

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA MAGAZINE

Fall 2017



**WHAT LIES
BENEATH**

**UNG MONITORS WATER
QUALITY, DEVISES SOLUTIONS**



UNG CAMPUSES EXPERIENCE A RARE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

On Aug. 21 north Georgia residents experienced a sight that won't happen again for another 375 years. A swath of the country from Salem, Oregon, to Charleston, South Carolina, was blanketed in near-total darkness for a couple of minutes during the afternoon for a rare total solar eclipse. The eclipse coincided with the first day of fall classes at UNG's five campuses. Classes were cancelled from noon to 4 p.m. to allow UNG students, faculty and staff to experience the historic event.



FALL 2017

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Sylvia Carson, editor
Edie Rogers, writer
J.K. Devine, writer
Mark Udry, writer
David Jones, designer
Peggy Cozart, photographer
Salai Sayasean, photographer
Jasmine Ward, Intern
Savannah Moss, Intern

CONTACT

Office of University Relations
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30597
706-864-1950
universityrelations@ung.edu



Reaching new heights of excellence

This semester started with a bang – we had a total solar eclipse on the first day of classes and then we experienced the aftermath of two hurricanes. Needless to say, it has been an exciting semester at UNG.

This fall, we enrolled nearly 19,000 students across our five campuses and online. In particular, due to new and expanded offerings, enrollment in our graduate programs increased by more than 15% this fall.

Once again, UNG was recognized by Forbes magazine in its annual ranking of Best Colleges (we were one of only five public universities in Georgia on the list). Additionally, UNG was named again by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 25 public universities in the South and, also, as the top university in the South for the least amount of student debt. Consistent recognition like this supports UNG's reputation as a leading regional university.

Also of note:

- Our recent graduates in teacher education, physical therapy and clinical mental health counseling had a 100% pass rate on their required licensure examinations.
- Our cadets continue to outpace all other Senior Military Colleges, and I was thrilled we received the Association of the United States Army's highest award when it recognized our Corps of Cadets at its national meeting in Washington, D.C., last month.
- Our athletics department brought home the National NCAA Award of Excellence for service, the Peach Belt Commissioner's Cup for academic and athletic achievements, and our baseball team made it to the college World Series.

With 80% of our students coming from a 30-county area in northeast Georgia, UNG is serving the educational needs of a diverse student population in the state's fastest-growing region and producing high-performing graduates ready to enter the workforce and serve as a catalyst for economic development of this region.

I am proud to serve this outstanding university, which continues to set new heights of excellence every day. Thank you for your continued support that helps make our students and our communities stronger!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonita Jacobs". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Bonita C. Jacobs
President

“UNG is serving the educational needs of a diverse student population in the state’s fastest-growing region and producing high-performing graduates...”



U.S. News and Forbes name UNG among top universities in the country

In its annual Best Regional Universities ranking, U.S. News & World Report ranked UNG 22nd among public regional universities in the South. UNG was also ranked No. 1 in the South for the lightest debt load among regional public universities on U.S. News' Student Debt Load at Graduation list.

"Recognition for UNG and our consistent high-level ranking on this list reflects the quality of our educational experience, as well as the value of a degree from this institution," said President Bonita C. Jacobs. "We are extremely proud of our recent national rankings and remain committed to offering affordable, high-quality degrees to our students."

The rankings for the Best Regional Universities list 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 data for the Student Debt Load at Graduation list includes loans taken out by students from their colleges, from private financial institutions and the government. The rankings are based primarily on data from 2016 and, for some factors, include averages of the previous two to four years of data.

The Best Regional Universities list ranked 659 institutions that offer a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs, but few doctoral programs, in four geographic categories. The South region includes Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia,

and West Virginia. Among both public and private institutions, UNG was ranked as 61st among Best Regional Universities in the South, up from 72nd last year.

In August, Forbes magazine named UNG as one of the nation's top higher education institutions in its annual "America's Top Colleges" ranking – marking UNG's second appearance on the list and ranking it third among the only five University System of Georgia institutions on the list. The Forbes report rated the nation's top 650 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.

UNG's economic impact tops \$625 million

The University of North Georgia's economic impact on northeast Georgia topped \$625 million during fiscal year 2016. According to an annual study of the University System of Georgia's (USG) economic impact, UNG's impact on the communities in its region rose nearly 15 percent, or \$81 million, from the previous year.

The economic impact of UNG is a measure of direct and indirect spending that contributes to the 30-county service region served by the university.

"This study shows that UNG's commitment toward advancing economic growth and prosperity in the areas we serve is right on target," President Bonita C. Jacobs said. "Each and every day, UNG's students, faculty and staff are contributing to our

community to produce high-performing graduates ready to enter the workforce, and serve as a catalyst for economic development."

UNG has campuses in Blue Ridge, Cumming, Dahlonega, Gainesville, and Oconee County. The study area for UNG includes Banks, Barrow, Clarke, Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Green, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Union, Walton, and White counties.

Most of UNG's \$625,883,204 economic impact consists of initial spending by the university for salaries and benefits, operating supplies and expenses, and other budgeted expenditures. The figure includes \$260 million in spending by UNG's students and employees. On average, for every

dollar spent by the university, an additional 52 cents is generated for the region.

UNG also had a regional employment impact of 6,204 jobs in the same period. The employment impact includes on-campus positions and off-campus jobs that exist due to the institution.

As a whole, the public colleges and universities that comprised the USG in 2016 had a total impact of \$16.8 billion on the state, representing an increase of 8 percent from fiscal year 2015-2016. The study was conducted by the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, on behalf of the Board of Regents.



Convocation Center reaches peak of construction



University of North Georgia President Dr. Bonita Jacobs signed the last steel beam for the Convocation Center before it is lifted and put into place.

Similar to putting a cherry on top of an ice cream sundae, UNG celebrated the Convocation Center reaching its construction pinnacle with a Topping Out ceremony in July on the Dahlonega Campus.

"It's a symbolic gesture of installing the steel that reaches to the highest point of the building," said Ken Crowe, UNG assistant vice president for facilities, who can see the daily progress from two cameras streaming the activity live online.

Several UNG and Juneau Construction Co. officials, invited guests, and the construction crew watched as a crane lifted and set into place the final piece of steel adorned with UNG and U.S. flags.

"It's been magical," UNG President Dr. Bonita Jacobs said of the progress. "And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the staff who worked with the external contractors to create a beautiful and exceptional building."

Jacobs expects the facility will become a hub of activity for the university and the area, further increasing UNG's economic impact on the region.

The 103,000-square-foot multiuse facility on the southwest side of campus, between Donovan and Lewis Halls, will take over as the main arena for large

activities at UNG, including concerts, sporting events, and military training exercises. Currently, many of those events occur in the aging and seat-limited Memorial Hall, which was built in 1960 with a capacity of 1,049. It will also host community and regional events, such as job fairs, tournaments and large-scale meetings.

"It was designed for an enrollment of 1,000 students," said Mac McConnell, UNG's senior vice president for business and finance. "Now, we are approaching 8,000 students on the Dahlonega Campus and about 19,000 students across the university. So the Convocation Center is really a transformational space."

Crowe agreed, pointing out UNG and the surrounding community will have a venue large enough to bring more concerts and events to the area.

"Only a limited number of acts can come to a 1,000-seat arena," he said. "But with the 3,600-seat arena, its acoustics, and sound and video equipment, we will have the ability to get more entertainment for students."

The Convocation Center also will house the Department of Kinesiology with its offices, labs and classrooms. It will host all of UNG's future commencement ceremonies, too.

But UNG students, faculty and staff will have to wait a few more months before stepping into the building. The

nearly \$40 million facility is set to open in early 2018.

It will be well worth the wait, McConnell said.

"This has been a No. 1 priority for me for well over a decade," he said. "It took that long to secure funding to have it built."

However, he said he is satisfied to finally see the newest anchor for the Dahlonega Campus.

"When I look north toward Price Memorial Hall with that gold steeple, it's an anchor," he said. "When I look to the south and see the Library and Technology Center, I see an anchor. And when I look west and I see the Health and Natural Sciences Building, that's an anchor."

The Convocation Center will become the newest anchor on the southwest side of campus, just off Morrison Moore Parkway. In fact, the three-story center is located near the residence halls. Crowe said that is one more bonus for students.

"Students can walk out their back door of their residence hall and two minutes later, they are sitting in their seats in the new Convocation Center," he said.



UNG, Forsyth County Schools partner on new high school

When Forsyth County Schools first discussed building a seventh high school adjacent to UNG's Cumming Campus, Jason Pruitt was ready and willing to assist.

"When Valery Lowe (the college and career development director for Forsyth County Schools) said they were thinking about a magnet school, I was thinking there is an opportunity here for us to partner," said Pruitt, the UNG Cumming Campus executive director. "She laid out the plan and asked 'What do you think?' I said 'That's great' and I was all in on it."

UNG agreed to partner with Forsyth County Schools to provide programs and dual-enrollment options for the county's Alliance Academy for Innovation.

"UNG is partnering with this new school to expose students to potential career paths and college opportunities," UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. "Initiatives like this result in a vibrant workforce that serves as the foundation for economic and social prosperity."

The Alliance Academy plans to provide an interdisciplinary curriculum with a culture of teamwork, creative thinking, collaboration, and communication. It will feature five interest-themed academies or schools including aerospace and logistics, criminal justice and law, health care and first responders, hospitality and design, and mechatronics and energy. Each school will be aligned to a Career and Technical Student Organization. The Alliance Academy will also offer Advanced Placement courses, dual enrollment, work-based learning, and



honors mentorship opportunities for students.

UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business and the College of Arts and Letters' criminal justice department are already working with the school system to assist with programming.

Principal Brandi Cannizzaro said school officials met with UNG's criminal justice department in September to share experience and resources. They also are looking at utilizing the scenario house on the Dahlonega Campus in the future.

"They said we could bring the kids on field trips and help develop our department and curriculum," Cannizzaro said.

Alliance Academy students also will have access to the Cumming Campus since its proximity is across the street. The academy is on 23 acres

located off Lanier 400 Parkway in Cumming.

"At the UNG Cumming Campus, you can look out at the parking lot and see the new school," Lowe said. "It's just on a different street."

Slated to open in August 2018, it will serve about 1,200 students, who will have to apply.

Cannizzaro feels like the partnership between UNG and Forsyth is similar to winning the lottery.

"I love the fact that we are partnering with a post-secondary institution, and one so close to home," she said. "We really see that as great opportunity to collaborate on classes through dual enrollment and potentially have our students continue onto UNG after they graduate. It is going to be great exposure and win-win for our school as well as UNG."

Food pantries thrive on Gainesville and Dahlonega campuses

While University of North Georgia assistant professor Dr. Carly Redding and lecturer Rosann Kent dislike that UNG and other college campuses across the country have to have pantries to feed food insecure students, faculty and staff, both are pleased the UNG community is filling that need.

“It is unfortunate that students, staff and faculty have to use the pantry, but good that they are using the resource,” said Redding, who supervises the Gainesville Campus food pantry.

This fall, the pantry on the Dahlonega Campus is providing fresh, perishable items thanks to donations from local farmers markets, said Rosann Kent, director of the Appalachian Studies Center and supervisor of the Dahlonega Campus food pantry. A donated freezer and refrigerator keeps items such as milk, eggs, bread, and butter fresh.

Five education students also undertook the monumental task of relocating and reorganizing the Dahlonega Campus’ food pantry this summer. It was part of their required service hours in the education class focused on exploring socio-cultural



Student volunteers restock the shelves at the Food Pantry on UNG’s Dahlonega Campus.

perspectives in diversity.

The first task was moving the pantry from its second-floor home in the Vickery House on West Main Street to the more user-friendly first floor.

“It wasn’t very accessible, because you had to go up the stairs of this old house,” said UNG junior Amanda Carter, who was one of the students who worked on the project.

The next task involved sorting the food and determining what items to keep, toss and donate. The third was reorganizing. Kent said the student did a phenomenal job, far exceeding her expectations.

“The pantry now resembles an organized retail environment with labeled shelves and signage throughout,” she said.

During the sorting process, the students inventoried the goods and created a new list of recommended donations. Some included non-perishable milk, protein or breakfast bars, tuna, and hygiene items.

Both campus pantries accept donations from parents, students and the community. The Gainesville Campus pantry also has a partnership with the Georgia Mountain Food Bank for food.

Film students win Audience Award at Athens festival

Several UNG students from the film and digital media program won the Audience Award at the 2017 Athens 24 Hour-ish Film Festival for their horror-comedy short film, “And Beyond.”

The students wrote, shot and edited the film in less than a weekend, beginning April 26.

The students involved in the production were Tatianna Pangle and Jeremy Thao as the co-producers; Tylere Brown as the director of photography; Brandon Adams as first assistant camera and key grip; Tyler

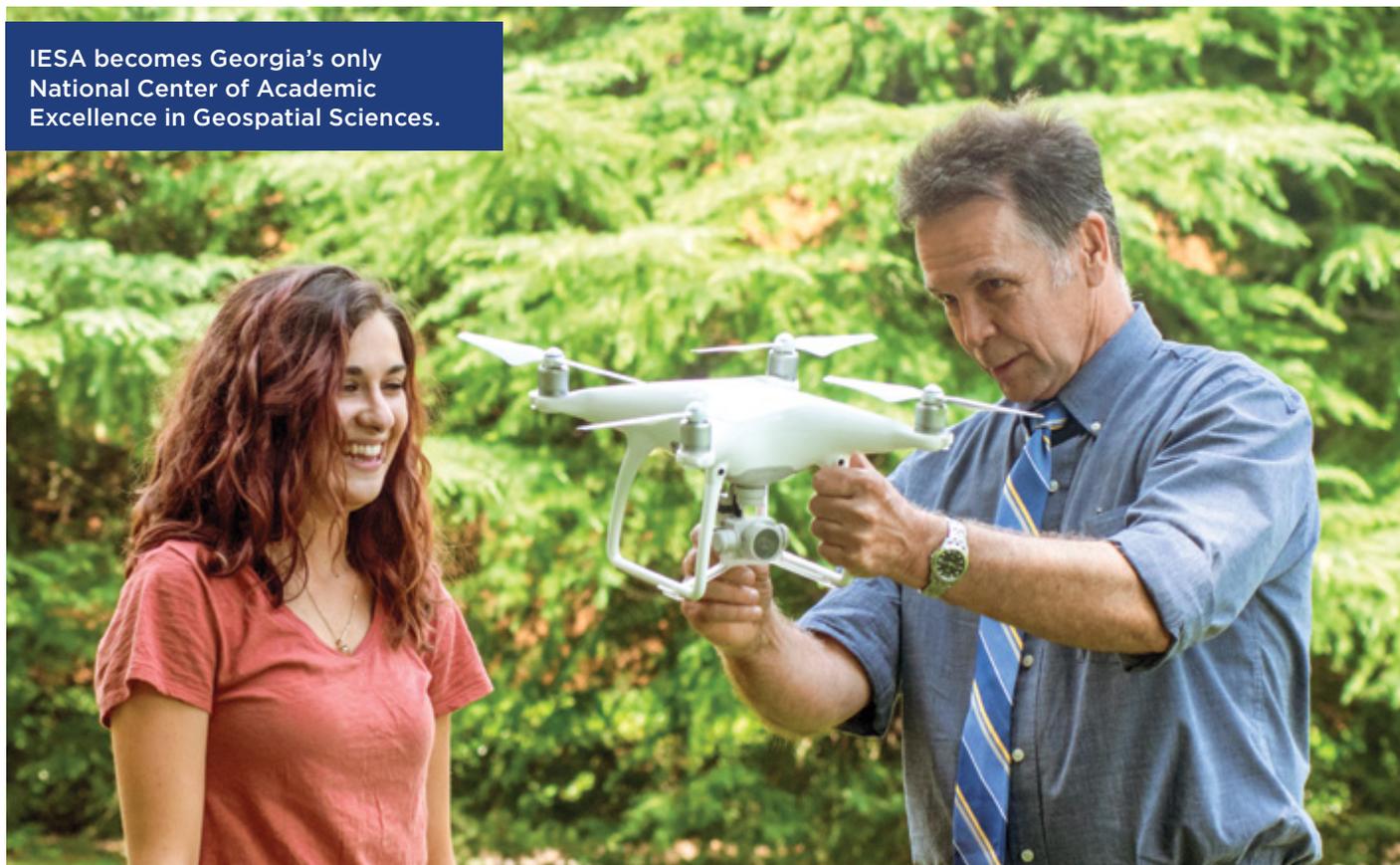
Calder as the sound recordist and audio mixer; Tara Toombs as script supervisor; and Kristina Kromer as editor. Thao also wrote and directed the film, while Pangle and Madeleine Pearson starred in the piece.

“And Beyond” takes place in an alternate universe where Tom Hanks is president. It follows two friends as they discuss the politics of their universe and through the conversation, one friend decides to do something drastic, which would change their relationship forever. The premise was one of the required elements mandated by the

festival organizers. Every team had to incorporate the famous actor as president, a red shoe, and a specific line of dialogue into their films.

“Competitions like this challenge filmmakers’ creativity and test their ability to buckle down and do the work. This crew of students demonstrated their artistry as well as a high level of craftsmanship, both things which we instill in our majors. We’re very proud of them,” said Jeff Marker, head of the communication, media and journalism department.

IESA becomes Georgia's only National Center of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences.



IESA program earns national recognition

The Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis (IESA) has been selected as a Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Geospatial Sciences, making UNG the only university in the state with that designation and one of only 25 in the nation.

Geospatial technology is the range of tools used to analyze, measure and visualize the earth's features, through global navigation satellite systems, GIS, remote sensing, surveying and internet mapping technologies. It is used in countless applications, from planning shopping centers and assessing economic markets to managing hurricane relief efforts. The U.S. Labor Department considers the field primed for growth, from about 850,000 employed in the industry today, to more than 1.2 million by 2019.

UNG received the honor from the National Geospatial-Intelligence

Agency (NGA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The two agencies created the designation in an effort to build long-term partnerships with academic institutions to advance leading-edge research in geospatial sciences.

"IESA's designation as a CAE for Geospatial Sciences affirms UNG's commitment to meeting our nation's need for students with a background in creating information from location-specific data," said Dr. Andy Novobilski, chief research officer. "This skillset, with its application to security and business development, provides students and faculty with new opportunities for professional growth."

The designation benefits UNG students by providing additional workforce options and internships, and it enhances IESA's position toward securing future grants and research opportunities.

Dr. Jeff Turk, IESA director, said the validation is important for potential employers of UNG graduates as well as students

"The designation validates quality in the courses and programs that may provide an edge toward our students as they seek employment," he said.

Turk also believes the designation will attract potential students currently considering other programs.

"Students considering other institutions may more readily identify the recognized quality and reaffirm the value of our programs and choose a degree from UNG and IESA," Turk said.

IESA currently offers a bachelor's degree in environmental spatial analysis as well as several associate degree pathways, minors and undergraduate certificates in related disciplines.



Mike Cottrell College of Business renews prestigious accreditation

UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business has maintained its accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB), keeping its place among the less than five percent of the world's business schools to have earned this hallmark of excellence.

AACSB is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools in the world. The reaccreditation of the college was unconditionally extended for an additional five years following the review.

"This affirmation of the college's elite status is a testament to the work of its faculty, staff and students and our high standards of excellence," Dr. Bonita Jacobs, president of UNG, said in praising the achievement.

To maintain accreditation, a business program must undergo a rigorous internal review every five years,

during which the program must demonstrate a commitment to 15 standards. Each of the 15 standards provides guidelines for the business school in the areas of engagement, impact and innovation. In addition to the 15 standards, business schools must show a commitment to continuous improvement and achievement in the school's learning goals in degree programs.

"AACSB accreditation requires hard work from everyone within an institution," Dr. Donna Mayo, dean of the Mike Cottrell College of Business, said.

"However, that work is why accreditation is meaningful. I am very proud of the efforts of our students, faculty and professional staff who seek every day to build strong graduates and strong communities."

Football at UNG...temporarily

UNG served as a safe haven from Hurricane Irma for members of the Savannah State University football program this fall.

Football players, coaches, trainers, two public safety officers, and two bus drivers from Savannah State arrived at UNG's Dahlonega Campus a day after their Sept. 9 game against Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. More than 100 team members stayed on the Dahlonega Campus as Irma swept across Florida and Georgia.

UNG's five campuses were closed Sept. 11 - 12 because of the severe weather associated with Irma and its aftermath. On the Dahlonega Campus, residence halls and the dining hall remained open to serve the residential students, including the contingent from

Savannah State.

Soon after the team's arrival, defensive back Anthony Hunt, a senior from Jacksonville, Florida, majoring in homeland security and emergency management, showed his appreciation via social media.

"The University of North Georgia is showing great hospitality already," Hunt said via Twitter. "We really appreciate it!"

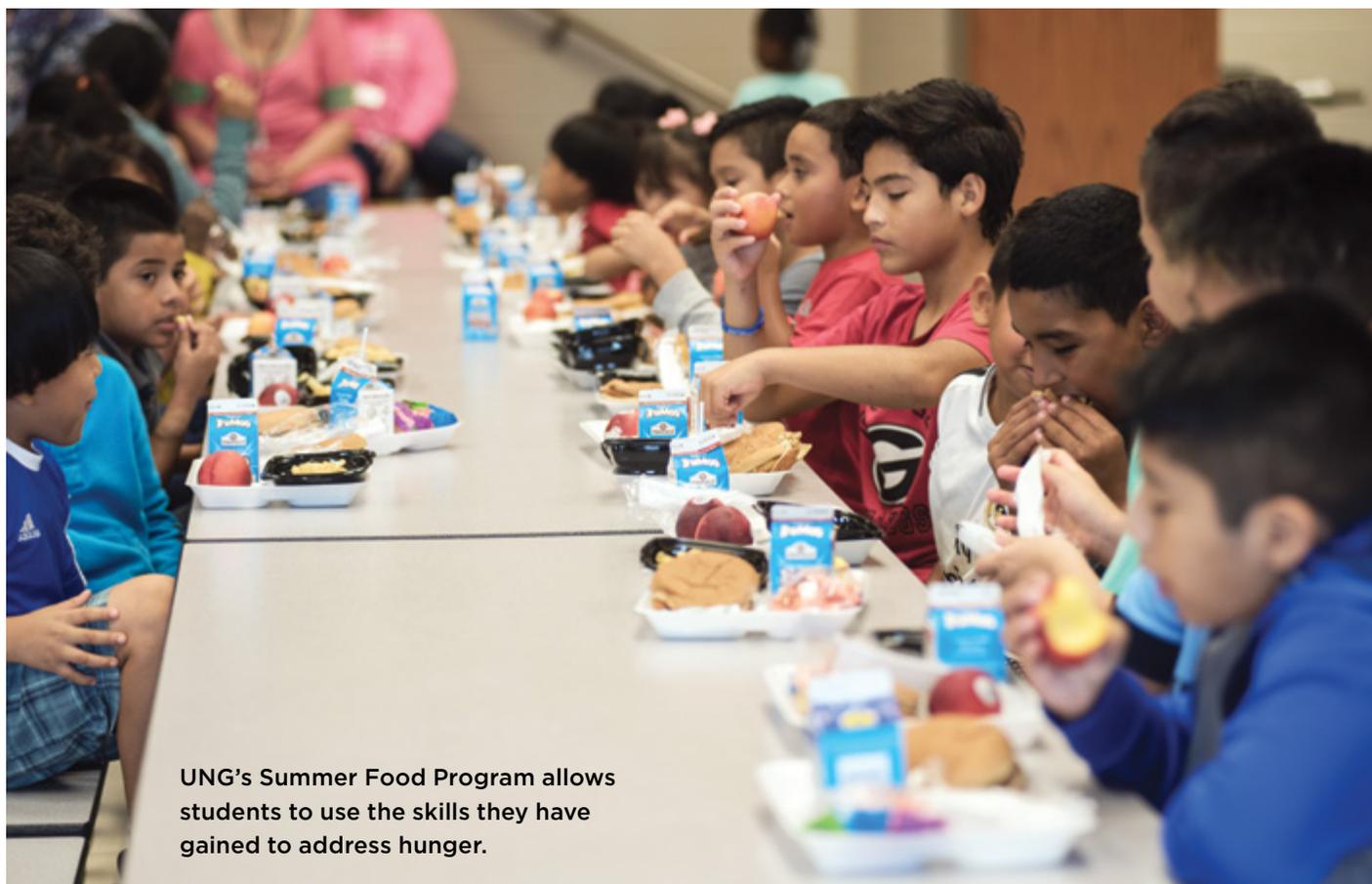
The men stayed in Lewis Annex, a residence hall that was not housing students because of planned renovations.

"The renovation had not yet begun, which made it available to assist these student-athletes," said Alyson Paul,



assistant vice president of student affairs and dean of students at the Dahlonega Campus.

The female trainers with the football program stayed in Patriot Hall, in space normally reserved for international cadets who are visiting UNG said Treva Smith, UNG residence life director.



UNG's Summer Food Program allows students to use the skills they have gained to address hunger.

Partnership provides meals, develops skills

Statistics show that 11,000 children in Hall County alone do not know where their next meal will come from. So, UNG has partnered with several agencies to provide thousands of meals to those children and others across multiple counties.

UNG's Summer Food Program includes partnerships with Georgia Mountain Food Bank, Legacy Link-Area Agency on Aging, Forsyth County Schools Nutrition Program, the United Way of Hall County, Department of Early Care & Learning, Georgia Department of Education, and meal service host sites throughout the region.

A celebration of the partnerships' success in Hall County was held in June at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier.

"Participation in the UNG Summer Food Program challenges our students to grow and become leaders of the future," said Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, professor of human services and sociology at UNG. "In a very real way, they learn to work with community partners in a collaborative manner to meet the expressed needs of the community. It brings their classroom learning to life and allows them to use the skills they have gained to make a difference in the world, and they get to see the results of their work very quickly."

Since 2012, Elfenbein has guided the university's participation in meal service programs as an opportunity to provide students in UNG's Human Services Delivery and Administration (HSDA) program access to career-related experience outside of the classroom.

UNG'S HSDA program – the only nationally accredited bachelor's-level human services program in

Georgia – prepares students with the knowledge and skills necessary to serve individuals, families, groups, and communities, and to support human services functions.

UNG, in partnership with the state Summer Food Service Program and local organizations, ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. The program is housed in 19 sites in four counties and served 40,000-45,000 meals this summer.

"When you're talking about hunger in Hall County, you're talking about childhood hunger," said Jon West, vice president of programs for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "It's a serious issue. It's an issue that has an answer. Part of the answer is happening here where communities that care are utilizing resources from state and federal partners to build their capacity to respond at a scale that actually makes a difference in kids' lives."

Faculty member selected for Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad

Dr. Lauren C. Johnson, assistant professor and coordinator of diversity and recruitment initiatives in UNG's College of Education, studied in Chile this summer through the Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program.

Johnson is the second UNG faculty member selected for the program, which provides short-term study and travel seminars abroad for U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities to improve their understanding and knowledge of the people and cultures of other countries.

"I'm honored to have been selected for this prestigious program," Johnson said. "Traveling to Chile was an amazing experience, and I look forward to incorporating what I learn about education reform and social justice education into my courses here at UNG."

Johnson's seminar provided a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Chilean society, culture, values, and institutions, by highlighting the social, economic,

political, religious, and ethnic contexts that have influenced reform processes and social movements from the past to the present day.

The seminar also centered on underlying issues, such as the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state and how religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of Chilean democracy.

Last year's UNG recipient, Dr. Kelly McFaden, associate professor of education, focused her travel on exploring religious and cultural diversity in West Africa, particularly how Senegal managed to maintain relative social harmony while balancing the integration of indigenous religions with Islam and Christianity. She also explored African Christianity and African Islam in Dakar, Senegalese culture and politics in Toubacouta, and Diola society and tradition in Ziguinchor, which was hosted through the African Studies Center at Boston



Dr. Lauren C. Johnson

University in collaboration with the West African Research Center, based in Dakar.

Johnson received her Bachelor of Arts in Latin American studies, her Master of Arts in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) from Columbia University and her Ph.D. in applied anthropology from the University of South Florida.

Dean of Libraries earns 2017 Award for Excellence



Dr. Deborah Prosser

More than four years ago, Dr. Deborah Prosser made it her mission to build the University of North Georgia's libraries' archives for three reasons: to preserve the history of the former institutions before consolidation; build the research collections in anticipation of UNG's growth; and collect and preserve documents related to the history and culture of the communities UNG serves.

As Prosser strives to complete her mission, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) has recognized her work with the 2017 Award for Excellence in the category of Advocacy. She received the

award based on her commitment to advocacy on behalf of archives and records management through sustained efforts over a period of years.

"To be recognized is a true honor, because I know many people are working really hard to preserve the history of our state," Prosser said.

However, the UNG dean of libraries pointed out she did not do it alone.

"It is my vision, but I hired Allison Galloup, our special collections and digital initiatives librarian, to manage and work with me to grow the collections and make them accessible," she said.



MEET CYNDEE MOORE

Dr. Cyndee Perdue Moore is the new executive director of the University of North Georgia's Oconee Campus.

Moore previously served as regional vice president for operations for American National University, with oversight of 15 campuses of the for-profit institution. Prior to that, she worked as an elementary and high school teacher as well as a lecturer in economics at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.

"Dr. Moore's previous experience makes her well-suited to UNG's multi-campus environment and has provided her with a strong understanding of the challenges of extended campus network oversight," said Richard Oates, vice president of the Gainesville Campus and administrator of UNG's Blue Ridge, Cumming and Oconee campuses.

As executive director, Moore coordinates day-to-day operations; works with UNG leadership to ensure the best possible educational environment for students, faculty and staff; and engages in outreach with community leaders and local agencies and businesses in Oconee County.

"I am thrilled to be part of the University of North Georgia family," Moore said. "I have been extremely impressed by the faculty, staff and students at the Oconee

Campus and have received such a warm reception from them. The community at-large has also embraced me, welcoming me into their meetings, groups and organizations. I am really enjoying becoming an active member of this vibrant community."

Moore has an extensive record of experience working with higher education governing bodies on a state level, and with both state and federal lawmakers. She also has worked with multiple community partners.

"Dr. Moore has a strong background in developing and sustaining effective relationships with community stakeholders, and I know that she'll find a welcoming community in Oconee County that is dedicated and loyal in its support of higher education," Oates said.

Moore has a Doctor of Education degree in higher education leadership and policy from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Virginia, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Virginia. She has served as president of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Association of Independent Colleges and Schools. She is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Oconee County and of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Oconee XXII class.

Athletics wins trifecta of top PBC awards

UNG capped a remarkably successful athletic season with three top Peach Belt Conference (PBC) awards this year — the Commissioner's Cup, the Presidents' Academic Award and the LeeAnn Noble Make-A-Wish Award.

The trio of awards recognize the university's athletic achievement, academic excellence and community involvement.

"The University of North Georgia is honored to be able to accept these three awards tonight," Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves said. "The honors are a testament to our all-around commitment to success – on the field, in the classroom and in the community."

The Commissioner's Cup, which is presented annually to the best overall athletic department based on regular-season standings and select championships, is the first-ever for the UNG athletic department. UNG's previous best finish was third in 2015.

Last season, UNG earned regular-season conference championships in

baseball and softball and several UNG teams finished their seasons ranked in the top five in the conference: women's cross country team, second at the PBC championships; men's soccer, tied for second; women's soccer, tied for second; women's track & field, third; women's tennis, tied for fourth; and men's tennis, fourth.

The Presidents' Academic Award recognizes the academic excellence of an institution's student-athletes by honoring them for exceeding the GPA of the student body at their own school. In comparing the overall GPA of UNG's student-athletes to the average GPA of the university's undergraduate students, UNG's student-athletes had the highest ratio in the conference at 1.09375; at 13 of the 14 PBC member institutions the student-athletes had, on average, a better GPA than the general student body.

The LeeAnn Noble Make-A-Wish Award recognizes the institution that raises the most funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The award, given

for the 2015-16 season, is the eighth-straight time UNG has won for most funds raised. The Nighthawks have hit the five-digit mark in giving for seven-straight years and remain the only PBC university to do so.

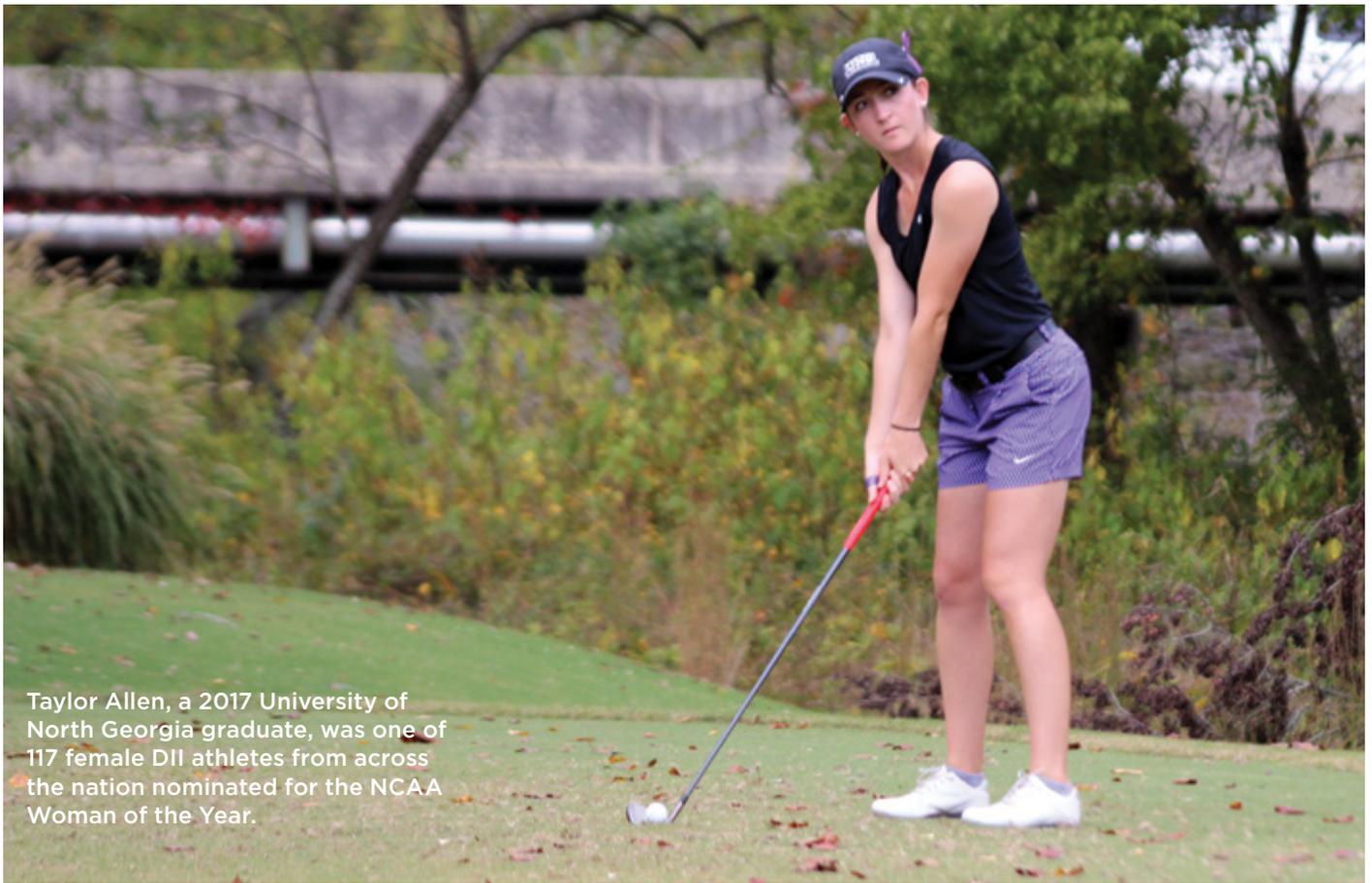
The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, which is the primary student-based group that contributes to policy-making for the division, established the Make-A-Wish partnership in 2003 and has since become one of the foundation's largest and most consistent contributors.

The PBC Make-A-Wish awards were renamed the LeeAnn Noble Make-A-Wish Awards following Noble's death in 2014. Noble was a member of the women's golf team at UNG and former Make-A-Wish recipient who appeared on the cover of NCAA Champion Magazine in 2013.

The University of North Georgia captured the school's first-ever Peach Belt Conference Commissioner's Cup at the league's annual awards dinner in Hilton Head in May. The Commissioner's Cup is annually awarded to the league's most successful overall athletic department. The Nighthawks' previous best finish was third in 2015.



(left to right): Dave Brunk, PBC Commissioner; Lindsay Reeves, UNG Athletic Director; Mary Rob Plunkett, UNG Assistant Athletic Director/SWA; Janet Marling, executive director of National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students.



Taylor Allen, a 2017 University of North Georgia graduate, was one of 117 female DII athletes from across the nation nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year.

Taylor Allen '17 nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year

UNG graduate Taylor Allen hit a personal goal, tied a school record and won a tournament during her career with the UNG golf team.

Because of that success, coupled with her academic prowess and service-oriented attitude, Allen was nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year.

This is the second year in a row a UNG student has been nominated. UNG alumna and current women's golf graduate assistant coach Shannon Coulombe was a NCAA Woman of the Year finalist in 2016 and reached the second round of the selection process.

"I have seen some of the past nominees and have seen what they have done in academics and athletics and in the community," Allen said. "So, to see that I am up there with them, I

feel incredibly honored."

Allen is one of only 117 female college athletes from Division II institutions across the nation nominated for the award. The NCAA Woman of the Year award honors graduating female college athletes who have completed their eligibility and distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, service, and leadership throughout their collegiate careers.

Allen graduated in May 2017 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The Lawrenceville, Georgia, native is only the second Peach Belt Conference student-athlete to win the league's Elite 15 Academic Award three times. She also was named a PBC All-Academic, a Presidential Honor Roll Gold Scholar and a Women's Golf Coaches

Association All-American Scholar in each of her four years on campus.

"Taylor excels at everything she does through hard work, determination, dedication, and intelligence," said Leigh Anne Hunter, head coach for the women's golf team at UNG. "Her ability to manage her time and multitask is unlike anyone I've known."

Allen also has been a consistent competitor on the golf course throughout her four-year career; she played in 10 of 11 events for UNG with 21 competitive rounds. She finished in a tie for 18th at the Columbus State Lady Cougar Classic and shot a season-low round of 74 to open the Armstrong Pirate Women's Invitational.

"I think I have helped propel the golf team and helped it get better each year," Allen said.



Cantrell takes top honors as Coach of the Year

The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) has named UNG baseball coach Tom Cantrell the 2017 Diamond NCAA Division II Southeast Region Coach of the Year, as well as the 2017 Peach Belt Conference (PBC) Coach of the Year.

This past season, Cantrell led the Nighthawks baseball program to a 46-12 overall record and its second PBC championship in the last three seasons, the program's first-ever No. 1 national ranking, its most wins in the NCAA-era, and UNG's first-ever regional title.

In Cantrell's 18 years at the helm, UNG has amassed an overall record of 655-389, including 15 30-plus win seasons. This season UNG was ranked in the Collegiate Baseball's top 10 every week of the regular season, with the program's first-ever number one ranking on March 20.

Cantrell will be honored at the ABCA/Diamond Hall of Fame/Coach of the Year Banquet on Jan. 5 in Indianapolis, Indiana, as part of the 74th annual ABCA convention.

Athletic injury awareness taskforce

UNG is now part of a new NCAA Division II task force that seeks to boost awareness and future participation in a long-standing, data-collection program that informs decisions around student-athlete health and safety.

The task force is the brainchild of the Division II Management and Presidents Councils, formed after the groups learned during their spring meetings that just six percent of Division II schools participate in the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program. The association-wide program, which has existed in some form since 1986,

relies on schools' voluntary submissions to build a repository of data on student-athlete injuries and illnesses. The data is used by an array of committees, task forces and outside organizations that consider college athlete health and safety implications in their policy decisions.

"The No. 1 thing we need to tackle is educating our institutions and conferences about this system," said Lindsay Reeves, director of athletics at UNG. "Then, it's figuring out how to make entering data in the system as easy as possible because of time constraints."

The program is run by the NCAA Sport Science Institute in partnership with the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, an independent nonprofit. It is designed to work with Datalys-certified Electronic Medical Records systems, which

an estimated 70 percent of Division II schools already use on their campuses to report injury and illness data. Through that software, athletic trainers or physicians can take the extra step to share their data with the NCAA — a process estimated to take around 15-20 minutes per week, per sport.

Influenced by some of these challenges, low involvement is a theme across divisions. Among Division I Football Bowl Subdivision autonomy schools, 22 percent submit injury data, while 10 percent of Division I non-autonomy schools do. In

Division III, seven percent of schools participate.

But members of the task force are optimistic about progress in Division II.

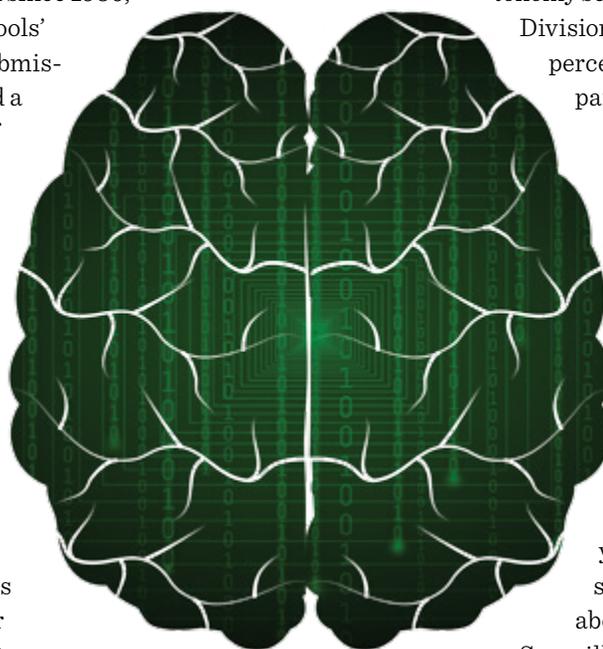
Reeves consulted with UNG's head athletic trainer last year when she first heard about the Injury

Surveillance Program.

She learned the department didn't submit student-athlete injury data to the NCAA, but the system they used to record data internally was compatible with the NCAA program. With that knowledge, the athletic trainers began participating in the program.

Reeves hopes more schools will do the same.

"If we can do anything to reduce and prevent injuries, keep our kids active on the playing field, and create a better college experience for them mentally, physically and emotionally," Reeves said, "That is paramount."



New weather stations provide forecast for campuses, community



The weather stations at UNG provide important data for environmental science, geography and geographic information systems classes.

Checking campus weather conditions is now a breeze thanks to the five weather station systems – one at each UNG campus – purchased and installed by UNG’s Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental & Spatial Analysis (IESA) for classroom instruction and data mining use.

Dr. Jamie Mitchem, professor of geography at UNG, believes the study of weather provides an excellent foundation for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education as well as plenty of opportunities for exposing students to topics from a variety of disciplines.

“Any weather situation, from a few clouds dotting the sky to the most intense hurricane, can turn into a discussion covering everything from algebra to zoology,” Mitchem said.

Edward Mansouri, founder and

CEO of WeatherSTEM, originally created the weather station program to infuse K-12 STEM curriculum with research and live data. He worked closely with UNG to provide a superior system that collects data about the north Georgia region’s current weather, weather forecasts and weather notifications, to be used as an educational resource.

The system provides an array of public safety features including lightning alerts, severe weather alerts, temperature forecasts, environmental cameras, and agricultural monitoring. It also archives past weather and gives weather forecasts for the coming days. The data can be used to teach about atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction and cloud types.

The system creates cloud movies, 24-hour time-lapse videos that show

the sky conditions for an entire day, in less than a minute. The videos are linked with graphs of temperature, pressure and dew point, also.

Dr. Jeff Turk, director of IESA, believes that students in the IESA program have many opportunities for real-world projects by way of the new weather stations.

“The weather stations are an important source of data and information for IESA’s environmental science, geography and geographic information systems classes. Plus, these stations can be an excellent tool to support a variety of research initiatives at UNG,” Turk said.

At UNG’s Blue Ridge Campus, the weather station is highly important, because that type of weather data has not been previously collected in that region of the state.

The Gainesville Campus weather station is measuring soil moisture to be used by resident biologists to study spatial variations and its impact on different species of plants around the station. The system provides alerts for nearby lightning, strong winds, flooding rains, and extreme temperatures.

Blue Ridge Campus

<https://fannin.weatherstem.com/ungblueridge>

Cumming Campus

<https://forsyth-ga.weatherstem.com/cumming>

Dahlonega Campus

<https://lumpkin.weatherstem.com/dahlonega>

Gainesville Campus

<https://hall.weatherstem.com/gainesville>

Oconee Campus

<https://oconee.weatherstem.com/ungoconee>

Community coalition to improve health care

There is a perception that when it comes to health care in Georgia, there are two distinct, and unequal, levels of care when meeting the needs of people. There are the urban areas, such as Atlanta, with numerous access points for doctors, services, and treatment; and rural communities like Lumpkin County, where opportunities for quality health care are more limited.

A community coalition that includes UNG, the Community Helping Place (CHP), county government entities, local nonprofits, and Lumpkin County citizens aims to narrow the gulf between these two areas with help from a two-phase grant from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

The Healthcare Georgia Foundation is a statewide private foundation whose mission is to advance the health of all Georgians and expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved communities and individuals. In Lumpkin County, there are some concerning statistics:

Lumpkin has one of the highest resident-to-physician ratios in the state, 881 persons to one doctor, compared with the state average of 489 residents per physician.

There are fewer than 30 private doctors in the county, with no obstetrics services.

The 49-bed Chestatee Regional Hospital is the only hospital in Lumpkin County. The hospital had a total of 1,008 admissions, with 10,129 patients visiting the hospital's emergency room, in 2016.

The Foundation introduced The Two Georgias Initiative in October 2016 and provided grant opportunities for rural counties with populations of less than 35,000 residents to address health care needs in their specific communities. The first phase of the initiative rolled out in July 2017, with grants totaling \$770,000 to 11 statewide community health partnerships to develop plans next year for increased funding in 2018 based on each community's health care findings.

Dr. Robert Powers, associate professor and director of research for UNG's College of Health Sciences and Professions, was the grant writer and assists in community planning for the \$65,000 grant to study health care needs in Lumpkin County. The UNG contingent also includes Dr. Andy Novobilski, associate provost and chief research officer, Dr. Teresa Conner-Kerr, dean and professor at the College of Health Sciences and Professions, and Dr. Pamela Elfenbein, professor of human services and sociology, who serves as an outside consultant.

"UNG will be in a partnership role with the city and county governments, local merchants, charitable organizations, and chambers of commerce," Powers said. "That gives the university the opportunity to share in



addressing the needs of the community in which we serve."

The grant is administered through CHP, a nonprofit dedicated to assisting those in need who live in Lumpkin County, providing free medical and dental services, food, clothing, and emergency assistance. Jessica Dudley, CHP's executive director, will head local leadership through planning, development and execution of the initiative.

The CHP clinic's services include primary care, lab services, medication assistance, and basic dental care to the underprivileged, homeless and working poor who cannot afford medical care. In 2016, it provided more than 1,200 patient visits, nearly 450 lab visits and dispensed more than 700 medications in the Prescription Assistance Program.

Also, CHP has partnered with UNG's Department of Physical Therapy through its Student-led Therapy and Rehab Clinic, to serve needy Lumpkin residents at no cost, on the Dahlonega Campus.

Powers said once phase-one planning for the Lumpkin initiative is complete and its findings are presented to the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, more grant money, upward of \$200,000 a year for the next three to five years, will establish a sustainable, long-term plan to provide better and more widespread health care throughout Lumpkin County.

"UNG will be a source of numerous capabilities during the second phase of this grant," said Powers. "We will bring all of our expertise in health care, education, business, as well as our students and faculty, as research begins on what the citizens of Lumpkin County need in regards to improved access to quality health care."

Where I Lead: Leading by example

BIO

BOB MATHEWS

is a 1971 UNG graduate. As president and CEO of Colliers International, he does not step into the spotlight often. Instead he prefers to shine a light on his colleagues' achievements as a team. Recently, he was pushed into the limelight when the Atlanta Business Chronicle named him one of the most admired CEOs.

After graduating from UNG with a bachelor's degree in political science, he served his country as a Military Police Officer. After six years, he left the Army as the commander of the 526th Military Police Company in Fort Meade, Maryland. From there he entered the business realm. Today, he runs the Atlanta commercial real estate firm, Colliers International.





What is your proudest moment while serving as president and CEO of Colliers International?

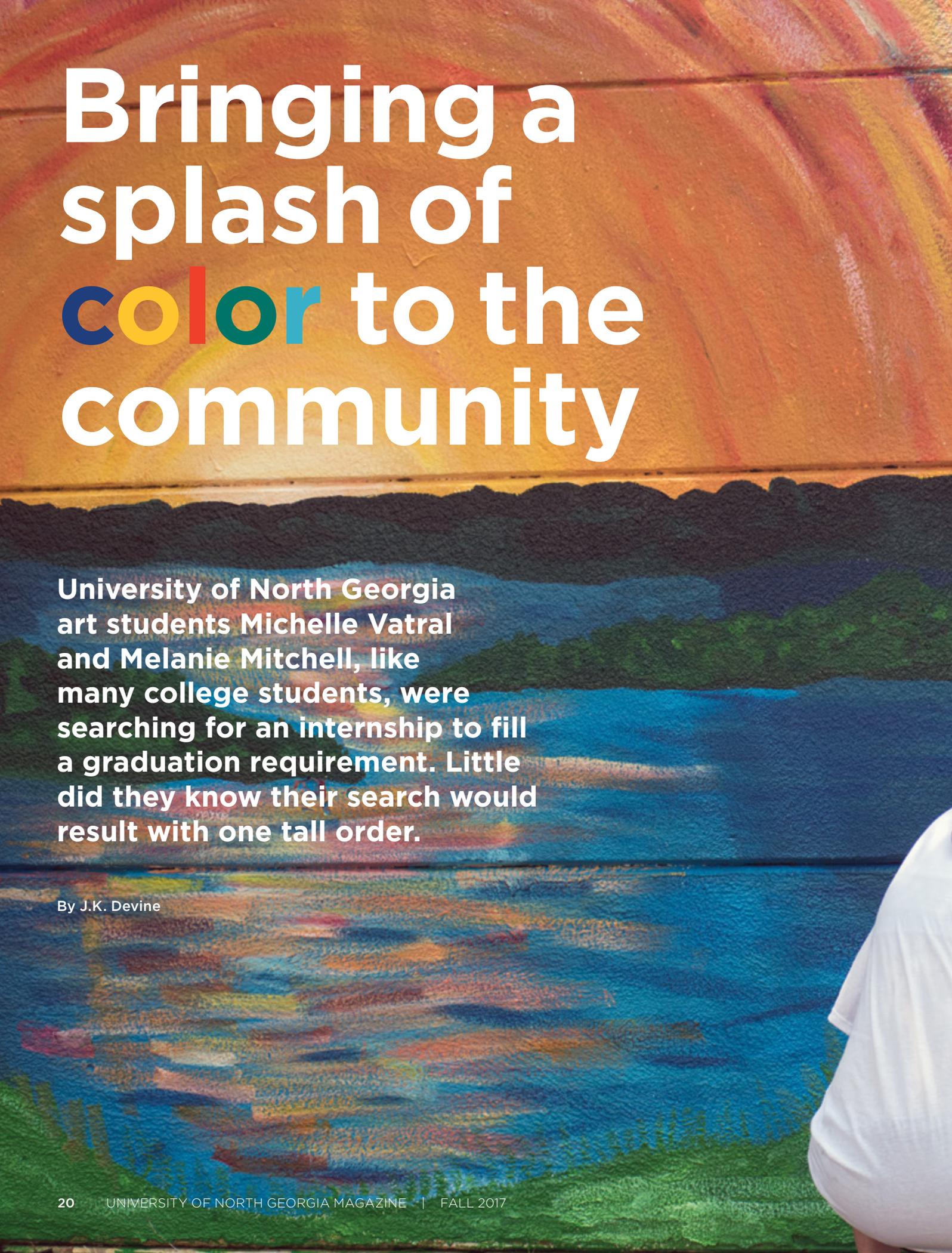
What I am most proud of is our team in Atlanta in the commercial real estate business. They are the foundations to the success of our business.

Who influenced you in your leadership style?

Dr. John Owen, who was UNG's president from 1970-1992, had a big impact on a lot of people and certainly on me. His energy and style of leadership was quiet and strong. He was not an autocratic tyrant despite being a reserve Naval Reserve officer. He had a presence and warm demeanor. He was an amazing person. He was a great leader. He was a role model for you and others.

How did your service in the Army help you in your future career path?

I loved being in the Army. It was a great experience and great learning laboratory for me. And everything you do in the Army is 100 percent transferable. You have to learn how to adapt to those folks with different experiences and different cultural norms and different ideas and learn how to be part of that and embrace it. You can use it as a strength instead of a weakness.



Bringing a splash of color to the community

University of North Georgia art students Michelle Vatral and Melanie Mitchell, like many college students, were searching for an internship to fill a graduation requirement. Little did they know their search would result with one tall order.

By J.K. Devine



UNG art student Melanie Mitchell works with 5-year-old Junior on a mural at the Gainesville Housing Authority with the purpose of creating a visible piece of art for residents of Melrose Apartments.



UNG art student Michelle Vatral works with two students on a mural visible to residents of the apartment complex.

University of North Georgia art students Michelle Vatral and Melanie Mitchell, like many college students, were searching for an internship to fill a graduation requirement. Little did they know their search would result with one tall order.

The students signed on to work with the Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA) to organize, design and paint a 9-by-36-foot mural across two white concrete walls at the Melrose Apartments in Gainesville, Georgia.

Vatral, an art marketing major, was eager to work with GHA, which manages and operates the public housing program.

“One of my personal interests for a future job is to work with a nonprofit,” the Columbus, Georgia, native said.

Mitchell, a studio art major, climbed aboard the project as the painting expert, and Vratral was glad she did.

“I’m not too experienced with painting,” Vratral said. “Melanie has more paint experience.”

Mitchell quickly added that Vratral has the organizational and time-management skills and other talents needed for a

project of this scale.

“Michelle is good at talking to other human beings,” Mitchell said with a smile, referring to the young children and teenagers in the GHA.

Pamela Sachant, UNG Visual Arts department head and internship coordinator, agreed.

“Melanie is a little shy ... and a very strong painter,” she said. “I knew Michelle was interested in large art projects, and she likes working with kids.”

When GHA special projects coordinator Jim Chapman, who periodically teaches art at UNG, devised a summer project for Gainesville children who live in the housing units, he contacted Sachant.

Sachant directed Vratral and Mitchell to Chapman, who put the young women to work with the Gainesville children and teens. They guided them in designing the mural, as well as painting it on the walls near a high-traffic intersection.

It was no easy task.

“For the first two weeks, we were planning and brainstorming,” Mitchell

said, explaining the mural’s focus was to incorporate elements signifying home, growth and community.

Then, the young women asked the children and teens a few simple questions.

“We asked, ‘What does home mean to you? What does community mean? What do you like about living in Gainesville?’” Mitchell said.

The children’s answers were then incorporated into a mural draft. Those elements were sketched on pieces of paper, and the mural started taking shape. Details emerging for the mural were Lake Lanier, the north Georgia mountains, the bridge over Jesse Jewell Parkway and Gainesville’s skyline.

Vatral said as the mural evolved other elements were featured, such as a fire truck and a school bus

“We put a chicken in there somewhere since Gainesville is the ‘chicken capital of the world,’” she said.

With all of the ideas on hand, Mitchell and Vratral started the laborious project of prepping the wall and outlining the mural. The college students along

with Chapman pressure-washed the wall. Then both women primed the wall and Mitchell sketched the drawing and filled in the first round of colors.

A few of the children picked up paint brushes and slapped on a green color at the base of the wall.

“And we had them do the flowers with their fingers,” Mitchell said, pointing to the right-hand corner of one wall during the project. “And they’ve done the blades of grass. And I’ve told them to do light strokes.”

For the most part, the children followed directions well, Vatrál said.

“We told them to try and keep (their brushes) horizontal ... but they went back to painting this way,” she said demonstrating a vertical stroke. “Honestly though, they did a good job.”

The children appeared to enjoy the

task, despite the 90-degree weather. Luckily, the wall was shaded by nearby trees.

At one point, Vatrál showed 11-year-old Adrian how to blend a dark green color with a lighter color and create a gradient or fading effect. The boy then swiftly picked up his brush and followed Vatrál’s example.

“I’m having fun,” he said. “I’m really enjoying it – the painting and the mixing.”

The mural officially was unveiled Aug. 2 at Melrose Apartments near the GHA office in Gainesville.

Sachant said she was pleased with how well organized Vatrál and Mitchell were and how they coped with the rain delays during the summer.

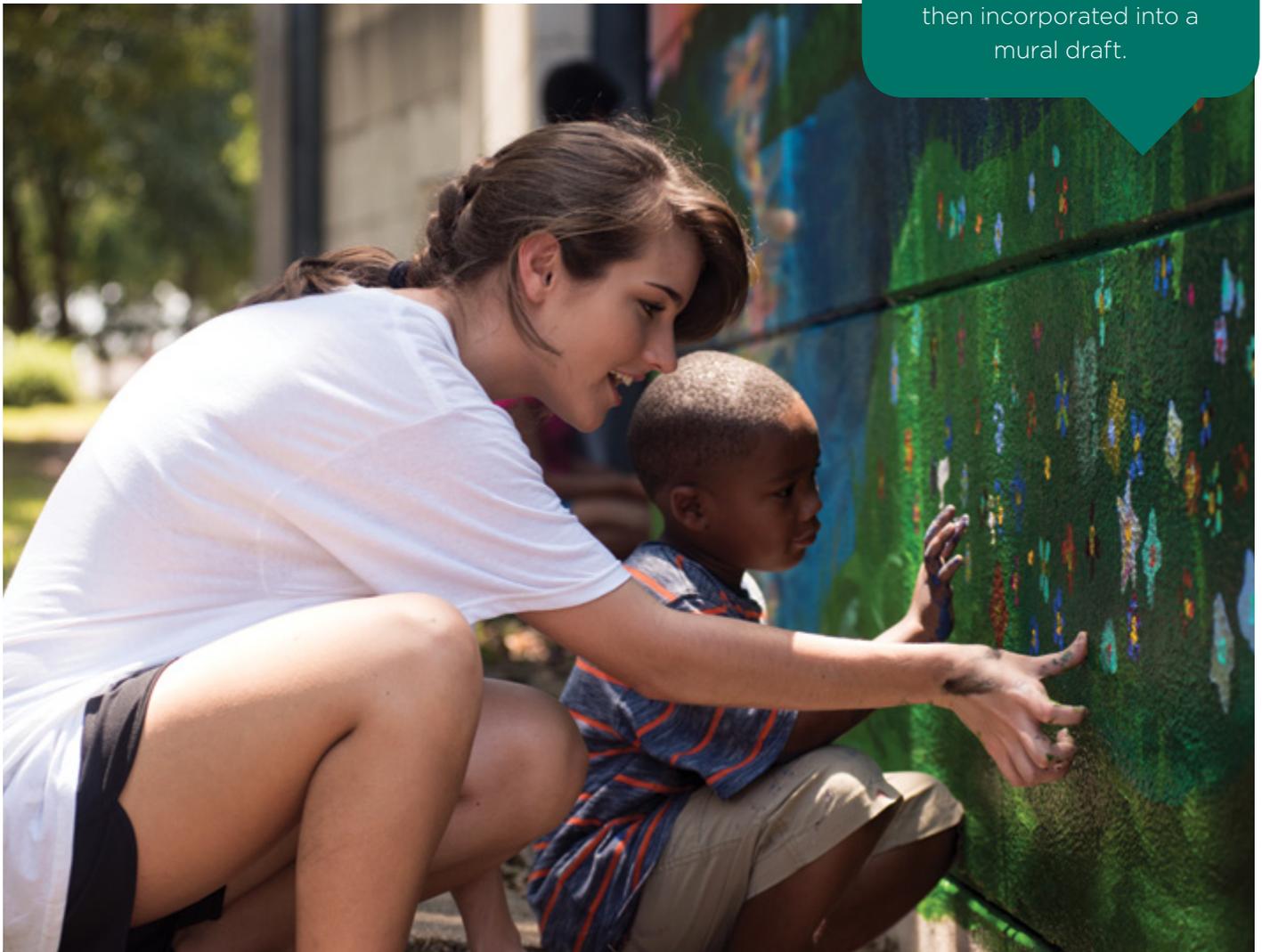
“I think they did a tremendous job,” she said.

She really appreciated how well the students worked with Chapman and acted as good ambassadors for UNG, which can lead to future collaborations.

“I’m really excited that Jim said there are opportunities for other internships and hope we can have an ongoing relationship,” Sachant said.

Chapman, who instigated the project with UNG, was pleased with the results. He said this project and others are geared toward helping the children dream bigger than a destiny of living in public housing.

“We asked, ‘What does home mean to you? What does community mean? What do you like about living in Gainesville?’” Mitchell said. The children’s answers were then incorporated into a mural draft.



WHAT LIES BENEATH?

Three UNG programs join forces to solve the two-fold problem of soil erosion and polluted waterways.

By J.K. Devine

North Georgia's rivers, lakes and streams supply the region with water for drinking, farming and recreation, so keeping the waterways free of sediment and bacteria from warm-blooded animals is important, according to Dr. Justin Ellis, director of UNG's Environmental Leadership Center (ELC).

"Millions of people drink the water from the Upper Chattahoochee River Basin," Ellis said.

A potential solution to improve water quality and reduce pollutants

lies with new collaborations between UNG's ELC water quality lab, the Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis (IESA), and Chestatee Restoration projects.

On the front end, the water lab has been sampling the water of the Upper Chattahoochee River Basin to find poor water quality spots for several years. Supervised by Ellis, UNG students test for several parameters and pay particular attention to two: bacteria from warm-blooded animals and soil sediment.

"We ask if it is meeting the state's standards of being clean and safe for fishing, swimming and drinking," Ellis said, adding bacteria in the water, such as E. coli, has the potential to cause intestinal illnesses in humans.

Soil, or sediment, flowing into waterways also causes problems, said Dr. Sudhanshu Panda, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and environmental science professor at UNG. It creates an environment rich in nitrogen, which leads to algae production.



Dr. Justin Ellis, director of the Environmental Leadership Center at UNG, and Arianna Disser, water lab manager, conduct tests on the Chestatee River. Tests include the pH level, the amount of dissolved oxygen and conductivity, and water temperature.

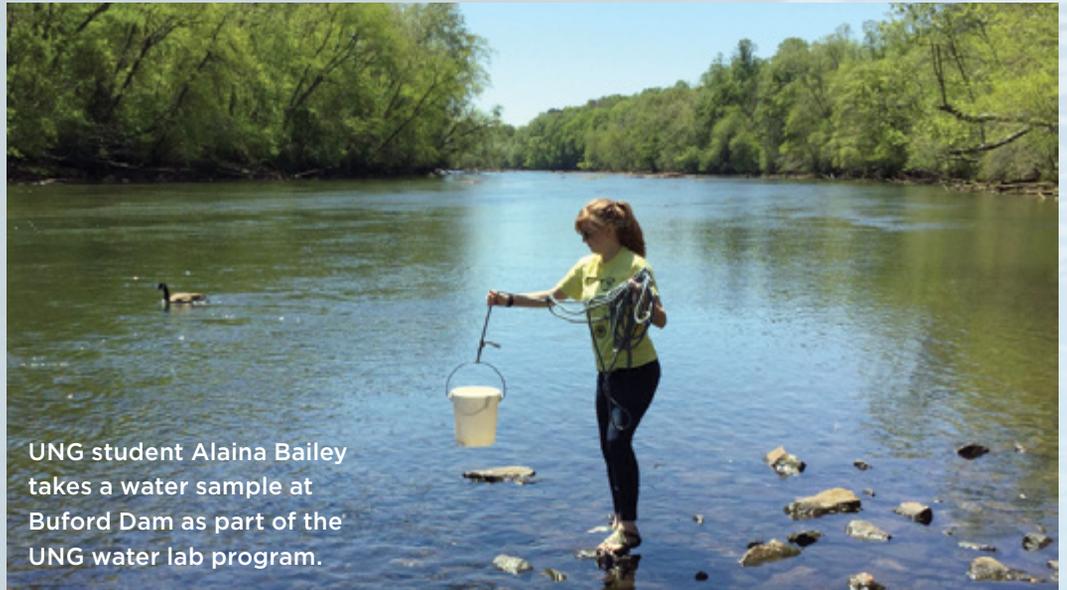
“When there is a lot of algae in the water, it stops the sunlight from passing through the water,” he said, adding it slightly decreases the oxygen in the water. “And when the algae starts to decompose, it robs the water of more oxygen. With a lack of oxygen, aquatic animals’ survival becomes difficult.”

To find the places that contribute to soil erosion, IESA’s faculty and students use their geospatial models to pinpoint “hot spots” of vulnerability. They then go into the field to confirm them.

Kayla Ballenger, a 2016 UNG graduate who is now a graduate student at the University of Georgia, is the GIS expert using technology to collect the data for the project and will eventually venture into the field to “ground-truth” the data.

“I’m really looking forward to getting out in the field,” she said. “I’m hoping to carry what we are doing into my master’s thesis.”

But the project is more than that to Ballenger, who grew up in Eastanollee, Georgia. The self-described tom-boy grew up playing in creeks during camping trips in north Georgia



UNG student Alaina Bailey takes a water sample at Buford Dam as part of the UNG water lab program.

with her family. Therefore, she wants to protect and preserve those same waterways for future generations.

“I want to take what we are doing to help other communities to stop soil erosion and protect the water quality,” she said.

Ballenger is doing her part with the project by developing the soil erosion vulnerability map with Panda and others. Once it is complete, Ellis and his team can deploy a simple and inexpensive solution to soil erosion: mulch.

“That material is one of the best and cheapest materials to restore bare clay soil and reduce soil erosion,” Ellis said. “If you can place it on top of bare land, it can do amazing things.”

The mulch allows rainwater to soak into the ground instead of running across the soil and into waterways. Mulch then decomposes and releases nutrients into the soil. As soil organisms and plants take root, the land is restored.

“If you can strategically place the mulch where the most sediment is leaving the landscape, then over a period of decades you can restore all of your most degraded land,” Ellis said.

Panda said the added bonus is mulch is free in most



Ellis and Disser analyze their samples in the lab.

UNG student Arianna Disser collects water samples from the Chestatee River.



“I want to take what we are doing to help other communities to stop soil erosion and protect the water quality,”

Kayla Ballenger

counties. Ellis said Lumpkin County stockpiles mulch at its recycling facility on Red Oaks Flat. Dahlonega supplies free mulch and leaf compost (when available) at its City Shop. In Hall County, free mulch is available at its landfill in Gainesville.

“Anytime there is a storm, the county goes out and cuts down trees and branches and makes wood chips,” Panda said. “And then they just leave it out for residents or transport it to dumping locations for county residents to take if needed.”

The goal is to direct mulch to where it can do the most good, eliminating erosion and restoring ecosystems, Ellis said. He added UNG is using mulch as the cornerstone of its Chestatee Restoration Project, which is another example of a true collaboration of the stakeholders of the watershed.

With this collaborative effort and data, UNG can share the information with government entities and land owners and show them how to improve the water quality and restore the lake.

“They have the desire to keep those rivers clean,” Ellis said. “And we can help a lot of people with this information by educating them.”



Gilmer County High School Counselor Ginger Chastain is just one of the people in the Gilmer County schools who are working closely with UNG's Blue Ridge Campus to help students in the area succeed academically.

Upward Bound grant to change lives

CHANGE IS COMING TO A COUPLE OF COMMUNITIES IN NORTH GEORGIA

It is change in the form of an academic lifeline, for students who previously could only imagine an education beyond high school. In addition to creating opportunity for students, area leaders believe it will strengthen the community's workforce and economy.

The University of North Georgia has been awarded a total of \$2.6 million over five years from the U.S. Department of Education's Upward Bound Program to help promising low-income high school students in Hall and Gilmer counties prepare for college.

"The University of North Georgia began a Regional Education and Economic Development – REED – initiative a couple of years ago to increase educational attainment and help strengthen our community and regional economies," UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. "In alignment with our goals, the Upward Bound program will open doors to college and career opportunities by providing a path to high school

graduation and college access for first-generation students."

Through Upward Bound, UNG will provide mentoring, parent engagement, state assessment preparation, career exploration, cultural experiences, and college visits to each high school participant of the program.

"We are excited to strengthen our partnership with the University of North Georgia's offer of support and post-secondary opportunity for some of our students," said Superintendent of Gilmer County Charter Schools Shanna Wilkes. "This grant will dramatically alter the future for some of our underserved students by providing needed additional services to help eligible students obtain a high school diploma and a college degree, and this will help break the cycle of poverty for deserving students in our district."

Upward Bound is a federally funded program designed to provide academic, cultural and social experiences for eligible students, enabling them to develop the skills, attitudes and

"This grant will dramatically alter the future for some of our underserved students by providing needed additional services to help eligible students obtain a high school diploma and a college degree, and this will help break the cycle of poverty for deserving students in our district."

—Shanna Wilkes
Superintendent of Gilmer County Charter Schools

motivation necessary to enter and succeed in college.

One hundred and twenty students from Gilmer County High School in Ellijay, Georgia, and Johnson High School in Gainesville, Georgia, will annually receive tutoring, counseling and advising to help them succeed academically.

"This funding will allow UNG to better serve students from economically disadvantaged households and increase their access to post-secondary education," said Sheila Caldwell, director for UNG's Complete College Georgia program and primary lead of the grant for Johnson High. "By serving these very high-need schools, we will be able to use our resources strategically and intensely to prepare these students for college success."

By 2025, more than 60 percent of Georgia jobs will require some college education, whether an associate degree or bachelor's degree. Today, only 45 percent of the state's young adults qualify. Individuals who attain higher levels of education typically have greater lifetime earnings potential, too. According to a 2011 report by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, those who hold a bachelor's degree earn 31 percent more than those with an associate degree and 84 percent more than those with just a high school diploma.

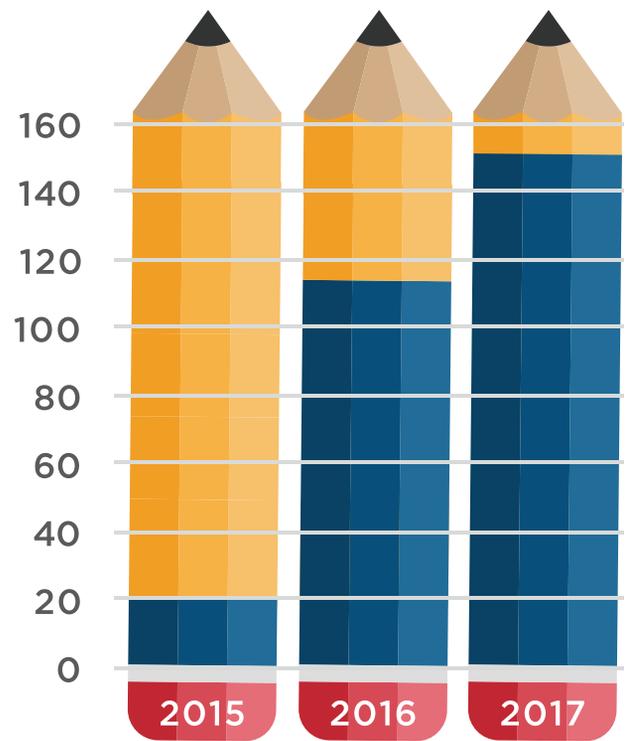
UNG offers a number of pathways for high school and incoming freshmen students, including dual enrollment and programs in high-demand area career opportunities for degree seekers. Courses are also available for adult learners either beginning their college career or returning to finish a degree, and a range of continuing and professional education programs for advancement in a career or personal growth.

UNG chose to collaborate with the selected high schools for this program to build upon its existing partnerships with both.

At UNG's Blue Ridge Campus, students from Gilmer and the surrounding communities may participate in a signature program called the Blue Ridge Scholars, which groups first-time freshmen as a cohort and provides integrated instruction and support.

"This partnership comes at a great time, because the

Blue Ridge Campus Enrollment



Blue Ridge Campus is growing by leaps and bounds," UNG Blue Ridge Campus Director Sandy Ott said.

In its first year in 2015, the college campus welcomed 20 students. The next year, 114 students enrolled. This year, 152 students are enrolled, equaling a 33 percent increase. The growth from 2015 to 2016 marked a 539 percent increase.

The Blue Ridge Campus houses a unique learning opportunity that allows new students who are selected as Blue Ridge Scholars to take all their classes together, participate in leadership development opportunities and give back to the community. This program was designed to increase the success rate of UNG students, which has been the outcome of similar nationally recognized models of higher education. The program is going strong as it enters its second year.

UNG's Gainesville Campus is a supporting partner of the Jobs for Georgia Graduates program, and is working with Johnson High as one of the state's pilot schools. UNG provides classroom instruction and leadership development to help reduce the dropout rate among at-risk youth.

"Upward Bound is a wonderful collaboration between UNG and the school systems," Ott said. "The resources and opportunities the Upward Bound grant provides will give these students a chance to see how a college campus culture can influence their lives."

A photograph of four young men standing in a line in a forest. They are all looking towards the right. The man on the far left is wearing glasses and a camouflage t-shirt. The man next to him is also wearing a camouflage t-shirt. The two men on the right are wearing olive green t-shirts. The background consists of tall trees with green foliage.

Cadets prepare to lead in a global society

UNG partners with international universities and military academies to provide opportunities for military exchanges, internships and conferences that send UNG cadets around the world and bring international cadets to Dahunega.

By Edie Rogers

The nation's military forces and security agencies are seeking leaders with a range of knowledge and experience who also understand an interconnected world. That makes UNG's mission to produce leaders for a diverse and global society more vital than ever.

In the 2015 U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff report, "The National Military Strategy (NMS) of the United States of America," Gen. Martin Dempsey, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs, stressed the need for a globally engaged military.

"The 2015 NMS continues the call for greater agility, innovation and integration," Dempsey wrote. "It reinforces the need for the U.S. military to remain globally engaged to shape the security environment and to preserve our network of alliances. It echoes previous documents in noting the imperative within our profession to develop leaders of competence, character and consequence."

Keith Antonia, associate vice president for military programs at UNG, said the university is working to prepare graduates to lead soldiers in uncertain global environments.

"As graduates of UNG, our commissioning cadets will have the knowledge and skills gained from their education and training to understand the strategic context in which they find themselves," Antonia said. "Our cadets who elect not to commission may also find themselves leading in professions with multinational corporations or federal agencies where understanding the strategic context of their activity will be of critical importance."

The 2015 NMS report also outlines how the U.S. military aims to address global threats by working with existing allies and forging new partnerships. Echoing the goal of the U.S. military, UNG's growing number of international partnerships provide opportunities for military exchanges, internships and conferences.

New UNG partnerships in the past year include General Tadeusz Kościuszko Military Academy of Land Forces (MALF) in Poland, the National University for Public Service (NUPS) in Hungary, and Stellenbosch University and South African Military Academy. Other possible partnerships include schools or programs in Latvia, Estonia, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, and New Zealand.

The international experiences facilitated through these partnerships allow students to elevate their global and military knowledge, said Tony Fritchle, associate director for the Center for Global Engagement at UNG.

"As a senior military college and the Military College of Georgia, we

seek to partner with military academies that support UNG and its Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies strategic plans," Fritchle said. "Our primary objectives are to foster the development of cadet global competencies, language and cultural immersion, and professional military education."

Other new opportunities include internships with the NATO School in Germany, the NATO Defense College in Italy, the U.S. Army European Command in Germany, and the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii, and conferences in Germany, New Zealand and the Czech Republic. A \$10,000 grant from the Olmsted Foundation



UNG offers its cadets opportunities such as the U.S. Army's Cultural Understanding & Leadership Program (CULP), which sends participants to locations around the world for three weeks to deepen their cultural understanding and foreign language proficiency—often by teaching English abroad. Pictured above is UNG Cadet Cameron Hite (center) on a CULP trip.



UNG President Bonita Jacobs, left, shakes hands with Willem de Villiers, rector and vice-chancellor of Stellenbosch University, after the two signed an agreement creating a new partnership between the two schools and the South African Military Academy.

also funds overseas travel and cultural immersion opportunities for commissioning cadets.

Morgan Greaves, majoring in international affairs, spent a semester at MALF in Poland.

“As a leader you never know what situation you’ll have to adapt to, and by consistently pushing yourself past what you’re comfortable with, you grow,” Greaves said. “I’m excited to better understand how European militaries work together, and I hope the experience will positively impact my capabilities as a leader.”

Clay Carlton, also majoring in international affairs, studied at NUPS in Hungary.

“I hope to gain an understanding of Hungarian and European culture and its

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 BOTH CADET EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS



relation to the United States in the military,” Carlton said. “I am hoping with this new information, and the cultural experiences abroad, I can further improve myself as a leader and an Army officer.”

Working with other militaries and understanding the local environment is an area the U.S. Army recognizes as a need. Sharon Hamilton, director of liaison and military operations for UNG’s Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies, said socio-cultural understanding is important.

“It builds our understanding so that we make more informed decisions about the impacts of what we’re doing in Afghanistan or anywhere else,” Hamilton, who was with U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command prior to joining

UNG, said. “We need to understand people. We’re never going to get away from the basic premise that it’s always about people in relationships.”

Foreign militaries have similar goals, according to Maj. Marcin Bielewicz, vice dean for military affairs of MALF’s Faculty of Management.

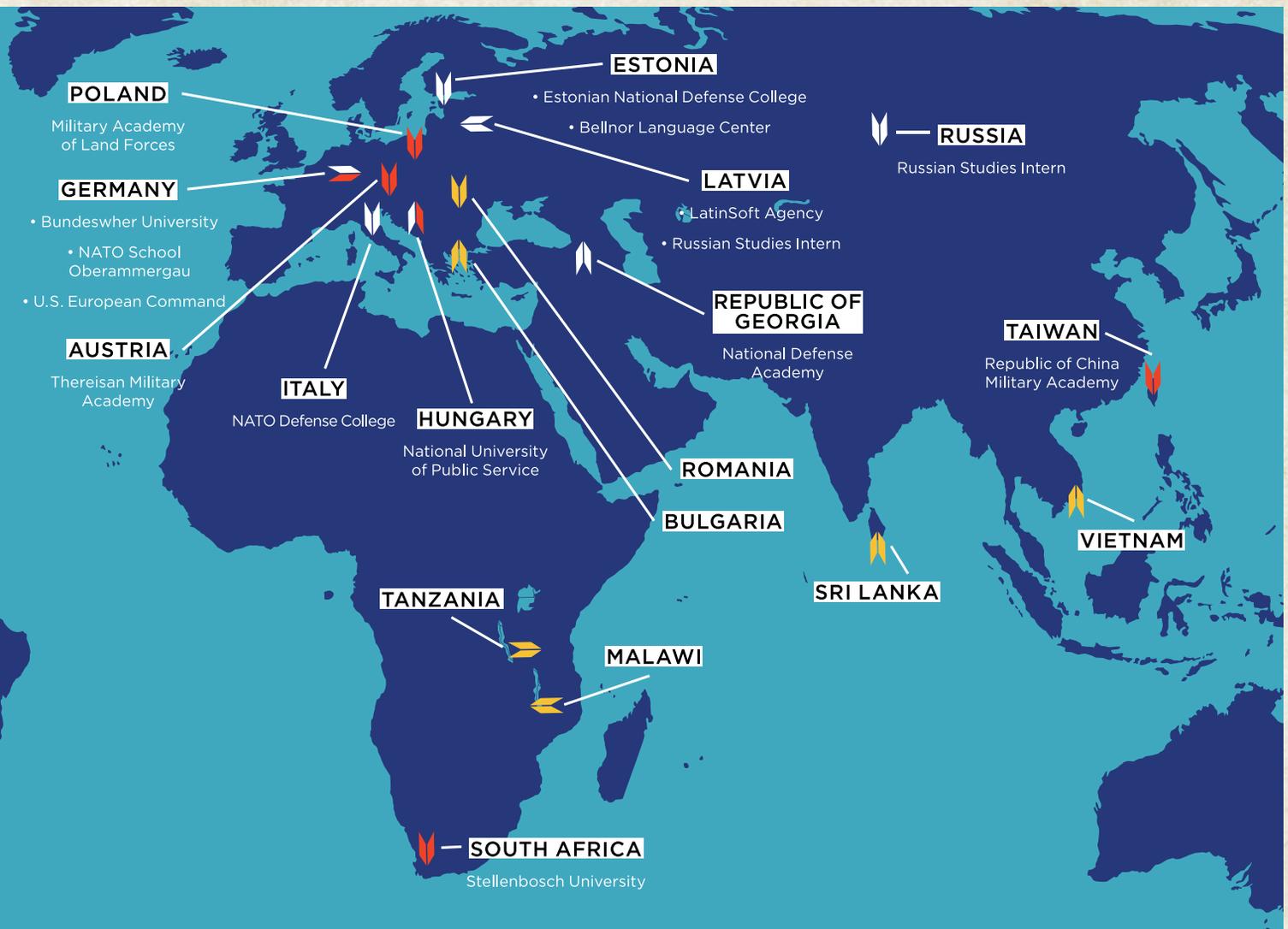
“The platoon leader right now is a diplomat. It’s not only a commander taking care of the purely combat military tasks, but it’s a kind of diplomat or negotiator,” Bielewicz said. “The officer, who actually is representing the country, also needs to possess certain skills that are not purely military, such as social, psychological and interpersonal skills.”

The international experiences offered to UNG cadets supplement the

university’s academic programs and nationally recognized ROTC program. UNG has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense and a Chinese Language Flagship and recently started the Center for Cyber Operations Education and Institute for Strategic and Security Studies in efforts to coordinate cross-disciplinary programs.

At UNG, the goal is to commission a complete officer who is ready to hit the ground running – whether in infantry or cyber operations.

“We’re preparing them to be agile, adaptive, innovative leaders of character able to succeed in a complex world so that they are prepared to lead as soon as they commission,” Antonia said.



Where I Lead: Helping actors find their voice

BIO

ELISA CARLSON has taught voice, speech and movement classes at UNG since 2011 and is a resident director and actor with the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. She also finds work in the movies these days, it's usually through word of mouth. Which is fortunate, considering that she works as a dialect coach in Georgia's booming film industry.

Carlson is a UNG professor who often works 12-hour days on movie sets as a dialogue coach to insure actors find their character's voice.

She has more than 200 voice, dialect and text coaching credits in theater, television, audio book productions, and movies.

Carlson is so good at placing accents that she can spend just a couple of minutes with someone and decipher what area of the world they're from.





How important is accent and dialect in an actor's role?

One of my biggest challenges was working on the set of the Oscar-nominated movie “Selma,” coaching 40-plus actors with speaking parts. I spent anywhere from 12 to 16 hours a day listening intently during filming and then coaching the actors between takes. I also read Martin Luther King Jr.'s lines for Tom Wilkinson, the British actor who played President Johnson, during the filming of a pivotal scene when President Johnson talks with King by telephone.

We had to listen to a lot of historic recordings because we've actually shifted a lot in how we sound in 50 years. It's not an exterior thing, like putting on a costume and suddenly you're in 1960s Selma. You can't just put on a dialect, you have to really live in it believably and helping actors to do that is really fun and really exciting.

What was your latest challenge as a dialect coach?

I recently finished working with actors Lily James and Ansel Elgort, the two leads in the movie “Baby Driver,” set and filmed in Atlanta. Lily is British and Ansel is from New York City; I coached them to speak with subtle Southern accents.

There were some scenes where a hint of Lily's British accent would creep in, but [British actors] for the most part are very disciplined and focused on the accent of the character they're playing. I think it's mostly because there are more roles for them over here in America, and dialect is important to the role.

What other roles have you had besides dialect coach?

I just finished “Shakespeare in Love” at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, serving as the assistant director. About once a year I take part in a production with the Gainesville Theatre Alliance as an actor. My last part was the role of Leonata in “Much Ado About Nothing,” I also directed. It made me appreciate what a dialect coach does; there so many things an actor has to consider in a role, it's easy to forget that you're supposed to speak a certain way.

Directing a play and acting in it has its own challenges. You have to be very, very prepared as an actor and a have a good understudy stand in for you when you're directing. As a director, you need a good assistant director to give honest feedback and act as another pair of eyes.

Mother-daughter duo overcomes obstacles to pursue education



As a young mother, Blanca de Jesus Ruiz Lopez wanted a better life for her and her 3-year-old daughter, Astrid Torres. At 23, she scooped up her child and walked out of her home in Honduras and headed for the U.S.

“It took us 23 days,” Ruiz said. “We walked. And we took buses. We came through Guatemala and Mexico to the United States. I wanted the opportunities here for her and me.”

One of those opportunities included the Gainesville, Georgia, woman, now 38, earning her General Educational Development (GED) certificate earlier this year through the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) at UNG.

HEP is a federally-funded grant program that helps migratory and seasonal farm workers and members of their immediate family obtain a GED. The program provides textbooks and materials, GED testing, career readiness workshops, financial assistance, and flexible class schedules.

Eligible participants also must be at least 16 years old, not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, are not enrolled in school, demonstrate adequate levels of lecture and comprehension in English or Spanish, and demonstrate financial and academic need.

Ruiz qualified for HEP because she was a seasonal worker in the agricultural industry in the past two years.

“I wanted to set a good example for my kids and be a good role model for them,” Ruiz said. “And I wanted to be something else, because without an education you don’t get good jobs. Most companies ask if you have a GED. If you don’t have it, you don’t get a job.”

“HEP students receive help in getting another job, enlisting in the U.S. armed forces or continuing at a post-secondary institution,” said Christian Bello Escobar, director of Migrant



College Assistance Migrant Program is a federally-funded initiative to increase college attendance and graduation among the nation’s migrant youth. It is a first-year scholarship program that provides students with academic, social and financial support.



Programs and Services at UNG.

This past summer, Ruiz’s accomplishment was recognized as she and three others participated in the GED graduation ceremony at UNG’s Gainesville Campus.

“We have officially served 32 participants in HEP this year and have four GED graduates to date,” Bello Escobar said. “We’re expecting this number to increase as the year progresses. All of our graduates have gotten better jobs thus far.”

While Ruiz wants to continue her education and earn an associate degree at UNG, she is putting her daughter’s college education first.

Torres plans to enroll at UNG in spring 2018 through the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), a federally-funded initiative to increase college attendance and graduation among the nation’s migrant youth. It is a first-year scholarship program that provides students with academic, social and financial support enabling them to complete their first year of college and beyond.

CAMP provides benefits such as supplemental financial aid assistance, one-on-one academic advisement, a textbook stipend, tutoring and mentoring, workshops focused on improving and developing students’ skills, and cultural events/service learning

opportunities. In addition, a stipend is awarded during the first academic year to students who actively participate in the program.

Bello Escobar said 35 students completed CAMP in spring 2017 with 29 continuing their education at UNG. Two others have transferred.

“That makes our retention rate 83 percent,” he said. “All of our CAMP students have career and internship opportunities while they’re in CAMP and any time before they graduate with their undergraduate career.”

Torres said she believes CAMP will help her transition to college life, especially managing the heavy course load. But Torres has already faced a heavy obstacle in her life. She was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy at age 9. In cardiomyopathy, the heart muscle becomes enlarged, thick or rigid.

Astrid received her first life-saving operation in 2011 to repair the valve in her heart. She spent one week in the hospital and another one at home before asking her mother to return to school.

“She went back,” Ruiz said. “I was very impressed.”

On graduation day, it was Torres’ turn to be impressed with her mother, the GED graduate. She said she was excited to see her mom in a cap and gown this summer at the GED ceremony.

“I got to feel what she felt when she saw me in my cap and gown,” Torres said.

Bello Escobar said Ruiz and Torres were the first family couple to enroll in the HEP and CAMP programs at UNG but are not the last.

“We’re beginning to see more families coming in,” he said. “I know we currently have a son in CAMP and his dad is in HEP at the same time! We also have cousins and siblings of previous students.”

Boar's Head Weekend 2017

Boar's Head Weekend returned to UNG's Dahlonega Campus on Oct. 6-7 with a goal of connecting current and former cadets during a weekend of mentoring and networking. The weekend, sponsored by the North Georgia Corps of Cadets Association (NGCCA), included a variety of events, classes, speakers, socials, recognitions, and remembrances. The Distinguished Military Students also were recognized in an annual review and a dinner, which was sponsored by NGCCA and the UNG Alumni Association.





CLASSNOTES

1960s

Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts, '60, was named Florida's 2017 Woman of the Year in Agriculture. Dr. Roberts dedicated 35 years of service to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, where she championed policy changes for the advancement of Florida's agriculture industry, trade and production practices. The award, now in its 33rd year, recognizes women who have made outstanding contributions to Florida agriculture.



Ken Spencer, '69, was promoted to senior auditor GCP at Pearl Therapeutics Inc., in Morristown, New Jersey. After graduating

from UNG, Spencer attended the University of Georgia, where he earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1974, and then conducted research

at the University of Pennsylvania from 1974 - 1976. Efforts in his current role at Pearl Therapeutics since 2014 have led to the recent FDA approval of Bevespi Aerosphere, a treatment of COPD including chronic bronchitis and/or emphysema. Spencer, his wife Marjorie and their dog Charlotte Ann live in northern New Jersey and enjoy hiking and kayaking near their vacation home in the Pocono Mountains near East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

An old soldier returns to UNG to pay his respects

At his farewell address to both houses of Congress in 1951, General Douglas MacArthur uttered the now-famous line, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

But another old soldier, 93-year-old University of North Georgia alumnus John Kelley, is more in keeping with another famous MacArthur quote: "I shall return."

Kelley, of Gulfport, Mississippi, has memories of UNG that remain vivid. They came flooding back to him during a visit to the UNG Dahlonega Campus last July.

Born in Dalton, Georgia, Kelley enrolled at UNG in September 1942, less than a year after America's entry into World War II with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I had to take ROTC, as did all the boys at the university," said Kelley. "It was only a matter of time before I was drafted, so I thought it would be a good idea to go in as an officer."

He wasn't on campus long; Kelley was drafted in February 1943, and



after basic training, was deployed to the Pacific theater of the war. Kelley finished his service in the Philippines, landing with MacArthur to liberate the island nation from Japanese forces.

With assistance from the G.I. Bill, Kelley returned to UNG in 1946, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Physics in 1947.

"My mother wanted me to go to Georgia Tech, to be closer to home," Kelley said. "But I enjoyed the short time I was at [UNG] before being drafted. There was a real sense of camaraderie, especially among the Corps of Cadets students. I loved the town, the campus, and I wanted to come back here and finish my degree."

After graduation, Kelley embarked on a 35-year career as a civilian electronics and radar instructor at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi.

During his recent tour of the Dahlonega Campus, he voiced amazement at how much the campus had grown over the many years. He pointed out buildings that were there when he was a student—the mess hall for the cadets, dormitories and the old library. He paid his respects at the Memorial Wall that honors the memories of those at UNG who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Kelley climbed the steps of Price Memorial Hall, walking up to the bronze plaque inscribed with the legend of William Pierce Price. A smile slowly crept across his face with a fresh memory.

"I remember, as a cadet, the officers had us polishing this marker all the time, he said. "That's why it looks so shiny now."

Gen. Patrick honored at hall of fame unveiling

On May 23, 2017, the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame unveiled framed photos of its class of 2016, which included retired Lt. Gen. Burton D. Patrick, a 1957 graduate of the University of North Georgia.

“The addition of these photos brings the total of brave Americans displayed on the Heroes’ Wall of Fame to 66,” said retired Col. Paul Longgear, founder and president of the non-profit organization.

Patrick began his college career in 1953, joining UNG’s Corps of Cadets while also playing basketball and baseball all four years that he attended; he served as captain for both teams during his senior year.

He was commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant on June 2, 1957. His years of service include three years in Germany and various posts throughout the U.S., including the



Pentagon, where he served as a liaison officer to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees while assigned to the Office of The Chief Legislative Liaison. He had two combat tours in Vietnam, and traveled worldwide to direct Army upgrading, becoming one

of a handful of men who have commanded at every level in the military, from platoon to Combined Field Army. He also 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.

Patrick’s 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.

1980s

Donna Andrews, '82, was appointed to the Georgia Sexual Offender Registration Review Board. Andrews retired as a United States probation officer after 25 years of service. She has 20 years of experience as an intensive supervision specialist with emphasis on location monitoring and sex offender supervision. Andrews has been nationally recognized as an expert in the field of electronic monitoring. She is a former member of the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. Andrews earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of North Georgia. She and her husband, Robert, have one child and two grandchildren. They reside in Ball Ground, Georgia.

John Meredith, '84, has been selected as Chief Operating Officer for the national law firm Chamberlain Hrdlicka. In his new role, he manages more than 245 employees in the firm’s offices in Houston, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and San Antonio. He also oversees strategic planning and budget management for the firm, as well as business development, facilities and human resources management, recruitment and diversity, professional development, pro bono, and other important initiatives.

U. S. Army Col. John Thompson, '87, (right) retired after almost 30 years in the military. The University of North Georgia alumnus followed in his parents’ footsteps by attending UNG. He then joined the Army, like his father, and became a helicopter pilot. His son, Bryce, followed the same path, graduating from UNG and

becoming a helicopter pilot with the Army. He is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Thompson now works for Cox Enterprises and lives with his wife, Lashelle, in Alpharetta, Georgia.



Christine Thornton, '88, has joined Carolina Youth Development Center as vice president of finance and operations. Previously, she was chief financial officer for Pain Specialists of Charleston and Clinical Trials of South Carolina. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of North Georgia and a master's degree in business administration from Webster University.

Maj. Gen. Paul T. Calvert, '88, was recently promoted to Maj. Gen. and now is commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division. He was most recently the Fort Hood 1st Cavalry Division deputy commander for maneuver. Prior to that, he served as deputy director for operations, National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center, J3, Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. He has served on teams that have been awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (one oak leaf cluster), the Valorous Unit Award (two oak leaf clusters) and the Meritorious Unit Citation.

1990s

Joy Bell, '97, was promoted to president of Client Focused Media. She is responsible for management of staff and client services, community engagement and long-term strategy. Bell earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from UNG.

2000s

Amber Mitchell, '00, was selected as West Fannin Elementary School's teacher of the year. The fifth grade science teacher began her teaching career at the school in 2013. She earned a degree in early childhood education from UNG in 2000.

Andrew Ainslie, '02, vice president and commercial lender at the Bank of Madison, has been elected by his peers in the state as vice president of the Leadership



Nesbitt honored with Quality of Life Award



Martha Nesbitt, former president of Gainesville State College, was honored by the Gainesville-Hall County Community Council on Aging with its third Annual Quality of Life Award.

Nesbitt was chosen for her commitment to improving the quality of life for residents throughout Gainesville and Hall County.

In 1997 Nesbitt became president of Gainesville College, now University of North Georgia. She had already distinguished herself in higher education through her work in the University System of Georgia, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and while serving as president of the Georgia Association of Women in Education and the American Association for Women in Community Colleges.

As college president, she presided over significant growth, such as the opening of a second campus in Oconee County and the transition of the two-year college to a state college offering select baccalaureate degrees. One of her proudest achievements was the fact that the college became the first in

Georgia and one of the first in the country to become tobacco-free.

Nesbitt continued her professional activities after coming to Gainesville by serving on the board of the American Council on Education, Art Institute of Houston, John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Higher Education as well as chairing Visiting Teams for SACS. She also became involved in many community activities, serving on several boards, chairing the Fund Drive for United Way and serving as president of the Northeast Georgia History Center.

Her awards include the Outstanding Woman of the Year awarded by AAWCC, President of the Year by AAWCC, the Silver Shovel Award from the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, Business Woman of the Year by the American Business Women's Association, Meritorious Service Award from SACS, Turknets Leadership Character Award in Education, named the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia's Woman of Distinction, the Northeast Georgia Boy Scouts' Ralph Cleveland Distinguished Citizen, and Gainesville Rotary Club's Woman of the Year.

Even after retirement, Nesbitt has remained active by serving as chairman of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission, serving on the executive committee of the Northeast Georgia Health System's Board, serving on the boards of Lakeview Academy and Elachee Nature Science Center and is active in the Wisdom Keepers, especially the ITN Lanier project.



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Georgia Bankers Association Executive Committee. Leadership GBA is committed to developing the future leaders of the banking industry. The goals of the program are to promote leadership development, educate the public about banking, create networking opportunities, and provide bankers with the opportunity for involvement in the legislative process.

Joseph D'Angelo, '09, has been appointed Athens-Clarke County's first Geographic Information Services Officer. D'Angelo previously worked for the Gwinnett County Government, the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Science, and the University of Georgia's D.B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Spatial Analysis from UNG, a post-baccalaureate certificate in GIS Operations, and a Master of Public Administration with a GIS concentration from Jacksonville State University.

2010s

Cheryl Nix, '10, has joined the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) as a Special Agent in the Investigative Division. While at UNG, she was captain of the pistol team, a national Junior Olympics finalist (top 8 in the nation), a collegiate national champion in women's air pistol, an All-American, and graduated in 3 years.

Luke Pilgrim, '15, and **Brad Kennedy, '15**, owners of Sozo Bear Films featured their short film in the 2017 Macon Film Festival. The duo's debut short film "The Apology Service" was also featured in last year's Macon festival.

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UNG Foundation Board of Trustees

The University of North Georgia (UNG) Foundation Inc., the philanthropic arm of the university, added four new members to its volunteer Board of Trustees, effective July 1: Carol Burrell of Northeast Georgia Health System; Oscar Baldwin “Bo” Fears Jr. of Tharco Packaging; Patrick Magill of Coca-Cola Co.; and Jenny Muller of Smith & Nephew.



CAROL BURRELL

As the president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System, Burrell is responsible for all health system operations including clinical, support and human resources, facility and construction projects, and physician practice management.

Burrell has a bachelor's degree in medical technology

from Georgia Southern University and Emory University, where she started her career in healthcare; Burrell also has a master's in health care administration. Burrell became interested in the business side of health care early in her career, which ultimately led her to Northeast Georgia Health System in 1999; she was named

COO in 2005.

Burrell was recognized by Georgia Trend magazine in 2015 and 2016 as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians.

Burrell lives in Gainesville with husband Steve; the couple has two grown children, Lee and Bradee, both of whom earned degrees at UNG.



OSCAR BALDWIN “BO” FEARS JR '68

“Bo” Fears an alumnus of UNG with a Bachelor of Science in physics, is the retired CEO of Tharco Packaging.

After graduation, Fears commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served for seven years. Fears

was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and an instructor pilot in Pensacola, Florida. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Single Mission Air Medal, 84 Air Medals, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, Navy Achievement Medal, and others.

After his military career, Fears spent 25 years with the

paper company Westvaco, rising to senior vice president and general manager of the consumer packaging division. Fears then joined Tharco Packaging as president and CEO, for 10 years.

Fears and wife Carolyn, also a UNG alumnus, live in Greensboro, Georgia.



PATRICK MAGILL

Magill has more than 20 years of experience, including 17 at Coca-Cola, in consumer and business-to-business marketing, innovative solution development, and organizational design and culture.

In his current role as director of customer marketing,

Magill leads a team dedicated to engaging consumers and driving revenue and repeat visits for Coca-Cola's customers. Prior to his current position, Magill provided marketing leadership across a variety of Coca-Cola customers and teams both in headquarters and in the field.

Magill is a graduate of the

University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and has an MBA from Loyola University-Chicago. He is also a graduate of the Second City Conservatory for Improvisational Acting.

Magill resides in Alpharetta, Georgia, with wife Kendra and three sons Hayden, EJ and Branden.



JENNY MULLER '94

Jenny Muller is district manager at Smith & Nephew. While at UNG, Muller became the first woman in the Corps of Cadets to lead a line company when she took command of

Alpha Company. She went on to earn her MBA from Tulane University and has worked in pharmaceutical sales since 2003; in her current role, she leads a team of 10 sales representatives covering the

Gulf Coast region.

Muller and her husband, James Beard, live in Houston, Texas. She has served as an active member of the UNG Corps of Cadets Advisory Council since 2014.

Stringer establishes endowed scholarship

Paul Stringer is a 1953 graduate of the University of North Georgia and is well-known throughout Lumpkin and Hall counties. Stringer grew up on a farm in Lumpkin County and lives in the house built by his grandfather. Through determination and hard work, Stringer has succeeded in farming, real estate, banking, and insurance, currently owning the Stringer Insurance Agency with locations in Gainesville and Dahlonega. He has made a lifetime of friends during his 86 years in north-east Georgia. His deeds in honoring his alma mater, which are many, demonstrate his love for his community and UNG.

In 2016, Stringer endowed the Frankie K. Stringer and Richard P. Stringer Scholarship Funds to provide financial support for educational expenses for undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Science and Mathematics at UNG. One fund is named after Frankie, his wife of 55 years who passed away from cancer in 2014, and the other fund was established in memory of his son Richard.

Ten scholarships are awarded annually to two students in each major (biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics) as well as two students enrolled in any major in the College of Science and Mathematics. This scholarship gives preference to students in the Corps of Cadets who have not received many other financial awards. Stringer hopes that the scholarships someday produce cures for mental and physical afflictions that face our nation today.

“Paul is a true philanthropist, someone who doesn’t think of themselves, but of the benefit they can provide for others,” said Donna Brazzell, development officer for the College of Science and Mathematics at the UNG Office of University

Advancement. Stringer hopes these gifts will encourage cadets in science, pre-engineering and mathematics.

Stringer arrived at UNG in the fall of 1948 as a member of the Corps of Cadets, as were all male students at the time. He loved the discipline and camaraderie in the Corps of Cadets.

“Being in the corps meant more to me than the academics,” Stringer said. “I had so much respect for the corps because it taught me organization and leadership.”

He developed friendships in the corps that continued for many years especially with the group “Friends are Forever” from the late 40’s and 50’s. While a student at UNG, Stringer was a pitcher for the baseball team, a member of the school’s rifle team, a member of the Non-Commissioned Officer’s Club, and served as 1st sergeant of D company in the Corps of Cadets.

Stringer graduated from UNG in 1953 with a major in history and minor in economics. Completing school in the summer of 1952, he was commissioned, then assigned in November 1952 to the 30th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. There he completed the basic officer’s course while on temporary duty from the 30th Infantry. In early 1954 he was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division in Chorwon, Korea, then was reassigned to the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Pusan, Korea.

After leaving the military in 1954, Stringer returned to Dahlonega and started a career as an insurance agent with Bill Towson and Bill’s sister, Mary Em. Towson’s Insurance Agency in March 1955. In 1959, Stringer married a ‘local girl,’ Frankie Kanaday, who had attended Brenau University, Georgia Baptist Nursing School and North Georgia College. Later, Frankie joined Stringer in running their insurance agency. The Stringers had two sons:



Paul Stringer '53

Richard, a self-employed arborist who died in a work-related accident in 2011, and Steven, who manages the Stringer Agency’s Gainesville office.

Through the years, Stringer has contributed to UNG in many ways. He has served on the UNG Foundation for a number of years and the UNG Real Estate Foundation. Stringer has created an endowed scholarship in memory of Gen. Bill and Bena Livsey and 1st Lt. John H. Haddock; scholarships for the Corps of Cadets Patriot Choir and the athletic teams. He has also contributed funds for facility enhancement projects. Stringer was inducted into the UNG Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014 as a financial supporter. For his dedicated service to the university, Stringer was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006 and the Presidential Leadership Award in 2012.

The legacy that Stringer will leave for UNG can be summed up in one sentence by the man himself.

“There was a saying back then that boys and girls came to UNG and left as ladies and gentlemen and went out into the world to lead and make a difference.”

Mary Rice Cleveland remembered

Mary Rice Cleveland, age 103, of Gainesville, died Oct. 10, 2017.

Cleveland, a former university trustee, was considered one of the UNG Gainesville Campus' "Founding Mothers" by many for the work by her and her late husband,



Ralph Cleveland, in helping to start the campus in 1964 as Gainesville Junior College.

The school was started after encouragement from the governor's office and the University System of Georgia to address an urgent need for higher education in the community. The founding group included James E. Mathis Sr., Loyd Strickland, Jesse Jewell, James A. Dunlap, Raymond Sweetenburg, Ralph Cleveland, A.D. Wright, Otis Cato, and Charles Propes. The campus welcomed its first students in 1966.

Cleveland was dedicated to the school that she and her husband helped found, and attended every annual meeting of the college's foundation since its establishment in 1967. In 2014, Cleveland attended a 50th anniversary celebration of the school's founding just days after celebrating her 100th birthday.

The Clevelands' dedication to the school included contributing more than \$200,000 for scholarships and science building improvements. The Ralph and Mary Cleveland Ballroom in the Martha T. Nesbitt Building was named for Cleveland and her late

husband and in 2000, the Computer Information Technology Laboratory was dedicated in memory of Ralph Cleveland.

Among the scholarship funds given by the Clevelands was the Ralph and Mary Cleveland Endowed Scholarship Fund to aid students with financial need and reward personal drive and initiative.

In 2005, Mary Cleveland was presented the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award for her unwavering support of the school and her distinguished service in the community. In accepting the award, she recounted the historical community vote for the special educational bond on May 12, 1964, to establish then-Gainesville Junior College.

"When I heard the news that the bond had passed, I said to Ralph, 'We won! We can have the college,'" Mary Cleveland said. "I have been for the college from the beginning and I always will be."

Survivors include son and daughter-in-law John and Cathy and grandsons Michael and Scott and their families.

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#OneUNG will start
on #givingtuesday
(November 28, 2017)
and close on the
5th Anniversary
of consolidation
(January 8, 2018).
This is an opportunity
for the entire UNG
community to come
together and support
current and future
UNG students.

Visit
crowdfund.ung.edu

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Mr. Charles V. Abbott, '77
August 20, 2017

MAJ William Maynard Babb, '67
September 8, 2017

Mrs. Carol M. Blasingame
June 6, 2017

Mrs. Nelma Laverne Gray Brackenrich, '68
July 22, 2017

COL (Ret.) Perry L. Bridges, '77,
July 14, 2017

COL (Ret.) James Miles Burdette Jr., '45
October 5, 2017

Mr. John H. Cavender, '59
and former trustee
June 4, 2017

Mr. Charles S. Chaffin, '71
August 8, 2017

Mr. Jackie Milo Conley, '82
April 29, 2017

Mrs. Doris Jean King Dickinson, '46
July 11, 2017

Ms. Allyson L. Franklin
September 9, 2017

Mr. Harold Smith Hammond, '39
August 23, 2017

Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Cook Hamrick, '60
August 23, 2017

Mr. Wilburn Clayton Hawkins, '51
June 9, 2017

Mrs. Evelyn Louise Arnold Hayes, '64
April 11, 2017

Mr. John Cyrus Holmes, '51
August 18, 2017

Mr. Mark B. Hopkins, '75
August 13, 2017

Mr. James Alan Jensen, '83
August 27, 2017

LTC (Ret.) David Wilson Johnson, '75
August 4, 2017

Mr. Joseph Kanaday, '51 and former trustee
August 16, 2017

Mrs. Barbara Ann Duncan Kellogg, '53
June 4, 2017

Mr. Joseph Donald Kerns, '03
June 28, 2017

Mr. Charles Newton King, '50
May 6, 2017

Mr. Clarence Eugene Lamb, '55
September 6, 2017

Mrs. Mattie Lou Barton Lambert, '42
August 19, 2017

LTC (Ret.) Marion Edmond Mann, '59
May 1, 2017

Mr. George Walton Moore, '64
May 14, 2017

CPT (Ret.) Stephen E. Mudd, '77
April 27, 2017

LTC (Ret.) Michael Timothy O'Halpin, '80
May 2, 2017

Ms. Frances Irwin Olive, '43
May 20, 2017

Mr. Larry Hugh Orr, '71
June 22, 2017

LTC John Stonie Patterson, '59
July 15, 2017

Mr. George M. Potter, '55
June 1, 2017

MAJ (Ret.) Jeffrey Thomas Rauth, '75
August 6, 2017

Mr. Randall Carl Robertson, '96
April 21, 2017

Mrs. Judith Griswold Sager, '62
September 22, 2017

Mr. Donald Fleming Segars, '62
May 12, 2017

Mr. Robert Henry Settle Jr., '50
October 6, 2017

Mr. Michael Willard Shannon, '17
May 3, 2017

Mr. Randy Jay Sherrill, '12
June 12, 2017

Mr. Duane Peter Sichveland, '64
April 13, 2017

Dr. John Alvin Simms, '51
July 12, 2017

LTC Bryant Samuel Sneed, '61
June 3, 2017

Mr. Paul Thomas Stallings, '58
May 19, 2017

Mr. Carter McRae Stout, '49
June 15, 2017

Mr. Kyle Cross Tafel, '04
June 12, 2017

Mr. Erle Allen Taylor, '64
April 9, 2017

Mrs. Nina Crump Terry, '46
April 7, 2017

Ms. Carolyn D. Tomlin, '76
September 15, 2017

Mr. Ray Alexander Waldrep, '68
August 29, 2017

Mr. John Thomas Williamson, '43
July 7, 2017

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Mr. Ben Brown, former staff
October 21, 2017

Dr. James Kinard Chesnut, retired faculty
August 16, 2017

Mr. Newman A. Jacobs, former trustee
May 20, 2017

Mr. Ray C. Jones, former trustee
July 25, 2017

Dr. Dave Pandres, retired faculty
August 15, 2017

To honor a former classmate or mentor, consider making a gift in their memory to the UNG Foundation at unggive.org.



The Gainesville Theatre Alliance staged "The Jungle Book" in October. Check out GTA's 2017-2018 season at ung.edu/gta.

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.

NOVEMBER

November 7-18

Gainesville Theatre Alliance presents Crazy for You Hosch Theatre, Brenau University

November 10

Veteran's Day Ceremony
Drill Field, Dahlonega Campus

November 7-18

Gainesville Theatre Alliance presents The Secret in the Wings
Gainesville Campus

November 8- November 29

Art Exhibit:
Shades in the Garden by Melissa Harshman
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery,
Gainesville Campus

November 11

30th Annual All American Piano Celebration
Gloria Shott Performance Hall -
Nix Fine Arts Center
Dahlonega Campus

November 13 - December 14

Art Exhibit: Sacred Garden by
Andrea Wellnitz
Bob Owens Art Gallery,
Dahlonega Campus

November 20-24

Fall Break, No Classes
All UNG campuses

November 27

Patriot Choir Fall Concert
Gloria Shott Performance Hall,
Dahlonega Campus

November 30

UNG Percussion Ensemble
Concert
Hoag Auditorium
Dahlonega Campus

DECEMBER

December 2

UNG Chorale
Blue Ridge Mountains Arts
Center, Blue Ridge, GA

December 4

UNG Wind Ensemble
Hoag Auditorium,
Dahlonega Campus

December 5

Winter Symphonic Band and
Chamber Ensemble Concert
Riverside Military Academy,
Gainesville, GA

December 6

UNG Gainesville Orchestra
Concert
Gainesville Campus

December 7

UNG Orchestra Concert
Gloria Shott Performance Hall -
Nix Fine Arts Center
Dahlonega Campus

December 8

UNG Jazz Band
Gloria Shott Performance Hall
Dahlonega Campus

December 9

UNG Choirs Holiday Festival
Grace Episcopal Church
Gainesville, GA

December 15 -16

Fall Semester Commencement

December 20 - January 1

UNG Closed for Winter Break

JANUARY

January 8

Spring Semester Classes Begin

January 8- February 14

Art Exhibit: A Sum of Parts by
Laura Noel
Oconee Campus

January 10- February 7

Art Exhibit: Sandra Trujillo and
Curtis Stewardson
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery,
Gainesville Campus

January 15

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Classes

January 16-February 8

Art Exhibit: Jess Jones
Bob Owens Art Gallery,
Dahlonega Campus

January 22

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

January 23-25

Alumni Gathering
Florida

FEBRUARY

February 1

Artist Talk & Reception:
Jess Jones
Bob Owens Art Gallery,
Dahlonega Campus

February 7

Artist Talks & Reception: Sandra
Trujillo and Curtis Stewardson
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery,
Gainesville Campus

February 13-24

Gainesville Theatre Alliance
presents Avenue Q
Hosch Theatre, Brenau
University

February 14

Artist Talk & Reception: Laura
Noel
Oconee Campus

February 14-16

Alumni Gathering
Texas

February 16-24

Gainesville Theatre Alliance
presents Monstrous Regiment
Gainesville Campus

February 15

Artist Talk & Reception: Juan
Logan
Bob Owens Art Gallery,
Dahlonega Campus

February 15- March 8

Art Exhibit: The Sugar House by
Jaun Logan
Bob Owens Art Gallery,
Dahlonega Campus

February 21-March 21

Art Exhibit: Measures of Impact
by Jonathan Pellitteri
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery,
Gainesville Campus

February 22

Spring Orchestra Concert
Gloria Shott Performance Hall,
Dahlonega Campus

February 24

Homecoming 2018 & Athletics
Hall of Fame Induction,
Women's & Men's Basketball
Games, Dahlonega Campus

MARCH

March 2-3

Big Band Show
Gainesville Campus

March 10

Alumni Gathering
Greenville, SC

March 13

Alumni Gathering
Huntsville, AL

March 21

Artist Talk & Reception:
Jonathan Pellitteri
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery,
Gainesville Campus

March 23

6th Annual Scholarship Gala
Forsyth Conference Center,
Cumming, GA

APRIL

April 2

Spring Concert of UNG Singers
and Le Belle Voci
Dahlonega United Methodist
Church, Dahlonega, GA

April 5

Alumni Gathering
Columbus, Georgia

April 10-21

Gainesville Theatre Alliance
presents The Odyssey
Gainesville Campus

April 13-16

Gainesville Theatre Alliance
presents GTA Discovery Series:
Fuente Ovejuna (Murder by
Everyone and No One)
Brenau University's Theatre on
the Square, Gainesville, GA

April 16

Patriot Choir Spring Concert
Gloria Shott Performance Hall,
Dahlonega Campus

April 20- April 22

Alumni Weekend - Dahlonega

April 24

Spring Jazz Show
Gainesville Campus

April 26

Chorale Spring Concert
Gainesville Campus



UNG kinesiology students have access to state-of-the-art technology with the BOD POD – a body composition tracking system used to determine fat and fat-free mass in adults and children.



Learn more at
www.ung.edu/news



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