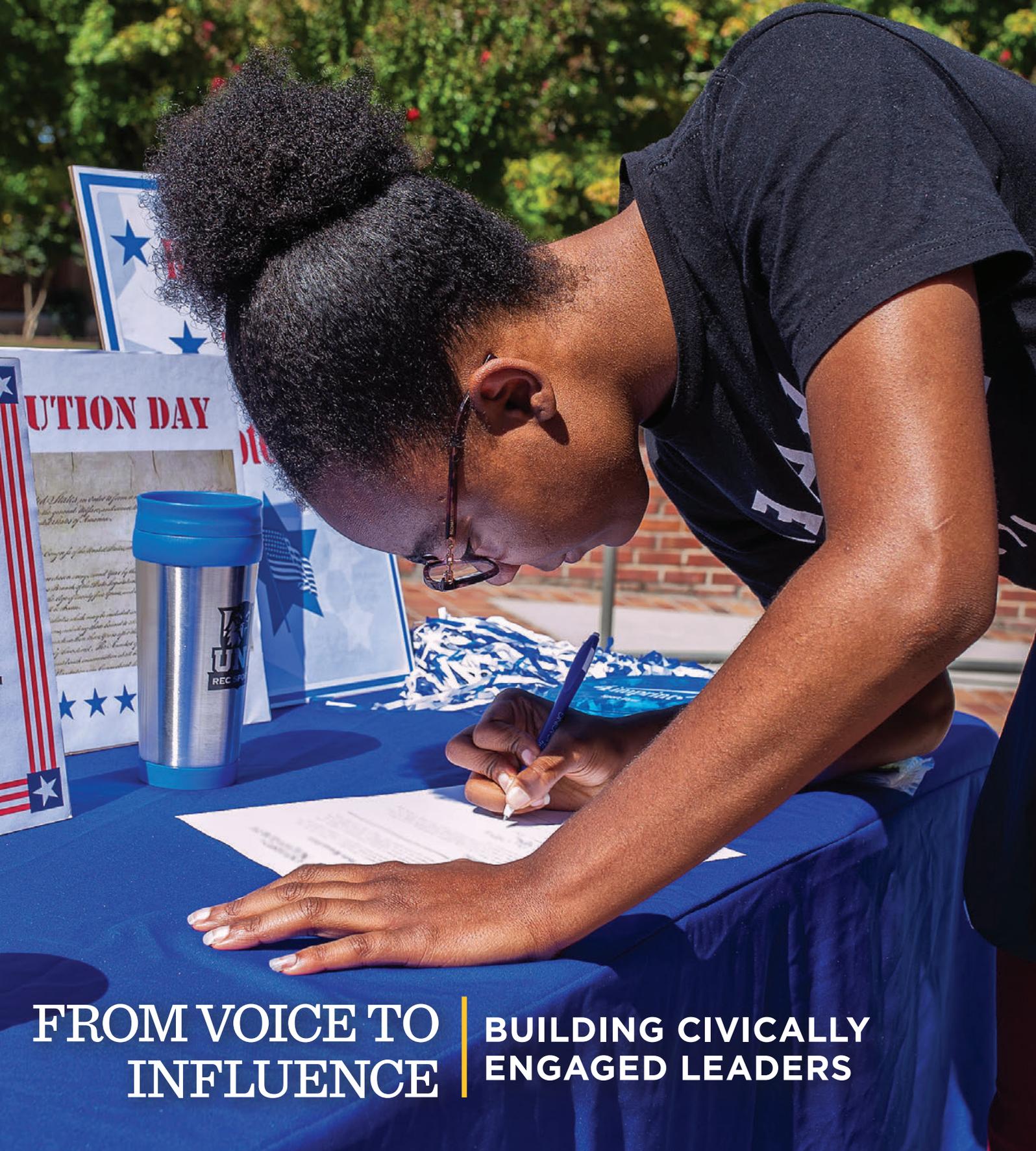


# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA MAGAZINE

Fall 2016



**FROM VOICE TO  
INFLUENCE**

**BUILDING CIVICALLY  
ENGAGED LEADERS**

## **FIREWORKS & FUN**

The annual Starlight Celebration at UNG's Gainesville Campus was part of Welcome Week this fall and entertained thousands of students, alumni and community members. Mark your calendars now, Starlight 2017 is set for August 26.





# UNG: Rooted in tradition and leadership development



**Bonita C. Jacobs, Ph.D.**  
President

What defines UNG? The UNG community continues to work toward fulfillment of our Strategic Plan for 2014-2019, and one of our goals is focused on building institutional unity and campus identity. By their very nature, universities are changing, living entities, and the university remembered by alumni from 1960 is different than the one remembered by the 1985 alumni or the 2010 alumni.

Honoring the common experiences our students and alumni share — special places, special moments in history, special traditions — reinforce our connectedness and the unique characteristics of each of our campus communities. Toward that end, I have asked a group of faculty and staff, working with students and alumni, to document the traditions and activities that contribute to each campus' culture, educational environment and student experience. We will preserve well-established traditions and seek opportunities to build fresh traditions, particularly at our newer campuses.

*“There are numerous definitions of leadership, but John Quincy Adams is credited with one of my favorites: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”*

Regardless of when or which campus you attended as a UNG student, a common takeaway for our graduates is the university's steadfast commitment to student success and leadership development. There are numerous definitions of leadership, but John Quincy Adams is credited with one of my favorites: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

UNG is brimming with inspiring stories of student, faculty, staff, and alumni leadership — from the classroom to the field, in our communities locally and around the globe — that constitute the essence of our identity and mission. These stories celebrate our individual and collective determination, integrity, service, and pursuit of excellence. We strive to equip today's students and graduates with these attributes,

and I am honored to be part of an institution and community that values and exalts leadership development.

Thank you for your support of UNG and our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonita Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonita C. Jacobs, Ph.D.  
President



## UNG: Growing as a regional university

### This fall, UNG's enrollment has topped 18,000 students.

With five campuses in northeast Georgia, 80 percent of UNG students are from a 30-county region, indicated by the lighter color above. Ninety-four percent of all students are in-state residents, with top counties being Hall, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Jackson, Fulton, Oconee, Barrow, and Lumpkin.

#### Blue Ridge

##### 112 students

UNG's newest campus offers dual-enrollment and core-level courses for associate and bachelor's degrees.

#### Cumming

##### 964 students

The Cumming Campus offers dual-enrollment, associate, graduate, and certificate programs.

#### Dahlonega

##### 7,335 students

The Dahlonega Campus is UNG's only residential campus and home to our Corps of Cadets. The Dahlonega Campus offers dual-enrollment, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, and certificate programs.

#### Gainesville

##### 7,770 students

The Gainesville Campus is conveniently located at the epicenter of business, healthcare and education for northeast Georgia. This campus offers dual-enrollment and certificate programs along with associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

#### Oconee

##### 2,412 students

The Oconee Campus offers dual-enrollment, associate degrees and core-level courses for bachelor's degree programs.

## UNG Students

**Enrollment:** 18,595

**Undergraduate:** 18,073

-Associate: 7,123

-Baccalaureate: 10,950

**Corps of Cadets:** 775

**Graduate:** 522

**Gender:** 56% Female,  
44% Male

**Full-Time:** 70%

**Race/Ethnicity:**

-American Indian or  
Alaskan Native: 0.2%

-Asian, Native Hawaiian, or  
Pacific Islander: 3.4%

-Black or African American:  
4.6%

-Hispanic: 11.5%

-Multiracial: 3.0%

-White: 75.9%

-Unknown: 1.3%

**Countries Represented:** 56

**States Represented:** 48

**Georgia Counties  
Represented:** 136

## New bachelor's program tied to security studies



Next fall, students at UNG will have the chance to pursue a degree in a new field of study – strategic and security studies.

A new Bachelor of Arts degree in strategic and security studies has been introduced by UNG's College of Arts & Letters and offers concentrations in military science, language, history, international affairs, or cyber security. The degree is geared toward students interested in careers in public and private sector security with emphases on military and international applications.

“There is a national need for graduates who are trained in security affairs, have advanced abilities in critical languages and study abroad experience,” said Dr. Chris Jespersen, dean of the College of Arts & Letters. “This program leverages UNG's existing resources and will make the university even stronger in those areas while providing students with access to in-demand careers of today and tomorrow.”

It is projected that approximately 14,800 information security analyst positions will be available nationally,

according to the 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics. This represents a projected growth of 18 percent from 2014 to 2024.

According to Jespersen, UNG will be the only school in the University System of Georgia offering a program of this kind. Other institutions' programs focus on disaster response and recovery, while UNG will prepare graduates for security and intelligence related careers in a wide range of fields including management, marketing, information technology, government policy, health care, finance, education and scientific research. The option to pursue one of five concentrations makes the program both comprehensive and flexible.

It is expected that enrollment for this major will serve 45 students in the first year and increase steadily in following years.

“This program fits well with UNG's broader academic commitment and builds upon existing programs in significant ways,” said Dr. Tom Ormond, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “Building upon our programs in computer science, criminal justice, history, international affairs, languages, and military science, this degree program combines elements from these disciplines to offer students the opportunity to craft an interdisciplinary, exciting and relevant degree program.”

## UNG garners national accolades

UNG has increased its national recognition in recent months with rankings on both *Forbes'* America's Top Colleges and *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Regional Universities lists.

“UNG's inclusion in these rankings is indicative of our increasing national recognition and the momentum we have established,” President Bonita Jacobs said. “UNG offers an exceptional educational experience that is built on a commitment to student success, high quality academics and affordability. This strong combination and our growing reputation add value to our students' experience and their degrees.”

In July, *Forbes* magazine named UNG as one of the nation's top higher education institutions in their annual “America's Top Colleges” ranking – marking UNG's first time on the list and ranking it fourth among the only six University System of Georgia institutions on the list. The *Forbes* report rated the nation's top 660 public and private universities as measured by the return students receive on their investment, and focuses on student outcomes in five categories: student satisfaction, post-graduate success, student debt, graduation rate, and academic success.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked UNG 24th among public Regional Universities in the South in its 2017 ranking of universities and colleges. UNG has been in the top tier of the annual report's regional ranking for numerous years.

The rankings are based on data related to academic quality, including freshman retention rates, peer assessment, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rates, and alumni giving. The rankings are based primarily on data from 2015 and, for some factors, include averages of the previous two to four years of data.



Emma Long is one of 15 freshmen in the new Blue Ridge Scholars program, designed to help first-time freshmen succeed in college.

## Blue Ridge freshmen blazing trail to success

Fifteen freshmen at UNG's Blue Ridge Campus were chosen this summer for the inaugural Blue Ridge Scholars program, which provides first-time freshmen with integrated instruction and support.

The program fosters student success through strong faculty-student interactions, a service-learning component, individual appointments with an academic success coach, and an emphasis on leadership development.

"This program was designed to help the students achieve the cohort 'theme: lead yourself, lead in your classroom, lead in your community,'" said Sandy Ott, director of UNG's Blue Ridge Campus. "When the faculty identify a specific need for a student in the cohort, they work together and with the academic success coach to develop custom programming to help that student."

Students in the Blue Ridge Scholars cohort attend full-time, taking a minimum of four courses each semester. The program is augmented with workshops led by faculty and staff to help students explore topics such as leadership development, career planning, college completion, and diversity issues.

"This instructional method works really well, and the cohort format really helps for discussions and peer support,"

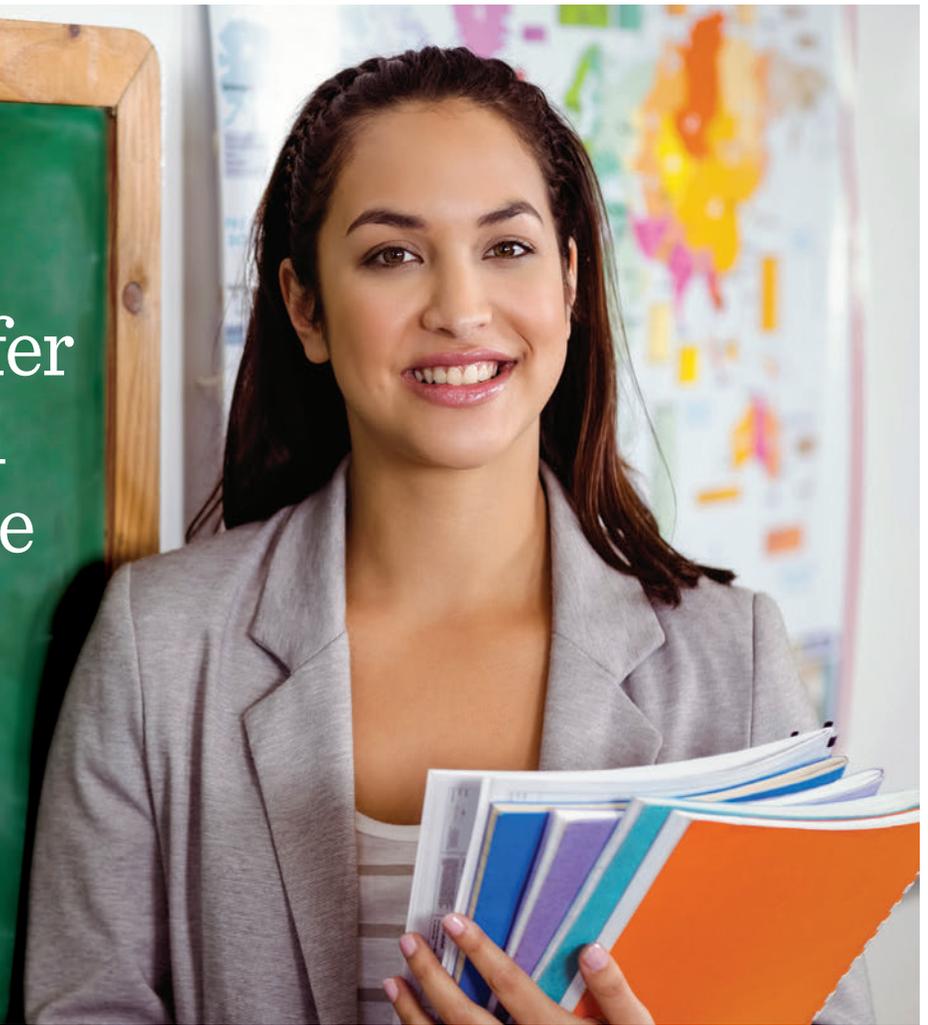
said Emily Powell, a scholar from Fannin County majoring in biology. "The faculty make time for us, and our academic success coach serves as a mentor and tutor, and provides resource support in helping us find jobs and service projects. For me, the most impactful experience has been the luncheons where we learn about some different topics, such as suicide prevention and how to help others in crisis."

The Blue Ridge Scholars were selected based on high school GPA and extracurricular activities, and funding for the program is included in normal tuition. Next fall, Ott hopes a scholarship will be available for members of the program.

"There is a sense of community within the cohort that leads to greater accountability and support, and their education is happening inside and outside the classroom as they engage with each other and their community," Ott said.

UNG's Blue Ridge Campus opened in fall 2015 with an initial enrollment of 18 students. This fall, 112 students are enrolled at the campus. In addition to the Blue Ridge Scholars cohort, the campus offers dual-enrollment core curriculum courses for area high school students and core curriculum courses for adult learners who are beginning or returning to college. Online courses are also available.

# UNG first in Georgia to offer International Baccalaureate teaching certificate



UNG's College of Education has become the first in Georgia to feature the globally focused International Baccalaureate (IB) Educator Certificate in Teaching and Learning as part of its teacher education program.

The certificate supplements teachers' experience and education with rigorous, systematic investigative work and professional development to further their knowledge. Graduates will be prepared to teach in any IB school in the world and have access to a global network of other educators.

UNG will offer its sequence of IB-certified courses as a stand-alone program or credits that can be applied toward its new two-year Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum and Instruction

program. All IB-certified courses can be completed in one year.

"UNG's Teacher Education programs are designed for introducing and cultivating the best research-based educational practices for certified teachers and prospective teachers who wish to increase their pedagogical knowledge within and beyond their own grade level and academic content," said Dr. Susan Brandenburg-Ayres, dean of UNG's College of Education.

The M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction has three strands: research, curriculum and instruction, and a focus area chosen by each student. The focus areas include options such as English to speakers of other languages, gifted education, international teaching, and reading.

UNG's programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

"This means that graduates can expect that the state will recognize their graduate degree and will compensate them for having achieved that step in the process at a time when degrees in common, out-of-field areas like leadership will not meet the GaPSC criteria for a T-5 certificate," said Dr. Charles Burrage, assistant dean and coordinator for graduate programs in UNG's College of Education.

For more information about UNG's College of Education graduate programs and admission requirements, visit [ung.edu/graduate](http://ung.edu/graduate).

## UNG DEBATE TEAM PLACES HIGHEST AMONG US TEAMS IN INTERNATIONAL, SPANISH-SPEAKING CHAMPIONSHIP

Students from the University of North Georgia debate team participated in the University World Debate Championship in Cordoba, Spain, this July. More than 500 competitors from 90 countries participated as either debate judges or team members for the eight-day tournament.

The group of nine UNG students competes nationally in Spanish and English language debates — some even competed in the Pan-American Universities Debating Championships in Jamaica in March. The recent debate was exceptionally competitive, and, while the UNG team did not reach the semi-finals, they did rank highest among the U.S. teams.

“These students were prepared to compete, both psychologically and in debate,” said Kenneth Martin, Spanish language professor who attended the event with the group. “To watch them prepare for each round and see impassioned orators come out as they put forth arguments was truly an impressive sight. As the largest and most notable group from the U.S., they proudly served as the standard bearers for our nation.”



The members of the debate team who participated in the event were Mallika Dinesh, Elton Garcia-Castillo, Daisy González-Torres, Julio Hernández, Anayely Moreno, Maria Palacios, Rebecca Pool, and Cristian Ramos. Additionally, Alejandro Ramirez, a UNG alumnus and former member of the debate team, participated in the event as a judge.

## Cottrell MBA tracks record growth

Last year, to address the growing needs of the regional business community and professionals, UNG’s Mike Cottrell College of Business expanded its Cottrell Master of Business Administration (MBA) program to the Gainesville Campus — an area that continues to experience economic growth, and has since experienced record enrollment.

According to the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, the Gainesville-Hall County Metropolitan Statistical Area is among the 50 fastest growing metro areas in the U.S. The total population is nearly 200,000, and the community is a hub of regional business, healthcare and educational services.

With UNG’s MBA expansion, classes are now offered two nights each week on the Gainesville and Cumming campuses. New student enrollment grew 221 percent between fall 2015 and fall 2016, and total program enrollment grew by 133 percent in that same period.

“UNG has produced generations of strong business leaders who have helped northeast region Georgia succeed. Over the past academic year, our graduate committee has done an excellent job of seeking out and introducing new opportunities for our students,” said Dr. Donna Mayo, dean of the Mike Cottrell College of Business. “Beginning this fall, students are provided a new required course in professional development and may now seek an additional certificate in technology leadership. We are continuing to monitor the region’s needs and may introduce new certificates moving forward.”

UNG’S Mike Cottrell College of Business is among a select group of institutions to hold international accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, and now offers a technology leadership certificate through the Cottrell MBA to provide essential managerial skills for technology-sector professionals. The program has two options, a core MBA and a technology leadership specialization.

“In a region with well over 1,000 technology companies this is a high demand addition to our offerings,” said Dr. Jeremy Bennett, director of the Cottrell MBA program. “As a part-time program, the technology leadership certificate is an excellent option for students seeking to further their careers while maintaining full-time employment.”

The certificate may be completed as part of the MBA program, or as a non-degree seeking graduate student. Classes will be available in Gainesville and Cumming with a convenient evening schedule.

For more information, visit [ung.edu/mba](http://ung.edu/mba).

# NSF grant backs STEM educator program

To bolster the number and ability of STEM-prepared secondary education teachers in north Georgia, UNG is launching a cross-department collaboration this year backed by a \$74,979 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The North Georgia Undergraduate Education Program, or NGagE, will involve faculty from the university's departments of physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, and education. The project is under the direction of UNG faculty Drs. Mark Spraker, April Nelms (pictured below) and Sanghee Choi.

Information from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission shows that new teacher certification has declined 44 percent in Georgia from the 2007 school year to the 2014 school year.



“This decline has forced substitute teachers into classrooms instead of newly certified teachers and has taken a toll on the STEM discipline specifically, which was already



**UNG professors have led summer workshops to help local teachers build their STEM knowledge.**

experiencing a deficit in prepared teachers prior to the decline,” said Spraker, who is the project’s principal investigator. “While the large districts in the Atlanta metro area are not as impacted by this deficit, rural areas are increasingly having difficulty recruiting quality teachers in the STEM disciplines. UNG is in a unique position to serve this need through the NGagE program with campuses in five locations serving 30 of the most northern counties in rural Georgia.”

Dr. Rob Brown, superintendent for Lumpkin County Schools, has seen the need first-hand in his school district and said that it could impact schools across Georgia.

“We have experienced a huge shortage in STEM teachers, and we anticipate that in the next few years we will continue to be challenged in finding highly qualified science and math teachers,” Brown said. “As we move into the future, the entire state will face this shortage, especially in math. We need to do everything we can to grow in this area.”

Dr. Sheri Hardee, associate dean of

UNG’s College of Education, noted that with fewer students majoring in secondary education, programs focused on recruitment and retention are critical. The program also proposes to require more intensive internships, providing students the opportunity to work with local teachers to implement innovative STEM methods into the classroom.

Choi, Nelms and Spraker have made a tremendous impact on STEM education in the north Georgia region over the past few years. Under the direction of Nelms, the trio secured a grant of more than \$320,000 from the state Department of Education to support PSCI-Train, a program created to increase elementary students’ science achievement by strengthening their teachers’ content knowledge and teaching skills. Nelms also helped bring Georgia Youth Science & Technology Centers Inc. to UNG’s Blue Ridge Campus this summer for STEM Discovery Camp, an event for third-through fifth-graders that allowed students to explore topics and careers in STEM.

# A promising partnership

## PUSHING AT-RISK STUDENTS TOWARD GRADUATION

UNG has partnered with the Georgia Department of Labor, Hall County Schools, and community and business leaders to bring the Jobs for Georgia Graduates (JGG) program to northeast Georgia.

JGG is focused on preventing dropouts among high school students who are most at-risk by providing training, mentoring, counseling, and leadership development. The three-year pilot program includes Dawson County High School, Stephens County High School and Johnson High School in Hall County.

“Jobs for Georgia Graduates has an exceptional record helping students overcome various barriers to graduation and work,” said State Labor Commissioner Mark Butler. “In the recent school year, 99.6 percent of our JGG students graduated, which is significantly higher than the overall

statewide high school graduation rate of 78.8 percent.”

JGG’s mission is aligned with UNG’s Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) initiative, which is focused on partnerships and collaboration, furthering access to education, and supporting the region’s workforce development.

“JGG ties-in with UNG’s ongoing efforts to build collaborations and share successful community practices to increase educational attainment across the northeast Georgia region and strengthen the region’s economy. As a JGG partner, UNG will assist with classroom instruction and training that has the ability to impact up to 350 high-risk students within UNG’s service area,” said Dr. Richard Oates, vice president of UNG’s Gainesville Campus.

Students in the JGG program receive one-on-one counseling and support with employability skills training, career counseling, leadership and self-development, and social and civic awareness. Additionally, students receive 12 months of placement and follow-up services immediately upon graduation to ensure a path to success.

## Digging into field work

This summer, for the first time, UNG students had the opportunity to participate in an international archaeological dig. The four-week program led by Dr. Bill Balco, assistant professor of anthropology at UNG, took students to Alcamo, Italy, to investigate the site of an ancient settlement on Monte Bonifato.

The now-forested mountaintop once held an Iron Age city that could be 2,800 years old and contains the ruins of a medieval castle built on top of the ancient city around 750-1200, Balco said.

“There’s a lot of potential for that site,” Balco said. “There have been some very limited Italian excavations that have been conducted up there, but they know more about the medieval city than about the older city. The medieval city was built directly atop the older one, so the construction disturbed and destroyed a lot of the older layers.”

The team toured other historic and archaeological sites throughout the region, such as the Grotta del Genovese, which contains rock art dating back 11,000 to 12,000 years.

“There’s only so far you can take a student when you’re in the classroom and you’re trying to explain archaeology as a process,” Balco said. “But when you take them into the field and show them how to set up an excavation and how to conduct that process from start to finish, it really demonstrates the detail that archaeology requires.”



UNG students studied sites at Monte Bonifato in Italy for four weeks this summer.

## BRANCHING OUT: GIS TEAM HELPS ASSESS STATE'S TREE CANOPY

The Georgia Forestry Commission wants to know how much tree canopy the state had in 2015, and they have contracted a team from UNG's Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental & Spatial Analysis (IESA) to conduct the study.

Joan Scales, sustainable community forestry program manager for the Georgia Forestry Commission, said this project will help the agency encourage communities to better manage their trees.

"We are trying to get some data that we can use to showcase different ways that communities can conserve the canopy, as well as ways for them to understand that the use of impervious surfaces in construction is detrimental to the environment," Scales said. "Those surfaces cause damage in several ways, such as collecting pollutants that wash into our water. Our hope is that this new study will help us see how much canopy we are losing, and we are planning two more phases to the study — phase two will be quantifying our impervious surfaces."

Dr. Allison Bailey, associate professor in IESA, is the principal investigator of the project leading a team of students to quantify the amount of canopy observed in high-resolution satellite photos taken this past year.

"Urban areas and the amount of tree canopy affect our environmental conditions," Bailey said. "It's incredibly useful to know how Georgia's canopy has changed over time."

Students Jonathan Stewart and Emily Hunt are working under the direction of Andrew Hilliard, who graduated in August with a Bachelor of Science in environmental and spatial analysis and a certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Along with Bailey, they are analyzing imagery and data from the U.S. Geological Service and are developing a model that will be transferred onto a map of Georgia.

"We are processing around 1.3 terabytes of data, getting real-world experience of what a client would expect in a product, and we are learning how difficult it can be to deliver that," Hilliard said. "This is definitely good job experience, as well as good professional, team-building and leadership development. Our time spent on this project is also transferable to a professional GIS license, which is a huge plus."

IESA was formed in 2001 on UNG's Gainesville Campus; it brings together the perspectives of numerous disciplines through the synthesis of geospatial science and technology, applied techniques, and theory to address social, human and environmental issues.

**Measuring changes in the tree canopy can help communities understand the impact on environmental conditions.**

# Summer Honors: More than making the grade

Each summer, UNG hosts some 50 high-achieving local high school students who have distinguished themselves among their peers and provides them with a weekend of leadership training, team-building activities and college preparation seminars.

The program is open to students who have completed their junior year, have at least a 3.5 GPA and who have the recommendation of at least one of their teachers; typically, the students who attend the program are within the top 10 to 15 in their respective classes.

Dr. Robb Sinn, mathematics professor and director of the Summer Honors Program at UNG, said professors introduce concepts that, as high school students, many attendees have probably never experienced before, which gives students an opportunity to experience what college academics are really like.

“We get professors to teach our academic units from all over: biology,

psychology, sociology, history – we have professors from across the board,” Sinn said.

With a strong research component, students this year participated in environmental science research that used data collected on their climb of Mount Yonah and that they analyzed using technology in UNG’s Geographical Information System lab.

In addition, students participated in the program’s writing program. Prior to attending Summer Honors, registrants receive a copy of the novel “Ender’s Game” to reflect on and write about. The book, which follows a group of young people through an intense military academy, resonates with the students enrolled in the program and helps facilitate discussion about leadership styles.

While professors lead the program’s educational side, counselors lead the students through outdoor and leadership development activities. Counselors like Maria Westerfield, a

recent biology and Honors Program graduate, are often heavily involved in the UNG community, and are able to lead by example, not lecture.

“Through the leadership curriculum, students gain such a huge personal growth,” Westerfield said. “Most students come with absolutely no interest in the outdoors or a total mental block against the elements we have them participate on. These are the students that conquer fears and accomplish more than they thought was possible for themselves.”

The program offers several academic and leadership awards at its conclusion, and the Most Outstanding Student Award recipient, who must excel in both areas, receives a \$2,500 scholarship to UNG and automatic acceptance into the university’s Honors Program. According to Sinn, about 15 percent of students who enter the Summer Honors Program end up matriculating at UNG.

## ‘ON TIME & ON TARGET’ FOR GRADUATION’

To ensure that students make the most of their college careers and that they graduate in a timely manner, UNG is implementing a blended advising model involving professional and faculty advisors.

Advisement is one of the strongest high-impact practices to promote student success, and the “On Time & On Target” initiative increases the number of professional advisors available to students and adds new advising tools like degree sequence maps and mandatory advising up to 45 credit hours by professional advisors who specialize in their majors. After 45 credit hours, a faculty member from the student’s major program will become the primary advisor.

# *Where I lead:* Going for Gold





## BIO

### CADET 1ST LT. ADDISON

**ALBERSHARDT** is devoted to two goals – the gold bars of a U.S. Army lieutenant and the chance to compete for Olympic gold in cycling.

Junior from Charlotte, North Carolina

Became a professional cyclist at 15 and achieved success on the international circuit

Training to return to competition while finishing her degree in physical education and training as a member of the National Guard and Corps of Cadets

## What lessons has cycling taught you?

One of the biggest things is crashing. When you fall off your bike, you have to get back on. And here, there often are days when I feel like, “Man, I’ve fallen off my bike,” but I have to keep moving and the best thing to do is get back on the bike.

**A member of UNG’s Ranger Challenge Team, you were named honor graduate out of about 30 mostly male cadets from across the U.S. in the Mountain Warfare School in the Republic of Georgia this summer. What was that like?**

It basically entails rappelling, rock climbing, ruck marching – all of these great things that I love to do. Every day I woke up and said, “Okay. What’s the fun for today?”

I’m also competitive. I think people see things in me that I don’t see in myself. I have self-confidence, but when I’m stacked up against the guys, it’s just human nature to think they are better than me. I’m still shocked by winning honor graduate.

**What led you to create the Female Mentorship Program for UNG’s Corps of Cadets?**

Last semester, my sociology project was to find something I could improve. I looked at all the statistics from the corps specialty units from the last 20 years, and I found below 1 percent female involvement.

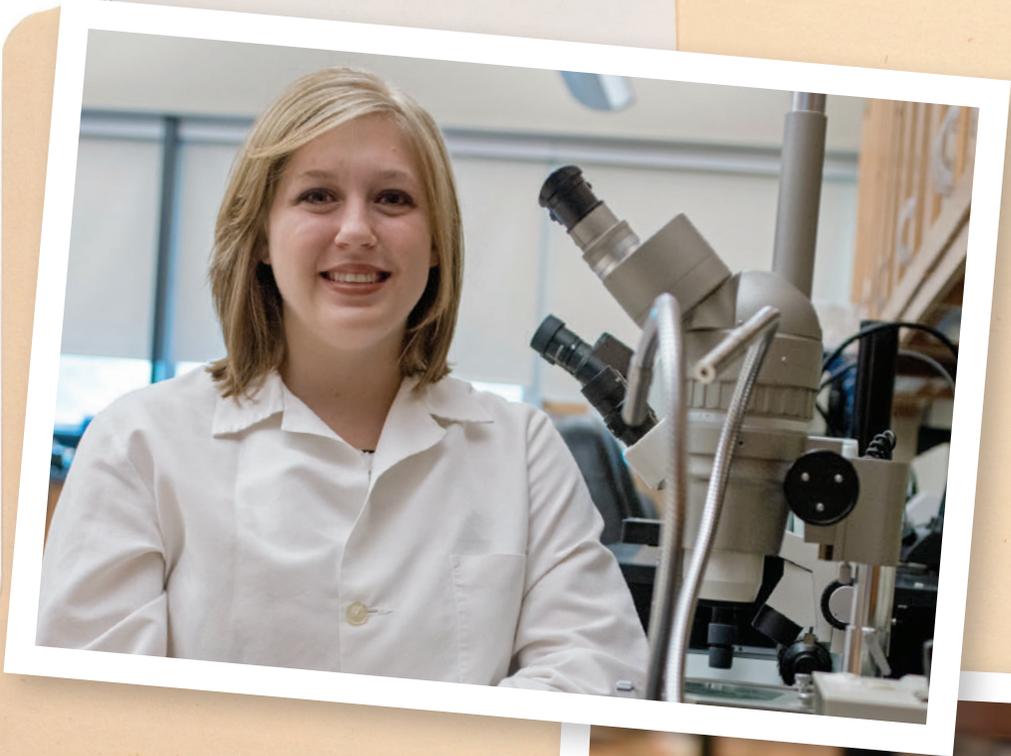
Last year was the first year of our Female Mentorship Program, and we had about 30 members. This semester at our first meeting we had a prospective group of more than 60.

**You have some national cycling competitions and tryouts coming up, but you’re also a contracted cadet and will commission in two years. What is your plan?**

It’s been my dream to go to the Olympics since I was 6 years old.

The Army has a world-class athlete program that I’m interested in pursuing ... it would definitely be an amazing dream to be a part of that program and compete in the Olympics.

I’m still commissioning, no matter what. If I have to drop cycling, I will, because being able to serve as an officer for the United States Army is something that not everyone is able to do. I will have worked four hard years here to just throw that away, and I don’t want to do that.



UNG's three NIH  
Scholarship recipients  
(top to bottom)  
Megan Andres, 2016;  
Joshua McCausland, 2014;  
Obadi Obadi, 2015.

# Biology department earns a rare three-peat



**The National Institutes of Health (NIH) chooses no more than 16 students a year nationally for its prestigious Undergraduate Scholarship Program, an extremely competitive opportunity that includes \$20,000, a 10-week summer laboratory experience, and one year of full-time employment at NIH. Yet, for the third year in a row, a biology student from the University of North Georgia has won the honor.**

Megan Andres, a junior, will join UNG alumni Obadi Obadi '15 and Joshua McCausland '14 in representing UNG at the world's largest research institution. Obadi is currently working at NIH and McCausland, who finished his NIH employment earlier this year, recently entered the Biochemistry, Cellular, and Molecular Biology doctoral program in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine on a full scholarship plus a \$30,000 annual stipend.

"This is an incredible opportunity," Andres said. "Getting this experience at NIH will take me to new levels, and will greatly increase my chances of getting into a top-notch graduate school program."

The research program is for students pursuing careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science health-related research, and enables them to train as paid summer research employees in an NIH research laboratory.

Andres hopes to work in pediatric oncology and has been involved in numerous undergraduate research opportunities and other projects while at UNG, including participating in water-quality testing for northeast Georgia. Twice a month, she and her team sample a dozen sites from various bridges, testing pH levels,

conductivity, and dissolved oxygen levels. They then take samples back to the laboratory for further testing.

"We also send samples to the ecological isotopes lab at a larger university in order to run trials we cannot perform here," Andres said. "This growing data set has been compiled over a span of 30 years, and is presented annually to the Chattahoochee Basin Group, which uses our information to help assess trends in water quality from year to year. This significant research ensures that these sites are maintaining water quality standards for the state of Georgia. Each location is a piece of one watershed that supplies drinking water to the metro Atlanta area. As human population rises, I am hoping to gain more knowledge on whether or not this can correlate to a decline in overall water quality."

She is also involved in animal behavior research and is examining how adolescent exposure to substances similar to ADHD medication might play a role in the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult. She serves as secretary for Tri-Beta, a national biology honor society, and is the founding officer for UNG's chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

"The time Megan spends at NIH will propel her forward, both

personally and professionally," said Dr. Anastasia Lin, assistant dean of student research and scholarship at UNG. "The fact that NIH continues to recognize the potential of UNG students is a testament to our mission to produce individuals who lead in every area of their lives as well as our dedication to providing undergraduate research opportunities."

McCausland said his experience at NIH improved his skills in several areas besides ramping up his exposure to primary research.

"It really helped me develop a more fine-tuned sense of skepticism and understanding of scientific literature," he said. "UNG proved critical for building a foundation in reading and understanding my field, but NIH took it one step further in familiarizing myself with not only understanding a single paper, but also putting it in context with others that exist. I now can approach a subject with broader clarity, and know when a finding is valid or questionable. This comprehension of the literature proved to be vital for my interviews with different graduate programs."

# New scholarship fund honors late alumnus Gibson



FIRST ROW: Capt. W. R. Fuller; 1/Lt. J. N. Hayes; 2/Lt. C. J. Whitley; 2/Lt. R. Hollar; 2/Lt. R. I. Rabb; 2/Lt. W. Gibson. SECOND ROW: 1/SGT. S. F. Cheatham; SFC. G. W. Griggs; SFC. H. L. Horta; SFC. T. E. Herring; SFC. M. B. Kunzig. THIRD ROW: Cpl. A. L. Clements; R. L. Sanders, Guidon Bearer.

In 1968, Walter “Hoot” Murrah Gibson commissioned as a second lieutenant into the U.S. Army from the University of North Georgia. A little more than a year later, he was killed in action while serving in Vietnam.

Gibson’s father, Eddie Gibson, wished to memorialize his son through a permanent scholarship endowment, and made provisions in his will to leave \$100,000 to establish the Lieutenant Walter Gibson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Eddie Gibson, who served during World War II in the 391st Signal Company for the Army Air Force in Italy and Africa, passed away on March 30, 2016.

Walter Gibson earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with One Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Expert Badge with automatic rifle bar.

In his gift to the University of North Georgia Foundation, Eddie Gibson indicated his desire to establish an endowed scholarship fund to provide annual assistance to one or

more deserving junior or senior cadets of good standing who are pursuing a commission in the U.S. Army with the intention to serve at least one tour of active duty.

“Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Gibson, our memories of Lt. Walter Gibson and his service to our country will live on in perpetuity,” said Phil Collins ’75, development officer for the Corps of Cadets and executive director of the Corps Advisory Council.

According to a biography that included contributions from Eddie Gibson and Gibson’s younger brother, Glenn, Walter was known around campus for his sense of humor. He was very active in campus

life and his roles included platoon commander of Charlie Company, junior class treasurer, and chaplain for the Non-Commissioned Officers Club.

“He was a pretty outgoing boy who had lots of friends,” Eddie Gibson said in the biography.

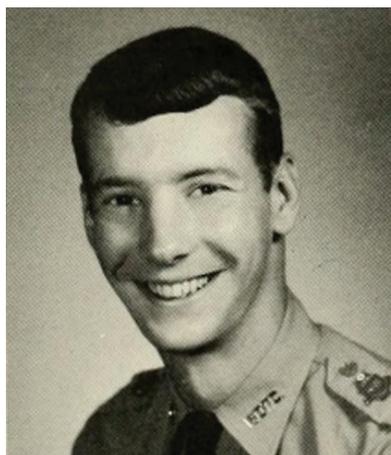
Gibson graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration, and began serving in the Army as an Infantry Unit Commander in the 101st Airborne Division’s 3rd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, also known as the Currahees. He was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, for nine months before beginning his tour in Vietnam on July 18, 1969.

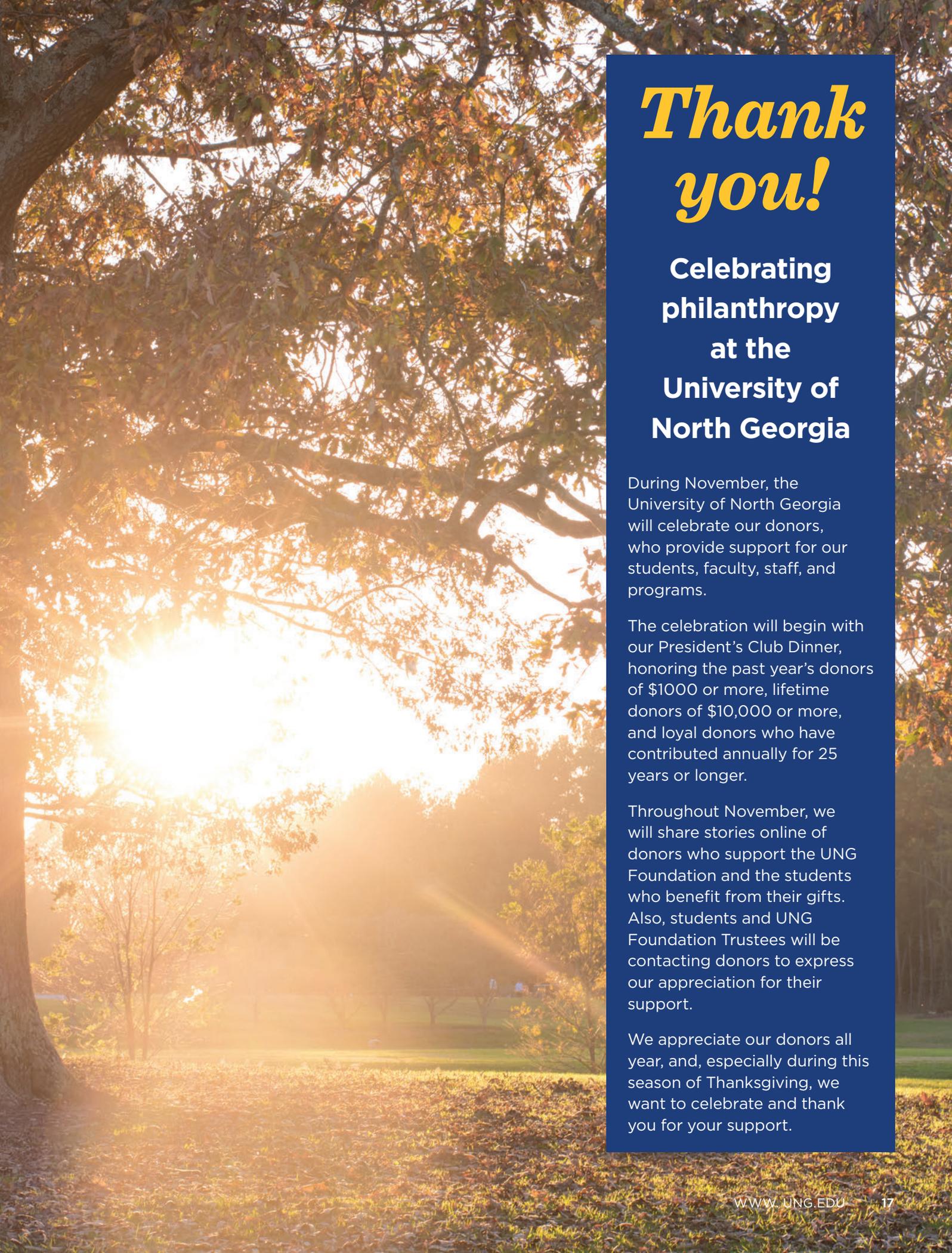
“I had nothing but the highest regard for this outstanding officer,” wrote Jean R. Emery, Gibson’s commanding officer at Fort Polk. “He was extremely competent and well respected by all who knew him, both superior and subordinate. Upon his departure from this unit, I ranked him number one of the 10 lieutenants whom I rated.”

On the morning of Oct. 28, 1969, Gibson and his platoon engaged an enemy position during a combat operation, and Gibson was killed by Viet Cong small arms fire.

“Walter was one of the most outstanding young officers with whom I have ever been associated,” wrote Capt. Harry E. Rothmann. “He was a truly dedicated individual, whom we admired and respected. Walter was hardworking and conscientious in all that he did, and his

personal courage on the battlefield won him the respect of all the officers and men in the company.”





# *Thank you!*

## **Celebrating philanthropy at the University of North Georgia**

During November, the University of North Georgia will celebrate our donors, who provide support for our students, faculty, staff, and programs.

The celebration will begin with our President's Club Dinner, honoring the past year's donors of \$1000 or more, lifetime donors of \$10,000 or more, and loyal donors who have contributed annually for 25 years or longer.

Throughout November, we will share stories online of donors who support the UNG Foundation and the students who benefit from their gifts. Also, students and UNG Foundation Trustees will be contacting donors to express our appreciation for their support.

We appreciate our donors all year, and, especially during this season of Thanksgiving, we want to celebrate and thank you for your support.

# GOETHE-INSTITUT

## PARTNERSHIP

### BRIDGES CULTURE AND LANGUAGE



WITH PEOPLE FROM A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS CROWDING THE HALLS, THE END OF A CLASS SESSION AT THE GOETHE-INSTITUT IN FREIBURG, GERMANY, SEEMS LIKE A MODEL UNITED NATIONS WITH ONE EXCEPTION – MANY ARE SPEAKING GERMAN INSTEAD OF THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE.

“You’re more fully immersed here because you have so many people from other countries who don’t speak English or very little English and so the only way you can communicate is through the German you both know,” said Kelly Reid, a UNG student majoring in athletic training and physical education.

This summer, Reid, Cheyne Jones and Peyton King – all three minoring in German – were the first UNG students to enroll at the Goethe-Institut, the premiere global German language and cultural organization, thanks to a partnership that also allowed them to earn foreign language credits.

They found it necessary to understand German at every turn: in class, going on a cultural outing, taking a bus or train, buying food or other necessities, or even talking with a classmate.

“The Goethe experience was more than just credits for my minor; it was a life experience. I was tested daily with new issues, and it greatly improved my responsibility and problem-solving skills,” King said. “Every day I learned more about how to speak the language, the culture, and other people. No other program would have given me the academic and personal growth as the Goethe-Institut.”



Goethe courses are taught by native speakers.

Goethe has 159 institutes around the world, and every year more than half a million teenagers, college students and working professionals take German language courses or exams through Goethe, which for 60 years has served as the official, worldwide cultural institute of Germany. To become a German citizen, one must earn certification in the language and culture from Goethe.

Dr. Roland Meinert, director of Goethe's institutes in Germany, said studying in Germany helps facilitate in-depth knowledge of the language and culture and helps expand global knowledge, which also is a key part of UNG's mission.

"You get the whole cultural experience. I think nowadays that is really important because we see that minds are closing in many countries, so it is important to have many global citizens who know what they are talking about," Meinert said.

Jones, a cadet majoring in criminal justice, said his experience at Goethe strengthened his German skills and changed his perspective.

"People from all over the world come to Goethe to learn German, and I get to ask them about the cultural differences around the world," Jones said. "I definitely am learning a lot more of the German culture and of the world, but it's opening my perspective on everything really."

Susanne Schurman, language director at Goethe Zentrum Atlanta, said students who study abroad often have similar experiences.

"They are immersed in the language, but also the culture, which broadens their horizons. When they come back, they have a whole other view of everything they've previously known," she said.

### **Learning by immersion in language and culture**

Goethe courses are taught by native speakers and focus on language use in real-life and practical situations, said Susanne Sporrer, director of the Goethe-Institut in Freiburg.

"Teachers at the Goethe-Institut are professionals," Sporrer said. "For example, our teachers will not automatically correct students' mistakes, but facilitate self-correction. They know the linguistic competence of their students and communicate with them according to their level of competence."

Goethe supplements classroom instruction with guided excursions that test students' language skills and expose them to everyday German life. Trips include historic and cultural locations as well as amusement parks and recreation areas. A few trips take students to other European cities, and students also have free time to travel independently.

Excursions and independent exploration of Freiburg, home to one of 159 Goethe-Instituts, are a valuable part of the learning experience.



Reid, who took four years of German in high school, said Goethe vastly expanded her knowledge.

“Now I feel a lot more confident that I can go anywhere in this country or throughout the world and if someone speaks German, I can have a good conversation with them and figure out how to get from here to there,” she said. “It’s a really great experience and a privilege to be here and getting to take classes. This is a very high-value place to come learn.”

Sporrer said the excursions and independent exploration of Freiburg, considered one of the greenest cities in Europe, are a valuable part of the learning experience.

“Freiburg is a middle-sized town with open-minded people, so the possibilities of encounter and intercultural exchange are easier and frequent,” she said. “Freiburg offers a lot of impact, institutions, concepts and activities that might inspire and foster the examination of ecology, sustainability and the present and future of a green city.”

### Partnership built upon years of cooperation

The agreement between UNG and the Goethe-Institut developed out of a long partnership with the Goethe-Zentrum (Center) in Atlanta. The Atlanta location, which is one of 34 cultural organizations partnered with the Goethe-Institut worldwide, celebrated its 40th anniversary this year.

“We have exchanged thoughts and ideas on foreign language education and on foreign language education in

Georgia in particular,” Miriam Bruns, director of Goethe Zentrum Atlanta, said. “The Goethe-Institut saw that there was mutual benefit for both organizations, especially if you see that we’re both looking for an institute of high quality, and the Goethe-Institut saw that in UNG and in UNG’s mission, its approach and particularly in its foreign language programs.”

The expansion of the partnership to include study abroad adds to the shared goal to provide international experience for students. Learning German language and culture prepares students



**“You have to live in the country, use the language and know how people react. You have to interact with people – that’s important.”**

— Dr. Roland Meinert

for career opportunities even within Georgia. According to the Georgia Department of Economic Development, German-affiliated companies have 424 business locations in Georgia employing more than 20,000 people – ranking Germany first among foreign countries with facilities in the state.

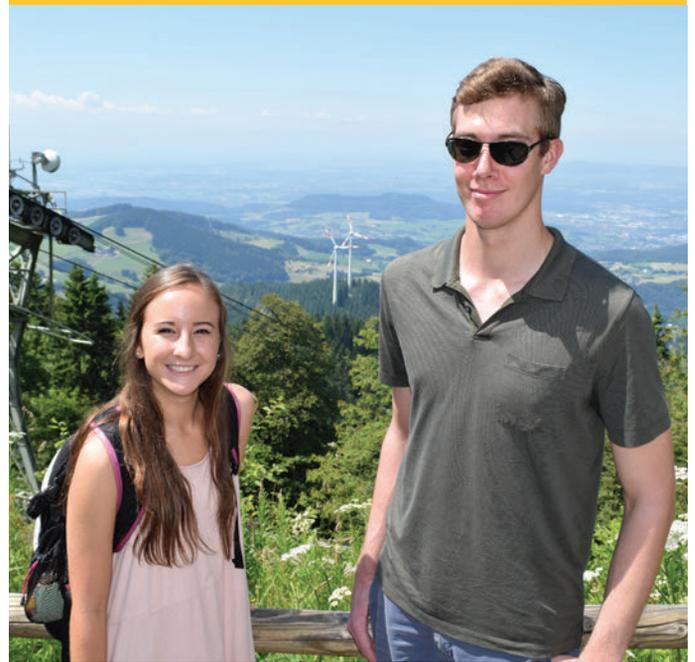
Sporrer said while the program has great benefits for UNG students, she also hopes that it may encourage others.

“I hope they gain an image of Germany that is profound and differentiated. I hope that they gain intercultural experience that lasts and a deeper knowledge of the ecological development and structure of a green city in Germany,” Sporrer said. “I also hope that the cooperation between the University of North Georgia and the Goethe-Institut might be an example for other universities in the U.S.”

Meinert, who agreed that universities make great partners for Goethe-Institut, likened the experience Goethe provides in Germany to eating a meal rather than just knowing how to make it.

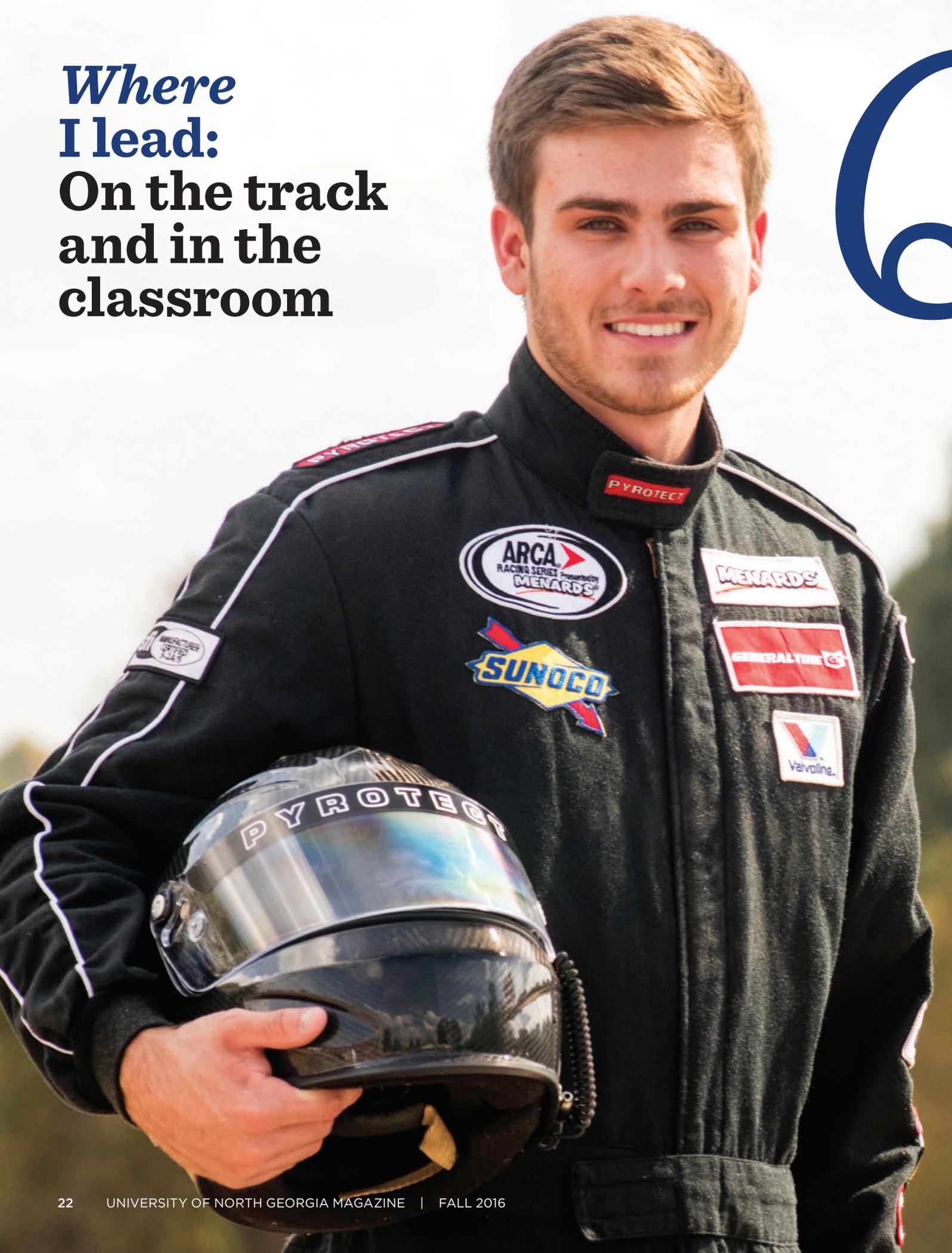
“You can read many recipes and think, ‘Hmm, it might be tasty,’” Meinert said. “It’s not enough to read about that. And it’s the same thing with language. A language is only one thing that gives you the experience. You have to live in the country, use the language and know how people react. You have to interact with people – that’s important. If you wouldn’t eat, it wouldn’t be fun.”

**Kelly Reid, who is majoring in athletic training and physical education, and Cheyenne Jones, a cadet studying criminal justice, are among the first students to take advantage of UNG’s partnership with the Goethe-Institut. Both are minoring in German.**



German businesses have more facilities in Georgia than any other foreign country and employ more than 20,000 people.

*Where  
I lead:  
On the track  
and in the  
classroom*





Rich Corbett Photos

## BIO

### BRADY BOSWELL

Business Administration major, 3.88 GPA

Will compete in the ARCA Racing Series this year, a professional league and NASCAR feeder series

## How did your racing career begin and evolve?

I started learning the ropes at nine years old in a bandolero race car — a racing car somewhere between a go-kart and a car — and I never looked back. In 2009, I won three races in my bandolero and two championships in a Prochallenge racer.

I've moved my way up to higher series such as Legends, Pro Latemodel and Super Latemodel, and in 2013 I entered the x-1R Pro Cup series. I took 2015 off to focus on college, but this year I will compete in the ARCA Racing Series presented by Menards.

### How do you balance college and a professional racing career?

The career of a racecar driver requires absolute dedication, and many racers put education on the sideline while they pursue their dream. But getting an education and doing it with excellence are very important to me.

I've tried hard to balance racing and studying. Sometimes it requires studying late into the night, and I make sure to take good notes in class and be at school as much as possible. I also have to work hard at staying visible in the community; every successful

driver needs fans and sponsors. Then there's traveling. Many racing events are two to three days of practicing, qualifying and competing on different days. That can be really difficult when I have a test coming up.

It comes down to being committed and creative with my time, and knowing where my time is best spent.

### Why are you so driven to succeed?

That drive definitely comes from my parents. My father is a successful entrepreneur who leads by example, and my mother made sure my brother and I always had more than we needed, and encouraged us to never settle.

Those values are why I work to ensure my schooling does not take a backseat to my racing. It's also why I have plans in case my racing career does not turn out the way I hope. If that happens, I'd like to work my way up to a CEO position or start my own company. Part of the reason I chose business as my major is because of how many options it offers. You can do business in so many different fields, from banking to healthcare to education. That's exciting to me.



# FROM VOICE TO INFLUENCE

**BUILDING CIVICALLY ENGAGED LEADERS**





**While issues smolder and fizzle, political platforms shift, and technology broadens and deepens, faculty at the University of North Georgia work to help their students develop an interest in politics and a keen understanding of how some trends have changed while others are remarkably unchanged from centuries ago.**



UNG commemorates Constitution Day each year with activities including voter registration drives, presentations by elected officials and political discussions.

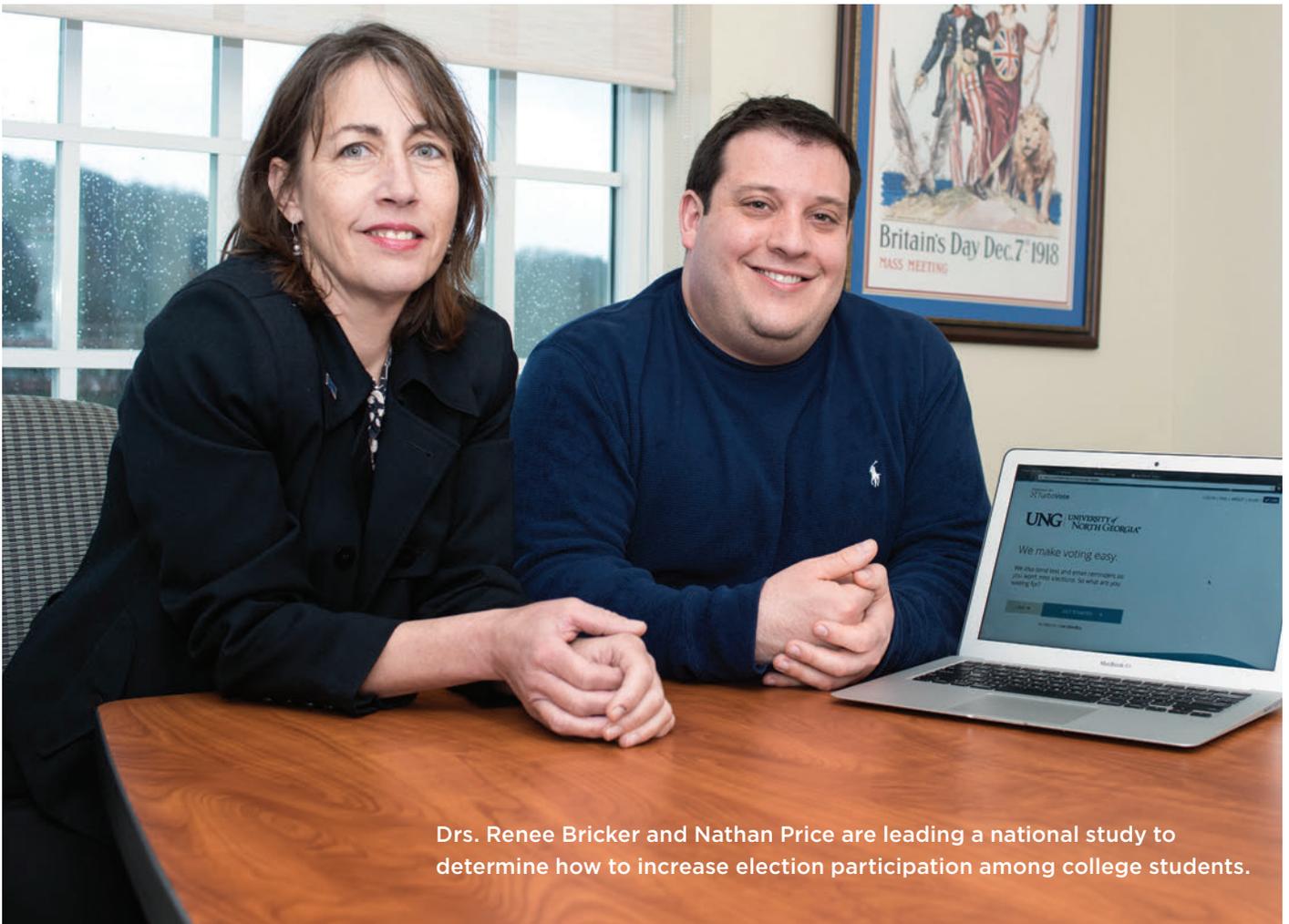
“Studies have shown that voting habits developed during a student’s college years tend to become lifelong habits of civic engagement,” said Dr. Renee Bricker, associate professor of history at UNG. “This means that institutionalizing voter engagement opportunities can help to create a campus culture of civic participation.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 60 percent of non-voters in 2012 missed Election Day because of issues such as lack of time, registration problems and inconvenient polling places. UNG partnered with Democracy Works, Inc. to research the integration of civic engagement into existing

technology on campuses across the country. TurboVote, an initiative launched by Democracy Works aimed at making voting easier for college students, helps institutions promote and track registration by encouraging their enrolled students to complete a short online process.

In 2012, UNG was the first school in Georgia to become a TurboVote collegiate partner and has been a national leader in IT integration with TurboVote through pop-ups at election and registration times.

Bricker and Dr. Nathan Price are the lead research team in a study that surveyed administrators, faculty and students



Drs. Renee Bricker and Nathan Price are leading a national study to determine how to increase election participation among college students.

from 25 colleges and universities about strategies to combine internet technology with voter registration and turnout nationwide.

For Bricker, it's also increasingly important to help students draw parallels between current and past political issues.

"In 1984, some of the most important issues were economics and jobs, national defense and the USSR, concern about the car industry in Asia, and apartheid in South Africa," Bricker said. "Some of these issues don't even exist anymore, while some of them are in the spotlight again. Some of today's issues are fairly new — no one mentioned terrorism in the eighties, and even during the Cold War, there was not the same level of worry about safety and security as there is today. Regardless of what we are talking about, I always strive to help students see we are all in this together."

The university also is involved in the American Democracy Project (ADP), a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. Charlene Hudson, lecturer of political science, is part of the ADP committee, and she starts her students' political engagement journey with typology quizzes about major modern issues.

*Some of today's issues are fairly new — no one mentioned terrorism in the eighties, and even during the Cold War, there was not the same level of worry about safety and security as there is today.*

— Dr. Renee Bricker

“This process introduces them to the political candidates that are of the same opinion on those issues as well as exposing them to all the candidates’ opinions on the different issues,” Hudson said. “The final quiz is the ‘Political Compass.’ Most of my students are unable to analyze their results very well in the beginning of the semester, but by mid-semester they are understanding more and more of their results.”

Hudson noted how current technology has changed the way younger generations engage with the political news cycle — students are exposed to candidates and issues far more through social media than by watching television.

Though the manner in which students consume political news has changed, the effects of their choice of media outlet may not have changed much at all. This is in the realm of research being conducted by Dr. Glen Smith, associate professor of political science. Supported by a UNG Presidential Summer Scholar Award in 2014, Smith has been researching how partisan media outlets impact consumer opinions. This spring, he was awarded a UNG Presidential Semester Scholar Award to support him in writing a book about political tolerance that will expose readers to strong arguments on both sides of prominent political and social issues.

“Partisan media outlets such as Fox News and MSNBC make viewers more negative toward leaders in the opposing party, but do not have much influence on feelings toward the

*When people are not aware of opposing arguments, they often attribute political disagreements to negative causes, such as ideological bias, ignorance, self-interest, lying, or some ulterior motivation.*

— Dr. Glen Smith



**Dr. Glen Smith is researching the impact of partisan media outlets.**



candidate they ultimately vote for,” Smith said. “I argue that this increases overall negativity toward politicians, which in turn makes it more difficult for political leaders to reach compromise on important matters of public policy.”

Smith’s work shows that exposure to cross-cutting discourse on mainstream news is increasingly important, as people today are more likely to live in politically like-minded communities and avoid political discussions with opposing partisans. This is even more important on campus, where critical examination and discussion of current issues is essential.

“When people are not aware of opposing arguments, they often attribute political disagreements to negative causes, such as ideological bias, ignorance, self-interest, lying, or some ulterior motivation,” Smith said.

Opposing arguments are the bread and butter of Dr. Carl Cavalli’s efforts as the faculty advisor for the Political Science Student Association (PSSA). Cavalli, who is also on the ADP committee, facilitates a weekly discussion called “Crossfire” that deals with a specific, controversial subject each week. For example, the first three discussions fall semester covered feminism, gun control and human trafficking. The meetings are designed to give students an open, judgment-free forum where they can discuss their views and hear other opinions. The association also provides student voter guides that have information on candidates from the presidential election to Georgia state legislators.

“One current trend is the increasing ideological purity of the political parties and their resulting polarization. Part of this is due to the disappearance of any information costs because of current technology,” Cavalli said. “We now create our own information cocoons — surrounding ourselves with only the info we want — and there are an infinite number of media sources willing to cater to this.”

These “cocoons” can foster a harmful level of skepticism, Cavalli said, something he challenges in his courses and in the PSSA.

“Some skepticism is a good thing, as it drives inquisitiveness and learning. However, when you doubt everything, it frees you up — in an unhealthy way — to believe in anything you want,” Cavalli said. “On a brighter note, I think I’ve seen more activism among students of all stripes in recent years, and that’s one thing I hope to nurture in every area I can.”

*I think I’ve seen more activism among students of all stripes in recent years, and that’s one thing I hope to nurture in every area I can.*

— Dr. Carl Cavalli



Dr. Carl Cavalli hosts weekly “Crossfire” discussions to facilitate student dialog on political and other current topics.

# A DECADE OF DISTINCTION

Doctor of Physical Therapy program celebrates 10 years

Since 2007, the University of North Georgia's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program has trained and produced hundreds of therapists with exceptional knowledge and skills – resulting in an impressive 97 percent pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Examination. However, it is the hands-on, practical learning experiences that sets UNG's program apart from others and prepares graduates to be a positive influence in their practices and in their communities.

## INNOVATION

What happens when physical therapy students team up with design students? They develop new and exciting tools to help patients reach a higher quality of life.

For the past two summers, UNG's Department of Physical Therapy has hosted students from the Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Industrial Design for a one-week collaboration dubbed cREATe (creating rehab engineering and assistive technology experiences). During the week, teams of students from both programs work to build devices that address specific and unique problems faced by patients. The results have been nothing short of life-changing for the patients and their families.

"The students came up with a lot of great ideas, including a type of tether that will allow me to walk both of my kids at the same time. That would help me feel much better about having Carston in areas such as parking lots, where he is at risk," said Lettitia Ussery of Lumpkin County. Carston, her 5-year-old son, was the subject of one student group's efforts.

The program was founded and is directed by Dr. Alison Alhadeff, a local physical therapist who also teaches courses at UNG, and Dr. Stephen Sprigle, professor of design and disability design at Georgia Tech.

During this summer's program, the founders were excited and heartened to learn that all of the participating patients and families from the inaugural event in 2015 are still using the student-created devices and are enjoying a greater level of independence.





DPT students  
Matthew Chandler  
and Hillary Murphy  
play with a patient  
from CREATE 2015.

## INSPIRATION

When six high school students from Fulton and Forsyth counties were looking for opportunities to explore medical fields and learn anatomy and dissection skills, Dr. Teresa Conner-Kerr, dean of UNG's College of Health Sciences & Professions, extended an invitation to the students to spend 10 weeks this summer working with DPT students.

"I definitely want to go pre-med, and having this experience — specifically dissection skills, for me — is a wonderful opportunity," said Vaishnavi Bavadekar, who attends Alpharetta High School. "It's hard to find experience like this even in undergraduate programs, let alone high school."

All of the students said the opportunity inspired career choices or at least narrowed their educational focus.

"We wanted to move beyond community engagement to give high school students a chance to gain knowledge and experience that is very difficult to find before graduate school," Conner-Kerr said. "This opportunity greatly informed the choices these students will make for their schooling and their careers, which is very valuable at this stage of their lives."

The program also helped DPT students build leadership and communication skills. Mariah James, a first-year student, said it was valuable practice in helping her grow the ability to describe concepts in physical therapy, which is vital when communicating with patients.

## DEDICATION

One DPT professor set out on a mission several years ago to provide physical therapy to those who may not otherwise have access to the service. Enter the Gold Dust Riders, a collection of children and adults with disabilities who benefit from a unique type of physical therapy involving horses, called hippotherapy. The riding camps were orchestrated by physical therapy students led by Dr. Terrie Millard, professor of physical therapy.

The DPT students, assisted by the horses, helped individuals with disabilities become stronger, improve their range of motion, improve their balance and endurance, and also improve their ability to interact with others. They learned how to apply this knowledge to assist their patients in meeting their goals, such as improved ambulation, head control, trunk control, or any number of other things.

"Hippotherapy can sometimes be even more effective than traditional physical therapy. As the patients adapt to the movement of the horse, they develop new movement patterns, sometimes activating muscles that have never been used appropriately," Millard said. "Patients get stronger, improve their ability to recognize and correct balance loss, improve endurance and have fun at the same time. Children and adults who have difficulty interacting and/or communicating with others also sometimes find barriers lifted and can engage more readily with others."



Shaun Underwood (left), a DPT student, encourages 5-year-old Carson Ussery to walk toward him during UNG's second CREATE conference.

## ASPIRATION

A completely pro-bono project benefiting community members began this fall. The new STAR (Student Therapy and Rehab) clinic is a collaboration between DPT students Michael Petron, Clay Power, Emily Dearing, Ronnie Pierce, and Dr. Don Walsh, associate professor of physical therapy.

In mid-September, the clinic opened to a handful of patients recommended through the Community Helping Place, an outreach program in Lumpkin County.

“We saw a need for physical therapy services in the uninsured and underserved population of Lumpkin County,” Petron said. “We also saw a need within our physical therapy department to provide the students with an opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience to supplement our academic curriculum, and the idea for this clinic seemed to provide for both sets of needs.”

The clinic involves DPT students of all levels, and each patient receives care from a three-student team under faculty supervision. The arrangement allows for patients to receive free high-quality care and provides students the opportunity to practice clinical skills and patient relations in a controlled environment.

“It’s an incredible opportunity for students to learn how to administer a clinic while they are in school,” said Dr. MaryEllen Franklin, head of UNG’s Department of Physical Therapy. “I wish I had been able to experience that myself as a student.”

The students and Walsh hope to see the clinic grow and expand its services in the coming years.

**The clinic setting helps PT students practice patient treatment skills including mobility testing and balance exercises.**



# Coulombe nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

Shannon Coulombe, a 2016 UNG graduate, was recognized by the NCAA's Woman of the Year program this fall as she advanced to the second round of the awards program.

Coulombe joined the top 142 women in the nation for the honor, and was one of only 37 women representing all of Division II athletics. In the final selection round, the Woman of the Year committee selected only nine honorees – three from each division.

“This is an incredible achievement, and one that is well deserved by Shannon,” said Lindsay Reeves, director of athletics for UNG. “During her years as a student-athlete, she thoroughly demonstrated all of the values the selection committee looks for in recognizing these young women. We are very proud of her for being such a shining example of what it means to be a Nighthawk.”

The NCAA Woman of the Year program has recognized graduating female student-athletes for excellence in academics, athletics, community service, and leadership since its inception in 1991. A record pool of 517 candidates was selected this year during the first round – conferences then assessed their member school nominees and selected up to two conference nominees. Coulombe was one of two chosen to represent the Division II Peach Belt Conference (PBC), which includes 14 colleges and universities.

“This was an incredible honor, and a very humbling experience,” Coulombe said. “When I got the phone call letting me know I made it to the first round, I was kind of amazed, because I know so many female athletes at UNG that could have made it. Then, when I made it to the second round to represent the PBC, that’s something I don’t even

have words for. Having the support of friends and coaches along the way was great, and I really enjoyed helping put UNG on the map and showing how our university works to develop student-athletes as a whole person. That’s part of why I love this school and why I’ve been so involved.”

Coulombe graduated from UNG after three seasons as a member of the nationally ranked women’s soccer program. The Duluth, Georgia, native was a three-time member of the PBC Presidential Honor Roll and served as vice-president of the UNG Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. This fall, she is working as a graduate assistant for the UNG women’s golf program.



# UNG adds track and field to line-up



Nighthawks will have a new sport to cheer on this year with the addition of women's track and field to UNG athletics, which brings the university's offerings to 13 intercollegiate sports.

"It is an exciting opportunity to add track and field to the North Georgia sports lineup," said UNG Athletics Director

Lindsay Reeves. "The new program will enhance the championship experience for both current and prospective student-athletes."

Women's cross country coach Tom Williams will serve as the head coach for the new program, while also maintaining his leadership role with the Nighthawks cross country team.

"Since reinstating the women's cross country program in 2012 after a two-year hiatus, we always knew the natural progression would be to bring in track and field student-athletes and continue the growth of our running program," Williams said. "The addition of track and field as a sport offering will provide us the ability to develop student-athletes year-round here at North Georgia."

With the addition of UNG's team, there are 10 women's Division II track & field program in Georgia."

The Nighthawks will compete with Alabama-Huntsville, Augusta, Clayton State, Columbus State, Florida Tech, Montevallo, Nova Southeastern, Shorter and UNC Pembroke for the Peach Belt Conference championship.

**UNG ATHLETICS HOSTED ITS 5TH MAKE-A-WISH™ DAY ON OCT. 12, MAKING 6-YEAR-OLD ALEXIS A MEMBER OF NIGHTHAWK NATION.**



# Collins commends UNG military program

## ILSS ADVANCES LEADERSHIP MISSION

The Department of Military Science at UNG commissioned 83 cadets for the total Army (active duty, Guard and Reserve) this past academic year, and Cadet Ryan McCaughey was the first cadet from UNG to commission into the Army Cyber career field.

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, a 1988 UNG graduate and who continues to serve in the Air Force Reserves, recently visited UNG on a statewide tour of military installations and universities for a briefing on the university's military programs and its recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency.

"A fully functioning and ready military is one of our government's core responsibilities. That level of preparedness does not come without the tireless work of our men and women in uniform, countless hours of training, and the thorough planning of military leadership," Collins said. "This school is turning out the cyber security experts that are a necessity to both our government and the private sector. The UNG program is unique; it is currently the only school in America that integrates their cyber program with language and leadership studies. As the nature of warfare changes, and intelligence emerges as our critical commodity, it is heartening to know UNG is training the next generation of defense."

UNG's Center for Cyber Operations Education is the result of collaboration between the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems in the Mike Cottrell College of Business and UNG's new Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies (ILSS). This fall, UNG marked the

one-year anniversary of ILSS, which was formed to coordinate and direct the activities of UNG's military science department, commandant's office, cadet admissions, and the director of development for the Corps of Cadets.

As designed, the ILSS serves to enhance cadet recruiting and develop new external support for cadet scholarships and corps initiatives. Additionally, the ILSS strives to provide cadets with two career paths – commissioning as Army officers, known as the "commissioning track," or opportunities in government service and global corporations, known as the "global leadership track," and internships that support these goals.

"UNG graduates serve and contribute significantly to U.S. national security through careers in the Army, government and global entities, and ILSS helps ensure that cadets have educational opportunities to become agile, adaptive and innovative leaders," said retired Col. Billy Wells, who is executive director of ILSS and senior vice president of leadership and global engagement.

The Corps of Cadets continues to experience success and growth on several fronts, including:

- Increasing from 748 cadets in fall 2015 to 775 this fall;
- Thirty-two percent of UNG's cadets were rated in the top 15 percent of all cadets nation wide at the Army's Cadet Leader Course at Ft. Knox;
- Cadet Sidney Coursey was selected as the top graduate in her regiment of more than 500 cadets at the Cadet Leader Course, earning her the AUSA Warrior Ethos Award.

To learn more about ILSS, its achievements and its goals, visit [ung.edu/ilss](http://ung.edu/ilss).



U.S. Rep Doug Collins (center in light-colored jacket) visits with UNG faculty and staff for briefing on military and academic programs

# Patrick, Mathews inducted into national ROTC Hall of Fame

Retired Lt. Gen. Burton Patrick, '57, and Bob Mathews, '71, were among the inaugural class of inductees into the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Hall of Fame in a June 10 ceremony at U.S. Army Cadet Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Hall of Fame honors ROTC graduates who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits.

Patrick, of Thomson, Georgia, earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army infantry. During his 31-year Army career, Patrick commanded soldiers at every level from platoon through field army. He served as commanding general of the elite 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky,

from 1985 to 1987. After being promoted to lieutenant general in May 1987, he returned to South Korea and assumed command of the world's only Combined Field Army until his retirement in July 1988.

His military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, three Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry, and other awards and badges.

Patrick was inducted into the UNG Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 and received the university's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1989.



**Bob Mathews, '71**

Mathews, of Atlanta, is president and CEO of Colliers International-Atlanta. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, where he served six years and achieved the rank of captain.

He joined Colliers in 1991 and has served as CEO since 2004. His accomplishments include the Silver Phoenix Award from the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors in 2012 and the organization's Realtor of the Year award in 2009. He also has won numerous awards from Colliers, and has been on the firm's Board of Advisors since 2007. Mathews is past president of the UNG Alumni Association and currently serves as chairman for the UNG Real Estate Foundation.

Nationally, nominations were solicited from each ROTC program and ROTC alumni were chosen "whose character, distinguished service, and stature draws wholesome comparison to the qualities for which ROTC strives, in keeping with the spirit of 'Duty, Honor, Country.'" Each inductee received a medallion and certificate, and bricks inscribed with the name of each inductee will be displayed on a walkway near the Cadet Command Headquarters Building at Fort Knox.



Retired Lt. Gen. Burton Patrick, '57, received the ROTC Hall of Fame Award at a ceremony at UNG's Dahlonega Campus. Pictured with Patrick, left to right, are Maj. Steven Devitt, retired Sgt Maj. Terry Baumann and Sgt. Maj. Kerry Dyer.

# Boar's Head Weekend connects current, former cadets



Kris "Tanto" Paronto, a former Army Ranger portrayed in the movie "13 Hours," poses with cadets. He spoke about his experiences in the 2012 Benghazi attacks.



**UNG recognized this year's top 25 cadets as Distinguished Military Students during the annual review, held on Sunday, September 9-11.**

This fall, the first ever Boar's Head Weekend drew alumni to UNG's Dahlonega Campus to connect current and former cadets during a weekend of mentoring and networking.

The weekend was sponsored by the North Georgia Corps of Cadets Association (NGCCA) and included a variety of events, classes, socials, and speakers, including guest speaker Kris "Tanto" Paronto, a former Army Ranger portrayed in the movie "13 Hours."

"We want to build a professional network available to UNG cadets that can help open doors – no matter their career path after UNG," said John Douglas, NGCCA chairman emeritus and an alumnus. "We also want to foster interaction between the members of the Corps of Cadets and our corps alumni to build a larger sense of camaraderie."

Networking opportunities included career-based panel discussions for juniors and seniors who



**Alumnus Tony DaSilva, '77, talks to cadets about opportunities with the corps and his experiences in the Boar's Head Brigade.**

do not plan to commission as military officers; commissioning cadets attended military briefings featuring active duty junior officers who have been recently deployed. Freshman and sophomore cadets attended panels that addressed topics such as internships and other resume-building opportunities.

The weekend also included two events to recognize this year's 25 Distinguished Military Students, the top cadets from UNG's Corps of Cadets who have excelled academically and as leaders.

Bob Mathews, president and CEO of Colliers International and an alumnus, congratulated the 25 recipients as keynote speaker for the Sunday review. Along with Mathews, the reviewing party included President Bonita Jacobs; Col. Brent Cummings, professor of military science; and retired Col. Tom Palmer, commandant of cadets.

"What you do here is important; you are the future of the United States Army and the security of our nation," Mathews said. "You have distinguished yourselves by your selection, and I challenge you to use it for good for all of those who will know you and those who will be led by you."



*What you do here is important; you are the future of the United States Army and the security of our nation,*

— Bob Mathews, '71

# CLASSNOTES



**Tommi Ash Ward**, '67, found her grandfather's (**Wesley Leonidas Ash**) 1905 diploma from then-North Georgia College. She generously donated it to the UNG Alumni Relations Office to be displayed in the Alumni House on the Dahlonega Campus. The family presented the diploma to Wendi Huguley, director of alumni relations and annual giving.

## 1980s

**COL (Ret.) Christopher "Chris" Bagley**, '85, attended the investiture of Dr. Frank Gilliam, new chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, on behalf of UNG on October 7.

**Deana Harper**, '88, was honored by the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Education as Work-Based Learning Coordinator of the Year in July. Harper, who earned her bachelor's degree in business, has taught at North Hall High School for 19 years. She is the state chair for Work-Based Learning.

## 1990s

**Janeann Carter Allison**, '91, has been named administrative services director for the City of Gainesville (Georgia). Allison has served as the city's human resources director since 2014 and was the Habersham County manager and county clerk for eight years.

**MAJ Robert Stone**, '91, has been awarded the Bronze Star posthumously. Stone passed away in 2015 from cancer and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on May 23, 2016.



UNG Distinguished Alumnus **MG Stephen Fogarty**, '83, was honored for his service as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon. Pictured with Fogarty is retired LTC Gary Engen, '65. In June, Fogarty was named new Chief-of-Staff of the U.S. Cyber Command at Fort Meade, Maryland.



## LTG TOWNSEND LEADING FIGHT AGAINST ISIL

For the second time in three years, a UNG alumnus is leading the U.S. military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq (ISIL). Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend's XVIII Airborne Corps took command of Operation Inherent Resolve in August.

Townsend, a 1982 alumnus, has been commanding general of XVIII Airborne Corps, which is designed for rapid, global deployment, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina, since May 2015. He previously commanded the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, New York.

Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, is the operational headquarters of a military coalition of 65 nations involved in Operation Inherent Resolve, which aims to defeat ISIL in Iraq and Syria, provide training of local forces and secure regional stability.

The XVIII Airborne Corps headquarters deployed about 450 soldiers to Kuwait, according to a U.S. Army news release.

In a ceremony held July 29 at Fort Bragg as the XVIII Airborne

Corps cased its Colors in preparation for deployment, Townsend said: "ISIL is hell-bent on destroying our way of life and imposing their twisted ideology on us. That can't stand. Along with our regional and coalition partners, the XVIII Airborne Corps will continue the attack and defeat ISIL in Iraq and Syria."

Townsend has had multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. While assigned to Fort

Lewis, Washington, he commanded 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and led Task Force Arrowhead on offensive operations across Iraq.

Townsend earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UNG and also has two master's degrees. He has a number of awards and decorations to include the Combat Infantryman Badge (with star), Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Ranger Tab.

A native of Griffin, Georgia, Townsend is married to Melissa Crawford Townsend, who attended UNG from 1978-1981 and subsequently graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1983.

Retired Lt. Gen. James L. Terry also commanded the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve as commanding general of U.S. Army Central; he was succeeded by Lt. Gen. Sean McFarland.



Townsend, far right, with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and colleagues



## UNG ALUMNI LEAD THE LARGEST SIGNAL 88 SECURITY FRANCHISE

**Mark McClure**, '86, and **Jeff Carlyle**, '88, are owners of Signal 88 Security of Atlanta, South Carolina, Orange County, California, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. **Bob Oglesby**, '86 serves as the Director of Support.

**Dr. Christine Ware Cook**, '94, was honored as the Virginia Optometric Association's 2016 Optometrist of the Year. She is immediate past president of the VOA, and was recently appointed to the Southern Council of Optometrists' Board of Trustees.

**Col. Patrick M. Duggan**, '95, became the commander of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Virginia on June 28. Duggan earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and commissioned into the infantry. A Special Forces officer, Duggan is proficient in four languages - Arabic, Spanish, Tagalog and French. During his 21-year

Army career, Duggan has had multiple tours of duty overseas, including service in Iraq and Afghanistan. After graduating from the Army's Command and General Staff College, Duggan was assigned to staff positions within Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula in 2006. From 2007 to 2008, he was commander of Advanced Operating Base 5120 during the height of the Iraqi surge. From 2008 to 2009, he served as a battalion operations officer, where he orchestrated Special Operations Forces' operational and combat deployments across U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

**Tiffany Hancock**, '95, was selected as the 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year at Rocky Branch Elementary School. Hancock was featured in *The Oconee Enterprise* newspaper in September for her teaching career in Oconee County.

**LTC John E. Steen II**, '98, took command of 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Combat Air Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Carson, Colorado, on May 13.

**John Whidden**, '98, won his fourth NRA Long Range National Championship in August. As a student, he competed on the UNG Rifle Team. He currently lives in Nashville, Georgia, and is married to

**Carrie Lanier Whidden**, who attended UNG for two years before transferring to the Medical College of Georgia.

**Jeremy Perry**, '99, is the new chief financial officer for the City of Gainesville (Georgia). Perry previously served as finance director for the City of Flowery Branch and as financial manager and budget officer for Hall County from 2005. He earned an associate degree in criminal justice and a bachelor's degree in accounting from UNG.

## 2000s

**Joseph W. Hansen**, '05, has been named the vice president of the Central Florida division of RealManage, a property management company.



**Dan Brown**, '09, and wife, **Keylee Clemons Brown**, '09, reside in Dahlonaga. Dan is a captain in the Georgia Army National Guard and assistant vice president with CitiBank North America. Keylee is a doctor of optometry and resident of ocular disease and refractive and ocular surgery management at Woolfson Eye Institute.

**Aaron Brown**, '13, and **Caitlin Chalmers Brown**, '14, currently live in Alexandria, Virginia, and have lived in the metro D.C. area for two years. Aaron is currently a grant writer for Americans for Prosperity, and Caitlin is an orthopedic nurse at Virginia Hospital Center. They celebrated their third wedding anniversary in June and are expecting their first child at the end of October.

**Zack Agerton**, '13, is currently living in Samoa serving with the Peace Corps. His blog recently won the Peace Corps Blog It Home competition. As the winner, he made a trip to Washington, D.C. in October to give presentations on the culture of Samoa.



**Gregg Morgan**, '13, and **Ariel Hansel**, '14, were married on July 16, 2016 in Macon, Georgia. Ariel works in the Alumni Services Department at Mercer University. Gregg received his Master of Science in Preclinical Science from Mercer University School of Medicine in May 2015 and is now in the Doctor of Medicine program at Mercer University School of Medicine.

**Sam Tidaback**, former UNG catcher, was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 21st round during the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft.

**Daniel McCrary**, '14, became the new district executive for the Jayhawk Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Topeka, Kansas.

**Megan Jacques**, '15, became the new alumni relations officer of communications for UNG's Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving in September.

**Michael DeNoia**, '15, spent a year after graduation working at UPS and traveling to Africa on a mission trip. He also traveled to North Carolina, Maine and Massachusetts. He is now in Pensacola, Florida, beginning his master's degree in industrial-organizational psychology at the University of West Florida.

**Nick Smith**, '16, completed his training at the police academy and is now in the Dalton Police Department's field training program. Smith graduated from UNG with a bachelor's degree in business management.



**Ashley Worley Duncan**, '12, graduated from the College of Education with a bachelor's degree in early childhood/special education. This fall, she was chosen as the 2016 Creekland Middle School Teacher of the Year among more than 130 teachers, putting her in the running for Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year. She teaches students with moderate autism. Her mother, Cindy Sherrill, is coordinator of UNG's early childhood education/special education program.

## 2010s

**Jennifer Westbrook**, '10, of Gainesville, Georgia, is the new principal at Mount Vernon Exploratory School in Hall County. She previously was assistant principal at Enota Multiple Intelligences Academy in Gainesville. Westbrook earned an educational specialist degree in school leadership from UNG.

## LTC GANNAWAY LEADS WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT

Lt. Col. Bruce Gannaway, '98, who lost a leg after being injured by an IED in Iraq, returned to active duty after rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and even competed in the Department of Defense's Warrior Games.

In December, he took command of the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Hood, Texas, to help other injured soldiers make a successful journey to recovery as he has done.

"I never felt I could be defeated by my injuries. I wanted to continue an active lifestyle, and my recovery continues today," Gannaway said. "Physically I'm healed, so now I focus on mental recovery. After a disabling injury or illness there is a grief, anger and frustration about what's been lost, and then acceptance of a new normal. Some days I still struggle accepting my new normal. As we age we all confront disability. We can wallow in sorrow about what we've lost, or choose to be positive and find adaptations that allow us to continue what we love."

Gannaway also credits the leadership experiences and education at UNG for helping prepare him to lead the unit.

"It was hammered home during my cadet time that leaders get to know the whole person. If you're a cadet squad leader inspecting uniforms and barracks and you're not having a discussion about grades, family and plans for the weekend, you're missing an opportunity to get to know your people," he said. "Soldiers deserve the same personalization in leadership that cadets do because leadership should never be cookie cutter. I think this is uniquely important when leading a soldier who's wounded, ill or injured like the soldiers in my unit."



**Gannaway with wife Sarah and their daughters**

*Looking for some adventure?*

# JOIN UNG OUTDOORS

UNG Outdoors is a new program through the Office of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving that aims to engage alumni in outdoor activities together. The first program, a “Gold Rush Ride”, was led by alumnus Mark Agerton, '87, during Gold Rush Weekend in Dahlonega. Agerton and fellow motorcyclists met for breakfast on Oct. 15 and then enjoyed a scenic ride through the mountains and back to the Dahlonega Campus.

Other programs are planned for the spring. Alumnus and passionate hiker Randall Brown, '91 will lead a hike to the Len Foote Hike Inn starting at Amicalola

Falls State Park on April 1. Attendees will trek the 5-mile hike together to the inn and stay the night.

Dr. Robert Fuller, a professor in UNG's Department of Physics, will lead a canoe trip down the Chestatee River starting at Appalachian Outfitters in Dahlonega on April 22. Dr. Fuller is known for his 1,503-mile canoe trip from Dahlonega to the Gulf of Mexico in 2012.

These programs are geared toward alumni who want to be involved in the numerous activities the North Georgia Mountains region has to offer.

To learn about more upcoming events, follow UNG Alumni on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and [ungalumni.org](http://ungalumni.org).

UNG Alumni Association presents

# DISCOVER SCOTLAND

Featuring The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

July 30 – August 8, 2017

For details, contact Phil Collins  
at [phil.collins@ung.edu](mailto:phil.collins@ung.edu).

# IN MEMORIAM

## Alumni

**James Cameron Bozeman** '57

May 25, 2016

**Robert Dean Bray** '56

August 26, 2016

**Mary Frances Clemmer** '59

June 3, 2016

**John Thomas Coleman** '51

September 10, 2016

**Marie Derry DeLamar** '42

September 10, 2016

**Carlo Albert Dilalla** '73

April 29, 2016

**Eva Anne Dowdy** '67

September 4, 2016

**Melissa Duncan** '73

May 9, 2016

**Daniel Edward Ferguson** '76

June 6, 2016

**Elizabeth Folger** '41

August 17, 2016

**Laura Josephine Gansler** '43

July 7, 2016

**Lovic Pierce Greer** '37

June 30, 2016

**Raymond Gerald Grogan** '38

July 30, 2016

**Welker Emory Hamby** '00

September 14, 2016

**Robert Leonard Harper** '70

June 4, 2016

**Chunese Christale Ivory**

June 3, 2016

**Mary Elaine Johnson**

June 2, 2016

**Harold Venable Kelley** '70

September 12, 2016

**Lansing Burrows LeRoy** '51

December 17, 2015

**William James Livsey** '52

June 18, 2016

**Robert Hugh Lummus** '39

August 1, 2016

**James Roy MacElhannon** '44

July 8, 2016

**Gary Carl Martin** '92

June 4, 2016

**Monroe James Matherly** '70

May 10, 2016

**James H. Matthews** '51

June 13, 2016

**Madge Ophelia Mayo** '56

June 11, 2016

**Douglas Winters McEniry** '81

January 11, 2016

**Charles Thomas Moss**

June 6, 2016

**James Marvin O'Dillon** '49

June 21, 2016

**Marcheta Ballew O'Kelley**

May 19, 2016

**Charles Robert Palmer** '56

May 25, 2016

**Edward T. Parks** '52

August 27, 2016

**Ben Lane Patterson** '48

August 8, 2016

**Teresa Lynn Presley** '84

April 22, 2016

**Patsy Ann Rudnicki** '69

March 21, 2016

**Patsy Ann Russell** '77

July 8, 2016

**Braford Clayton Sanderson** '49

August 21, 2016

**Linda Perry Sexton**

June 23, 2016

**Charles G. Shepherd** '42

March 18, 2016

**Derek Etchu Tambe** '92

June 7, 2016

**Stanley M. Taylor** '79

September 11, 2016

**Marilynn B. Thrasher** '53

September 5, 2016

**Randall Hugh Turpin** '73

August 20, 2016

**John Elzy Vann** '62

July 24, 2016

**Dollye Wren Ward** '61

April 14, 2016

**Nancy Caroline Ware** '51

August 5, 2016

**Raymond Oliver Waters** '41

June 2, 2016

**William Virgil Wigley** '57

May 14, 2016

**Christopher Dean Williams** '70

August 29, 2016

**Philip Douglas Woody** '59

June 19, 2016

## Faculty or Staff

**William B. Edmonds**

May 15, 2016

**Doris Ann Freeman**

September 23, 2016

**Hugh M. Mills** '43

August 4, 2016

**Bonnie Morris**

October 7, 2016

To honor a former classmate or mentor, consider making a gift in their memory to the UNG Foundation at [ung.edu/give](http://ung.edu/give).

## Dr. Hugh M. Mills, Jr.



Dr. Hugh M. Mills, Jr., passed away on Aug. 4 at the age of 93.

Mills was the founding president of Gainesville Junior College and served the institution from 1965 until his retirement in 1983. After retiring from Gainesville Junior College, Mills served briefly as interim president of Brenau University in 1985.

A native of Albany, Georgia, Mills graduated from then - North Georgia College in 1943. Afterward, he joined the Army Air Corps and later attended the University of Georgia, where he earned several degrees, including a doctorate in education.

He received North Georgia's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2003, and he was inducted into the university's Athletics Hall of Fame in early 2016 for his successful basketball career in college and as a coach at the high school level in both basketball and track.

The physical education complex on UNG's Gainesville Campus is named in his honor, and the Hugh Mills Scholarship Fund supports students in need. Gifts to the fund in Mills' memory may be directed to the UNG Foundation, Inc.

## Retired Gen. William "Lipp" Livsey



Retired Gen. William "Lipp" Livsey, for whom the Drill Field at UNG's Dahlonge Campus is named, passed away on June 18 at the age of 85.

Livsey retired as a four-star general, having attained the highest rank available in a peacetime Army. He is the only UNG graduate to achieve this rank to-date. He

graduated from then-North Georgia College in 1952 and was a decorated veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. During his 35-year military career, he held several commands, including serving as commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Europe, deputy commanding general in the U.S. Army Forces

Command, and commanding general of the 3rd U.S. Army, Fort McPherson. In May, 1984, and until his retirement on June 30, 1987, Livsey served as commander-in-chief, United Nations Command; commander-in-chief, Combined Forces Command; commander, United States Forces, Korea; and commanding general, 8th United States Army.

Livsey received the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with V Device, the Army Commendation Medal with V Device with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge, among others.

# Upcoming Events

This is a small selection of events open to the community. For event times and other details, as well as more event opportunities, please visit [calendar.ung.edu](http://calendar.ung.edu).

## NOVEMBER

### November 8-19

Gainesville Theatre  
Alliance presents  
*Beauty and the Beast*  
Hosch Theatre, Brenau  
University

### November 13

UNG Singers present  
Handel's *Messiah*  
(Christmas Portion)  
Duluth United Methodist  
Church  
Duluth, GA

### November 14

Visiting Author Michael  
Pitre  
Dahlonega Campus, Hoag  
Student Center

### November 21-26

Fall Break (no classes)

### November 28

"A Little Night(hawk)  
Music" Concert Series  
Gainesville Campus,  
Continuing Education &  
Performing Arts Center

### November 28

Le Belle Voci and Patriot  
Choir Concert  
Dahlonega Campus, Nix  
Fine Arts Center

## DECEMBER

### December 1

Japan Foundation Lecture  
Series  
Dr. Denis Gainty will talk  
about history of  
bluegrass music in  
Japan  
Dahlonega Campus,  
Library Technology  
Center

### December 1

Instrumental Students  
Recital  
Gainesville Campus,  
Continuing Education &  
Performing Arts Center

### December 1

Women's Jazz Vocal  
Ensemble  
Dahlonega Campus, Nix  
Fine Arts Center

### December 3

UNG Chorale Holiday  
Concert  
Blue Ridge Mountains  
Arts Center

### December 5

College Goal Georgia  
(free FAFSA completion  
help!)  
Oconee Campus, Student  
Resource Center

### December 5

Chamber Orchestra  
Concert  
Gainesville Campus,  
Continuing Education &  
Performing Arts Center

### December 5

Wind Ensemble Concert  
Dahlonega Campus, Hoag  
Student Center

### December 6

UNG Chorale Holiday  
Concert  
Briarwood Baptist Church  
in Watkinsville, GA

### December 7

Symphonic Band Winter  
Concert  
Riverside Military  
Academy in Gainesville,  
GA

### December 7

Orchestra Concert  
Dahlonega Campus, Nix  
Fine Arts Center

### December 9

UNG Hawkapellas Winter  
Concert  
Dahlonega Campus, Hoag  
Student Center

### December 9

Jazz Band Concert  
Dahlonega Campus, Nix  
Fine Arts Center

### December 12-16

Fall Semester Final Exams

### December 16-17

Fall Semester  
Commencement

### December 22-Jan. 2

UNG Closed for holidays

## JANUARY

### January 9

Spring Semester Classes  
Begin

### January 16

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday  
University closed

### January 19

Jamie Bull Artist Talk &  
Reception  
Dahlonega Campus, Hoag  
Student Center

### January 20

Women in Business  
Conference  
Gainesville Campus,  
Martha T. Nesbitt  
Building

## FEBRUARY

### February 14-25

Gainesville Theatre  
Alliance presents  
*Godspell*  
Hosch Theatre, Brenau  
University

### February 14-25

Gainesville Theatre  
Alliance presents *Much  
Ado About Nothing*  
Gainesville Campus, Ed  
Cabell Theatre

### February 15

Alumni Gathering - Dallas,  
Texas

### February 16

Alumni Gathering - Fort  
Hood, Texas

### February 17

Alumni Gathering - San  
Antonio, Texas

## MARCH

### March 3

UNG Scholarship Gala

### March 11

Alumni Gathering -  
Greenville/Greer, SC

### March 14

Alumni Gathering -  
Huntsville, AL

### March 30

Alumni Gathering -  
Columbus, GA

## APRIL

### April 1

UNG Outdoors: Hike to  
Len Foote Inn

### April 21-23

Alumni Weekend

## CHEER ON THE UNG NIGHTHAWKS!

Our UNG athletic teams  
are competing at home  
and around the Southeast.  
See their schedules and  
keep up with them at  
[ungathletics.com](http://ungathletics.com).





# Advance your career and *lead* with UNG.

Learn more  
[ung.edu/  
graduate](http://ung.edu/graduate)

Earning a graduate degree can open doors to personal growth, career advancement and greater financial reward. UNG offers many programs that are convenient for working professionals and several that are completely online.

- Business Administration
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Criminal Justice\*
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Early Childhood Education
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- History
- International Affairs\*
- Middle Grades Math and Science\*
- Physical Education\*
- Physical Therapy
- Public Administration
- Teaching

**Specialized certificate programs are available, also.**

\*online



## COOL TOOLS AND CYBERSECURITY

Forty high school students completed a two-week Cyber Warrior Academy at UNG this summer and got to use tools like robots and drones while learning about cyber operations and cybersecurity.



Learn more at  
[www.ung.edu/news](http://www.ung.edu/news)



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University of  
North Georgia



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