

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

Spring 2014

MAGAZINE



NIGHTHAWKS SPREAD THEIR WINGS: MASCOT READY TO STRIKE

BOLD TRANSFORMATIONS:
Changes coming to the Corps of Cadets curriculum

LEADING THE CHARGE:
How UNG is energizing the college completion rate

“Tag!”
You’re it!



**The new UNG license plates
are now available for order.**

An online auction for plates numbered UNG-011 to UNG-100 will be held in the near future. After UNG-100, all plates will consist of random letters and numbers. Stay tuned for more information by email.

For more details about the official UNG license plate, please email alumni@ung.edu.



Cadet Command implements changes to the Corps of Cadets curriculum.

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UNG making great strides in student success



Bonita C. Jacobs, Ph.D.

I am excited that this issue of UNG Magazine highlights the outstanding dedication and success of our faculty, staff and students who continue to bring much-deserved recognition to UNG. To encourage this positive momentum, last fall, we made an unprecedented investment in our people and programs by awarding \$200,000 in grants for new, innovative studies. Our faculty members have many great ideas and these incentives foster the best of those ideas and put them to work. The selected projects will have a strong impact on our institution and the learning opportunities for our students.

To expand opportunities that support students' development as leaders in an ever-growing global society, we continue to build partnerships around the world. Our newest study abroad program in Gao, India, joins other new agreements with universities in Central America, Peru, Oman, China, and Germany. We are also developing and expanding partnerships in South Korea, Italy and Latvia. These programs will offer students and faculty on all UNG campuses opportunities for meaningful cultural and academic experiences.

We are also addressing needs closer to home that enhance educational attainment and economic development. UNG has a major impact on the economy, workforce and culture, and we need to be responsive and proactive in meeting the needs of the state, region and country. Our university covers 30 counties in the state's fastest-growing region, and through initiatives like the Regional Educational and Economic Development Task Force, Complete College Georgia and our strategic planning process, UNG is working with community partners to ensure a thriving future for our region.

At our second annual Scholarship Ball, we honored one of our most valued community partners, Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt, with the Presidential Leadership Award for his support of UNG and his work to bring higher education to Forsyth County. Mayor Gravitt understands the benefit that higher education can bring to a community, and realizes that even lofty goals can be accomplished when we work together to advance our students and the region.

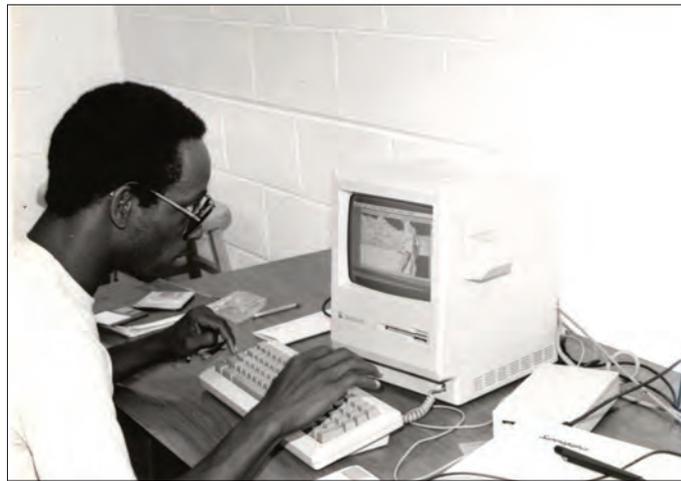
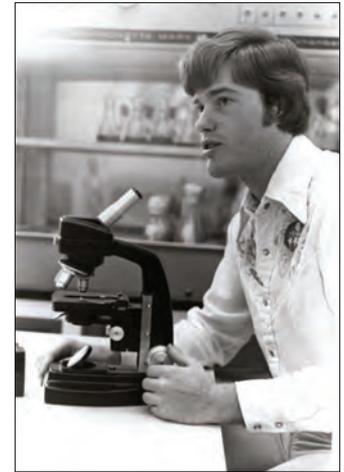
Our Corps of Cadets has continued its tradition of excellence, including the Blue Ridge Rifles' third-place win at the national Mardi Gras Drill Competition in New Orleans. The Department of Military Science has begun adapting to new guidelines on ROTC education and training from U.S. Army Cadet Command. Fortunately, the Bold Transformation initiative mirrors the student-focused and rigorous education UNG cadets already receive.

In February, as we celebrated Spirit Night in Dahlonga, the gym was filled with a sea of blue-and-gold-clad (and painted!) students supporting our basketball teams and embracing the Nighthawk brand. Soon, we will unveil the mascot costume to further energize our students and fans.

May 9-10 we'll hold commencement and commissioning ceremonies for our graduates. On June 6, we'll hold the annual Starlight Concert & Fireworks show on the Gainesville Campus, where we'll celebrate that campus' 50th anniversary.

It is a privilege to represent this outstanding institution and advance the work of students, faculty, staff, and alumni across our four campuses. I hope you will take advantage of opportunities to engage with UNG. Whether it is through our new alumni Special Interest Groups, community events, career fairs, athletic competitions, or a donation to support student scholarships, your involvement makes our university stronger.

Bonita Jacobs



Gainesville Campus celebrates 50 Years of Excellence, Education, and Opportunity

In the early 1960s, Gainesville civic leaders acted on an urgent need to develop higher education services in the community. After encouragement from the governor's office and the University System of Georgia, a group that included James E. Mathis Sr., Loyd Strickland, Jesse Jewell, and James A. Dunlap, began working to establish a community college. On March 11, 1964, Gainesville Junior College was born.

The institution welcomed its first students in 1966, using facilities at the Gainesville Civic Center and First Baptist

Church of Gainesville, then moved into its own facilities in 1967. The school was renamed Gainesville College in 1987; in 2005, the school gained approval to expand its baccalaureate degree offerings and was renamed Gainesville State College.

In 2001, GSC opened a second campus in Athens and, in 2012, the school partnered with then-North Georgia College & State University to open an instructional site in Cumming. Through consolidation in January 2013 all campuses united as the University of North Georgia.



CAMPUS
RENOVATIONS

500+ Total number of additional parking spaces expected along Campus Drive and Landrum Education Drive 

GAINESVILLE CAMPUS PARKING

2 Projects recently completed on the Cumming Campus, including an outdoor pavilion and a storage space. 

The Dahlonega Student Government Association voted to allocate \$500,000 of its student fee reserve to fund the construction of intramural fields, which will provide space for numerous student activities.

DAHLONEGA CAMPUS INTRAMURAL FIELDS

Number of feet by which the fitness center will expand **13**

HUGH MILLS PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX

HUMAN PERFORMANCE New lab for the College of Education's sport, exercise, and recreation program

\$1 million

Amount provided by University System of Georgia Board of Regents to convert two classrooms into new multi-use wet labs

GAINESVILLE CAMPUS SCIENCE BUILDING

Computer Science program propelling students into tech industry

The Department of Computer Science & Information Systems, which recently became part of the Mike Cottrell College of Business, is exposing students to the fast-growing technology industry and has alumni working in some of the biggest names in the business.

Shah Rahman graduated in 2009, and is now working for Blizzard Entertainment, one of the largest and most successful video game developers, as an embedded quality assurance technician. Rahman has discussed his experiences with a computer science class via Skype.

UNG also hosted The Information Technology (IT) Industry Panel, which featured seven accomplished mentors of the IT industry to discuss what computer science and computer information systems students

can do to make themselves more marketable to hiring companies.

Dr. Bryson Payne, head of the computer science department, said attending students were better able to envision themselves in a computer science or information technology career.

“From our first seven computer science graduates in 1984 to more than 350 computer science and computer information systems majors at the Dahlonega and Gainesville campuses today, our students



Dr. Bryson Payne and his class listen as alumnus Shah Rahman talks about his experiences via Skype.

have gone into exciting careers regionally and internationally at companies from IBM, Adobe, Equifax, Blizzard Games and AT&T to local businesses and governmental organizations,” Payne said.

UNG's top 100 freshmen honored by President Jacobs

The top 100 academic freshmen at UNG were recognized by President Bonita Jacobs, who hosted the group at a reception at her home this fall. The freshmen were chosen based on their freshman index score, a combination of high school GPA and their score on the SAT or ACT.

“Welcome, and congratulations on your wonderful accomplishment,” Jacobs said to the students. “We want you to know that we are here to promote your success at UNG, and it is my personal goal to shake

your hand in four or possibly three years as you cross the stage to receive your diploma.”

UNG had 2,700 first-time, full-time freshmen at the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year, and those enrolled in baccalaureate programs had an average SAT score of 1119 and mean high school GPA average of 3.55. Freshmen entering UNG's baccalaureate programs consistently rank among the top students in the state in average GPA and SAT scores.

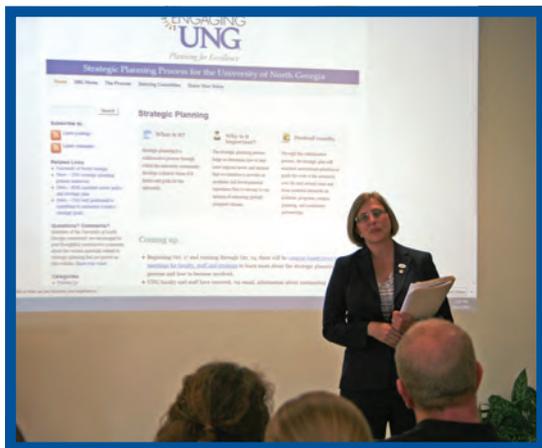


UNG President Bonita Jacobs congratulates an incoming freshman on her achievements.

ENGAGING UNG

Planning for Excellence

STRATEGIC PLANNING TIMELINE



●▶ FALL 2012

A task force of two dozen faculty and administrators from all four UNG campuses began an environmental scan – collecting data about internal and external trends that could affect the university and its 20-county service area. Topics included sociology and demographics, environment, science and technology, business and economics, higher education, political science and public policy, and military education.

●▶ SPRING 2013

In “visioning” sessions, focus groups of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members discussed their current views and future hopes for the university.

●▶ AUGUST 14, 2013

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) approved a new “Institutional Function and Mission Policy” to ensure that individual missions and functions of the institutions are in sync with the USG mission. The board also adopted the system’s new strategic plan. Both documents inform UNG’s strategic plan.

●▶ OCTOBER 4, 2013

UNG announced leaders of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the launch of “Engaging UNG: Planning for Excellence.” The committee is co-chaired by Dr. J.B. Sharma, professor and assistant department head of physics, and Dr. Andrew J. Leavitt, vice president for university advancement and professor of chemistry.

●▶ OCTOBER 2013

Town hall meetings were held on all four UNG campuses to explain the strategic planning process and timeline. Priorities identified by participants included technology, faculty and staff development, communication and transparency during the process, and remaining focused on students. Themes of collaboration and unity also emerged during the meetings.

●▶ OCTOBER 25, 2013

UNG announced the 60 faculty, staff and students from the university’s four campuses who make up the Strategic Planning Steering Committee.

●▶ NOVEMBER 1, 2013

The committee began meeting; the first meetings were led by Dr. Keith Eigel, co-founder of The Leaders Lyceum.

●▶ JANUARY 2014

The committee split into subcommittees to work on focusing the strategic themes identified in the visioning process into an initial draft of the strategic plan.

●▶ JANUARY-APRIL 2014

Town hall meetings were held to ensure that all faculty, staff and students have opportunities to learn about and comment on the work of the strategic planning steering committee. Members of the committee also solicited feedback from their specific constituencies.

●▶ MARCH 2014

Public town hall meetings were held on every UNG campus to engage alumni, donors and the community. The committee has presented drafts of the plan, and it will vet concepts through “sounding boards” of campus and community constituents, the strategic planning website, and more town hall meetings.

●▶ SPRING 2014

The steering committee will submit a strategic plan to Dr. Patricia Donat, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, by the end of the spring semester.

●▶ FALL 2014

An implementation committee will begin putting UNG’s strategic plan into action by developing specific tactics to support the plan’s objectives.

PARTICIPATE AT WWW.UNG.EDU/STRATEGICPLAN

REED identifies 'game-changers' for economic and educational development

The University of North Georgia, as part of its Complete College Georgia plan, spearheading the North Georgia Regional Economic and Education Development (REED) Task Force, created to address college readiness and completion efforts. REED Task Force members included a sampling of college presidents, county and city development authority members, county commissioners, mayors, agency directors, and others.

Complete College Georgia was announced by Gov. Nathan Deal as a state-wide initiative in the wake of a study that found Georgia will need to increase the percentage of its population with some level of college completion to 60 percent—that's 250,000 more people—to meet projected workforce needs.

REED was initiated by UNG President Bonita Jacobs to build collaborations and share successful community practices to increase educational attainment across the northeast Georgia region and strengthen the region's economy.

The first REED meeting, held in Blairsville, Ga., focused on ensuring that students from across northeast Georgia graduate from high school prepared to continue their education and contribute to the region's economy. Studies have shown that of 100 public school 9th-graders, only 17 will graduate on time from a two- or four-year college or university.

The next two meetings, held on UNG's Gainesville and Oconee campuses, identified the important themes of access to education at all levels, and development of partnerships and collaborations.



Educators, lawmakers and community members collaborated at the REED Summit to identify key themes and initiatives for Complete College Georgia.

More than 60 business, education and community leaders gathered for the REED Summit in October 2013 at UNG's Dahlonega Campus. The group discussed findings from the previous meetings, and highlighted three case studies that focused on these themes that leaders considered "game-changers" for their communities.

"Our university covers some 30 counties, and we are excited to develop opportunities in these areas," UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. "This summit is going to be the catalyst as we move forward in improving our college completion rate. We are proud of our region and we know we hold its future in our hands."

Open-source history textbook can save students money

A new, open-source electronic history textbook published by the University Press of North Georgia with the University System of Georgia (USG) is saving students nearly \$100 each without sacrificing rich and fully-sourced content.

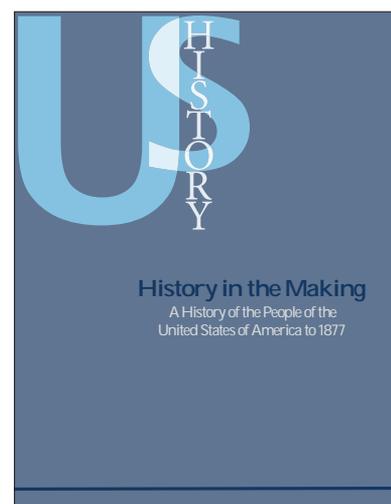
"History in the Making: A History of the People of the United States of America to 1877" is a downloadable, free-to-use open-access textbook, meaning it is available to teachers, students, and the general public under a Creative Commons license.

Christy Talley Smith, director of curriculum and instruction for USG's e-Core project, said some students withdraw from a course because of not being able to afford

the textbook.

"We have students who simply can't afford the textbooks on top of tuition," Smith said. "For the fall and the spring, we'll save students more than \$25,000 with this open textbook. That's approximately \$96 per student."

In his budget presentation to the Georgia General Assembly's Joint Appropriations Committee at the beginning of the session, USG Chancellor Hank Huckaby highlighted the textbook as an example of how the system is working to maintain student affordability and increase effectiveness and efficiency.



BSN students prepare for scenario training in the Department of Nursing's Simulation Lab, which houses advanced technology such as dummies that can simulate dozens of illnesses and injuries.



Board of Regents approves two new four-year degrees

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved two new four-year degree programs at UNG in fall 2013. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Bachelor of Arts in communication address the growing need in Georgia for more bachelor-level nurses and communicators.

The BSN program is expected to go into effect in August 2014. Designed to prepare students for a wide range of experiences such as graduate studies, clinical practice, and the required National Council Licensure Examination, the program will include clinical experiences in regional healthcare facilities and community agencies.

The move reflects the requirement by many healthcare institutions for incoming nurses to have at least a bachelor's degree.

"We are pleased to have received approval from the Board of Regents to offer the four-year BSN program on our Dahlonega Campus," said Dr. Patricia Donat, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. "Situated in an underserved, rural region of our state, the nurses trained through this program will assist in meeting the healthcare needs

of those in our service area."

The university sought expansion of the communication program in response to a sustained increase in demand for these skills.

"The new degree will benefit the region by developing students who can meet the needs of the growing communication labor market, especially Georgia's film, television, and media production industry," said Dr. Jeff Marker, head of UNG's Department of Communication, Media and Journalism. "The creation of the degree program was driven by demand among students, and now those students will benefit from the opportunity to earn a high-quality education in state-of-the-art media production facilities."



UNG's new Bachelor of Arts in communication reflects a growing demand for communication skills.

UNG's facilities, on the Gainesville Campus, include a 931-square-foot soundstage with lighting, a green screen, four-camera setup, and control room with 24-channel audio mixer, video mixer and teleprompter. Facilities also include high-tech audio and video editing equipment and a media lab with 18 editing stations.

UNG adds programs in Taiwan, India, Germany

From Asia to Europe, the University of North Georgia continues to cultivate international partnerships to support the university's strategic vision to help students become globally competent citizens.

"Our administrators, faculty and staff have been very successful in building partnerships around the world to expand our language and culture programs to support students' development as leaders in an ever-growing global society," said UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs.

In an exchange that just started, two UNG cadets are studying at the Republic of China Military Academy (ROCMA) in Taiwan. Jordan Thrun and Joseph Williams, both sophomores, are part of a program unique to UNG.

Two Taiwanese administrators and a dozen cadets who visited in August were impressed with UNG.

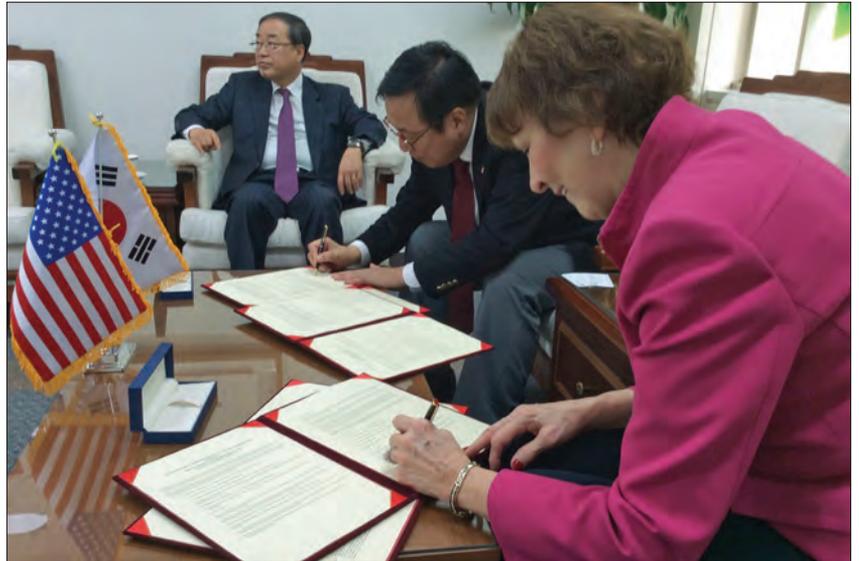
"We will work together to develop exchange programs to send the cadets of both schools to each other so they can increase their international exposure and strengthen relations," said Dr. Wen Jang Chu, ROCMA director of international programs.

In 2013, UNG renewed the exchange with Sogang University in South Korea and finalized a new exchange with Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and a study abroad program in India. The university is working on new partnerships with schools in Italy, Latvia and Oman and just added a study abroad program in Gao, India. Discussions also are ongoing for an internship program for UNG cadets at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany.

In addition to the new programs, UNG continues to offer dozens of study abroad programs around the world. Every year, more than 200 UNG students study abroad, and some 180 international students attended UNG fall semester, representing 39 countries and every continent except Antarctica.

UNG supports a number of international initiatives, including the Cadet English Language Training Team (CELTT), which includes 1,300 cadets from around the country, and the Federal Service Language Academy, which offers intensive language instruction to high school students.

UNG offers instruction in 10 world languages and bachelor's and master's programs in international affairs. In 2011, UNG was designated an ROTC flagship university to instruct cadets in Chinese.



UNG President Bonita Jacobs, right, and Sogang University President Ki-Pung Yoo, center, sign an agreement renewing the exchange program between the two schools.



Cadets from Taiwan pose with a banner in front of Price Memorial Hall on the Dahlonega Campus.



What's FSLA?

Learn more about UNG's Federal Service Language Academy by visiting www.ung.edu/global-engagement/fsla

Growth in Greek organizations enriches student experiences and community

Nearly 1,000 UNG students are active members of Greek life organizations, contributing their time and energy to the university and community while practicing leadership and service.

During the 2012-13 academic year, members of UNG's fraternities and sororities raised more than \$80,000 for charity and provided more than 13,000 hours of community service. Since fall 2013, the groups have also hosted 33 philanthropic events.

"Greeks and the UNG community go hand in hand," said Katie Dotson, president of UNG's Panhellenic Council. "We are supportive of local businesses and they are often very supportive and helpful to us. Tens of thousands of dollars are raised by Greeks each year through philanthropy events put on for our community to attend and support."

In a record-breaking event, nearly 350 students joined Greek organizations in spring 2014. There are currently 12 organizations — seven fraternities and five sororities — on UNG's Dahlonega Campus.

"Our growth is due to things like creating a larger presence in this year's Weeks of Welcome, including participating in student move-in and hosting the first-ever 'Greekapalooza' carnival on Hoag Student Center Patio, followed up a week later with All Greek Open House," said Jen Cohen, UNG coordinator of Greek life and community service. "We also helped sponsor a concert as part of the Downtown Dahlonega event with the Chamber of Commerce."



Greek life organizations at UNG often contribute their time to community-service projects and philanthropic events.

Greek administrators are examining the addition of more groups, potentially including multicultural Greek organizations. Baccalaureate students on any UNG campus who meet the minimum criteria can go through recruitment and be invited to participate.

"Being a Sigma Chi at UNG is the best experience I had in college," said Roman Gaddis, a 1997 graduate and member of the Dahlonega City Council. "I believe that coupled with my education from UNG prepared me for the experiences I've had after graduation. It taught me great lessons in leadership, and I developed lifelong friendships with some of the finest people I've ever known."

Wish comes true at UNG basketball game

Eleven-year-old Joseph had been eagerly waiting for this moment, and the cheer of "Aloha, Joseph," from the crowd at UNG's Spirit Night in Dahlonega on Feb. 26 capped off the revealing of details surrounding his wish to travel to Hawaii.

"The Make-A-Wish reveal was a culmination of a collective effort that began with our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and spread throughout the university and the Dahlonega community," said Athletic Director Lindsay Reeves. "It was so rewarding to see Joseph's joy."

Among all NCAA Division II schools, UNG has donated the highest amount of money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in two of the past three academic years. UNG pledged the second most of all NCAA Division II schools in 2012-2013, raising \$11,223, and was one of only five

NCAA Division II schools in the country chosen to host a Make-A-Wish reveal.

Thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and UNG, Joseph and his family will be traveling to Maui, Hawaii. Joseph was diagnosed at 9 years old with a form of cancer known as Burkitt's lymphoma.

After receiving a jersey signed by the men's basketball team and leading them onto the floor, Joseph joined golfer Bridget Sandy and men's basketball team captain Travis Core in the center of the court.

"You are now part of the Nighthawk



Joseph poses with Athletic Director Lindsay Reeves (left) and men's head basketball coach Chris Faulkner (right) after signing a one-day contract to play as a UNG Nighthawks basketball player.

family," Core said. "I heard that it was your wish to go to Hawaii. In just 38 days, on April 5, you and your family will be going on an all-expenses-paid trip to Maui."

Professor Paul Dunlap's photography of artist Amy Ray was featured in *Rolling Stone Magazine*.

Dr. Randy May, adjunct biology professor, created an engaging lab exercise to help non-major students connect with the study of dinosaurs. The exercise was also accepted for publication in *The American Biology Teacher*.



Linda Purvis, biology and poultry science instructor, helped secure a \$3,100 grant from the U.S. Poultry Foundation to UNG's Poultry Science program.

The Mike Cottrell College of Business hired former BB&T regional president R. Perry Tomlinson as the university's first BB&T Center for Ethical Business Leadership Executive-in-Residence.



Dr. Bryson Payne, head of the Department of Computer Science & Information Systems, Dr. Chuck Robertson, associate professor of psychological science, and their students are using electroencephalography (EEG) devices to train users to control devices, such as model helicopters, with their minds.

Dr. Ashley McCaskill, assistant professor of biology, secured a \$7,500 Chattahoochee Oconee Forest Interpretive grant to create a Native Woodland Garden. A grand opening is planned for spring 2014.

Dr. Aimée Tomlinson, associate professor of chemistry, was accepted onto the review board for the National Science Foundation's Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment.

Faculty receive grants for innovative projects



In February, Dr. Beth M. Rauhaus, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs, used a \$1,000 award to take students studying state and local government to the capitol during this year's session of the Georgia General Assembly. The group met Gov. Nathan Deal and the lawmakers who represent the region.

UNG President Bonita Jacobs presented 50 Presidential Academic Innovation Awards this year to further work by the university's faculty members in research to advance teaching and learning, resulting in projects ranging from watching the legislative process firsthand to using a 3-D printer to make adaptive devices for children with impairments.

"I am pleased with the level of creativity and innovation demonstrated in the Presidential Academic Innovation Awards," Jacobs said. "These faculty members are focused on academic innovations and partnerships that promote institutional practices and student success. Their work is on the cutting-edge of pioneering methods of teaching and learning, and we want to advocate and encourage them in their efforts."

Ten projects received up to \$5,000, and 40 received up to \$1,000.

One of the projects receiving a \$5,000 award involves a partnership between the university's physical therapy and visual arts departments. They are using a 3-D printer to create adaptive devices that open up a new world of activity to children with motor impairments.

"Currently, the significant variance in the level of disability makes creating individualized products time consuming and very expensive. This is only worsened by the fact that children can quickly outgrow the devices," said Dr. Jon Mehlferber, associate professor of art. "3-D printing makes it possible to design and produce customized, one-of-a-kind objects at a low cost."

Drs. Joe Covert and Paul Baldwin in the College of Education are using another \$5,000 award for a study to improve science education in middle schools. The two are combining science content with a teaching methods course to increase pre-service teachers' understanding of earth science content for sixth-graders. The course, which is being taught at Dawson Middle School, encourages active, discovery-based learning over rote memorization of facts.

Other projects include gathering oral histories to enhance student learning, traveling to India to learn about human trafficking, teaching music electronically, developing bilingual games to hone Chinese language skills, and studying the long-term effects of prescription stimulants on teens.

UP CLOSE



New public safety director aims to increase emergency preparedness

Justin Gaines, who took the helm as the University of North Georgia's director for public safety Jan. 21, wants to ensure every UNG campus is prepared for emergencies by building on the strong foundation of UNG's Department of Public Safety.

"Our first goal is to ensure that our comprehensive emergency action plan has an all-hazards approach," Gaines said. "Following that, we would like to examine the possibilities for offering training to the faculty, staff and students that would parallel the emergency action plan. Topics could include: emergency notification, armed assailant, bomb threat, severe weather — including ice and snow, utility failure, substance abuse, medical emergency, chemical spill, fire, criminal or violent behavior, etc. These training programs could all be slightly modified based on the audience receiving the training."

Gaines noted that some campuses and even some buildings have special issues that may need to be addressed independently, some of which could require department-level training. He also wants to build on the functions of the department's communications

center, the central location for emergency communications, which began operation in May due to consolidation.

"I also would like for us to expand our police practices to include side-by-side vehicles, such as electric and gas-powered utility vehicles, in addition to our traditional vehicles," Gaines said. "We may also acquire more four-wheel-drive vehicles and all-terrain vehicles so that during winter weather events we can respond to any event that occurs on and around our campuses."

The Department of Public Safety will also participate in emergency training, Gaines said, including officers, administrators and dispatchers. UNG officers are all sworn-certified police officers through the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council.

"UNG is a large institution with many components. As such, the Department of Public Safety must continue to grow in its status as a full-service department that is equipped to handle any and every emergency that may occur on all four of our campuses," he said.

Students in the Introduction to Recreation and Leisure Studies course completed construction of a cross-country trail at Maranatha Christian Academy's campus in Oakwood, under the direction of Tonya Butler-Collins, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation.

In November 2013, the University of North Georgia Rowing Club club competed at the Head of the South regatta in Augusta, Ga., and its team placed second in men's champ double scull and fourth in the mixed open double scull. Earlier in the season they placed first in the women's open 2,000-meter and mixed relay at the North Georgia Ergometer sprints.



A team from UNG's Chinese language program placed 12th out of 55 teams in the 18th annual Atlanta Dragon Boat Race, held in September 2013. The team consisted of students, faculty and Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of UNG's College of Arts & Letters, and was led by Dr. Yan Gao, associate professor of Chinese.

In February, the Blue Ridge Rifles, a specialty unit of the university's Corps of Cadets, took third place in the national Mardi Gras Drill Competition in New Orleans. The unit came within two points of taking second and finished second, by only 0.40 points, in platoon exhibition.



The UNG Debate Team won first place in the overall tournament and collected numerous other awards at the Jacobs Petrel Debate Classic held on Feb. 1. The team also won the overall award at the Mardi Gras Debate Tournament held Feb. 28-March 2, marking the second first-place award at a tournament for UNG, and first-place debate team honors and the top speaker award for the second consecutive tournament.

Atlanta Falcons tap UNG student to join strength and conditioning team

It's been a dream come true for Matt Fyle, a senior majoring in physical education. Fyle worked with Atlanta Falcons football players as an intern strength and conditioning coach during fall 2013, and the team has given him the opportunity to interview for a long-term position after he graduates in fall 2014 and earns his certification.

Fyle's experience with the team is due to a unique partnership between the Falcons and UNG that provides the Falcons organization with interns from the university's Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation.

"Because of our proximity to Atlanta we can fill a need for the Falcons when they require fill-ins or more personnel," said Tonya Butler-Collins, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation.



Physical education senior Matt Fyle

"They know the students are hand-picked with a comprehensive knowledge base, and it's proving to be a great resource for everyone."

The partnership is strengthened by the sport, exercise, and recreation (SER) emphasis in UNG's physical education program.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for Matt, and an experience that will help him transition successfully

into his career. This is also an indication of the potential for the SER emphasis," said Dr. Bob Michael, dean of UNG's College of Education. "The health, physical education and recreation faculty members have spent almost two years designing the new SER concentration, and Matt's success is also theirs."

UNG senior training for spot on US Olympic team

On a typical Monday at 7 a.m., many college students are just beginning to stir and prepare for the day's classes. However, Ben Hefner, a senior majoring in physics, is already on the water, training for a berth with Team USA as a flat water sprint canoeist for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

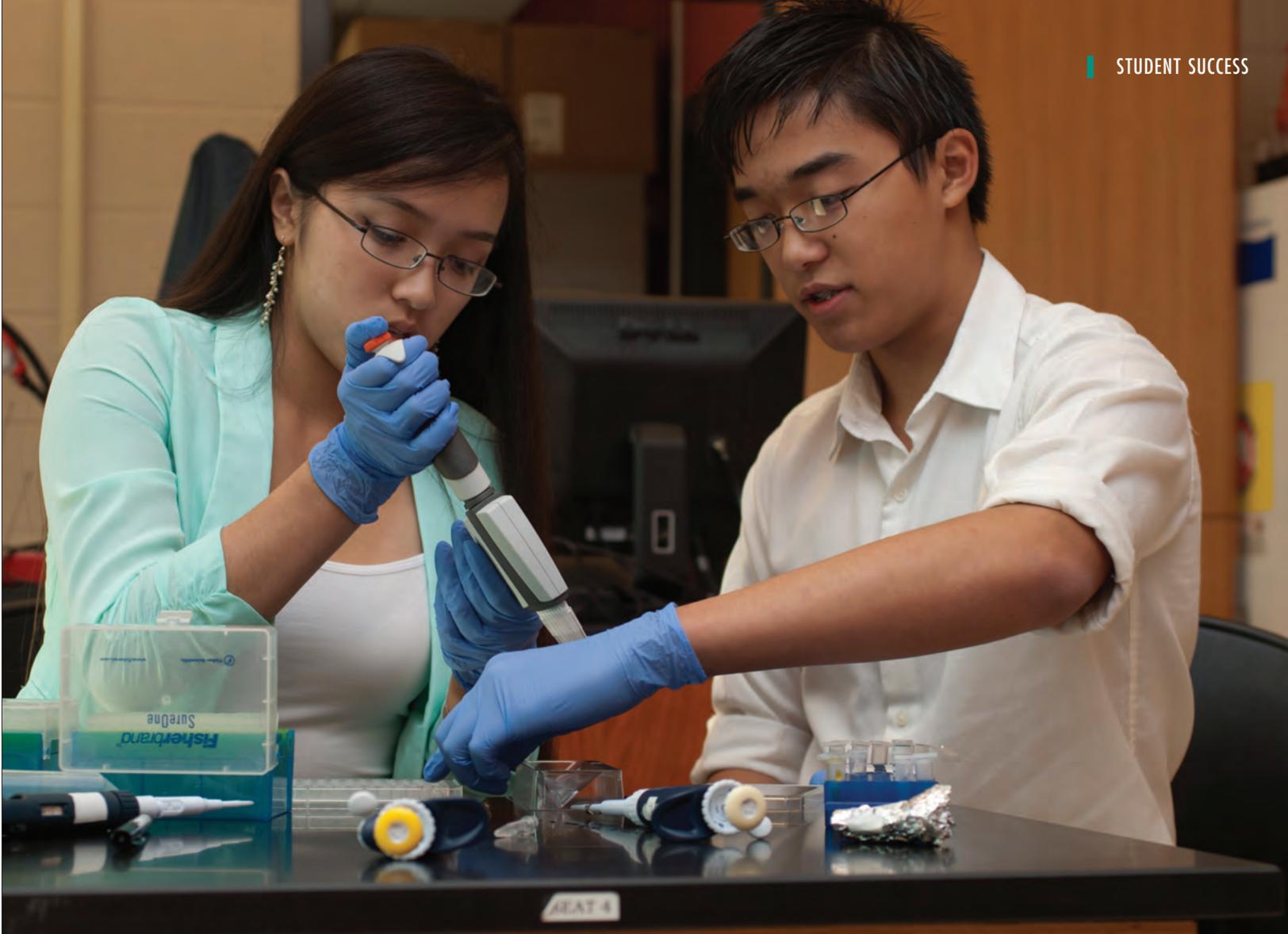
"Ben is a top athlete; it's very tough to train and go to school, but he is very responsible," said Claudiu Cuir, Hefner's coach. "He is very strong and can really move through the water, and has great potential and drive."

Hefner plans to attend graduate school to major in astrophysics or nuclear physics after graduating from UNG this spring. After UNG, he will spend two years in training. His ultimate dream is to become an astronaut.

"Ben is very smart and a hard worker, and a member of the UNG Honors Program," said Dr. Richard Prior, head of UNG's Department of Physics. "He is also a leader among our majors as president of the Society of Physics Students."



Physics senior Ben Hefner



Twins Lynn and Paul Tran combine DNA with *E. coli* to observe changes in the bacteria's ability to resist antibiotics.

Teenage twins take on UNG sciences

Lynn and Paul Tran, 16-year-old twin sister and brother, can't drive themselves to class quite yet, but they are double-majoring in biology and chemistry in the College of Science & Mathematics at the University of North Georgia. They are also conducting research and taking courses that usually aren't approached by students until their early 20s, and plan to graduate this spring.

The Trans are involved in research that could affect antibiotics and how our bodies respond to them. Affectionately referred to as "Team Tran" by faculty and students in UNG's Department of Biology, they are already applying to medical school at locations such as Emory University and Duke University.

"Lynn and Paul came to us because they know how rigorous our science programs are, and because they know they can get a great deal more high-quality, personal attention here than they would at larger universities," said Dr. Nancy Dalman, head of the biology department and academic advisor to the twins.

Undergraduate research plays a large role in the twins' educa-

tion and interest. They are currently working with *Bacteroides* in efforts to better understand how certain specimens — such as *E. coli* — produce antibiotics.

"Lynn and Paul have really crafted their own research projects from scratch," said Dr. Paul Johnson, assistant professor of biology, who has been mentoring the twins in their research. "After giving them a crash course on what an antimicrobial efflux pump was and how it worked, they came back to me a few days later, having selected for their project a bacteria that is challenging to work with and an uncharacterized efflux pump, which told me how serious they are."

The twins said they are glad they chose UNG to begin their trek through higher education.

"We came to UNG for several reasons," Paul Tran said. "We knew we would receive a high-quality education while still being at a university small enough to ensure more personal interaction with our professors."

Student sees similarities between Carpathians, Appalachians

Jessica Murray, a biology senior was surprised to travel halfway around the world to the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine and find how similar the region's culture is to Appalachia.

"Going across the Atlantic Ocean and finding a group of people who have similar values and live in a similar geographic environment is a good way to remember that they're not that different from us," Murray said. "While it's important to preserve the uniqueness, it's also important to remember the commonalities."

Murray and Rosann Kent, director of UNG's Appalachian Studies Center, presented at the Carpathians/Appalachians International Conference in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, at the Precarpathian National University. The conference also featured American universities that have had Appalachian studies programs for decades.

Murray is minoring in Appalachian studies and has been working on the center's research in heirloom seeds, which are seeds that have been passed down from one generation to another.

In 2012, students collected heirloom seeds from gardeners throughout Lumpkin County, then presented their research in a "communograph" — a piece of artwork representing the seeds,

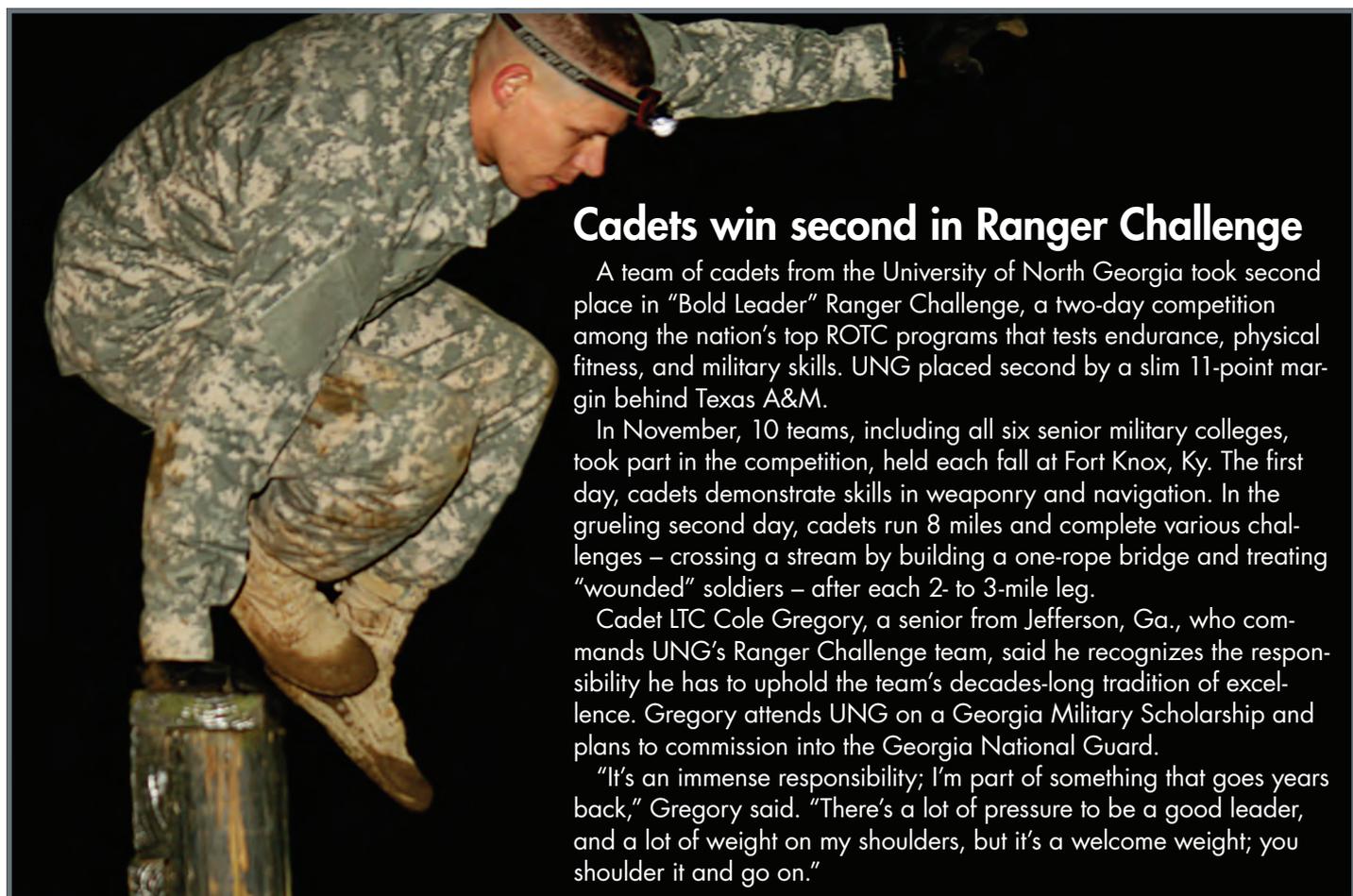


Jessica Murray in the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine.

the stories, and the people. The project aims to preserve Appalachian culture and heritage and connect students with the community. Murray and fellow students presented their research at a conference in Washington, D.C., and have been published in UNG's *Papers and Publications* scholarly journal.



To learn more about the seed project and the center, visit www.ung.edu/appalachian-studies-center



Cadets win second in Ranger Challenge

A team of cadets from the University of Georgia took second place in "Bold Leader" Ranger Challenge, a two-day competition among the nation's top ROTC programs that tests endurance, physical fitness, and military skills. UNG placed second by a slim 11-point margin behind Texas A&M.

In November, 10 teams, including all six senior military colleges, took part in the competition, held each fall at Fort Knox, Ky. The first day, cadets demonstrate skills in weaponry and navigation. In the grueling second day, cadets run 8 miles and complete various challenges — crossing a stream by building a one-rope bridge and treating "wounded" soldiers — after each 2- to 3-mile leg.

Cadet LTC Cole Gregory, a senior from Jefferson, Ga., who commands UNG's Ranger Challenge team, said he recognizes the responsibility he has to uphold the team's decades-long tradition of excellence. Gregory attends UNG on a Georgia Military Scholarship and plans to commission into the Georgia National Guard.

"It's an immense responsibility; I'm part of something that goes years back," Gregory said. "There's a lot of pressure to be a good leader, and a lot of weight on my shoulders, but it's a welcome weight; you shoulder it and go on."



Lecturer Ann Marie Francis works with high school and college students in her dual-enrollment course on UNG's Cumming Campus.

Dual-enrollment at UNG gaining ground

While their peers are still getting ready for school each morning, many high school students from around the region already are in classes on University of North Georgia campuses, where they are earning both college and high school credit.

Dr. Chaudron Gille, associate vice president for University Affairs & Academic Services at UNG, said dual enrollment programs such as Accel, which covers tuition for qualified students, and Move on When Ready (MOWR) directly address three of the five key strategies created by the University System of Georgia as part of the statewide Complete College Georgia initiative. These strategies are: enhancing partnerships with secondary schools, improving postsecondary access and completion, and improving the time required to earn a degree.

Dr. Beth Hebert, principal of North Forsyth High School, said her school has increased Accel enrollment and most are attending UNG.

"We are very excited to partner with UNG and other postsecondary schools in dual enrollment," Hebert said. "This gives our students the advantage of receiving college credit while in high school and it allows them to begin pursuing their career goals early. These courses are challenging our students and allowing for them to focus on their specific area of study, preparing them for when they become a full-time college student."

MOWR allows qualifying high school students to attend college courses exclusively during their junior and senior years of high school. Both dual-enrollment opportunities tie into a key part of UNG's mission, to provide broad access to comprehensive academic and co-curricular programs.

"Our aim is to assist students in completing their degrees and moving into careers or graduate programs at an earlier age and with less debt," said Keith Antonia, executive director of undergraduate admissions.

Having dual-enrollment classes with a mixture of high school students and college students further enriches the experience for the high school students.

"It has been a great experience so far and has contributed to my knowledge as a student by showing me what college classes are like and what will be expected of me," said Avery Edelman, who is a junior in high school. "Until recently I thought AP courses reflected what I would experience in college, but UNG dual-enrollment courses have given me a more true college experience, and the opportunity is contributing to my success by preparing me for future college courses."

UNG to offer summer Accel programs

This summer, the University of North Georgia will offer the state's first-ever summer Accel programs, one focusing on foreign language and one focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Accel is a dual-enrollment program for high school juniors and seniors that allows them to simultaneously earn high school and college credit for courses.

"Allowing high school students to take college courses that also satisfy their high school graduation requirements gives them a head start on their college degree without having to pay tuition or have it count against their HOPE scholarship," said Dr. Chaudron Gille, associate vice president for University Affairs & Academic Services at UNG.

The Summer Accel STEM institute will offer mathematics and biology. Instruction will be conducted five days a week, with weekends reserved for co-curricular activities to enhance the learning experience.

The Summer Accel Language Institute will offer Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Russian and instruction will be conducted seven days a week.

The Accel institutes will run June 23 through July 31 and all courses will be taught by UNG faculty.

Student succeeds with scholarship

She may look like an average student walking down the university halls, but Aubrey Whitaker has already overcome challenges above and beyond what many adults experience.

Whitaker is a 28-year-old, non-traditional student majoring in biology, and a single mother to her son Myles, who was born with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis — a genetic mutation of the retinal alleles that left him legally blind in both eyes.

After deciding to go back to school at age 26 while caring for her son and working two jobs, Whitaker applied for and received the Ann Purdy Memorial Scholarship, which has helped her spend more time focused on her education. Her scholarship has allowed her to work one less job and purchase computer software and books.

"The scholarships I have received have meant so much to me," Whitaker said.

"It is uplifting to know that others care about my education as much as I do. I was not sure how I was going to pay my tuition, buy books, or even get back and forth to school, but I was determined that nothing would stop me from coming back to school, even if I had to walk. The Ann Purdy Memorial Scholarship has lifted an enormous amount of stress from my shoulders."

She plans to complete her bachelor's at UNG then complete a digital medical sonography program, which will allow her to pursue her dream of working with expectant mothers with troubled pregnancies.

Whitaker's grandmother,

Dr. Shirley Whitaker, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from UNG and has been a part of the Gainesville community and educational system for 40 years.



Aubrey Whitaker and her son, Myles.

Spring COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2014

Gainesville Campus
Hugh Mills Physical Education Complex
5 p.m. One ceremony for all graduates from Gainesville and Oconee campuses.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014

Dahlonega Campus
Memorial Hall Gymnasium
All graduates from Dahlonega and Cumming campuses
10 a.m. College of Health Sciences and Professions
2 p.m. College of Arts & Letters, College of Science & Mathematics, and University College
6 p.m. Mike Cottrell College of Business, College of Education

TICKETS

www.ung.edu/commencement





STARLIGHT CONCERT AND FIREWORKS SHOW

June 6, 2014 • Gainesville Campus

Held at the G.W. Bailey Amphitheater in Gainesville, the Starlight Concert is a signature event of UNG's Gainesville Campus and has become a popular attraction for the university, community, and their families. The entry fee is \$10 per car or \$20 per large van or bus. Proceeds from the event benefit UNG student scholarships. The concert's music will perform until dusk and food will be available for purchase.

SENSE & SENSIBILITY

April 15-19, 7:30 p.m.
April 19, 2:30 p.m.
Gainesville Campus-Ed Cabell Theatre

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

April 19, 8 a.m.-noon
Gainesville Campus

UNG JAZZ CONCERT

April 22, 7-8:30 p.m.
Gainesville Campus-Ed Cabell Theatre

SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

April 23, 8-9:30 p.m.
Dahlonega Campus-Hoag Auditorium
April 24, 8-9:30 p.m.
Gainesville Campus-Ed Cabell Theatre

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Class Reunions for the Classes of '64, '74, '84, '89, '94
April 25-27
Dahlonega Campus

GOLDEN EAGLE BAND FINAL SHOW

April 27, 1-2 p.m.
Dahlonega Campus-Memorial Hall

PERCUSSION CONCERT

April 28, 8-9:30 p.m.
Dahlonega Campus-Shott Auditorium

UNG COMMENCEMENT

May 9, 5 p.m., Gainesville Campus
May 10, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., Dahlonega Campus

UNG MEN'S SOCCER PROSPECT CAMPS

May 17, Aug. 9
Dahlonega Campus

SOCCER-GIRL'S PROSPECT DAY

Current players 14-18
May 18
Dahlonega Campus

MEMORIAL DAY

May 26
All UNG campuses closed

ALUMNI AREA GATHERING

Savannah & Fort Stewart
May 3
Location TBA

STEPS TO COLLEGE

Summer enrichment, for-credit program for high school students who are English learners
June 2-July 3
Gainesville Campus

ORIENTATION FOR FALL ENROLLEES - OCONEE CAMPUS

June 7, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
July 12, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

FEDERAL SERVICE LANGUAGE ACADEMY

June 8-27
July 6-25
Dahlonega Campus

SOFTBALL PROSPECT CAMP

High school or junior college players
June 8-9; June 10-11
Dahlonega Campus

BASKETBALL CAMPS

Ages 8-17
June 12; July 13; July 20
Little Nighthawks (ages 6-10)-May 27
Dahlonega Campus

SUMMER HONORS PROGRAM

June 15-17
Academic and leadership program for rising high school seniors
Dahlonega Campus

ORIENTATION FOR FALL ENROLLEES - DAHLONEGA CAMPUS

June 16-17; June 19-20; July 14-15; July 17-18

ORIENTATION FOR FALL ENROLLEES - CUMMING CAMPUS

June 17, 2:30 p.m.
July 16, 2:30 p.m.

ORIENTATION FOR FALL ENROLLEES - DAHLONEGA CAMPUS, TRANSFER STUDENTS

June 18; July 16; Aug. 15
Dahlonega Campus

ORIENTATION FOR FALL ENROLLEES - GAINESVILLE CAMPUS

June 21, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.
July 19, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

SUMMER ACCEL INSTITUTES

STEM Institute and Language Institute for high school students
June 22-July 31
Dahlonega Campus

SUMMER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Intensive language program for college students
June 22-July 31
Dahlonega Campus

SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

Academic enhancement for potential UNG freshmen
July 1-Aug. 1
Gainesville Campus

SOFTBALL CAMPS

Children ages 6-12
July 15-17
Dahlonega Campus

SOCCER CAMP

Boys 8-18
July 18-20
Dahlonega Campus

BASEBALL-UNG PROSPECT CAMP

High school or junior college players
Aug. 2-3
Dahlonega Campus

SUMMER COMMENCEMENT

AUG. 2

UNG MEN'S SOCCER PROSPECT CAMP

Aug. 9
Dahlonega Campus

CLASS OF '69 REUNION

Sept. 5-7
Dahlonega Campus

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP CUP

October 13
Chattahoochee Golf Club, Gainesville

WHILE U.S. ARMY CADET COMMAND IS CHANGING ROTC EDUCATION AND TRAINING, IN MANY WAYS, THE NEW STANDARDS MIRROR THE CURRENT TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA'S CORPS OF CADETS.

BOLD LEADER TRANSFORMATION

by Edie Rogers

The “Bold Transformation” initiative by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command aims to transform leader development; improve cadet recruiting, selection and branching; develop high-quality military instructors; and connect with potential candidates.

The changing nature of 21st-century military operations is driving the need for a different type of Army officer, one who understands the strategic environment and can think critically and creatively. Instructors can train cadets in specific skill areas, but also must educate them about how to handle the unknown.

“We are developing cadets to be commissioned officers who can fight and win our nation’s wars. By the time a cadet graduates, the Army needs to be able to determine who can actually lead and who cannot,” said COL Todd Wilson, professor of military science at UNG. “To accomplish this mission, Bold Transformation has an increasing emphasis on enhancing education in the classroom, requiring that we change methodologies and become better educators.”



LT Clint Harvin, '13, of the University of North Georgia, graduates from the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC). The summer training program is moving to Fort Knox, Ky., and undergoing some changes.

The emphasis is shifting to more student-focused instruction that encourages active listening and critical thinking from the very beginning of a cadet’s professional development. Using templates developed by Cadet Command, military science instructors are changing their instruction methods to engage cadets in these skills.

The new instruction methods ensure cadets understand the “why” behind the lesson, as well as the real-world application and value of what they’re learning. Lessons include role-playing, small group discussions in class, and practical applications and tasks in leadership labs and field-training exercises. With supervision, senior cadets also reinforce the concepts they’re learning by teaching junior cadets, already a common practice at UNG.

Curriculum changes under Bold Transformation also include increasing the number of credit hours awarded for military science courses, a change that already has been approved and is being enacted at UNG. Now, the number of credit hours awarded will match the actual number of contact hours cadets spend with instructors, instead of falling short.



For example, cadets previously may have spent three hours in a particular class each week, but only earned one credit hour for the course; now, cadets will earn three credit hours.

At UNG, the Department of Military Science holds monthly instructor meetings, which include curriculum reviews and tips for developing lesson plans. UNG instructors also begin each course by outlining the learning objectives, then circle back at the end of the course to make sure cadets have met the objectives.

Bold Transformation isn't limited to changes in the classroom. Cadet Command, which has moved its headquarters to Fort Knox, Ky., also is changing summer training. The Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) is moving to Fort Knox beginning in 2014 and scoring and tasks have been tweaked. A new Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) course will be required beginning in 2016.

Cadets will earn 3 credit hours for the required summer training and will receive a letter grade instead of just a numerical score. Also, the grade will only be a portion of the Order of Merit List

(OML) model that is used for branching, or determining a cadet's job assignment in the Army. Instead, Wilson said, OML will focus more on a cadet's on-campus performance, thus reinforcing curriculum changes and the increase in time cadets spend with instructors.

"At UNG, we're developing cadets into commissioned officers, and a result of that development is that they do well in the tasks asked of them at summer training evaluations," Capt. Donovan Duke said. "But the tasks our cadets have to accomplish are a little harder than at LDAC."

Other changes include cadet recruiting, which will focus on providing scholarships in targeted areas such as STEM fields, strategic languages and nursing – all three areas in which UNG

cadets excel. Cadets at UNG have opportunities to study language and military science through programs such as study abroad, Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program, Project Global Officer, Defense Language Institute, Summer Language Institute, and Cadet English Language Training Team.



Cadet Command is engaged in a marketing campaign to recruit diverse, top-notch cadets – an area in which UNG also is involved. In fall 2013, UNG was selected as the site of new publicity photos for the campaign.

NIGHTHAWKS

University of North Georgia
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Version E



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A MASCOT IS ABOUT THE CREATION OF AN IDENTITY TO UNIFY A COMMUNITY, TO REPRESENT THE IDEALS AND CHARACTER OF AN INSTITUTION, AND TO CHANNEL THE PASSION THAT FLOWS THROUGH IT.

HAWKS

SPREAD THEIR WINGS



Mascot ready to strike
by Michael Marshall

IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN selecting an animal or emblem. It's not just putting together a costume and finding someone to fill it. Creating a mascot is about the creation of a brand to unify a university community, to represent the ideals and character of an institution, and to channel the passion that flows through it.

The students of the University of North Georgia chose the Nighthawk to be that ambassador. A swift and agile hunter native to the region, the Nighthawk was revealed as UNG's new mascot in October 2012, and since then the university has been working with Rickabaugh Graphics, one of the nation's top graphic design studios, in creating the Nighthawk brand.

"Our athletes are enjoying the Nighthawk brand, and our Student Athlete Advisory Committee is excited about the revealing of the mascot character later this spring," Athletic Director Lindsay Reeves said.

Designing a brand and mascot is a lengthy process, explained Eric Rickabaugh, owner and creative director of Rickabaugh Graphics. Rickabaugh created the initial mascot designs that were unveiled in January 2013, when UNG





PHOTO COURTESY OF
STREET CHARACTERS, INC.

was created through the consolidation of Gainesville State College and North Georgia College & State University.

“Often the mascot grows out of our process of creating a new brand for university, as it has been for UNG,” Rickabaugh said. “Our first task was to create something that strengthens and reinforces that brand as we take what we have created and turn it into living, breathing character. We talked to many representatives from UNG to learn about their vision for the character. They had to decide if they wanted something for students or kids, or something in between. Do they want it to be fun, or intimidating? Cuddly or athletic? We also took into account the traditions and other parts of the university’s identity.”

Focus group participants working to identify ideal traits of the brand decided the style of the Nighthawks image should be serious, and that it should reflect an “old-school” design. The designs also represent key descriptors that the focus group participants used for the Nighthawks: proud, determined, respected, tough, aggressive, dignified, and relentless.

After those details were finalized, Rickabaugh Graphics began producing multiple mascot sketches, each one embodying the selected criteria in different ways. At this stage, mascot sketches can vary greatly in their portrayal of the details, such as whether the mascot has a fun or realistic appearance, and whether its colors reflect the animal’s natural markings and patterns or whether they use the color scheme of the school.

“We then begin to share these concepts with the university in a process of back-and-forth development, where we fine-tune the mascot’s appearance,” Rickabaugh said. “For a bird, this often involves the wings and feathers. After a final design is selected, we pass the design on to the costume manufacturer, who then proceeds to build it by producing 3-D renders of our designs, which may also receive some refinement. As they

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STUDENTS SEEM EXCITED ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF A MASCOT FOR ATHLETIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS. WE ALREADY HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF CALLS REQUESTING THE MASCOT TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT CAMPUS EVENTS. —WESLEY THOMAS, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



ATHLETICS EXPANDING TO OTHER CAMPUSES?

begin manufacturing the mascot, they will provide samples of fur, feathers, colors, and other materials, and we discuss accessories such as uniforms or props.”

Street Characters, the firm that is developing the Nighthawks mascot, has produced mascots for such notable professional sports franchises as the National Football League’s Denver Broncos and Major League Baseball’s Detroit Tigers .

“The Nighthawk logo is unique, and I think the mascot represents it well. This is the only Nighthawk we’ve ever done, and we’ve added a lot of little touches to really bring it to life,” Rickabaugh said, adding that the studio frequently designs other birds of prey. “It has been fun to design, and I think the finished product is going to be great.”

This spring, members of the UNG community will have opportunities to help select a nickname for the mascot, which will be revealed later this year.

“It’s definitely a special time to be a Nighthawk,” said student Christopher Natsch. “This is really the last step in this process, and I think the unveiling of the new mascot will help cement who we are at North Georgia. I’m really excited to see the new face of UNG for years to come!”

Softball player Katie Garrett agreed, saying that the Nighthawk name is really settling in among the athletic community, and that the mascot will be the final piece to the puzzle.

“Students seem excited about the arrival of a mascot for athletic and special events,” said Wesley Thomas, associate dean for student involvement. “We already have had a number of calls requesting the mascot to make an appearance at campus events. There has been much discussion about when the mascot will appear for the first time and what its nickname will be. Several students have already asked about tryouts for who will wear the suit. Having a physical mascot is really going to bring the Nighthawk to life.”

Nighthawks do their best hunting during dawn and dusk — and the dawn of our Nighthawk is coming.

A common question that comes up in the wake of the university’s consolidation is, “Will athletics expand to other campuses?” The answer: “Possibly, over time.”

Currently, NCAA athletics exist only on UNG’s Dahlonega Campus. However, President Bonita Jacobs has tasked a group to consult with students and to consider a long-range plan for expanding athletic programs to other campuses.

The task force is composed of former institutional presidents Sherman Day and Randy Pierce, Athletics Director Lindsay Reeves, Senior Vice President for University Affairs Al Panu, and several students. They are developing a five-year plan that could result in a few new athletic programs on the Gainesville Campus based on interest and resources.

“Our wish is to begin this expansion with the Gainesville Campus at first, and we have received huge support from all students on each campus to make this happen,” Reeves said. “First, we want to work on building club and intramural sports on the Gainesville Campus to create drive and excitement. Our timeline is not exact for this project, and there are many hurdles to overcome and possible changes that can happen, but we are working on the details with the hope of making this happen.”

For students to compete in NCAA athletics, they must be enrolled in bachelor’s degree programs. Currently, bachelor’s degree programs are located primarily on the Dahlonega Campus, with a few select programs on the Gainesville Campus. Additional considerations for program expansion include student athletic fees, facility resources and potential community support.

Leading the charge: ENERGIZING GEORGIA

by Edie Rogers



A'S FUTURE ⊕



A current UNG student leader gives high school students and parents a tour of the Dahlonega Campus.

This May, some 1,500 students will earn associate, bachelor's and graduate degrees from the University of North Georgia. While that marks a record number of graduates for the university, UNG and educators around the state are working to increase the number of college graduates.

Each of the 31 public colleges and universities that are part of the University System of Georgia (USG) has developed a plan to support the Complete College Georgia initiative, which has the goal of increasing by 2020 the percentage of Georgians completing some level of college to 60 percent, helping ensure the state can compete in a global economy.

"Building upon our existing successes and strengths, the University of North Georgia and our Complete College Georgia plan have the potential to transform educational attainment in our region, making Northeast Georgia one of the most vibrant and dynamic areas in Georgia and the Southeast," said President Bonita C. Jacobs. "With four campuses located across the northern region of the state, and through partnerships with local educational agencies, government, and industry, the University of North Georgia is strategically situated to address the critical need for an educated workforce for economic growth in the region."

On average, those who hold bachelor's degrees in Georgia earn almost twice as much as high school graduates, who average \$31,351 in annual salary, according to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. The median income for those with associate degrees



UNG's Complete College Georgia strategies

- + Improve college readiness through k-12 partnerships
- + Expand access and completion
- + Reduce the time it takes to earn a college degree
- + Develop new models of instruction and learning
- + Transform remediation



REED Task Force members, which included educators, lawmakers and community members, met in Blairsville, Gainesville and Oconee to discuss the important themes of access to education at all levels.



College graduates earn \$1,000,000 more than high school graduates in lifetime earnings.



College graduates had an unemployment rate of 4.1% in 2012 compared to 11.2% for high school graduates.



College graduates are more likely than high school graduates to obtain employment that offers retirement benefits, tuition reimbursement, a health savings account, and commuting costs.

is \$43,687; the median income for those with bachelor's degrees is \$60,457.

Dr. Houston Davis, the USG's executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer, stressed how important the initiative is to Georgians and the future of the state.

"This is an imperative for the state of Georgia, if we want to continue being healthy economically, culturally and socially," Davis said. "If we want the people of our state to be able to realize their full potential, this completion agenda is something that we absolutely have got to work for, because it is about positioning the state for the future."

A recent environmental scan conducted by UNG shows that education levels in the region still lag behind the state. In the 20 northeast Georgia counties examined, a dozen are below the state average of 33.8 percent for the portion of the population possessing an associate degree or higher.

UNG's plan builds on its history of academic achievement, student success and strong community partnerships to address five strategies: improving college readiness via k-12 partnerships; expanding access and completion, particularly for underserved populations; reducing the time it takes to earn a college degree; developing new models of instruction and learning; and transforming remediation.

At a forum held last spring at UNG, Davis had high praise for UNG's plan.

"Your plan was one of the ones held up as exemplary in the USG's peer review process," he said. "We really are proud to have the University of North Georgia as a partner in this, and I believe you are going to serve as a model for many of the schools in the university system."

Collaboration – with other universities, technical schools, school systems, businesses, community members, and agencies – is a big part of UNG's plan.

Last year, Jacobs initiated the Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) task force, a regional collaboration to ensure students from across the region graduate from high school prepared to continue their education and contribute to the region's economy.



Dr. Eric Skipper speaks during a REED task force meeting.

"Our university covers some 30 counties, and we are excited to develop opportunities in these areas," Jacobs told business, education and community leaders who gathered in October to discuss REED findings. "This summit is going to be the catalyst as we move forward in improving our college completion rate. We are proud of our region and we know we hold its future in our hands."

Three key themes distilled from the summer task force meetings as areas of focus are workforce readiness, including soft skills development; access to education at all levels; and partnerships and collaborations. Strategies to address these needs will be incorporated into UNG's strategic plan.

Sheila Caldwell, who joined UNG in 2013 as the director of the university's Complete College Georgia plan, is excited about working with constituents within the college and across the region.

"I love the CCG mission because the goals are to position students to graduate college and compete in the global economy." Caldwell said. "The CCG plan will serve as a catalyst to engage the whole community. As we engage business and industry, K-12 and the entire community, we will build a stronger region and a stronger Georgia."

IMPROVE COLLEGE READINESS

Jy Thammavongsa, a Habersham County High School sophomore, said the Summer Scholars program helped prepare him for a new school year. "Summer Scholars has made me feel like I can be successful," he said, adding that he wants to follow his uncle's lead and take classes at UNG's Gainesville Campus. "Then I'm planning to go to Georgia Tech and become a computer engineer." Summer Scholars Director Robin Anyanwu said helping students stay in school and further their education benefits the entire community. Other initiatives such as dual enrollment, in which high school students take college courses in conjunction with their own curriculum, and educating middle school students about courses needed to prepare for various career opportunities also boost the initiative.



Jy Thammavongsa, left, works on math problems with a classmate during the Summer Scholars Institute on the UNG Gainesville Campus.

EXPAND ACCESS AND COMPLETION

At UNG, there are various programs and services available to support adults returning to college, including thousands of veterans in the northeast Georgia region.

To help students get courses when they need them, UNG plans to expand access to the core curriculum online by becoming an eCore affiliate. UNG also is creating a three-year schedule of courses for evenings and weekends so that students who are attending part-time and planning their studies around a work schedule can properly sequence their courses.

To support adult learners, UNG offers student clubs such as Second Wind and the Veterans Student Association, workshops and resource materials, math tutoring services, and counseling services.



REDUCE THE TIME IT TAKES TO EARN A DEGREE

UNG received a grant to track the use and effectiveness of academic support services, one of the first projects funded as a USG Complete College Georgia Incubator project. Students in the Academic Success Program swipe their ID cards to "check in" to tutoring, workshops and other services aimed at helping students who are struggling academically.

"We hope that bringing real-time tracking to our support services means we can intervene at an earlier point in the semester and identify appropriate resources to help a student get back on track before they are classified as 'not in good standing,'" said Dr. Chaudron Gille, associate vice president for university affairs and academic services.

DEVELOP NEW MODELS OF INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING

UNG is increasing the use of technology and online learning to attract students, opportunities to facilitate transfer between schools, and the use of prior learning assessments to give college credits to those who have significant life experiences that traditionally have not been factored into a student's potential, such as members of the military.



Current UNG student leaders take prospective students on a campus tour during the College Access Challenge Grant Conference.

TRANSFORM REMEDIATION

UNG received a \$99,999 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to study the effectiveness of adaptive learning, which uses technology to provide interactive, personalized instruction.

In a pilot program with two UNG developmental reading classes using the technology, students who completed at least 90 percent of the program had a pass rate of 92 percent on exit exams.

"This grant provides us with the opportunity for the faculty to engage in professional development specifically related to transforming remediation," said Dr. Kristen Roney, UNG's associate vice president and dean of the University College. "It gives us a very intentional and supported opportunity to think through what UNG's remediation program can look like with technological support."



LEADING THE CHARGE:

UNG's Complete College Georgia initiatives



A parent of a high school student looks at a diagram of career and educational pathways offered at UNG during the College Access Challenge Conference held at the university.

To learn more about UNG's initiatives for college completion, please visit ung.edu/complete-college-georgia/



ALUMNI WEEKEND

Snapshot

APRIL 25 - 27

This is a small sampling of the Alumni Weekend events. To read more about UNG's Alumni Weekend, please visit www.ungalumni.org/aw2014.



Golden Alumni Society Dinner

Golden Alumni Society Dinner – Alumni who graduated 50+ years ago reconnect with their fellows.

History of Dahlonega



Anne Amerson '56 gives a talk about William Pierce Price, founder of then-named North Georgia Agricultural College, the university and the town of Dahlonega.



Alumni Mixer

UNG alumni from all decades visit the Price Memorial Plaza for a salute to the class of 1964 prior to dinner.

8

Recipients receive acknowledgement for their outstanding achievements at the NGCSU Alumni Association, Inc. Awards Luncheon.

LTG James L. Terry '78, Commanding General U.S. Army Central, Coalition Forces Land Component Command serves as the Reviewing Officer at this year's

Corps of Cadets Military Awards Review



Memorial Retreat Ceremony

Honors alumni and students who were lost in combat while serving our country and other members of UNG who died in the past year during a ceremonial "Roll Call."



Recent graduates "hop" along the square in the Young Alumni Bar Hop to local bars and restaurants.

5

Number of class reunion dinners on Saturday, including the 50th Year Dinner and Golden Medallion Presentation

FRIDAY
SOUTHERN WINE TASTING WITH DR. OLIVER

FRIDAY
ANNUAL NIGHTHAWKS ATHLETIC CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY
SIGMA KAPPA SORORITY 10-YEAR REUNION

SATURDAY
SOCCER ALUMNI GAME AND COOKOUT

SUNDAY
CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL FRIENDS OF THE CORPS LUNCHEON

SUNDAY
"FOLLOW ME! A SOLDIER'S TALE" GOLDEN EAGLE BAND PERFORMANCE

SUNDAY
AGGRESSOR PLATOON AND ORDER OF COLOMBO DEMONSTRATION



Ben Owens goes over a presentation with students in his physics class at Tri-County Early College High School in Murphy, N.C. The project-based learning method Owens uses with his classes encourages students to explore real-world challenges and problems.

Owens earns national honor for teaching

Ben Owens, '88, hasn't regretted giving up a lucrative engineering career 10 years ago to pursue teaching.

"I was in a well-paid job as an engineer with a Fortune 15 company and doing really fascinating work, but something was missing — something I could not put my finger on until my first in-classroom experience as part of my master's of teaching degree program," Owens said. "This 'something' is what now keeps me going in my second career: the spark of intrigue, excitement, and wonder in my students."

Owens earned bachelor's degrees in physics and mechanical engineering from UNG and the Georgia Institute of Technology in the two schools' dual degree program. He was awarded his master's in teaching from Marshall University. Owens says the Corps of Cadets and the physics department provided him a solid foundation for success.

"The cadet honor code and intensive leadership training the corps provided me were instrumental in helping to define the goals and a sense of direction I needed," Owens said. "Likewise, each member of the physics department challenged me to do more than I thought I was capable of, yet supported me in ways that allowed me to grow academically. Without these influences, I can easily say that not only would I have never been able to handle

Tech's mechanical engineering program, but there is no way I would be who I am today."

In January, Ben Owens, a math and science teacher at Tri-County Early College High School in Murphy, N.C., was one of only 13 educators in the country selected as Hope Street Group 2014 National Teacher Fellows. The program provides fellows with rigorous training, opportunity to network with teachers across the country, and participation in national conversations.

"Hope Street Group has a history of doing great nonpartisan work that is squarely aimed at the real issues facing public education. I am excited to be associated with this highly respected and influential organization and eager to help work on educational solutions that can enable long-term growth for the U.S. economy," he said.

In addition to his work at Tri-County Early College High School, Owens belongs to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has also been named Teacher of the Year for the Cherokee County School District.

Owens is the son of Robert Owens, who started the university's art department in 1971; the art gallery on UNG's Dahlonega Campus bears his name.

UNG alumni recognized in new Military Hall of Fame

Brig. Gen. (Retired) David Grange ('70) and the late Col. (Retired) Ben Purcell ('50) were selected as inaugural inductees into the new Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame. Selected for the valor category, both men were honored for their courageous military service.

The Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization that aims to recognize the sacrifice of Georgia's more than 770,000 military veterans and their families.

Grange commanded Rangers in Vietnam, Iran and Grenada. He also served as deputy commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command. He was awarded

three Silver Stars and two Purple Hearts during his career.

Purcell, a former professor of military science and commandant of cadets at UNG, served in the U.S. Army for more than 30 years, including combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. Purcell, the highest-ranking POW in Vietnam, endured interrogation, starvation and beatings during his 62 months of captivity. Purcell was awarded the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, and other awards.



Brigade General (Retired) David Grange, left, and the late Colonel (Retired) Ben Purcell.

Three other alumni, Col. (Ret) Gerald Lord, Col. (Ret) Ben S. Malcom and Lt. Gen. (Ret) Burton D. Patrick, were recognized as nominees to the Hall of Fame.

Four inducted into UNG Athletics Hall of Fame



Dr. Jacobs stands with Hall of Fame inductees Katie Williamson, Spencer Boyd, Paul Stringer, Galina Dimitrova Courson and UNG Athletic Director Lindsey Reeves.

UNG inducted four former student-athletes into the UNG Athletics Hall of Fame on Feb. 15. The honorees included Spencer Boyd ('60), Galina Dimitrova Courson ('01), Paul Stringer ('52), and Katie Williamson ('06).

"Each of the members of this class has left both a distinctive mark on University of North Georgia athletics and the entire Nighthawk community, and each is incredibly deserving of this honor," Athletic Director Lindsay Reeves said.

The UNG Athletics Hall of Fame honors individuals who have earned outstanding athletic achievement or made substantial contributions to the university's athletics programs. A nine-member board of directors serves as selectors for all honorees, based upon nominations.

For more information about the Athletics Hall of Fame, or to make a nomination, visit ungathletics.com.

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UNG
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Jeneen Giardina Olive (left) and Andrea Denton (right) at the Soldier Half-Marathon at Fort Benning in November 2013.

Alumnae lead chapters in national running club

Moms RUN This Town, a nationwide running club that encourages mothers and other women to support each other in walking and running, has three chapters in Atlanta led by alumnae of the University of North Georgia.

Andrea Faes Denton '01, Jeneen Giardina Olive '02, and Lori Digby Partin '02 met as sisters of the Alpha Gamma Delta women's fraternity during their years at UNG. Partin joined her local chapter then took over when the leader left. Denton began her own chapter, and Olive later became a chapter leader after being introduced to running and its health benefits.

"Moms RUN This Town has given us an outlet to do something we love with people who also love it," Partin said. "Running isn't like a team sport. Because running is solitary, it requires no additional effort in having to ask someone to go with you — you just go. But once you put forth the effort to bring another person on board with you, you are happy you did. That is the purpose behind Moms

RUN This Town — bringing others on board, helping you push yourself to be better, and encouraging others to do the same."

Denton and Olive are former students of retired UNG faculty member Dr. Timothy Singleton, who died July 31, 2013, and who founded the Peachtree Road Race, which is held in Atlanta every Independence Day.

Denton said Singleton was a very positive influence on them, and she wanted to honor him, so she developed a plan to do a memorial run in honor of Singleton on July 4 following his original idea for the Peachtree Road Race.

"His original plan was to run one lap around Stone Mountain, which would be roughly five miles, and then finish by running up to the top of the mountain, about 1.2 miles, for a total of 10 kilometers or 6.2 miles," Denton said. "Jeneen and I will be joined by founder Pam Burrus and several Moms RUN This Town club members on this memorial run."



Lori Digby Partin (left) and Denton at the Alpha Gamma Delta 5K.

Alumni forming Shared Interest Groups

Rather than waiting for events such as reunions and holidays to see friends from college days, University of North Georgia alumni are forming Shared Interest Groups (SIG) to provide more opportunities for reconnecting and sharing affinity for their experiences as students.

The Office of Alumni Relations has published a Shared Interest Group Resource Guide to help form communities of alumni that share a common affinity or bond based on shared experience, identity, background, academic affiliation, profession or other UNG-related interest.

“A SIG provides an opportunity for alumni to connect in meaningful ways beyond the traditional class affiliation, campus, or common regional proximity,” said Phil Collins, director for Alumni Relations at UNG. “SIGs also offer a way for the university to identify and engage its alumni community in the life of the university through events, networks and communication.”

The SIG Program will operate in conjunction with the UNG alumni association, which is currently being formed, and will be administered by the Office of Alumni Relations. Alumni can participate in multiple SIGs as their time and interests permit.



For more details about how to form a SIG, please visit:
<http://www.ungalumni.org/sigs>.



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UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE!**

ungbookstore.com



At the 2013 Annual meeting of the UNG Foundation - Gainesville, Inc., Rich White received a chair commemorating his service to the institution.

'How you treat people makes a difference'

The encouragement that Rich White received as a student at the former Gainesville State College prepared him for a successful career in banking that brought him back to his alma mater to lead its foundation – twice.

“When I was at what was then called Gainesville Junior College, what made the biggest difference for me was that the faculty and the staff took a keen interest in just about every student there. They believed in me and encouraged me to do a lot of things that I’d never done before,” he said. “I learned that how you treat people really makes a difference, and I carried that into my banking career.”

After earning an associate degree in 1968, White earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Georgia and spent 30 years in the banking industry. Under White’s leadership in various executive roles, the First National Bank of Gainesville, now Regions Bank, developed its mortgage lending division, which grew to a peak volume of \$1.2 billion in annual production. As president and CEO from 1995 to 2005, White presided

over a \$1 billion full service bank, with a Trust Division of \$350 million, and more than \$3 billion in mortgage banking and servicing operations.

White is the former chairman of the University of North Georgia Foundation - Gainesville, Inc. and a past chairman of the Gainesville Junior College Foundation. Now, he’s on the committee working to merge UNG’s two foundations into one. White has seen that faculty and staff at his alma mater still care for students.

“Even though they have a lot more students now, they still have this caring attitude about all of their students and each student still gets a lot of personal attention,” he said.

White has led a number of community organizations, including past chairman of the North Georgia Community Foundation, the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank. He lives in Gainesville with his wife of 42 years, Vicki Gibbs White. They have two sons and three granddaughters.

Class Notes

Send us your class notes! E-mail us at alumni@ung.edu.
All photos submitted must be at least 300 dots per inch (dpi).

1950s

Jimmie Paulk, '53, is retired in Camden County and enjoys farming and fishing.

1960s

Jerry Porter, '67 and wife, Margaret (Peggy) are living in Fla. Jerry retired as CEO of the North Florida PGA after 27 years.

Jane Hemmer, wife of **Dr. John Hemmer**, '68, and a former member of the Gainesville State College and North Georgia College & State University Board of Trustees, was honored in March by the Girls Scouts of Historic Georgia as the 2014 Gainesville Woman of Distinction. Hemmer also was named the Gainesville Rotary Club's Woman of the Year in February. A former state senator, she is a fine art sculptor and forensic artist working in Gainesville, Ga., and Atlanta and owner of Forensic and Fine Art of Georgia.

Col. Wallace N. Quintrell, U.S. Army (retired) now has two grandchildren. Grandson Mathew Nathan Hartz was born on Jan. 2, 2014, and big sister McKenzie turned 3 on March 9. Col. Quintrell wishes a Happy New Year to all his college buddies.

1970s

State Schools Superintendent John Barge presented a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School Award to Tritt Elementary School Principal, **Dr. Karen Ash Frost**, '74. Karen is currently leading along with **Dr. Diane Habuda Ray**, '74, **Beth Grindle**, '76, and **Judy Palmer**, '74, the formation of a Shared Interest Group dedicated to the women of UNG.

1980s

Kathy Ashworth, '81, was recently chosen as the Friday Featured Card Maker Interview Coordinator for Operation Write Home (OWH). OWH is a nonprofit

group of volunteers who make blank greeting cards that are sent to deployed troops in all military service branches. More than 2.5 million cards have been sent since the group's inception in 2007.

Tammy Slay, '82, started with Skip Barber Racing School in Braselton, Ga. in May 2013 as their accounts payable coordinator. In 2009, she earned an associate degree in accounting from Lanier Technical College, where she graduated with honors.

Bill Cliff, '84, is looking forward to participating in the Cooper River Run 10k in Charleston, S.C., with Col. (Ret.) Gil Copeland, '63. He is still employed with the Georgia Department of Transportation as an estimator and hopes to retire in February 2015.

1990s

Lt. Col. Jason T. Williams, '98, assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment on Nov. 18, 2013, in Fort Drum, N.Y. He and his wife, Shelley Graves Williams, live in New York with their three daughters.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey J. Bragg, '98, Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion (SOATB) commander, was presented the 2013 Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Award on Jan. 31, 2014. The Parker Award honors the top aviation battalion in the Army. It is a Department of the Army-level award that recognizes excellence at the battalion level in an Army Aviation unit.

2000s

Iryna Ivashchuk, '02, was recently named to the board of governors of the Ukrainian-American Bar Association, a national bar association created in 1977 whose members are U.S. judges, attorneys and law students of Ukrainian decent and those U.S. attorneys with an interest in Ukrainian matters.

Charlie Fulcher, '01 and **Laura Padgett**, '02, were married Dec. 27, 2013. Charlie

owns a law practice in Jasper and Laura works at UNG in Alumni Relations & Annual Giving. They currently reside in Jasper, Ga.

Kristen Deuschle, '02, was named as Forsyth County's Teacher of the Year and the county's Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2014.

James and Miranda Wright, '06, welcomed their second child, Hudson Vandiver Wright, in September 2013. James received his law degree from Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law in 2009, and was recently named vice president of Corporate Services at GreyStone Power Corp. He also serves as vice president of the Gainesville State College Alumni Association.

2010s

Elizabeth Lister, '12, was presented with the DAISY Award for Nursing for the month of April 2013 following nominations submitted by patients and peers at North Fulton Hospital. Lister, a North Fulton Hospital employee since 2011, chose to become a nurse upon returning to the workforce after her children reached school age. "Her patience and kindness are invaluable," said Alex Peterson, clinical manager of Surgical Nursing at North Fulton Hospital.

Drew Alexander, '13, member of the UNG Young Alumni Board, married Courtney Brooke Smith '13 on February 15, 2014.

Andrea Lynn Hannah, '13 is recently engaged to John William Pickens, '11. Andrea is currently pursuing her graduate degree in business administration and is employed with Southeast Mailing Equipment, Inc. John is employed with Russell Stover Candies. Their wedding is planned for May 18 in Athens.



Zak McConnell

'11 alumnus, died Oct. 29, 2013, at the age of 26.

McConnell was an accomplished musician who started The Fiddleheads, a band of students and alumni who competed on the national television reality program "America's Got Talent." He was a teaching assistant at the University of Georgia, where he was enrolled in the MBA program.

LeeAnn Noble

Student-athlete, died March 10, 2014.

Noble was a member of the women's golf team and the Student Athlete Advisory Council. As a Make-A-Wish recipient, Noble was very involved in the university's support of the foundation. Noble was featured, along with a teammate, in the fall 2013 cover story for NCAA Champion Magazine.

Col. Jack Peevy

U.S. Army (Ret), '64, died Jan. 7, 2014, at the age of 71.

In October 2012, Peevy pledged \$2.1 million to support the university's Corps of Cadets, the largest private gift made in support of the corps. In 2013, Peevy was honored by the university as a distinguished alumnus.

During a 30-year military career, Peevy commanded Airborne Infantry, Special Forces, and Military Intelligence units. He also served a combat tour in Vietnam, where he was severely wounded. His awards, decorations and qualifications include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with V Device, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

Dr. Timothy Singleton

Retired faculty member, died July 31, 2013, at the age of 76.

Singleton came to then-North Georgia College in 1989 to teach business and was the Lee Anderson Chair of Management in the business school when he retired from the university. Singleton helped found the Peachtree Road Race and was inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.



Deceased Alumni

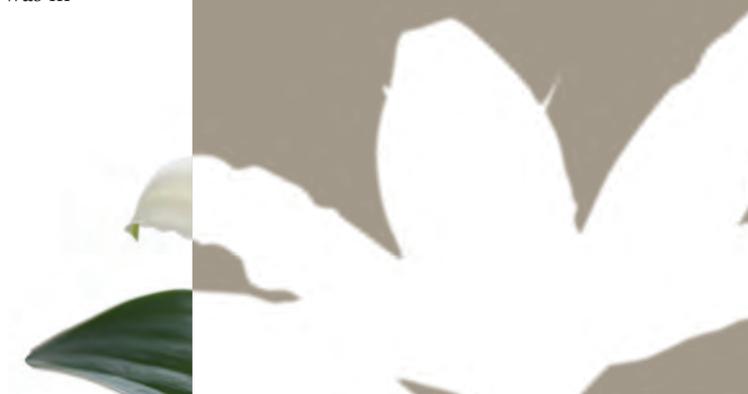
Ann O. Sims '36 – February 10, 2014
 Doris M. Oglesby '37 – February 9, 2014
 Roy B. Miller '39 – February 13, 2014
 Hugh M. (Max) Thomason '40 – February 1, 2014
 James L. Henderson '43 – February 21, 2014
 Carolyn C. Daniel '52 – January 8, 2014
 Glenn E. Byess '55 – January 14, 2014
 Lucille Hulsey '55 – February 1, 2014
 Louie Frank Ayers '56 – January 9, 2014
 Jodie L. Burton '64 – January 16, 2014
 Lewis J. (Jack) Peevy '64 – January 7, 2014
 Linda K. Barber '66 – January 6, 2014
 Ann M. Elliott '68 – February 16, 2014
 John F. Cleveland '75 – February 16, 2014
 William P. Harrell '93 – December 26, 2013
 John D. Nesbit '10 – January 29, 2014
 Zak McConnell '11 – October 29, 2013
 Paul L. Burris – February 8, 2014
 Frank A. Conner, Jr. – January 31, 2014
 Jack C. Ganues – January 4, 2014
 Joseph L. Reagin – February 10, 2014
 Stephen A. Wyrick – February 6, 2014

Faculty and Staff

Timothy Singleton – July 31, 2013
 Charlie Jackson, Jr. – January 5, 2014
 William M. (Mike) Banks – January 6, 2014
 Roy D. Davis – January 7, 2014
 Ruby A. Satterfield – February 9, 2014

Current Students

Samantha A. DeLong – January 8, 2014
 LeeAnn Noble – March 10, 2014





Alumna supports UNG as donor, volunteer

Anna Lee Adams, '08, has remained involved with UNG since graduating with a bachelor's degree in sociology and certificate in gerontology. While a student at UNG, she was very involved in her major, honor societies and Greek life, all while working part-time.

Adams began giving annually to UNG in 2009, shortly after graduation. As a new graduate who was new to the workforce and also pursuing her MBA, she wasn't always able to make large gifts. But Adams has seen how even smaller gifts of \$10 or \$25 can benefit UNG students and programs.

Now five years after graduating, Adams continues to give each year because she knows that the support from the alumni who gave before her helped shape her college experience and helped her earn a degree that has started her on the path to a successful career. Anna works for Life Link of Georgia as a hospital development liaison. She credits the education she received at UNG and her professors for helping her land what she calls a "dream job."

But Adams' support of UNG isn't just limited to monetary donations. She volunteers her time on the UNG Young Alumni Board as the board's marketing and outreach committee chairperson and regularly attends alumni events.

She is a proud graduate and loves supporting her alma mater!

How you can apply to be a member of UNG's Young Alumni Board

Any graduate of NGCSU, GSC, or UNG of the past 10 years can apply to be on the Young Alumni Board and serve a two-year term. Selection will be based on the number of applicants and desire for an equal representation board. To apply, alumni can visit the alumni website from ung.edu and submit their application and résumé. For any questions about the UNG Young Alumni Board or other alumni-related inquiries, please contact Sarah Dunlap at sarah.dunlap@ung.edu or 706-864-1562.



Mary Helen McGruder, left, President Bonita C. Jacobs, and Pat Wehunt thanked donors for their support of students through the UNG Foundations at the celebration of the new donor recognition wall on the Gainesville Campus.

UNG donor wall unveiled on Gainesville Campus

More than 200 people gathered in October for the dedication of a new donor recognition wall on the University of North Georgia's Gainesville Campus. The new wall represents one step toward unifying the university's two philanthropic foundations.

The installation in the lobby of the Continuing Education/Performing Arts building pays tribute to donors with cumulative giving records of \$10,000 and higher. It features donors who previously had given to either Gainesville State College and North Georgia College & State University prior to the January 2013 consolidation that created UNG.

A near-exact copy of the wall also is located on the Dahlonega Campus; both walls include a list of university presidents, honorary lifetime members of the foundations, and recipients of the UNG Presidential Leadership Award.

President Bonita C. Jacobs thanked UNG's two foundations for their support of the university.

"I would be remiss tonight if I didn't thank Pat Wehunt from the Gainesville Foundation and George Coleman and Mary Helen McGruder from the Dahlonega Foundation for all of their

efforts to work together for what works best for all of the students, not just part of our students," she said. "And I want to thank you for your generosity and your help. It really matters to our students."

The two entities will become one foundation in July 2014. Current leaders Mary Helen McGruder of the UNG Foundation – Dahlonega Inc. and Pat Wehunt of the UNG Foundation – Gainesville Inc. also spoke at the dedication, encouraging donors to continue their support.

Dr. Andrew Leavitt, UNG's vice president for university advancement, added his thanks to those who have given to the university throughout the years.

"The University of North Georgia is tremendously grateful for the support of alumni and friends from both institutions, which has helped generations of professional, military and civic leaders," Leavitt said. "To thank those individuals, families and corporations who supported the university through their giving, it is our pleasure to dedicate the UNG Societies Donor Recognition Wall."

Scholarships at a glance

Since the beginning of Fall Semester 2013

Presidential scholarship winners announced

The University of North Georgia has announced the first recipients of the new Presidential Scholarships.

The Presidential Scholarship Program was announced by President Bonita Jacobs during the 2013 Scholarship Ball, and is funded by pledges made in conjunction with that annual event.

Presidential scholarships provide \$4,000 annually to deserving students for either two or four years; recipients are required to be incoming freshmen at UNG and must be accepted into the university's Honors Program. For first-semester freshmen, the minimum high school GPA is 3.5 and the minimum SAT score is 1150 to apply for UNG's Honors Program.

The first recipients are:

- Macie Noelle Maret of Dalton, Ga., is the 2014 recipient of the Choate Family Presidential Scholarship, funded by Millard Choate, president of Choate Construction, and wife Sue. Maret plans to graduate in May from Northwest Whitfield High School and study chemistry at UNG.
- Todd M. Eliason of Kennesaw, Ga., is the 2014 recipient of the William P. Roberts Presidential Scholarship, funded by alumnus John Roberts in honor of his father, a former history professor. Eliason plans to graduate in May from Kennesaw Mountain High School. He intends to enter the Corps of Cadets and study chemistry at UNG, both requirements of the Roberts scholarship.

How many scholarships have been awarded?

More than 1500 scholarships and growing

What is the total amount of scholarships awarded?

\$3,452,491

What is the average amount?

\$1,000 per semester

What is the most common major receiving scholarships?

Business majors, then STEM and Corps of Cadets – More specifically business management majors were awarded most frequently, followed by biology, and then business administration, and marketing majors.

How many new scholarships were created? 25

The Corps Advisory Council will award a \$2,000 scholarship to a UNG cadet on behalf of the Corps of Cadets Fund.

The Joe Hampton Morgan Theatre Scholarship, created through a \$25,000 endowment from donor Buck Cheves '85, will support theatre students.

Accounting program endowment honors former dean

The Mike Cottrell College of Business at the University of North Georgia recently announced an endowment goal of \$200,000 to benefit and support the college's accounting program through the H. Lawrence Dennis Accounting Endowment Fund.

"Dr. Dennis has made a tremendous impact on the Mike Cottrell College of Business over the years," said Dr. Donna Mayo, dean of the college. "It is really an honor for us to be able to create this endowment to represent what he has done and continues to do in supporting our college and its students."

The funds will provide additional opportunities for accounting students and faculty in regional engagement, research and general programming support.

"I had great support, a strong community, dedicated faculty, and wonderful students. Thank you for being part of my life," Dennis said at a luncheon held to announce the endowment.

The program is more than halfway toward its goal said Perry Barnett, chairman of the Mike Cottrell College of Business' Business Advisory Council and partner at Rushton & Company, an accounting and business planning firm in Gainesville. More than \$112,000 in gifts and commitments has been secured, including multi-year pledges.



Mike Cottrell College of Business former dean Larry Dennis



Dr. Bonita Jacobs honored Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt for his commitment to bring higher education and the UNG Cumming Campus to Forsyth County.

Mayor Gravitt honored during UNG scholarship ball

Cumming Mayor H. Ford Gravitt, who has served in that role since 1970, was presented the University of North Georgia Presidential Leadership Award for his support of the university and his work to bring higher education to the Forsyth County community during UNG's 2014 Scholarship Ball.

"Mayor Gravitt had the vision and determination to bring higher education opportunities to this community, and UNG's Cumming Campus will be a part of his legacy," University President Bonita C. Jacobs said. "He was instrumental in building a collaborative of government, community, industry, and education leaders to accomplish this. As a result, UNG will increase the educational attainment of students in this community and help our region continue to prosper."

For almost 20 years, Gravitt led Cumming and Forsyth County officials and community members in efforts to bring higher education to the area. The Cumming Campus opened in August 2012 with more than 500 students enrolled. This fall, enrollment in college courses exceeded 750, including students pursuing all levels of degrees, from associate to graduate.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be given this award,"

Gravitt said. "It seems like a lifetime that we've been working to get higher education here in Cumming. It's only one building right now, but it's a big start for Cumming and Forsyth County. We certainly want to be able to provide every opportunity for Cumming and Forsyth County students to further their education."

Previous winners of the Presidential Leadership Award are Mike Cottrell, Paul Stringer and George Coleman. Proceeds from the annual UNG Scholarship Ball fund scholarships for UNG students.

Increasing support for students has been one of Jacobs' top priorities as president, and the reason she established the annual Scholarship Ball.

"Many students do not get the chance to experience college without the benefit of scholarships," Jacobs said. "Sometimes, a thousand dollar scholarship can make all the difference in whether a student can attend school or not. Through their generosity, our donors, including Mayor Gravitt, have a great influence on our students and help them achieve their dreams and career goals."

UNG advancement team earns state award

UNG's Office of University Advancement received the 2013 Overall Institutional Excellence from the Georgia Education Advancement Council Inc., a statewide organization for professionals in educational advancement including the areas of alumni, development, publications, and communications.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and tireless effort in support of this university by Dr. Andy Leavitt, vice president for university advancement, and his team. Their accomplishments include raising more than \$44 million in UNG's first-ever capital campaign, and bringing in more than \$240,000 for new scholarships in the institution's first annual scholarship ball," UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs said.

Jacobs also praised the team for efforts throughout consolidation in combining two institutions' teams of personnel, donor bases, financial systems, and, by July 1, two separate foundations.

Legislature recognizes UNG for commitment to excellence

The University of North Georgia has been recognized regionally and nationally for excellence. On Jan. 29, UNG was honored at the state capitol in Atlanta in separate resolutions passed by the Georgia Senate and House marking "UNG Day" at the Capitol.

The resolutions recognized the university's status as The Military College of Georgia and one of only six federally-designated senior military colleges in the nation, and for its commitment to providing a more-educated Georgia and maintaining affordability and high academic value.

President Bonita C. Jacobs was scheduled to speak on the House floor and several students, faculty, staff and alumni had planned to meet with legislators, but plans for the visit were canceled due to a winter storm.



George, Larry and Richard Coleman attend a ceremony installing a dedication marker at the site of the former baseball field in April 2013.

UNG dedicates field house to brothers

Paying homage to three of its alumni, the University of North Georgia dedicated its new baseball and softball field house on March 15 to brothers George, Larry and Richard Coleman for their support of the university's athletics programs.

Construction on the Coleman Field House was completed in January. The building houses baseball and softball locker rooms, coaches' offices, meeting rooms, and training rooms. The brothers have been staunch supporters of UNG baseball and softball, and also assisted with funding to build the previous field houses. Also contributing to the field house were Paul and Frankie Stringer, Scott and Kathy Head, and Bill and Helen Hardman, among others.

"The new building and clubhouse has made a big difference in the camaraderie and chemistry of our ballplayers," said Tom Cantrell, head coach of UNG's baseball team. "It's a place to hang out as well as get dressed. It also helps with recruiting; the conference we're in is highly competitive in that area."



Athletic Director Lindsay Reeves, Scott Head, Head UNG Baseball Coach Tom Cantrell, and Head UNG Softball Coach Mike Davenport. Front row, left to right: Richard Coleman, George Coleman, Larry Coleman, UNG President Bonita Jacobs, E. Paul Stringer, and Helen Hardman.

WHAT IS THE UNG FUND?

The UNG Fund is made up of thousands of individual gifts from alumni, parents, and friends like you.



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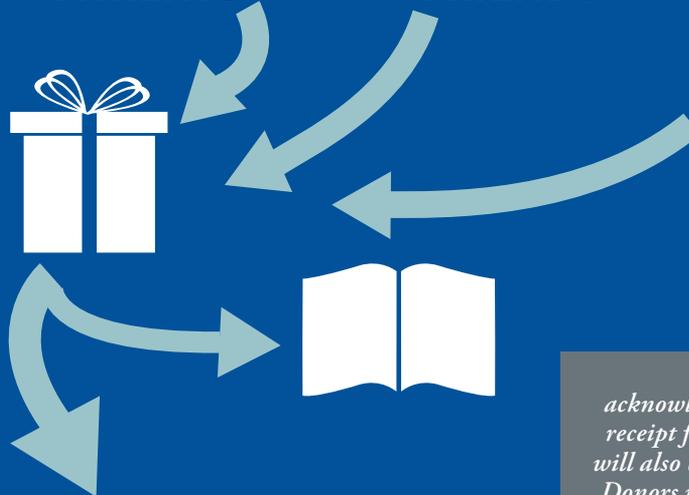
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Gifts to the UNG Fund help cover the costs of attendance from 63% with HOPE alone to 82%.



A student pays, on average, 24% of their school costs of attendance, and gifts to the UNG Fund help make up the difference.

UNG receives no federal or state funding for athletics. Private gifts support scholarships, athletic equipment and team transportation for our student athletes.



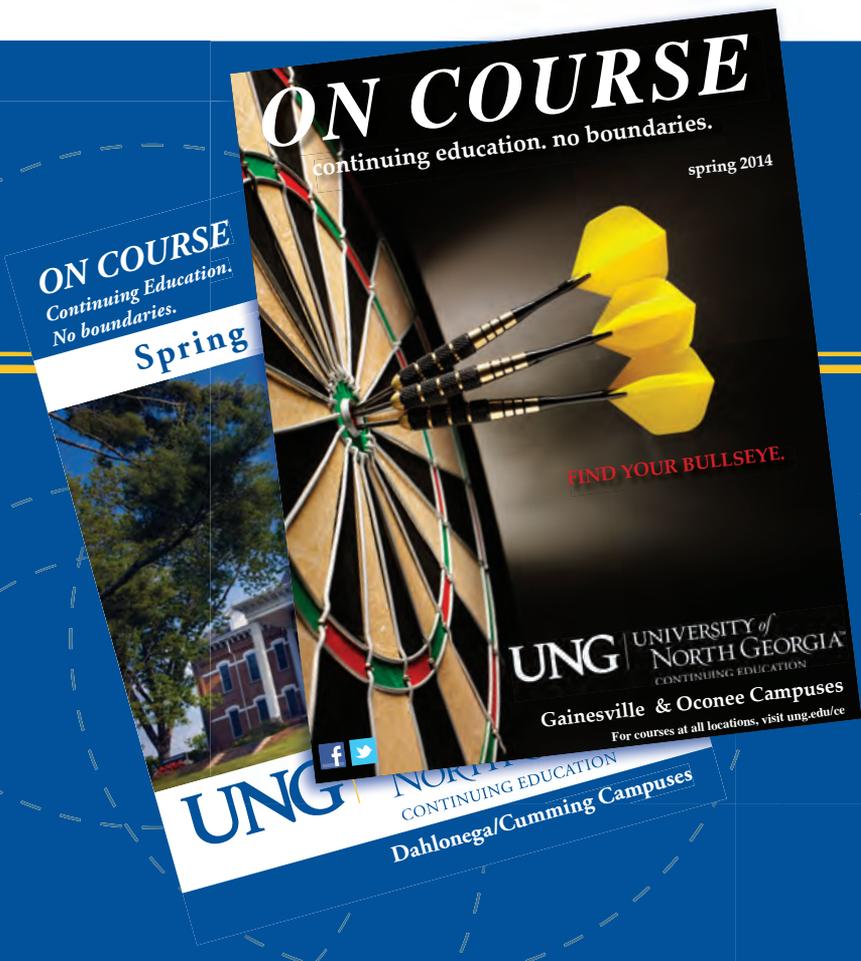
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For more information or answers to your questions, please call our UNG Fund Director at 706-864-1549. If you prefer to send your gift by mail, please make check payable to University of North Georgia Foundation and mail to Kimberly Miller, coordinator of annual giving, University of North Georgia, 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597.



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