutoring; peer mentoring; success skills workshops; and cultural activities.

A second five-year grant, nearly $615,000 from the National Science Foundation, provides 24 scholarships — 12 for students on the Gainesville Campus and 12 for students on the Dahlonega Campus — studying in specific fields in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM).

The grant is part of the Scholarship in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics project, which aims to increase the STEM workforce by recruiting, mentoring and supporting academically talented but financially disadvantaged students through degree completion, and partnering with employers to facilitate placement in the STEM workforce.

The grant undergirds UNG’s commitment to its students and supports their ability to focus on their studies by providing scholarship support to students who have demonstrated academic potential.
As demand grows in the north Georgia region for licensed mental health counselors, the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at UNG has opened a clinic that provides valuable experience for students, while also serving the community.

“Mental health needs in the north Georgia region are vast and the providers are minimal, and counseling can get very expensive,” said Dr. Clay Rowell, head of UNG’s Department of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. “Our clinic is fulfilling a serious need.”

During their final year in the program, students gain experience through year-long internships that require students to provide 20-25 hours of counseling services per week. Many of those hours are provided through the new Clinical Mental Health Counseling Center, which opened in April.

“Our center has seen a constant flow of people during its first months of operation,” said Dr. Susan Hurley, the center’s director. “We have seven interns now and all are seeing 2-3 clients per week. Next summer, we plan to have 16 interns ready to provide counseling services.”

Emma Fuchs, who is in her final year of the program, said the best part of the program has been the maximum class size of 15 students and the ability to build relationships with faculty.

“I’ve always been interested in why people make the decisions they do. Going into counseling and helping people see the ‘why’ and how those decisions are helpful or detrimental is very fulfilling to me,” she said. “I plan on working at a local practice after earning my degree. I also want to set up a veteran-to-veteran group in the Dahlonega area to help veterans in counseling connect with each other.”

Rowell noted that job growth for mental health counselors is expected to rise at a higher than average rate through 2020, and it is projected that close to 70,000 new counseling jobs will be created nationally. UNG graduates have posted a 100-percent pass rate on the national counselor examination, which is required for licensed mental health counselors, for the past three years.

UNG’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling program earned accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs in 2006.

For more information, see ung.edu/graduate/cmhc.
Global partnerships grow

UNG is increasing its partnerships with universities around the world to expand language education and cultural immersion experiences for students.

EXISTING
Germany, South Korea, Canada, Peru, China, Latvia, Oman, Morocco, Taiwan, Spain, and Turkey

LEARN MORE
1 – ITALY
JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY
Finalized in July to provide faculty-led summer programs in painting, photography, marketing and management for UNG students

2 – GERMANY
GOETHE-INSTITUT
Finalized in September to provide advanced language courses for UNG students

3 – BRAZIL
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SÃO JOÃO DEL-REI
Finalized in September to provide study abroad for UNG students and teaching internships in U.S. for UFSJ students

4 – POLAND
THE GENERAL TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO MILITARY ACADEMY OF THE LAND FORCES
Will establish a cadet exchange between UNG and the academy

5 – RUSSIA
KATANOV STATE UNIVERSITY OF KHAKASSIA
Partnership will establish a summer language program for UNG students

6 – SOUTH KOREA
DANKOOK UNIVERSITY
Partnership will initially bring Dankook student teachers to U.S.

COMING SOON
Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, Serbia, Georgia
Where I lead:
As a Steinway Artist
What led to you becoming a Steinway Artist?

**A:** My application to the Steinway Artist program was funded through a 2013 Presidential Professional Engagement Award, which President Bonita Jacobs initiated to support faculty professional development or research to support teaching and student success. In 2014, I also received a Presidential Professional Engagement Award to attend a classical music festival in Vienna, Austria, where I performed at Haydnsaal Hall, one of Europe’s premiere performance halls.

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**Q:** What does this international distinction from Steinway mean to you professionally?

**A:** It is an honor to join the distinguished international family of Steinway Artists. This prestigious designation indicates the high standards I’ve set through my artistic and professional career and that I am now formally included on a list of the most accomplished and discriminating artists in the world.

Steinway Artists enjoy access to the resources of the company’s worldwide network and receive assistance on every aspect related to performing on a piano. Having this support from the best piano maker in the world is very inspiring and it will promote my career even further as an international performing artist.

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**Q:** How were you selected?

**A:** To become a Steinway Artist, one must go through a highly selective and rigorous process. First, you send in your application listing all your achievements including all your performances, released CD recordings, reviews, etc. The designation is given to those who have already established a high reputation in the field. Then, you are asked to send in your recordings. All the materials are closely screened by a panel of international artists around the world. You also need a recommendation from another Steinway Artist or a Steinway dealer who knows your performing career well.

The review process typically takes around 8 to 12 months until the final deliberation is announced. It took me 10 months until I was notified of the happy verdict.

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**Q:** How has this designation and your efforts to earn it impacted your teaching?

**A:** As a music professor, being able to inspire students through music is a key element to successful teaching. In order to provide academic excellence to students as a piano faculty member at UNG, my performance on piano should be at the highest standard. Earning the designation of Steinway Artist speaks that I am a concertizing pianist who possesses an exceptional level of musical artistry on piano. A piano teacher doesn’t necessarily need to be a concert pianist, but a great teacher must appreciate and enjoy the challenges involved with sharing musical ideas in ways which help others understand and grow toward learning to play and love the instrument and its music.

My recent travels and concert opportunities allow me to share with students more than how to play the piano well, but also how to be well-rounded and educated musicians.
Athletics honors military through ‘Operation Nighthawks of Honor’

Through the 2015-16 competition year, the UNG athletics department will pay tribute to the nation’s armed services through the Operation Nighthawks of Honor initiative. Each of the university’s sports teams will celebrate military personnel, including 11 service members who are former or current UNG students.

“Operation Nighthawks of Honor is a special yearlong initiative that recognizes UNG’s rich tradition of military excellence,” said UNG Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves. “Our tight community of Nighthawks greatly respects and appreciates all that members of the armed services, past and present, sacrifice for our country.”

The annual Military Appreciation Days at soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball games also will take on the Operation Nighthawks of Honor theme.

Additionally, each of UNG’s intercollegiate teams will honor a specific UNG service member. The teams will honor these heroes in a variety of ways, ranging from displaying a commemorative jersey at games, jersey patches worn by current players, initials on team hats and other acts of remembrance to honor those who have served our country.

The final event of the year will be Operation Nighthawks of Honor Day on April 9, when the honorees and their families will be recognized before the UNG baseball game with Young Harris College. Some of the jerseys and mementos used by the Nighthawks teams throughout the year also will be raffled off in a silent auction, with all proceeds to benefit the UNG Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund.

One of only six federally designated senior military colleges in the nation, UNG is designated as The Military College of Georgia and its alumni include 50 general officers.

THE OPERATION NIGHTHAWKS OF HONOR HONOREES FOR 2015-16 ARE:

**Baseball:** LTC Amzi R. Quillian (World War II)

**Basketball (Men):** CPT Charles B. Johnson (Vietnam)

**Basketball (Women):**
CPT Jeremy A. Chandler (Afghanistan)

**Cross Country (Women):**
CPL Thomas Coggins (Afghanistan)

**Golf (Men):**
James E. Corley (World War II)

**Golf (Women):** MAJ Kevin Jenrette (Afghanistan)

**Rifle:**
CPT William A. Branch (Vietnam)

**Soccer (Women):**
SGT Andrew McConnell (Afghanistan)

**Soccer (Men):**
SFC Charles H. Warren (Iraq)

**Softball:**
CPT Robert A. Thompson (Vietnam)

**Tennis (Men and women):**
MAJ John Rudolph Pearson (Vietnam)

Ten of those to be honored are former UNG students who were killed while serving their country in the armed forces; Coggins is a wounded veteran currently enrolled at UNG.
Launching for success

UNG welcomed five nationally-recognized entrepreneurs in October to the university’s first StartItUp Conference, an event designed to provide students and business owners with strategies to launch or grow their own ventures.

Hosted by the Center for the Future of North Georgia, a unit of UNG’s Mike Cottrell College of Business, the event was attended by nearly 300 people, including UNG students, faculty, staff, high school students, and local business owners.

Speakers included Johnny “Cupcakes” Earle, apparel designer and BusinessWeek’s #1 Entrepreneur under 25; Tom Chernetsky of anonymous social app Yik Yak; Katie Dicke and Marcus Hollinger of Christian hip-hop and startup label Reach Records; and 11-year-old Beau Shell, the youngest-ever Zagat “30 Under 30” honoree and owner of the Lil’ Ice Cream Dude.

“I want to show everyone here an example of how you can follow your dream and turn it into a successful business,” Shell said. “But I also want to show what it really means to own a business. This includes reinvesting in and growing the business, marketing your brand, and giving back to the community that supports you. I think these lessons are also important for learning how to be successful in life.”

The Center for the Future of North Georgia develops and implements programs to inspire growth in the north Georgia region through entrepreneurship and economic and professional development.

Campaign to create Center for Tourism and Hospitality

With tourism as a significant industry in Georgia, UNG plans to establish the Bill T. Hardman Center for Tourism and Hospitality as an academic unit of the Mike Cottrell College of Business. UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs announced the $1.25 million campaign and a $100,000 lead gift from Donald and Nancy Panoz, founders of Château Élan Winery and Resort, to establish the center during a celebration on July 3 to honor Hardman and his work as Georgia’s first tourism director.

“Through his vision and leadership, Bill Hardman had a very positive economic impact on this region and the state,” Jacobs said. “For more than 20 years, UNG has hosted the Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College, a certification program for tourism professionals that Bill began. The Hardman Center at the University of North Georgia will help support the educational needs of individuals in tourism, which is a $57 billion industry for Georgia.”

Tourism supports more than 411,000 jobs and is Georgia’s fifth-largest employment base, according to the state’s Department of Economic Development. The Bill T. Hardman Center for Tourism and Hospitality will support experiences for students who wish to pursue careers in the hospitality and tourism industries as well as professionals in north Georgia who work in these fields.

Hardman, who died in 2013, was appointed the state’s first tourism director in 1959; in 1973, he helped secure a $30 million appropriation from state lawmakers to construct the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. He was inducted into the Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame in 2002.

For more information or to make a financial contribution in support of the Bill T. Hardman Center for Tourism and Hospitality, contact Bobbi Larson, development officer for the Mike Cottrell College of Business, at 706-864-1623 or bobbi.larson@ung.edu.
Research opportunities take faculty, students abroad

While UNG sends hundreds of students and faculty around the world each year for study and exchange opportunities, a growing number of university departments are breaking new ground by conducting research abroad.

This summer, the biology department took students to tropical reefs teeming with vibrant sea life off the coast of Belize and highland forests in Costa Rica, where 100 percent humidity keeps the treetops shrouded in mist.

In Costa Rica, students studied the ecology of cloud forests and conducted research on topics such as territorial vocalizations in hummingbirds, predator attacks on coral snakes and their mimics, and arthropod diversity in small pools within bromeliads, a type of plant.

“Bromeliads grow in such a way that their leaves collect pools of water in the canopy, and this water collects nutrients and insects for the plant from its environment,” said Josh Shirley, a UNG biology student. “Because deforestation can destroy these habitats, it’s important to know what organisms are living in these environments, as insects and other small organisms play many crucial roles in nature.”

In Belize, Dr. Nancy Dalman, head of the Department of Biology, and Jill Schulze, assistant dean of the College of Science & Mathematics, taught a course on tropical reef ecology in the biodiverse waters of Calabash Caye. Students had the opportunity to snorkel in the Meso-American Reef, the world’s second-largest barrier reef, and explore the Great Blue Hole, a sinkhole more than 1,000 feet wide and 400 feet deep.

This summer in the slums of Kampala, Uganda, Dr. Vinita Sangtani, associate professor of marketing in the Mike Cottrell College of Business at UNG, was part of a team working to combat the pervasive marketing of alcohol to youth that has led to widespread underage drinking.

Sangtani, who has a doctorate in marketing, is pursuing a master’s degree in public health to become involved in health promotion. She became interested in an ongoing project that her professor, Dr. Monica Swahn, mentioned during a class in spring 2015.

“When Dr. Swahn mentioned her project, I knew this was exactly what I had enrolled in the program for. The Mike Cottrell College of Business was supportive of my involvement and agreed to provide part funding,” Sangtani said.

Two major problems in how alcohol is marketed in Kampala lie in the placement of billboards and the size of the containers in which alcohol is sold, which sometimes are as small as 1.3 ounces, Sangtani said. More than a third of Kampala youth are exposed to alcohol advertising six or more times per week.
Construction adds residential, classroom space at UNG

Steady enrollment growth is creating a need for more instructional, living and recreational space on UNG’s campuses, and the university is responding with several major construction projects.

On the Oconee Campus, students, faculty, staff and community members in October celebrated the opening of a 14,000-square-foot addition to the Student Resource Center.

“Thanks to the support of the University System of Georgia (USG) and our state legislators, Rep. Chuck Williams, Rep. Regina Quick, Sen. Bill Cowsert, and Sen. Frank Ginn, we were able to complete construction of the building addition that provides more classrooms, labs and overall instructional space to our growing student population,” said Dr. Eric Skipper, UNG’s interim vice president for university affairs and CEO of the Oconee Campus.

Hank Huckaby, USG chancellor and a resident of Oconee County, was on hand for the ribbon-cutting.

“UNG has long been one of the more outstanding institutions in the University System of Georgia. The new addition is going to pay great dividends to students for many years to come,” Huckaby said.

On the Dahlonega Campus, construction is under way on The Commons, a new, four-story residence hall that will house approximately 536 students. Scheduled to open next fall, the new residence hall will be located across the street from the UNG Dining Hall. The project will bring the total number of residence halls on the Dahlonega Campus to nine.

“Many people have worked very hard to make this a gorgeous, inviting facility that will mirror the beauty that you see in this town and on this campus,” UNG President Bonita Jacobs said at a groundbreaking event in May. “I want to thank the legislature, the Board of Regents, the USG staff and our partners at Corvias Campus Living – we know this will benefit students for years to come.”

The new residence hall addresses a housing shortage that currently means students – not including cadets – who wish to live on campus must participate in a lottery for on-campus housing.

Under the agreement with Corvias Campus Living, UNG owns the land and Corvias will finance, construct and maintain the building, allowing the university to focus on residence life services and security.

A third major project, which is still in the initial design process, is the UNG Convocation Center in Dahlonega. The convocation center will be a multi-use facility that is expected to provide needed space for academic courses, physical training activities and large-scale university events, such as commencement ceremonies, athletic events and meetings.

“Totaling approximately 103,000 square feet, the center will house a new arena, academic offices, classrooms, clinical lab space and building support spaces,” said Mac McConnell, senior vice president for business and finance.

“The Health and Physical Education and Military Science academic programs will be supported by this project.”

The Board of Regents’ proposed budget for next year includes $29.3 million in construction funding for the Convocation Center, which is planned for development along Morrison Moore Parkway and will be transformational in supporting UNG’s growing facility needs.

UNG celebrated the opening of an addition to the Oconee Campus in October. Those who helped cut the ribbon were Kay Keller, president of the Oconee Chamber of Commerce; Grace Magrino, president of the Student Government Association; Mary Helen McGruder, chairman of the UNG Foundation, Inc.; UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs; USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby; Brian Daniel, president of Carroll Daniel Construction; Eric Skipper, CEO of the Oconee Campus and interim vice president for university affairs; Mac McConnell, senior vice president for business and finance.
(From left to right): Sisters Laura, Sara and Ava Stroker after a UNG commencement ceremony that recognized Laura and Ava for earning Associate of Science degrees in nursing.
‘Studying nursing at UNG was the right fit’

Three sisters learn to follow their passion – and lead

Following in the footsteps of their grandmother, all three sisters felt a calling to enter healthcare as nurses.

“I am passionate about my work because I feel a natural connection with learning about the human body and healthcare, which makes it very enjoyable,” Ava said. “Also, I am social and like being around people, and I enjoy seeing people get better and feel better.”

Laura completed her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing this summer, and is working at Gwinnett Medical Center in the intensive care unit. Her sisters, Ava and Sara, are pursuing bachelor’s degrees in nursing.

Ava began her degree at another school, but transferred to UNG after visiting with Laura during a tour, saying it “seemed like a better fit.” Sara, youngest of the three, was inspired by her sisters to choose UNG.

“Seeing my sisters go through their courses and clinicals, I loved how much enthusiasm they had, and I knew studying nursing at UNG was the right choice for me,” Sara said.

LEADING IN SCHOOL AND ON THE JOB

While at UNG, Laura participated with Sigma Kappa, UNG’s chapter of Kappa Lambda, and also was inducted into Tau Psi, UNG’s chapter for nursing honor society Sigma Theta Tau International.

She also received the Rising Star Award for her work at Gwinnett Medical Center — an award that recognizes nurses who have been qualified for less than five years who demonstrate the best of nursing and leadership skills, and inspire others to follow their example.

Ava is finishing her degree while working as a nurse in the medical/surgical unit at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, where she is already seen as a leader.

“I sometimes serve as a relief charge nurse, and oversee 35 beds and all the nurses caring for those patients during those shifts,” Ava said. “There is no part of the job I don’t like. Working in a hospital while pursuing a degree is a mutually beneficial process for both environments, and I learned a lot because of that. Seeing things in real life as you’re studying them in textbooks is invaluable.”

CAREER-READY

Ava plans to graduate in May and eventually wants to work in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Sara is completing her core classes now and will start her nursing classes in January at UNG. She wants to work in a cardiac intensive care unit and is confident she’ll be ready for her career as a nurse when she graduates.

“UNG has an environment where all the teachers are helpful, and the nursing instructors make certain that you are prepared to go into the field,” Sara said.
Diversity initiatives enhance university culture

President Bonita C. Jacobs has appointed Sheila Caldwell as advisor to the president on diversity at UNG to build on institutional diversity efforts.

“Building on the work already underway, Sheila will work with our constituencies to develop and implement initiatives that will enable all members of the university community to thrive and contribute to our mission of educating and preparing students to become leaders in a diverse and global society,” said UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs.

Caldwell, who joined UNG in July 2013 as director of the university’s Complete College Georgia initiative, a statewide initiative aimed at increasing the percentage of Georgia’s population with some level of college completion to 60 percent to meet projected workforce needs, will continue to lead that work in addition to her new role.

“I feel that my two roles are perfectly aligned, as both address diversity, inclusion, academic excellence, and student success,” Caldwell said. “My role as diversity advisor to the president is to serve as a change agent to nurture diversity and inclusion at the university, which will improve educational experiences for all our stakeholders and encourage a stronger UNG.”

Caldwell’s short-term priorities include crafting a UNG Diversity Statement and Diversity Strategic Plan. Long-term goals for the university include hiring and retaining high-caliber, diverse faculty and staff; creating awareness, developing employee competencies, and building skills to ensure a more inclusive learning and work environment; supporting and strengthening current diversity initiatives; and implementing diversity awards for faculty and staff who champion diversity.

This fall, the university launched a Presidential Diversity Speaker Series.

“The interactive and engaging workshops presented through the speaker series we started support UNG’s mission to prepare students to be leaders,” Caldwell said. “Students will have the opportunity to understand the benefits of embracing diversity and inclusive excellence in a rapidly changing society. Faculty and staff will be equipped with high-impact strategies to increase cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and diversity and inclusion in the classroom. All stakeholders are invited to invest in their personal and professional growth by learning how to create an environment that ensures a better and stronger UNG.”

UNG also introduced a new graduate-level special topics course centered on diversity. Titled “Studies in Diversity Issues,” the course focuses on issues involving diversity and multiculturalism from a variety of perspectives and academic disciplines. The course is part of a new certificate in diversity studies in development by UNG.
Heading: Internships: Career kick-starters

From Atlanta to Hawaii, UNG students are making their mark around the nation in internships that are providing life-changing, career-boosting opportunities and experience.

“We strongly encourage students, whenever possible, to pursue an internship during their junior or senior year. Internships allow them to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to a real-world setting, but it gives them that relevant work experience that employers look for,” said Dora Ditchfield, UNG’s director of career services.

“Employers want to know that students know and can apply the academic knowledge, and can also function in a professional environment, which is often different from the academic world.”

Allie Dobbs, who will graduate in December with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, completed an internship with RaceTrac Petroleum, Inc., at the company’s headquarters in Atlanta. She was the company’s first intern from UNG. She and 19 other interns worked in individual roles, and teams of five took on group projects. At the end of the internship, each group presented the project to a collection of about 30 company executives.

Dobbs won the Best Performer Award from among the interns, and in January will begin a full-time job with the company as an entry-level developer, writing code and applications to support various departments.

Sara Jo Margherio completed an internship at Walt Disney World this past spring. More than 300 applied for the competitive internship, which requires students to have a 3.0 GPA or higher and to have completed at least 48 credit hours.

“Working at the park as a paid intern gave me the opportunity to have an amazing experience with each guest I encountered, no matter their age,” Margherio said.

Ethan Crosby put off graduating for a semester so he could spend the summer in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he gained invaluable experience as an intern at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. “Being here gives me exposure to international relations studies at work and in action,” said Crosby.

The center addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive program of executive education and workshops throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

“The center is a leading contributor to diplomacy in the Indo-Asia Pacific region by making political connections and facilitating discussions through transparency, mutual respect and inclusion — the three guiding principles of the center,” Crosby said. “Being there gave me exposure to international relations studies at work and in action.”

Interested in hiring a UNG student intern?

Learn more at ung.edu/careers.
Ready to serve

New public safety academy provides career credentials
Hope Mainieri of Woodstock, Georgia, practices subduing a subject while her instructor, POST program director Butch Newkirk, looks on. (Photos by Scott Rogers, ’95)
For many, serving in law enforcement is a calling, and criminal justice has long been one of the most popular majors at the University of North Georgia. Now, UNG’s new Public Safety Academy gives students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice the option to simultaneously earn certification from the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Council — allowing them to graduate job-ready and save thousands of dollars.

Criminal justice graduates are in high demand in the region, said state Rep. Kevin Tanner (’95), who also spent 18 years working in law enforcement with the Dawson County Sheriff’s Office.

“There is a shortage of qualified employees in the area of law enforcement, so the agencies in this area are always recruiting and hiring,” Tanner said. “UNG can turn out graduates with this practical experience at no expense to the agency, and that’s going to be a tremendous savings in cost and in time that the candidate would be away from their job at another police academy. Plus, graduates will have the leadership skills that UNG is so good at instilling in graduates.”

UNG is the only public four-year school in Georgia with a public safety academy and one of only a couple of institutions in the nation to offer law enforcement certification within a four-year degree program. The academy is generating a lot of interest from area agencies.

“The development of the POST program provides UNG graduates with multiple opportunities in criminal justice and law enforcement and serves a critical need in fulfilling state law enforcement needs,” said Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of UNG’s College of Arts & Letters, which houses the Department of Criminal Justice. “We are excited about what this program will do for our students and the state of Georgia.”

George M. Albert, a student from Dahlonega, plans to follow a family tradition of service in law enforcement.

“When I discovered that UNG offered the chance to become POST certified, I instantly knew that this was how I could best position myself to be a qualified candidate for a police agency after I graduate,” Albert said. “After I graduate from UNG, I plan to join a large, professional police agency, become specialized in a field like K-9, criminal investigations, or SWAT, and gain more experience. I plan to become a leader in my field and my agency.”

Unlike other certification programs and academies, which cost $3,800, the optional UNG Public Safety Academy carries a $900 fee, beyond normal tuition and fees associated with the degree, which includes application and background check expenses, uniform and equipment. Acceptance into the academy requires approval by POST, and is open only to those pursuing a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at UNG’s Dahlonega Campus.

Most of the POST-required content already was being taught in UNG courses, said Dr. Jennifer Allen, head of UNG’s Department of Criminal Justice, so only minimal curriculum changes were needed.

“The UNG Public Safety Academy option allows students to be job-ready at graduation and offers a credential and additional training that students from other programs won’t have at graduation. This program teaches students hands-on skills that they can use right away while in college and in the field immediately after graduation,” Allen said. “This also is a credential that can be recognized in other states.”

The cost of typical, 11-week POST certification courses sometimes is borne by law enforcement agencies or local governments, who must wait as long as six months for a new hire to be certified as a full officer. Many elect to hire certified or experienced officers instead, making it a tough job market for recent graduates.

Tanner, who spent 11 of his 18 years in law enforcement hiring deputies, said POST certification coupled with a bachelor’s degree will provide a distinct advantage for UNG graduates.

“When you have someone who comes in with a college degree but no POST training or experience, they go to work in the jail like anyone else who doesn’t have a degree,” Tanner said. “But when these UNG graduates walk in with POST certification and sit in front of someone who’s interviewing 20 candidates for a job, they are going to the top of the list.”

For Gillian Baker, a student from Forsyth County, Georgia, her interest in law enforcement was fed by participation and eventual leadership positions in the Explorer program through the Forsyth County Sheriff’s Office.
“I decided that getting certified along with my degree would provide a leg up when applying to potential agencies in the future,” Baker said. “I am interested in criminology and would love to join the FBI someday.”

Ken Vance, executive director of Georgia POST Council and a 38-year veteran of law enforcement, is an enthusiastic supporter of UNG’s Public Safety Academy. The council voted unanimously in June to approve UNG’s academy.

“The commitment by UNG staff and administration and the expertise of Dr. Jennifer Allen and instructors like Butch Newkirk and John Cagle, both law enforcement veterans, are top-notch. I’ve already sat in on their classes that will be part of this program, and I was really impressed,” Vance said. “They know what it takes and that’s what makes this program so exciting and so needed in Georgia. This program will establish a professional standard in Georgia that others will aspire to emulate.”

Tanner said he hopes that the POST program is just one more step in the growth of UNG’s Department of Criminal Justice.

“I really see this, under the leadership of UNG President Bonita Jacobs and Dr. Jennifer Allen as being the first step in expanding the criminal justice program to be the premiere program in the state and in the Southeast,” Tanner said. “I’m very excited about the opportunities it brings to UNG.

In a typical POST academy, students spend 11 weeks learning 12 critical areas; at UNG, academy students will study all 12 areas, and
spend an entire academic course — 16 weeks — studying areas like ethics and use of force, Newkirk said.

Beyond courses required for the degree, students in the UNG Public Safety Academy have to complete additional training, field lab experiences and written examinations after each POST-mandated course. Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, academy students will have earned the basic law enforcement mandate certification and additional certifications in Taser, OC spray, ASP baton and patrol rifle.

The program will be cohort-based, with applicants accepted only in fall and spring; Allen estimates 25 to 30 students in each cohort.

Joey DellaPiana, a UNG cadet and POST student from Kennesaw, Georgia, hopes to pursue a career with the uniformed division of the U.S. Secret Service after serving in the U.S. Army. “Once I discovered that I could become a certified police officer after graduation it made so much more sense in order to obtain a job in the future.”

**Col. William Pallozzi**

Col. William “Bill” Pallozzi, a 1988 UNG graduate, was appointed secretary of the Maryland Department of State Police and superintendent of the Maryland State Police on Feb. 17. He is only the third superintendent in 94 years to have held every rank in the department. He joined the department in 1989, having completed a summer internship in 1987 while pursuing his degree in criminal justice at UNG.

How did you choose to attend the University of North Georgia and study criminal justice?

My father often travelled to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, to visit his agents while in training. He became friends with a senior staff member who had two sons who had attended there and loved it. My father asked me to look at the school, and I thought he was crazy! But after visiting the campus and talking with several students, I decided to give it a try. Once I went through FROG Week and made some good friends, I was hooked.

How did your education and experience at the university prepare you for a successful career in law enforcement?

I have always said that it made me the leader I am today. The Corps of Cadets gave me a solid foundation in leadership, discipline, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence. The academics gave me a solid, well-rounded base of knowledge to build upon as I began my military and law enforcement career.

Are there specific courses or instructors you feel were particularly influential?

Dr. Leo Downing was my academic advisor and an incredible influence on me. The day after I was unanimously confirmed by the Maryland Senate, I sent Dr. Downing an email thanking him for his guidance and support many years ago and letting him know that I will be forever grateful for his support and leadership.

What advice would you have for students who are considering pursuing a degree in criminal justice and/or attending the University of North Georgia?

Take advantage of everything the school has to offer. It is not by accident that so many very successful people got their start at North Georgia. The school is a special place and has produced great leaders so many professions, not just the military. I was very impressed to learn that the Department of Criminal Justice had gained approval to integrate a Police Academy option into the curriculum so that graduates have POST certification upon completion of a bachelor’s degree. This certification will allow those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement to be even better prepared upon graduation.
Students cREATe new possibilities for physically disabled

Physical therapy clients facing unique challenges often have to adapt to devices and equipment that are manufactured in bulk. However, four clients of UNG’s Department of Physical Therapy received custom-engineered devices this summer to fit their particular needs, courtesy of an innovative collaboration between UNG and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Physical therapy faculty and staff hosted nine industrial design and engineering students and their faculty team leader from Georgia Tech in July during an event dubbed “creating rehab engineering and assistive technology experiences,” or cREATe for short.
1: Four teams of UNG physical therapy students and Georgia Tech industrial design students worked with unique clients to determine their needs and what kind of device would best suit those needs.

2: UNG student Stephen Clack (right) and his fellow team members take measurements of their client to design a portable device that will allow the client to sit upright with less pain and allow for a broader range of activities.

3: After determining what kind of device to make, a team examines how the device needs to support their client’s spine.

4: As the teams progressed in understanding the needs of their clients, they began collaborating on designs for their devices.

5: After one week of work with clients, drafting their designs and building rough prototypes, the Georgia Tech students returned to their workshop to build each team’s final product.

6: At the end of the project, the teams delivered the devices to each client, free of charge. Here, one client has his first experience with his custom-made play environment that will encourage him to sit up straight and engage his motor skills and senses of sight, touch and hearing.
PRESSING FORWARD
University press thriving amid shifts in publishing process

Dr. Bonnie “B.J.” Robinson, professor of English at UNG and director of University of North Georgia Press, said changes in the publishing industry provide much of the momentum behind what UNGP has been able to accomplish.

“All of the recent innovations in publishing literally allow us to exist. These changes have shifted publications from traditional print editions of limited runs to print-on-demand with limitless availability,” Robinson said. “This shift has allowed for significant cost reductions in production, distribution, and fulfillment. Social media and the internet have also played key roles in reducing marketing costs for publishers to a fraction of what they once were.”

One of UNGP’s most significant advances also stands to save students hundreds of thousands of dollars: accessible and affordable — and sometimes free — digital textbooks. UNG’s digital textbook initiative has been recognized by University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby; the press is working on another 10 digital texts for online core curriculum classes that would be used by students throughout the USG.

A scholarly, peer-reviewed press, the primary function of UNGP is to promote education and research. One way it promotes education and helps feed innovation is to utilize student interns to help with publishing operations.

“We had four interns this past semester; all of our interns have great opportunities to learn about all the elements of publishing, such as accepting manuscripts, editing, and layout design,” said Amy Beard, clerical assistant for UNGP. “We also introduce them to the marketing side of publishing through marketing research and social media trends.”

UNGP also provides student opportunities through research journals such as Papers and Pubs, which is now managed through the university’s Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities.

In a new venture, UNGP is creating a subsidiary, the Military Press of Georgia (MPG), to publish and distribute military texts.

“The purpose of publishing open texts with UNGP and MPG is to promote greater accessibility and distribution of scholarly communications,” Robinson said. “In this way, UNGP and MPG support the educational mission of the University of North Georgia. MPG’s open texts will, in particular, support the university’s new Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies’ educational and research goals by sharing specialized research and scholarship.”

MPG will publish scholarly, peer-reviewed manuscripts focused on original works. Two journals already are planned: an international publication of student research and a publication aimed at professionals in the field. The cadet-oriented journal will guide an exchange between U.S. cadets and European cadets, Robinson said, and will include work written in countries outside the United States and translated into English. Also, The Journal on Security Studies will be produced both electronically and print-on-demand through an agreement with The Army Press, a new organization in the U.S. Army under the Army University.

“The MPG publications will promote a deeper and more holistic understanding of leadership, culture, history, practice and theory,” Robinson said.

While traditional presses may be suffering with the 21st century shift away from mass production of printed materials, the University of North Georgia Press is thriving in the digital age.
Where I lead: Agriculture-based market development
How did you get involved with Northeast Georgia Locally Grown?

A: The website links more than 40 independent farmers in Rabun, Hall, Habersham and adjacent counties with customers interested in purchasing meat, produce, bread and even skin care products grown in local, chemical-free environments using sustainable production practices. I became involved by volunteering my time and mapping skills for service-learning projects through UNG's Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis (IESA). As a volunteered, I prepared local food orders and created custom maps for an annual event. My experiences volunteering and strong interest in environmental aspects of food production and distribution helped me develop a relationship with the co-founder of NGLG, Dr. Justin Ellis, and the community surrounding this initiative.

Q: What is your personal mission as part of NGLG?

A: My personal mission in working with NGLG is to understand the dynamics of small-scale agriculture and local food systems in the context of our environment — meaning everything around us, from soil and water to human relationships.

Q: How did UNG prepare you to meet these demands?

A: Complex issues require a multi-disciplinary approach. UNG’s IESA provided a multi-disciplinary approach and prepared me by providing a foundation using Geographical Information Systems, a powerful tool to understand and communicate our environment as it relates to location; promoting the value of combining the hard and soft sciences when making long-term decisions; and incorporating a service-learning component into the curriculum and getting students out into their communities.

Q: How has your role grown since you began?

A: In the summer of 2014, grant funding helped NGLG expand its operation to Hall County. I presented my interest in managing the Gainesville site and coordinating projects outlined in the federal grant, increasing my contributions to the local food movement before I graduated from UNG. I was fortunate to experience a seamless transition from volunteering as a student, to valuable time in the nonprofit sector after graduating. My roles include: project coordinator for a federal grant, event coordinator for a regional agritourism event, and NGLG market manager for the Gainesville site. Each of these roles requires different skill sets and involve computer time, field time, and even some mapping.
1960s

Jim Cravens, ’66, retired in 2009 after 43 years in the Army and defense industry. He and Jo Beth live in Simpsonville, S.C. near their three grandsons. He and Jo Beth attended her 50th reunion this past spring and had a great time socializing with friends. He plans on attending his 50th reunion next April and hopes many others in ’66 and ’65 will do the same.

Bubba (a.k.a. Paul) Lockard, ’66, is retired and living in Mississippi. He says he has set a new record for number of old cars in his yard and uses the radiators to assist with his new hobby – making moonshine. Paul also says he added on to the trailer last year, and they now have what you might call a TRIPLE WIDE. He is looking forward to seeing friends at the 50th reunion in April!

Joe Malcom, ’66, retired to Georgia after 27 years in the Army with tours in Vietnam and Desert Storm and 10 years as a defense contractor. He has since lived in Canada and now Florida where he teaches Sunday school, Wednesday Bible study and is president of Gideons of North Brevard County. After the 50th reunion, he and Christa are going on a seven-day rafting adventure on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, which Joe says will be easier than the first seven days at then-NGC.

Jim Melton, ’66, and his wife Sandy will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Monument Valley, several national parks in Utah, and their favorite destination – Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Their retirement relocation to Cumming, Georgia, in 2012 was their 25th move. Jim spent 10 years in the Army followed by 36 years in the computer industry, which provided them a wonderful opportunity to live in Berlin, Stuttgart, Columbus (GA), Roswell (GA), San Jose (Calif.), Dallas, and San Diego. Their daughter once quipped that “other people travel to various places in the USA on vacation, we just move there.” Sandy simply replies “it’s been a helluva ride.” Jim and Sandy look forward to seeing all of their classmates at their upcoming 50th reunion in April.

Elizabeth Lord Rhodes, ’66, retired from teaching after 30 years and 13 years of political fund-raising. She is now a full time traveler.

Col. (Ret.) Richard Taylor, ’66, was a finalist in the Georgia Author of the Year Awards in 2015 for his novel Return to Eden. This is the second book in a series of generational novels of love in wartime. Eden Lost is set in the Philippine-American War, Return to Eden in WW II, and Almost Eden in Vietnam.

1970s

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) William Johnson, ’72, ran his 36th consecutive Peachtree Road Race this year. Due to his passion for the annual race, he coordinated its presence in overseas combat zones beginning in 2004-2005, during his deployment to Kuwait. This year, the Atlanta Track Club supported three overseas locations, Bagram, and two that MG Johnson had started, Ali Al Salem and Camp Arifjan.

Susan Robinson, ’73, associate professor of accounting in the School of Business Administration at Georgia Southwestern State University, is the 2015 recipient of the Professor of the Year Award.

Robert S. Davis, ’76, appeared on the History Channel documentary, The Civil War in Color, and received the Hollis Award from the South Carolina Historical Society for the best article by a professional historian. The article identified “An American,” the anonymous author of American Husbandry (1775), as wealthy slave trader Richard Oswald of Scotland. The discovery was made using previously unidentified letters by John Lewis Gervais of South Carolina about their settlement project in the southern backcountry. Davis’ research into Kate Sothern’s murder of Narcissa Fowler in Pickens County, Georgia, in 1876, a national issue of its time, will be featured in an upcoming episode of Deadly Women on the Investigation Discovery Channel.

Send us your news! Your classmates want to know what you’ve been up to. Send your updates to alumni@ung.edu – we’ll help spread the word. If you send a picture along, too, be sure it is at least 300 dots per inch (dpi) to ensure print quality.

1966 Catch up with your classmates in person and celebrate your 50th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2016 taking place April 22-24. If you would like to volunteer to help coordinate your reunion please email us at alumni@ung.edu
Nancy Duncan Mason, ’76, will be starting third year as a school nurse near San Antonio, Texas. Nancy says she loves the little ones and the new things that happen every day.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael T. Dooley, ’79, was recently featured in an article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution reflecting on his father’s years of service during World War II. Dooley’s grandmother, at the time, was a given a four-star flag from the president to display which designated her having four sons serving in the war at the same time. Dooley himself served from 1979-2002 with a wide range of assignments including serving as assistant commandant for North Georgia College. Michael retired in 2002 and has been a civil servant assigned to Fort Sill.

Andy Penick, ’81, is a Strategic Buyer and Global Category Lead with Marel Stork Poultry Processing Inc. in Gainesville, Georgia. Andy lives in Dacula, Georgia, and has two grown children – Sarah Beth and Dusty. In school Penick was a Sig Ep, Delta Company.

Emily Dunn, ’83, was named chairman of the State Transportation Board in August. Dunn, who lives in Blue Ridge, Georgia, was elected to the board in 2011 and represents Georgia’s 9th Congressional District. She is a business and civic leader, president of an amusement company and a registered nurse with a BSN from UNG.

Doug Lundy, ’86, was named to the Top Regional Doctors in Orthopaedic Surgery for 2014-2015 by Castle Connelly, a directory that aids consumers in researching physicians. Lundy has also been named a Top Doc in Orthopaedic Surgery by Atlanta Magazine each year since 2011.

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Michael Scholes, ’88, has been named county manager for Sedgwick County, Kansas. Scholes, a Gulf War veteran has served in various leadership positions, led combat missions in Iraq and managed peacekeeping forces in the Balkan republic of Kosovo.

Bill Mitchell ’86 has been named President, Dunkin’ Brands International, giving him responsibility for nearly 8,500 Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins restaurants located in 61 countries outside the U.S. Mitchell joined Dunkin’ Brands in 2010 and most recently had responsibility for Baskin-Robbins in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, as well as for both brands in China and Korea. Prior to Dunkin’ Brands, Mitchell worked for Papa John’s, ultimately serving as the company’s president for global operations. He has also held management positions at a variety of other food service companies, including AFC Enterprise, the RTM Restaurant Group and PepsiCo as part of the KFC management team. Before entering the restaurant industry, Mitchell served as an officer in the Army.

Lt. Gen. William Garrett III, ’81, U.S. European Command Deputy Commander, met Erika Evans, a UNG student, in June, when Evans successfully completed a four-month internship with EUCOM’s J-5/8 Policy, Strategy and Partnering Directorate. Evans was also selected as a Fulbright Scholar to continue her studies in international affairs. Garrett presented Evans with a coin and thanked her for her outstanding work, especially her efforts in support of the Northern European Chiefs of Defense Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May.

Bill Mitchell ’86 has been named President, Dunkin’ Brands International, giving him responsibility for nearly 8,500 Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins restaurants located in 61 countries outside the U.S. Mitchell joined Dunkin’ Brands in 2010 and most recently had responsibility for Baskin-Robbins in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, as well as for both brands in China and Korea. Prior to Dunkin’ Brands, Mitchell worked for Papa John’s, ultimately serving as the company’s president for global operations. He has also held management positions at a variety of other food service companies, including AFC Enterprise, the RTM Restaurant Group and PepsiCo as part of the KFC management team. Before entering the restaurant industry, Mitchell served as an officer in the Army.

1986

Catch up with your classmates in person and celebrate your 30th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2016 taking place April 22-24. If you would like to volunteer to help coordinate your reunion please email us at alumni@ung.edu

Pictured left from left to right: 1st Lt. Michael Dykstra, ’12, Capt. Craig Henderson, ’07, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, ’88, 1st Lt. Jason Goza, (primary jumpmaster) ’10, Maj. Chris Powell, ’03, at Nightstalker Drop-zone just outside of Fort Stewart, Georgia, in May. They were jumping CH-47s with the MC-6 parachute as part of the airborne safety week training with active, reserve and guard units hosted by the Georgia Army National Guard.

1980s

Catch up with your classmates in person and celebrate your 40th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2016 taking place April 22-24. If you would like to volunteer to help coordinate your reunion please email us at alumni@ung.edu
UNG alumnus Mark Peterson is the new superintendent for Jacksonville City Schools in Alabama. Petersen earned his master’s degree in middle grades education from UNG in 1987; he also holds a doctorate and an education specialist degree in educational leadership from UGA and a bachelor’s in elementary education from the University of Minnesota. Petersen previously served as superintendent of Greenwood 52 School District in Ninety Six, South Carolina, and as superintendent of McDuffie County Schools and Lanier County Schools in Georgia.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Synder, ‘90, (left) represented UNG at the Investiture of Dr. Kitts at the University of North Alabama. Snyder is recently retired, and his final assignment was as the Professor of Military Science at UNA, so it was very fitting that he attended on behalf of UNG.

Lt. Col. David Brown, ’91, was recently awarded the “Colonel Lester Hopper Historian of the Year Award” by Southeast Region Commander Colonel Alvin Bedgood. He won the award in annual competition with unit historians from Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Colonel Brown is currently assigned to the Wing Headquarters Squadron as the Command Historian for the Georgia Wing, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

Stephen Pruitt, ’91, is the new Kentucky education commissioner. Pruitt’s experience includes chief of staff, associate state superintendent, director of academic standards, and science and mathematics program manager with the Georgia Department of Education; and high school chemistry teacher in Fayetteville and Tyrone, Georgia.

Nancee Thomas Worley, ’91, was selected as Teacher of the Year at Coal Mountain Elementary, in Cumming, Georgia. She has been teaching there for 23 years and was humbled by the selection of TOTY by her peers. “It is the students that I go to school for each day!”

Like father, like son. Nat Nations and Tom Cato, both class of ’93, were roommates. Now, their sons Dakota Brokaw and Carson Cato are in Golf Company and are roommates. Carson is the grandson of Col. Robert Barclay, former Commandant of Cadets.

Michelle Prater, ’95, is the new president and CEO of the North Georgia Community Foundation. Prater has previously managed Gwinnett County fundraising for United Way of Greater Atlanta, and has also served as senior representative at Map International, director of resource development at United Way of Forsyth County and U.S. finance/sales manager for Leadership Development International.

Lt. Col. Cliff Sawyer, ’97, is now leading The Medium Altitude/Endurance Product Office within the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office. The MAE UAS PO is responsible for the lifecycle management of the Gray Eagle and Hunter programs, charged to actively manage the resources, program cost, performance and schedule as well as provide assessments of the program status, risk and contractor.
Dr. Bryson Payne, ’97, published a book in May titled, Teach Your Kids to Code: A Parent-Friendly Guide to Python Programming. The book was a #1 Best Seller in Children’s Programming Books and a #1 Hot New Release in three programming categories on Amazon. Payne started writing the book using simple, visual programs he developed with his sons when they were 2 and 4 years old (now 5 and 7), and he included playable games and interactive graphics all the way up to the freshman-level computer science courses he teaches at UNG. Payne also achieved promotion to tenured full professor this year at UNG, where he has taught for 15 years and served as the first department head of computer science. He lives in Cumming, Georgia, with his wife Bev and two sons, Alex and Max, and welcomes contact from UNG friends via Facebook or on Twitter at @brysonpayne.


Kelly Audia earned his master’s degree in education at UNG in 2002, and was hired as Xavier University’s assistant volleyball coach in June. He previously coached at Clemson University and Georgia State University.

Dr. Andrea J. Ramirez, ’04, recently opened L.E.A.F. Therapy Services LLC, a private mental health practice in Tifton, Georgia. As a student, Ramirez was a member of the Golden Eagle Band and a member of Chaplin Corps.

Dr. Randi Sagona, ’05, will be taking over Riverview Middle School in Dawson County. Sagona is the outgoing assistant principal at Piney Grove Middle School in Forsyth County. Randi has 27 years of experience in education, having previously served as a graduation coach in Forsyth County, as well as a special education teacher in New York and Florida. She received an education specialist degree in Educational Leadership from the University of North Georgia.

Ali Leonard, ’06, is currently enrolled at the University of Maryland in the Biophysics doctoral program, where she is researching the interaction between beryllium and phosphoserine that leads to berylliosis.

Ryan Stratis, ’06, has competed on NBC’s hit show American Ninja Warrior for all seven seasons. His most recent try out was part of a military appreciation episode, in which only active and prior service members could compete. After finishing his time in the Georgia Army National Guard, Ryan has become more focused on personal training and obstacle course racing. He currently works at a new parkour and obstacle course training facility in Marietta, Georgia, called Ninja Quest Fitness.

Annie Mendenhall, ’07, helped compose and edit the custom handbook for Armstrong State University’s first-year composition program.

Capt. Cameron West, ’08, was severely injured in 2010 while returning to his Marine platoon’s outpost in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province’s Sangin District after leading a hunt for Taliban insurgents. In December, he will receive a specially adapted home from “Homes For Our Troops” in Acworth, Georgia, with accessible entrances, open layout, lower countertops and a safe shower. He and his wife Madison became parents to their first child, a baby girl, in December 2014. A home adapted to Cameron’s injuries will allow them to spend more time as a family.

Jordan Chambers, ’09, works in electronics distribution for Arrow Electronics. Chambers worked for International Business Machines Corporation in China for four years and with Veeam Software for two years.

Rochelle Tiedermann, ’09, recently completed her Ph.D. in biochemistry at the Medical College of Georgia and accepted a position with the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Terrell Ussing, ’09, represented Amazon.com, Inc. against the Internal Revenue Service in one of the largest tax cases in United States history with a tax bill around $1.5 billion.

John Joseph Castellucci, ’10, and Emily Megan Snow were married in August in King, North Carolina. He is a project manager for JH Media Group in Athens, Georgia.

Daniel Medina, ’10, works for ATI Testing as an environmental technician. Married in 2013, Medina now resides in Marietta, Georgia.
Chris Stromberg, ’10, and James Herndon, ’14, are among the first 36 Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows, announced in by Gov. Nathan Deal. The highly competitive program recruits recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math—the STEM fields—and prepares them specifically to teach in high-need secondary schools. Each Fellow receives $30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master’s degree program based on a year-long classroom experience. In return, Fellows commit to teach for three years in the urban and rural New Jersey schools that most need strong STEM teachers.

Bradley McKibben, ’12, (center) graduated with his Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education with a Minor in Educational Research Methodology in May 2015 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is an assistant professor of counselor education at The University of Alabama, where he is teaching core counseling and clinical mental health classes and conducting research in counseling leadership and clinical supervision. He also serves as a faculty advisor for the counseling program’s Rho Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society for professional counselors. He also recently transitioned from a student associate editor to associate editor for Chi Sigma Iota’s Exemplar newsletter, which was awarded a 2015 APEX Award of Excellence for Newsletters.

Zack Agerton, ’13, will spend the next two years teaching English in Samoa with the Peace Corps. He previously was the interim director of special events for The Ability Experience, a national non-profit organization that sends volunteer construction teams to add accessible amenities to facilities at summer camps for people with disabilities.

Rebecca LeCroy, ’13, departed for Japan this fall to work for one year as an assistant language teacher of English.

Bryant Bust, ’11, earned his master’s in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Valdosta State University in May and published an article in the June 2015 issue of the International Journal of Selection and Assessment. He intends on going back to school to pursue a doctorate.

Chelsea Gibson, ’11, took an eight-week Russian course at Indiana University this summer and plans to earn her doctorate by 2017.

Tommy Jackson, ’11, earned his doctorate in physical therapy from UNG and works at Pro Therapy in Blairsville, Georgia. His wife, Mary Jackson, ’11, is currently staying at home with their daughter Ellie.

Capt. William Wilcox, ’11, was promoted to Captain in May, and he moved to Fort Lee, Virginia, in September to attend the Combined Logistics Captains Career Course.

Christie Humphreys, ’12, married D.J. Humphreys in May.

Megan Barr, ’13, got married in April and currently resides with her husband in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Kate Hayes, ’13, completed a fellowship at Goddard Space Flight Center this summer. Hayes received a Scientist in the Classroom fellowship through Vanderbilt for the 2015-2016 school year.

Jacob Kelly, ’13, married Margaret Kellum in May and works with Walker Therapy in Gainesville, Georgia. He will finish the Doctor of Physical Therapy program in spring 2016. Kelly is the current Resident Director of Donovan Hall.

Taylor Turner, ’13, received the “pigeon” at the Honors Program 20th reunion reception and is in her third year of teaching.

Alex Ellis, ’14, is working as a script writer and video producer for Finicity in Gainesville, Georgia.

Ben Hefner, ’14, was named to the 2015 U.S. Senior National Team and U23 World Championship Team. He competed at the 2015 International Canoe Federation Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships, the ICF Canoe Sprint Junior and U23 World Championships, and the 2015 World Cup.

Katherine Jones, ’14, is currently working for MarktSource.

Katie Powell, ’14, teaches eighth-grade Physical Science, coaches high school volleyball and swimming, and is pursuing her master’s degree in middle grades math and science at UNG.

Caitlin Ritchey, ’14, is in her second year of teaching at Lumpkin County High School.

Ashley Hamby, ’15, teaches third grade at Fair Street Elementary School in Gainesville, Georgia.

Josh McCausland, ’15, is working at the National Institutes of Health in Rockville, Maryland.
Former Dean Mike Hyams joined alumni (from left), Carla Neal Quinn, ’90, Michelle Fite Wilder, ’86, Allie Bradley, and Travis Scott at the annual Alumni Association reception following the Gold Rush Days parade.
In Memoriam

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Ms. Joy A. Bruce ’00 – April 25, 2015
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Mr. Samuel R. d’Entremont
Digital Vault, LLC
Dr. and Mrs. Harry S. Downs
Mr. Lee C. Duncan
Ms. Sarah A. Dunn
COL (Ret.) Donald C. DuRant
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Dusenberry
Mrs. Darla J. Eden
Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Ellis
Dr. Wendy Estes
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Faulkner
Mr. and Mrs. Danny J. Fausett
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Fender
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Ford
Dr. Barry D. Friedman
William "Bill" T. McDonald, an alumnus of the first class of students at the former Gainesville Junior College, is working to establish a music scholarship for music students to honor former professor T.J. Burns.

McDonald donated his entire music collection to UNG to be sold, with proceeds used to establish a scholarship. "T.J. Burns started the music program at Gainesville College and was the first music director," McDonald said. "T.J. was a remarkable individual and I owe him so much for everything that he did for me and so many other people. I want to help exceptionally talented music students to pursue their talent and also honor someone I feel truly needs to be honored and remembered."

In 1964, Burns helped McDonald and several of his classmates founded The Jesters, a rhythm and blues band that played the popular Motown and beach music. In addition to providing all founding members with full scholarships, Burns also provided opportunities for The Jesters to perform at school events, which led to other gigs.

McDonald, a saxophonist, and bandmates opened for Motown heavyweights like The Platters, Jackie Wilson, Marvin Gaye, Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, and The Four Tops as the bands toured across the Southeast in the 1960s. Often, The Jesters would leave town on Friday to spend the weekend touring with Motown artists before returning home Sunday evening for classes the next day, McDonald said. "T.J. is responsible for me being in music and he did so much that I really can't thank him enough. Some of my happiest moments in my life were on stage and it was because of him," McDonald said.

The Jesters, including alumnus Bill McDonald, in their early days. (color photo) Bill McDonald is working to establish a scholarship fund for music students. McDonald, shown holding a saxophone in this picture of members of The Jesters, hopes to honor former music professor T.J. Burns, pictured above in the white sweater.
Below is a small selection of events at UNG; Continuing Education courses require registration and fees. For more details and a full list, please visit calendar.ung.edu.

**DECEMBER**

- Annual Holiday Concert  
  Dec. 1, 7 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Student Orientation  
  Dec. 3, 8 a.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Student Orientation  
  Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m.  
  Cumming
- Senior Art Exhibition  
  Dec. 3  
  Dahlonega
- Student Orientation  
  Dec. 4, 8 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- Fall Commencement  
  Dec. 11, 6 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Fall Commencement  
  Dec. 12, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Winter Break  
  (UNG offices closed)  
  Dec 21-Jan.1

**JANUARY**

- Ethan Uslan Rag Time Piano  
  Jan. 8, 8 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- FROG Week Graduation  
  Jan. 10  
  Dahlonega
- Kent Knowles Artist Talk  
  Jan. 21, 2 p.m.  
  Gainesville

**FEBRUARY**

- Black History Museum  
  Feb. 2, noon  
  Gainesville
- Phi Kappa Phi Induction  
  Feb. 2, 7 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- UNG Faculty Recital  
  Feb. 4, 8 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- GTA - Dracula  
  Feb. 8-20, 7:30 p.m.
- GTA- Once on this Island  
  Feb. 8-20, 7:30 p.m.  
  Ocone
- Sigma Tau Delta mini-conference  
  Feb. 10, 1:30 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Andrew Carroll Keynote Address  
  Feb. 11, 8 a.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Hip Hop: Collaboration with Multicultural Student Affairs  
  Feb. 11, 5 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Darwin Days Speaker  
  Feb. 11 and 12, 6 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Doctorate of Physical Therapy Open House  
  Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Spanish for Healthcare Professionals  
  Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Digital Darkroom  
  Feb. 4, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
  Cumming

**MARCH**

- Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation Art Exhibit Reception  
  Mar. 3, 5 p.m.  
  Ocone
- Driver’s Education  
  Mar. 4  
  Gainesville
- 2016 Big Band Show  
  Mar. 4-5, 5:30 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Admission Open House  
  Mar. 5, 8:30 a.m.  
  Ocone
- Sports Ability Day  
  Mar. 9, noon  
  Gainesville
- 4th Annual Spelling Bee  
  Mar. 10, 6 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Spring Break  
  Mar. 14-19
- Dental Assisting Program  
  Mar. 14, 7 p.m.  
  Gainesville
- Mini Job Fair  
  Mar. 22, 8 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- Outdoor Photography  
  Mar. 22, 6 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Admission Open House  
  Mar. 24, 5:30 p.m.  
  Blue Ridge
- Corps Awards Night  
  Mar. 29, 3 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Annual Research Conference  
  Mar. 31, 8 a.m.  
  Gainesville

**APRIL**

- Annual Research Conference  
  April 1, 8 a.m.  
  Ocone and Gainesville
- Admission Open House  
  April 2, 7:30  
  Dahlonega
- Math Tournament  
  April 4, 7 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- UNG Singers & Le Belle Voci  
  April 5, 8 p.m  
  Ocone
- GTA The Philadelphia Story  
  April 5-6, 7:30 p.m.  
  Ocone
- GTA The Philadelphia Story  
  April 6-8, 7:30 p.m.  
  Ocone
- Oconee Art Students Exhibit Reception  
  April 7, 5 p.m.

**MAY**

- The Annual Hal. B. Rhodes III Student Exhibit  
  April 7, 5 p.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Open House  
  April 16, 8:30 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- Admission Open House  
  April 21, 5:30 p.m.  
  Cumming
- Conversational English  
  April 12, 10 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- Macro Photography  
  April 16, 9 a.m.  
  Dahlonega
- Basic Quickbooks Part 1  
  April 18, 9 a.m.  
  Gainesville
- UNG’s Annual Scholarship Ball  
  April 30, 5:30 p.m.
Mail Call Exhibition
February 8-April 23

From the American Revolution to current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, this traveling version of the National Postal Museum’s permanent exhibition, Mail Call, explores the history of America’s military postal system, and tells the story of military mail and communication. Even in today’s era of instant communication, troops overseas continue to treasure mail delivered from home.

Mail Call is organized and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. This project is supported by the Georgia National Endowment for the Humanities and through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

The exhibit will be at the Library Technology Center at UNG’s Dahlonega Campus. For information, including how to share your letters in a local portion of the exhibit, visit ung.edu/libraries/mail-call.

SKYLINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 22-23

The Skyline International Film Festival (SIFF), sponsored by UNG, will feature a variety of films and is open to the public.

SIFF, which is supported through UNG’s Department of Communications, Media and Journalism and the Department of Visual Arts, will feature the university’s new, four-year film program, while recognizing independent cinema.

The festival will be held in the Ed Cabell Theatre at UNG’s Gainesville Campus.

BI-ANNUAL COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS CONFERENCE
FEB. 26-28

UNG’s College of Arts & Letters’ fourth academic conference will explore the theme “Culture and Place.”

Place is more than location—it is people, it is material, it is climate, it is culture. Places are made through human practices and institutions and are specifically designed and constructed to evoke memories, trigger identities, and embody histories in material form. This interdisciplinary conference will take up these questions and others concerning culture and place.

The conference will be held at UNG’s Dahlonega Campus. For information about attending the conference, contact Dr. Sara Mason at sara.mason@ung.edu.
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