

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

FALL/WINTER 2018

MAGAZINE



**Moving the
needle to fill
healthcare jobs**

**There's always time to
earn a degree...online**

Best of both worlds
Growth in dual enrollment opens
more opportunities

UNG senior Kati Hornick works on a sculpture of a turtle for the Faculty Undergraduate Summer Engagement project with Heather Foster, instructor of visual arts at UNG. Hornick and Foster were inspired by the Eastern box turtle research conducted by Dr. Jennifer Mook and Dr. Natalie Hyslop, associate professors of biology at UNG.





University of North Georgia Magazine is published semi-annually by the University of North Georgia.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sylvia Carson, editor
Edie Rogers, writer
J.K. Devine, writer
Clark Leonard, writer
David Jones, designer
Peggy Cozart, photographer

CONTACT

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





20

There's always time to earn a degree...online.



26

Best of Both Worlds. Growth in dual enrollment

38

Moving the needle to fill healthcare jobs



DEPARTMENTS

- 3 President's Message
- 5 Around UNG
- 12 Corps of Cadets
- 16 Sports Roundup
- 44 Class Notes
- 46 In Memoriam
- 48 Upcoming Events

FEATURES

- 20 There's always time to earn a degree...online.
- 26 Best of Both Worlds
Growth in dual enrollment opens more opportunities
- 38 Moving the needle to fill healthcare jobs



“UNG has several initiatives focused on increasing educational attainment, including our dual-enrollment program for high school students, online graduate programs, and our first Regional Education and Economic Development Summit to highlight career opportunities in high-demand career fields.”

Creating bright futures and strong communities through higher education

Earlier this year, the Georgia House of Representatives, under the leadership of UNG alumnus Speaker David Ralston, established the House Rural Development Council, which is challenging the state to increase economic development in Georgia’s rural communities. UNG supports this initiative because about 80 percent of our students come from a 30-county area in northeast Georgia, including many rural communities. As a regional university, it is inherent to our mission to increase educational attainment, enhance economic development, and promote job growth to provide opportunities for our graduates who want to live in this part of the state.

UNG has several initiatives focused on increasing educational attainment, including our dual-enrollment program for high school students, online graduate programs, and our first Regional Education and Economic Development Summit to highlight career opportunities in high-demand career fields.

As we serve an increasing number of students, UNG has growing facility needs, and the University System of Georgia Board of Regents and the legislature have been supportive. Last month, we broke ground for our new standalone campus in Blue Ridge, which is scheduled to open in 2020. Enrollment in Blue Ridge has experienced almost 800 percent growth since its opening in 2015, enrolling 156 students now. The new campus will allow for expanded courses, enabling students to spend a longer period of their college career at Blue Ridge. Also, plans are underway in Gainesville for renovations and expansion to the Lanier Technical College campus once it is vacated in the spring as they move to a new campus. We very grateful to our state leaders for their continued support and investment in UNG.

To increase the college completion rate in northeast Georgia, we know we must continue to assist students with their finances. If a student drops out due to financial struggles, the odds of completion diminish significantly. We are working to provide students with other viable options to remain in school, including the creation of food banks on three of our campuses, financial education through our Student Money Management Center, and increased scholarships.

We are grateful to so many who support scholarships for students at UNG. Whether giving directly to a specific scholarship, participating in OconeeFest—which raised nearly \$16,000 this fall for scholarships for students from Oconee County to attend any UNG campus, or attending our foundation’s annual Scholarship Gala, your support is vital. In the past 5 years, we have awarded more than \$7 million in scholarships to deserving students. This year, the Scholarship Gala will be held on March 29, 2019, at the Dahlonega Campus; details are available at unggive.org/scholarship-gala.

I am proud of the work UNG is doing as a leading regional university to increase educational attainment and to improve economic growth in northeast Georgia. These efforts will make a difference in the lives of our students, their families, our communities, and the region for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Bonita C. Jacobs
President

#ONEUNG Crowdfund

Many projects, one legacy.

“Leadership is the power of one harnessing
the power of many.” - John C. Maxwell



Many members, **one** family...

Many stories, **one** mission...

Many campuses, **one** home...

Many ventures, **one** vision...

Out of many, #ONEUNG

NOVEMBER 27 — DECEMBER 7, 2018

unggive.org/oneung

For more information on #ONEUNG, contact
the Office of Annual Giving at annualgiving@ung.edu.

UNG continues to rise in rankings



UNG is ranked 20th among all public regional universities in the South on the U.S. News & World Report 2019 Best Regional Universities list released in September.

In U.S. News' annual ranking of universities

and colleges, UNG was also ranked for the first time on the magazine's Most Innovative Schools list, earning the 13th spot among regional universities in the South. This ranking, based on nominations by peer institutions, highlights colleges or universities that are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology, or facilities.

U.S. News also ranked UNG No. 1 in the South for the least debt load, No. 2 among all public regional universities on the Student Debt Load at Graduation list, and No. 22 for Best Undergraduate Teaching Program among regional universities in the South.

In other national rankings, UNG was named one of the nation's top higher education institutions by Forbes Magazine in its annual "America's Top Colleges" ranking. UNG is one of only six public universities in Georgia to be included on the 2018 list, and it ranked fourth among all public universities in the state. This marks the third year that UNG was included on that publication's list.



Strategic studies program builds on Five Eyes trust to forge new partnerships

Building on national partnerships forged in the wake of World War II, UNG's Institute for Leadership and Strategic Studies is developing opportunities for faculty and student exchanges and conference attendance with colleges, universities and programs in "Five Eyes" nations.

Five Eyes refers to the agreement to share intelligence between five English-speaking countries: the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. This effort, which includes partnerships with security think tanks and universities in the Five Eyes nations, is designed to supplement UNG's academic programs in strategic studies, intelligence, and cyber education.



DoD awards cyber scholarships and internships, authorizes cyber institutes

UNG has been awarded \$96,138 from the Department of Defense (DoD) through the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program to fund one-year, full-ride scholarships for two students. The scholarships, which can be renewed annually through completion of graduate school, include tuition, fees, books, a laptop, and living expenses. The students also were awarded paid summer internships and agreed to work for one year with the DoD in the cybersecurity field after graduation.

UNG's cybersecurity program also will benefit from the 2019 Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes the DoD to establish cyber institutes nationwide, starting with UNG. Working closely with three other senior military colleges (SMC), UNG has spearheaded the move. While the process to establish the cyber institutes is only beginning and funding is still required, UNG has proposed that the SMCs establish the first cyber institutes since they meet all the NDAA requirements: an established cyber program; strategic languages; strong leadership development programs associated with ROTC; and math and science programs.



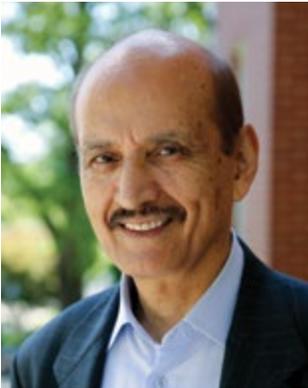
Lisa Diehl

Two faculty members named Governor's Teaching Fellows

UNG had two faculty recently selected as Governor's Teaching Fellows (GTF), a prestigious program established by former Gov. Zell Miller to provide Georgia higher education faculty with professional development opportunities focused on teaching.

Lisa Diehl, lecturer of English, was part of the GTF 2018 Summer Symposium, and Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian, professor of computer science, is part of the GTF 2018-19 Academic Year Symposium.

The program is offered through the University of Georgia's Institute of Higher Education and includes a combination of structured instructional and faculty development activities, plus self-directed activities to meet individual needs.



Dr. Ahmad Ghafarian



Conference crosses Atlantic to come to UNG

The Transatlantic Studies Association's (TSA) annual conference made its first stop on this side of the Atlantic when it was held July 9-11 at UNG.

Dr. Christopher Jespersen, dean of the College of Arts & Letters at UNG and chairman of TSA's management committee, was one of the conference's speakers. He spoke about Martin Luther King Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize and the Beatles' 1965 concert at Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta as examples of transatlantic cultural exchange.

A total of 17 UNG professors presented at the TSA event that drew about 80 participants from across the globe.

Taylor earns two scholarships to study in China

UNG junior Kate Taylor has earned a highly competitive Chinese Government Scholarship to study for a year at Zhejiang Normal University this fall, as well as a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The Chinese Government Scholarship will cover her tuition, room and board, and the Gilman Scholarship will cover her airfare and other items.

"I would not have been able to study abroad without these two scholarships," said the 20-year old from Savannah, Georgia, who is majoring in security and strategic studies with a concentration in Chinese.



The Chinese Government Scholarship is given to only 10 students nationally from among the 400-plus institutions in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It allows students to study the Chinese language for either one academic year or one semester.

The Gilman is open to U.S. undergraduate students who receive Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college

or university to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide.





Students Madison Conner, left, and Matthew Terrell are part of the team making glass straw use a viable choice at UNG.

UNG wins national “Pledge Against Plastic Straws” competition

UNG’s Dahlonega Campus placed first in the “Pledge Against Plastic Straws” national competition, conducted by Simply Straws.

More than 550 UNG students agreed to not use one-time-use plastic straws in April 2018.

Dr. Jessica “Jess” Hartel, lecturer of biology, identified this action as a way for students to make a small, daily step to impact the environment.

Students who pledged received an \$8 coupon off a reusable glass straw from Simply Straws. The Sustainability Club and Scuba Club helped UNG win the competition.



Dr. Allison Bailey, left, associate professor of environmental studies at UNG, and senior Jessica Stehlin coordinated an effort with students to identify and map the trees on all five UNG campuses.

Environmental project leads to Tree Campus honor

A project that started in Dr. Allison Bailey’s environmental communications class at UNG’s Gainesville Campus evolved into an effort by students to identify and map the trees on all five of UNG’s campuses.

These efforts earned UNG the 2017 Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the second time UNG has earned a Tree Campus USA designation, which honors colleges and universities for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation.

Faculty and students search for fossils on Georgia’s coast

Searching for late Pleistocene-aged fossils by digging holes adjacent to a water canal in Brunswick, Georgia, may not appeal to some students, but it did for UNG faculty members David and Jessica Patterson, alumna Kayla Allen and nine undergraduate students.

“It was an eye-opening experience,” Allen said about the summer trip funded through a UNG Presidential Incentive Award.

Providing the geological information was Dr. Christopher Seminack and two students with ground-penetrating radar. Seminack, assistant professor of geology at UNG, used the device to look for erosion from past storms and eroded layers of the beach on Sapelo Island.



Photo courtesy of Brandon Spragins of FLETC

UNG students assisted with the paleontology excavation at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Georgia.

Hilliard A. Wilbanks Foundation forms partnership for Corps of Cadets scholarship

Hilliard A. Wilbanks received the highest military accolade, the Medal of Honor, posthumously Jan. 24, 1968, for his valor while flying a reconnaissance mission with the South Vietnamese Ranger Battalion in 1967. His family established the Hilliard A. Wilbanks Foundation and began awarding scholarships to ROTC cadets in 2012. This year, the foundation entered a partnership with UNG to award its annual scholarship to a student enrolled in UNG’s Corps of Cadets.

“Captain Wilbanks and his family are natives of Habersham County, in the heart of UNG’s footprint,” said Phil Collins, development officer for the Corps of Cadets. “It is an honor to host, maintain and steward this scholarship, and we are so pleased that the Wilbanks Foundation chose UNG,



which serves as the Military College of Georgia, for this purpose.”

UNG will award its first Capt. Hilliard A. Wilbanks Medal of Honor Memorial Scholarship, designed to support an entry-level cadet for four years, in fall 2019.

UNG President Bonita Jacobs, seated at right, signed the partnership agreement with Wilbanks’ sister Patricia Dewitt, seated. Also on hand were UNG representatives Pam Stoffel, Phil Collins, Jeff Tarnowski (far right) and Wilbanks’ daughter-in-law, Virginia Wilbanks, and son, John Wilbanks.



Dr. Carly Womack-Wynne

Faculty named Fulbright Specialists

Two UNG faculty named as Fulbright Specialists this year are sharing their expertise with international colleagues.

Dr. Andy Novobilski, associate provost for research and engagement and UNG’s chief research officer, spent time in Belize earlier this year helping develop a curriculum for a business degree with a focus on entrepreneurship, and Dr. Carly Womack-Wynne, professor of education, is

aiding her colleagues in Belize with internationalization, education, quality assurance, and accreditation.

The Fulbright Specialist program, established by the U.S. State Department in 2001, pairs highly qualified U.S. academic professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise while learning about other cultures and building capacity at their host institutions.



Dr. Andy Novobilski



The Georgia World War I Centennial Commission has raised the money for a statue honoring Eugene Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot, who flew for the French in World War I.

UNG leading efforts of Georgia WWI Centennial

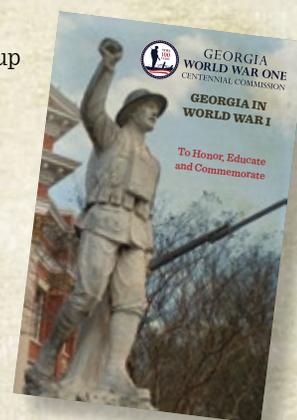
In the latest efforts to commemorate the centennial of World War I, Dr. Christopher Jespersen, dean of UNG's College of Arts and Letters, was the keynote speaker on the war's impact at an Armistice Day event at the Atlanta History Center.

Armistice Day, originally established to honor the veterans of WWI and now more commonly known as Veterans Day, is observed annually on November 11, the date fighting ceased in WWI.

The Georgia World War I Centennial Commission has been working for several years to mark a century since the war's end. Dr. Billy Wells, senior vice president for leadership and global engagement at UNG, serves as the commission chairman, and Keith Antonia, associate vice president for military programs at UNG, is a commission associate.

With administrative support from the UNG Foundation, the group has raised the money for a statue honoring Eugene Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot, who flew for the French in World War I. The statue will be placed at the Museum of Aviation next to Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Previously, a major effort involved updating the record of soldiers killed in the war to include African Americans who were previously not listed in the Georgia State Memorial Book. There are now 1,228 blacks listed.



Regents recommend \$13.6 million for Lanier Tech campus renovations

The University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents has recommended \$13.6 million in state funding for UNG to begin renovations on the former Lanier Technical College campus space, located adjacent to UNG's Gainesville Campus.

The funds are part of USG's overall funding request approved by the Board of

Regents at their September 2018 meeting that will be submitted to the Office of the Governor for consideration during the 2019 legislative session.

Renovating the property will take place in stages and is expected to cost \$18.9 million and be completed by January 2021.



UNG is expected to move into the former Lanier Tech campus by 2021.



Undergraduate students present research at state conference

Students and faculty members from UNG and other colleges from the southeastern region presented their research Nov. 2-3 at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference (GURC) at UNG's Gainesville Campus. UNG will host GURC in 2019 at the Dahlonega Campus.

"GURC allows students and professors the opportunity to see the research others are conducting in our region," said Dr. Anastasia Lin, assistant vice president for research and engagement and current president of the Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective.

Through undergraduate research, students can pursue academic interests and develop skills that give them an advantage in the job market or in applying to graduate school.

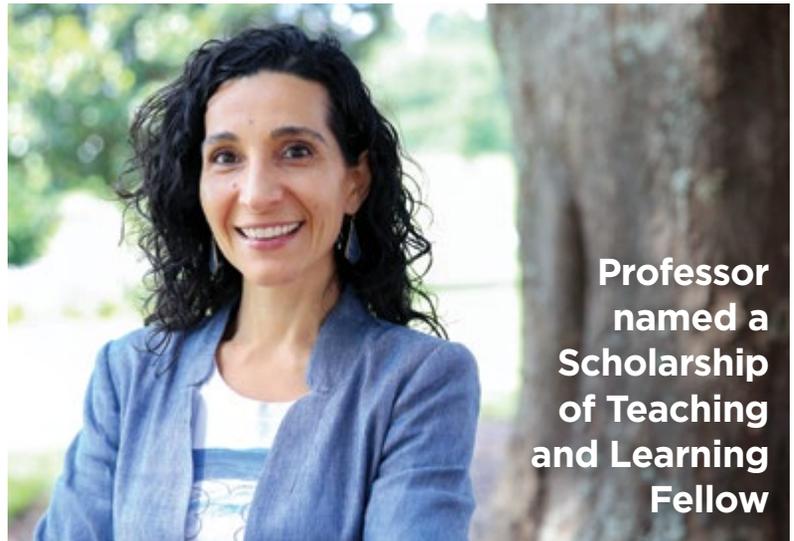


Nighthawk Emergency Loan Program available to students

A car breaking down or a trip to the emergency room can wreak havoc on a student's finances, especially if they are unexpected.

To alleviate the situation, the Student Money Management Center at UNG can offer students a safety net with its Nighthawk Emergency Loan Program.

Established in fall 2017, the loan program is designed to provide relief to students experiencing unanticipated financial difficulty. The zero-interest loan allows students to stay in school and continue their studies while repaying the loan on a timeframe based on each individual's financial situation.



Professor named a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Fellow

Dr. Rosaria Meek, assistant professor of Spanish at UNG, has been named to the University System of Georgia's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Fellows Program, which is limited to 10 participants each year.

The program supports educators from the state's public colleges and universities as they design and develop classroom-based research projects with the goal of improving student learning.

Meek plans to implement a classroom-based pilot study as her research for the 2018-19 SoTL program to study student engagement through apps and other technology.

Dr. Mary Carney, director of UNG's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, is one of two co-directors of the state program.

Conneely named new vice president of student affairs

Dr. James F. Conneely has joined UNG as the new vice president of student affairs.

Conneely brings more than 35 years of higher education administration experience in public and private institutions to the position, including serving as the senior student affairs professional at Eastern Kentucky University from 2003 through 2012.

Conneely oversees a variety of student-focused offices and units, including Career Services, Commandant of Cadets, Dean of Students, Enrollment Management, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Multicultural Student Affairs, Orientation and Transition Programs, Recreational Sports, Residence Life, Student Counseling, Student Disability Services, Student Health Services, Student Money Management Center, Student Involvement, Testing Center, and Veteran and Adult Learners Programs.



Dr. James F. Conneely

Delaney is new dean of students in Dahlonge

Dr. John Delaney is the new associate vice president and dean of students at UNG's Dahlonge Campus.

"I look forward to serving on an active, vibrant campus where colleagues are passionate about helping students succeed in every way possible," Delaney said.

Most recently, he served as vice chancellor of student engagement and student development at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Additionally he has held multiple roles in the area of student affairs at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.



Dr. John Delaney



Sheila Schulte

Sheila Schulte takes reins of Center for Global Engagement

Sheila Schulte has spent her entire professional career working diligently to help U.S. students to experience their own "A-ha!" moment while they were studying in a foreign country. At the same time, she has made a point of making international students at American colleges and universities feel welcome and accepted. Now, she is bringing that same drive and determination to UNG's Center for Global Engagement as its new associate vice president for international programs.

The Center for Global Engagement manages the university's study abroad program, serves international students attending UNG, and supports the development of academic partnerships with international institutions and agencies.



Gen. Mark A. Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, left, spoke with UNG President Bonita Jacobs and praised the university's history of producing leaders.

Army Chief of Staff visits UNG and shares lessons of leadership

Gen. Mark A. Milley, the 39th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, visited UNG's Dahlonega Campus on Aug. 28 to meet with President Bonita Jacobs and speak to members of the Corps of Cadets.

While his speech began with praise and appreciation for UNG, he also discussed the future of the U.S. Army mission and readiness and shared lessons about leadership with the 764 members of the Corps of Cadets in attendance.

"You're going to have to have unbelievable personal integrity. You're going to have to have spines of titanium steel in order to deal with that environment," Milley said. "Integrity is going to matter. Your candor, your compassion, your love of your soldiers, your loyalty, your sense of selfless service – all of that will matter as well, but integrity is what will make or break leaders in those type of intense, pressurized environments."

Cadet Col. Tyler Farney of Phoenix, Arizona, commander of UNG's Boar's Head Brigade, was one of a dozen cadets selected to have lunch with the chief of staff.

"As a cadet who's not even in the military yet, to have that opportunity and be able to share that knowledge with our fellow cadets is going to put us above and beyond most cadets," Farney said. "I'm very happy that we were afforded the opportunity – just as a university – for him to visit."



Gen. Milley spoke with and greeted the entire Corps of Cadets during his Aug. 28 visit to the Dahlonega Campus.



Col. Joshua D. Wright

Wright takes over as professor of military science

Col. Joshua D. Wright has been around the world with the U.S. Army, serving in places such as Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bosnia, and Haiti.

His latest assignment brings him to UNG as the new professor of military science.

With more than two decades of Army service, Wright is focused on developing leaders at UNG. A regular Army officer, he has led Army formations from platoon through brigade command. He said helping cadets have the right idea of leadership is crucial in preparing them for service once they graduate.

Wright holds a Master of Science degree in management leadership and organizational effectiveness from Troy University, a Master of Science degree in strategic studies from the Air War College and a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Eastern Illinois University.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign and Afghanistan Campaign Medals and MFO Medals, Presidential Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citations, Superior Unit Awards, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.



Cadets spend their junior year at UNG preparing for Advanced Camp, including exercises at the Pine Valley facility.

108 cadets face Advanced Camp trials at Fort Knox

This summer, 108 rising seniors in the Corps of Cadets at UNG spent about a month getting tested on their military and leadership skills, allowing the U.S. Army Cadet Command to assess their proficiency as a future officer in Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Instructors attribute UNG's history of success at Advanced Camp to the corps' Leadership Development Program (LDP), overseen by Capt. Paul Scifers. Throughout the junior year, LDP focuses on the areas and skills cadets are tested on at Advanced Camp, including tactics and battle drills, land navigation, and first aid or "buddy" aid.

Corps honors 17 as Distinguished Military Students



Seventeen UNG cadets were honored as Distinguished Military Students on Sept. 30 during the annual Boar's Head Weekend.

On Sept. 30, UNG Boar's Head Brigade held the 2018 Distinguished Military Students (DMS) Review, which is conducted annually to honor senior ROTC cadets who have excelled academically and as leaders.

"UNG and the U.S. Army ROTC program are honored to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the 2018 DMS recipients," said Col. Joshua D. Wright, the professor of military science at UNG. "All have worked extremely diligently to earn this very special recognition. We could not be

more proud of each and every one of them."

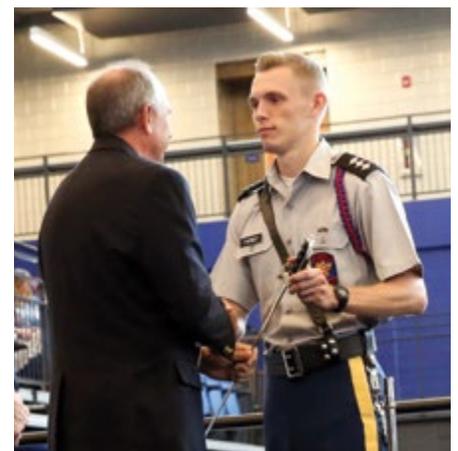
To be selected, a cadet must be in the upper half of the academic class, the upper third of the ROTC class, and the upper third of UNG's Order of Merit List, established by the professor

of military science. Additionally, cadets are chosen on the basis of interest and aptitude for military service and outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character as demonstrated by participation and achievement in campus, civic and military activities.

This year's DMS honorees were: Connor Bane, Lauren Bell, Christopher Bissett, Hunter Blocher, Jasper Bridgeman Jr., Henry Crawford, Terry Ellis, Tyler Farney, Matthew Ilaio, Evan Myers, Nolan Olson, Dylan Richards, Robert Rogers, Jacob Starrett,

Charlotte Walton, Yusemi Wheeler, and Matthew Williams.

Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, adjutant general of the Georgia Department of Defense, was the guest speaker for the DMS Review. Jarrard is a 1988 graduate of UNG and served on active duty for more than 20 years. Gov. Nathan Deal appointed Jarrard to his current role in 2014.



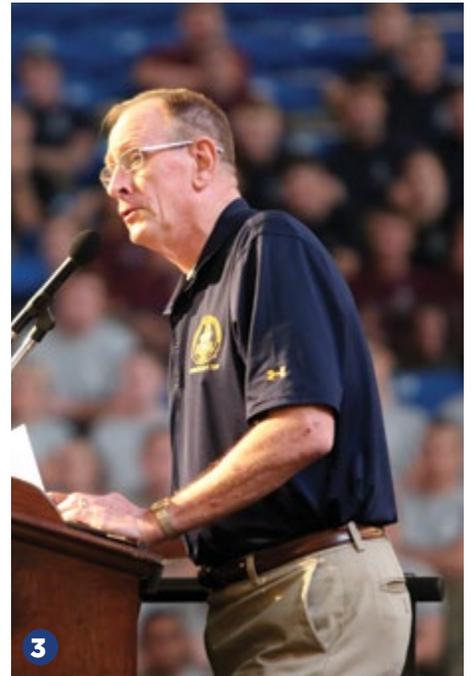
Tyler Farney, brigade commander of UNG's Corps of Cadets, receives the "Keeper of the Corps" saber from Alan Ware '77, chairman of the North Georgia Corps of Cadets Association, at the Distinguished Military Students Review.

Boar's Head Weekend 2018

The Boar's Head-Corps Alumni Weekend returned to UNG for its third installment Sept. 28-30 on UNG's Dahlonega Campus.

Organized by the North Georgia Corps of Cadets Association (NGCCA), the weekend offered cadets mentoring and networking opportunities provided by Corps of Cadets alumni.

1. "First Call" guest speaker, Jeff Struecker.
2. The Corps of Cadets sings the Army song.
3. (ret) Col. James T. Palmer, commandant, addresses the Corps of Cadets and guests Friday night.
4. The Patriot Choir held its reunion gathering and performed Friday night.
5. The Sunday DMS Review.
6. Patriot Choir.
7. The UNG Golden Eagle Band at the DMS Review.
8. Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, who serves as the adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard, spoke at the DMS Review on Sunday.
9. The DMS Review.
10. Distinguished Military Students were recognized individually at a Saturday dinner.
11. Cadet Charlotte Walton at the DMS Dinner.
12. Corps of Cadets members.
13. Friends and family celebrated with DMS cadets at the Saturday dinner.
14. The Distinguished Military Students with Col. Joshua Wright, professor of military science.





7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



UNG student-athletes post record-high GPA

UNG's student-athletes posted the highest-ever grade point average in an academic year in 2017-18, earning a 3.19 GPA, which was nearly three-tenths higher than the general student population's mark of 2.90. This academic year also saw 66 student-athletes complete the year with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"Our student-athletes continue to overachieve in the three pillars of our department's focus: the classroom, the community and on the field of competition," UNG Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves said. "We are proud to reach this academic grade-point average milestone as it speaks to the type of student-athlete that UNG attracts."

Ten of the 13 Nighthawks' intercollegiate teams had GPAs higher than 3.0, with women's cross country leading the way at 3.51. Men's soccer was the top men's team with a 3.24 GPA. In the fall semester, 28 student-athletes finished with a 4.0 while 30 earned a perfect 4.0 in the spring semester.

UNG had 15 academic All-Americans in 2017-18 and 70 conference All-Academic selections, both of which are more selections than UNG had the previous year.

Bryson Worley joined UNG as its director of golf and head coach of the men's golf team.



Worley named as golf director

Bryson Worley has joined UNG as the university's new director of golf. In addition to serving as the head coach of the men's team, Worley is responsible for the overall development, planning, maintenance, and evaluation of the men's and women's programs.

Worley came to UNG from nearby Gainesville High School (GHS), where he coached the men's golf team since 2002. He also served the school as the assistant principal and assistant athletic director for facilities. During his tenure at GHS, he was named the 2012 and 2013 Georgia Athletic Coaches Association (GACA) State Coach of the Year as well as a 13-time GACA Region Coach of the Year and a 10-time Gainesville Times Area Coach of the Year.

In his 21-year high school coaching career, Worley collected two state championships, 10 region championships, 67 tournament victories, and 131 top-five finishes.

UNG hosted the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional on the Gainesville Campus, the first NCAA event held in Hall County.



Cross-country team to host NCAA regional

The UNG cross-country program will host the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional on Nov. 17 on UNG's Gainesville Campus, marking the first NCAA event in Hall County and the first NCAA event secured by bid for UNG. It has previously hosted 19 events at the Dahlonega Campus based on seeding.

"North Georgia is honored to receive the hosting bid, as it allows us to showcase our Gainesville Campus and the collaborative effort that our team will put forward to give the student-athletes the best possible championship experience," Lindsay Reeves, UNG director of athletics, said.

The men will run five loops of the 2,000-meter course for the NCAA event, while the women's race will be three loops making up a 6K.

Tom Williams, head coach of UNG's cross-country team, said the course will be challenging, as it offers a number of elements to break up a runner's rhythm. Williams also said he made some changes to the course last year to make it more spectator-friendly and visible to fans.



Eight UNG rifle student-athletes have been named Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Scholastic All-Americans. UNG also won the 2017-18 Southern Conference title.

Rifle competitors named Scholastic All-Americans

After winning their second Southern Conference championship in as many years, eight UNG rifle student-athletes were named Scholastic All-Americans by the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.

Ruthanne Conner, Arica Hayes, Kimberlee Nettles, Hannah Peevy, Tobin Sanctuary, Brianna Shaw, Dakota Spivey, and David Turner earned the honor for UNG this year. The eight Nighthawks surpassed UNG's mark from last year after six were named to the squad in 2017.

To earn the honor, a student-athlete must maintain at least a 3.2 grade-point average (GPA).

These awards come on the heels of a second SoCon championship for UNG, where multiple Nighthawks were named All-Conference and Conner won the Pinnacle Award, given to the student-athlete with the highest GPA on the championship team.



Shaquan Cantrell '18 signed a contract to play professional basketball in Germany.

Former player signs pro contract

Former UNG men's basketball player Shaquan Cantrell has signed a contract to play basketball professionally with the Nördlingen Giants in Germany.

"Signing professionally is one of those moments where you dream about it, you put the time into the game and work on your craft and it finally pays off," Cantrell, a native of Gainesville, Georgia, said. "It still has not hit me, it's definitely a blessing. I am just glad that I got an opportunity."

This past season, Cantrell became UNG's NCAA-era leading scorer, finishing his Nighthawks career with 1,477 points, averaging 13.6 per game. He was named to the Peach Belt's All-Conference team twice in his career, including a third-team nod in 2017-18.

Cantrell graduated from UNG with a bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in psychology prior to the season opener for Nördlingen in August.



*Where I
Lead:
In the
pitching
circle*



BIO

KYLEE SMITH was named the Schutt Sports/National Fastpitch Coaching Association Division II National Player of the Year. The international affairs major from Suwanee, Georgia, finished the 2018 season as the NCAA Division II leader in three categories: 36 victories, 338 strikeouts and a 0.59 ERA. She was also the Peach Belt Conference Pitcher of the Year as UNG won its fifth straight regular-season and tournament PBC titles.

What do you enjoy most about softball?

I most enjoy the friendships that I make through it. We've all been playing since we were little. So it's just part of our life. The people that I meet and the friends that I'll have throughout college and after college, that's what I enjoy the most.

What made you want to major in international affairs?

I love to travel. My family, when we were growing up, traveled all the time. My dad worked on so many military bases when I was little, so he would always come back home from long trips and give me the rundown of what goes on at a military base in different countries. And I just thought it was so fascinating. After growing up listening to my dad's stories, I wanted to pursue it.

What is your most meaningful accomplishment so far at UNG?

Just being able to pitch in college. Growing up I was always told I would never pitch in college so I should just quit. So being able to actually throw in college and play for such a great program, that's the most meaningful it could ever be. Because I have been told that I can't do it so many times, I just pushed myself even harder and blocked that out. Since people didn't think I could do it, I had the mindset of "watch me and I will prove you wrong." Coach Mike Davenport (head softball coach at UNG) was the only one who took a shot on me and gave me a chance. I owe him everything in my softball career because he kept my dream going. He made the national player of the year award a possibility.

Did you ever think you would achieve so much success on the softball field and be named the 2018 national player of the year as a sophomore?

Throughout my softball career I've faced a lot of adversity and hard times, so I thought there's no way that I would earn such an honor. There are so many other amazing people that we have played or I saw play. I wondered, "How did I get it?"

As the pitcher, you are a leader on the team. How do you handle that role?

Your team looks to you to step up and they're right there behind me. They make amazing plays. So, we have eight other leaders on the team besides the pitcher in the circle.

There's always time to earn a degree...online

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart and J.K. Devine

For three years, Whitney Hicks had a routine, including raising her son, working full-time and taking online courses toward a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice at the University of North Georgia. Her days were filled with tending to her son in the morning and at night, accomplishing her tasks at work and at home and carving out study time during lunch and after her son's bedtime.

"He was usually asleep by 8:30-9 p.m. and I worked on additional reading assignments until about 11:30 p.m. or midnight," Hicks said. "Then I repeated this process."

On weekends, a similar routine followed with Hicks scheduling time for her son and her assignments.

"It was a hectic process and required a great deal of dedication," she said. "I was committed to providing the best life possible for him."

Hicks' story is not unique. In the digital age, millions of students are logging on for educational advancement. According to Institute of Education Sciences' National Center for Education Statistics, of the nearly 2.94 million graduate students, 26.1 percent were enrolled exclusively in online courses in fall 2015. One year later, it increased

Whitney Hicks spends a Saturday afternoon playing with her son. The Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia, resident works full-time and takes online courses to earn a Master of Science in Criminal Justice at UNG.



to 27.5 percent of the 2.97 million graduate students.

The jump in online enrollment has led higher education institutions to increase their online graduate degree programs, including UNG. Dr. Luisa Diaz-Kope, coordinator of the Master in Public Administration (MPA) program at UNG, can attest to that.

The assistant professor of political science and international affairs explained the MPA program's student enrollment nearly quadrupled when the degree program went online. In fall 2018, those numbers doubled compared to fall 2017.

"Since we went online, we are more diverse in age, race and ethnicity, because enrollment is not limited by geography," Diaz-Kope said, noting her students range in age from fresh out of college to 50-year-olds in the workforce.

U.S. Army Sgt. Major Russell Blackwell, a 40-year-old Tennessee native, is earning his Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA) degree while he serves as the senior enlisted adviser to the battalion command at Fort Drum in upstate New York.

Blackwell is earning his master's degree to help with his current career and post-Army life.

"The more research I did, I saw the UNG program aligned with my professional goals," he said. "And the UNG folks were very easy to work with."

A second-year graduate student, Lauren Billet is on the opposite end of the spectrum. Fresh from earning her bachelor's degree at UNG, Billet enrolled in the MAIA program to take advantage of the opportunities UNG offered to its students.

"I wanted to have a second chance at being a student, so I could take advantage of the fellowship, internship, and study abroad opportunities that I didn't take advantage of as an undergrad," the 23-year-old from Columbus, Georgia, said.

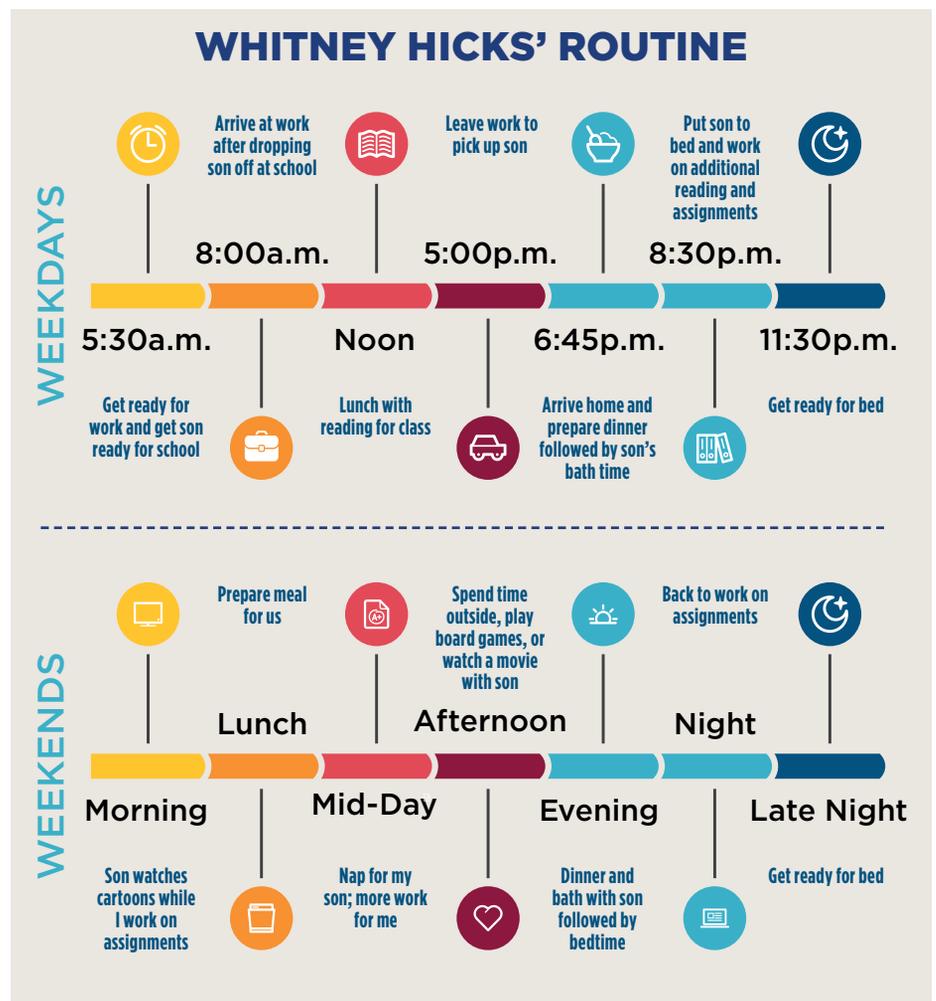
The master's online program afforded her the ability to study abroad. Billet received a Boren Fellowship, which funds graduate students studying critical languages overseas. From August 2018 to May 2019, she is learning Arabic in Amman, Jordan.

"Had the program not been online, there would have been a time conflict with these opportunities," Billet said.

At present, UNG offers 14 degree and six certificate programs online.

Graduate degrees include:

- Doctorate of Education with a major in higher education leadership and practice (Ed. D)
- Master of Arts in International Affairs (MAIA)
- Master of Education in Middle Grades Math and Science (M.Ed.)
- Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of Science with a major in criminal justice (M.S.)
- Master of Science with a major in kinesiology
- Master of Science with a major in nursing education (MSNE)





Two bachelor's degree programs are available online: the Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and General Studies. The Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees are also available online with pathways into general studies, political science, social work, and sociology.

Graduate student enrollment jumped by 24 percent in online programs from fall 2015 to fall 2017. Melinda Maxwell, director of graduate admissions, expects graduate degree program enrollment to grow.

"Employers are seeking people with advanced degrees," Maxwell said.

Jane Brooks Rosser, a seventh-grade social studies teacher in Cobb

County, agreed. She explained the only way to advance in education is with a master's degree.

"I looked into many programs in the field of education, but nothing interested me," Rosser said. "I found the MAIA program and knew that it linked to what I teach."

Once she earns the degree — she's scheduled to graduate in May 2019 — she would be eligible to receive a bump in pay.

That is not the only benefit. Online degrees help students who have full-time jobs, families and other obligations, Maxwell said.

Bill Bush, who is enrolled in his fourth semester of the MPA program, said the program is ideal for him. He works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and occasionally travels for his job with Adventures in Missions in Gainesville, Georgia.

"I have the freedom to read and write when it is convenient for me.



"As a single mother with a full-time job, the only option to earn a post-graduate degree is by taking classes online."
Whitney Hicks

I don't have to be in a class from 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday," he said.

Others said the program's flexibility is the only way they could earn an advanced degree.

As mothers with full-time jobs, Rosser and Hicks admitted they could not have achieved a higher degree in a traditional class. Rosser said she works on her homework in the mornings before her seventh-graders arrive.

"I love being able to work at my own pace and not have to meet for a class after a long day at work or my few Saturdays without obligations," she said.

Blackwell explained the online access came in handy when he enrolled in his first two graduate classes in summer 2017.

"I was right in the middle of the semester when my wife and I had to move from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Fort Drum, New York," he said. "The fact that I could get to a hotel, stop and login was beneficial."

All of the graduate students say they remain connected to their fellow students and professors through discussion boards and email. Bush said



Bill Bush works full time with Adventures in Missions in Gainesville, Georgia, while he is earning his master's degree in public administration through UNG's online degree program.

he interacts with his online classmates.

"We can go to the discussion boards and type a response," he said.

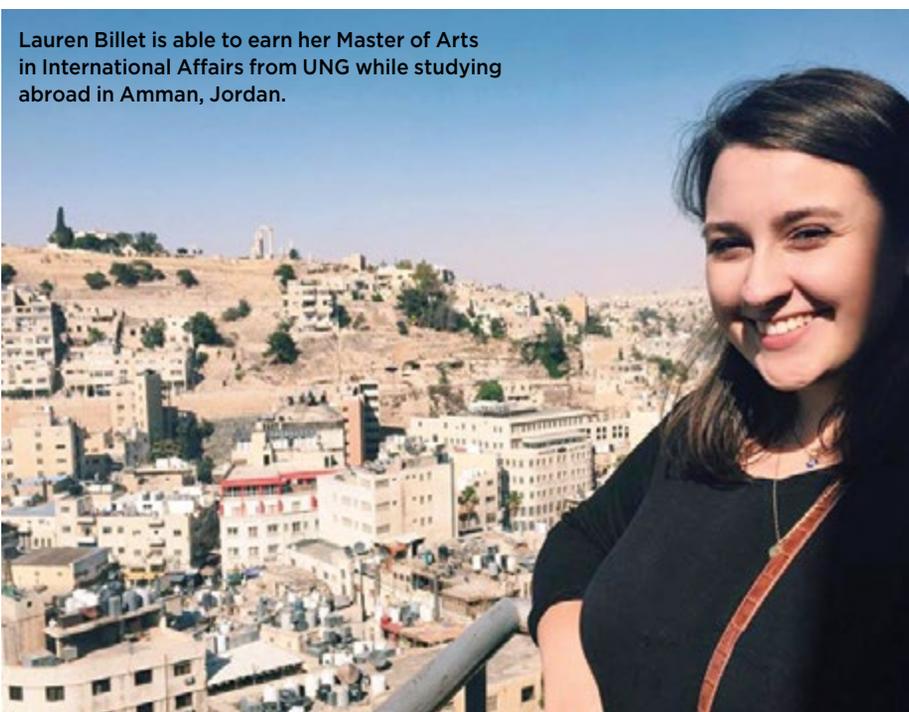
With all of the positive benefits, it is not surprising that UNG is ranked in the top 20 of the best online schools in Georgia, according to The Best Schools website. The organization provides in-depth rankings of degree programs as well as of colleges and universities across many different schools and programs. In its online college rankings, BestSchools.org balances academic

excellence, return on investment and indirect or secondary benefits in evaluating schools or programs.

"In ranking the best online colleges in Georgia, giving attention to the variety of degree programs available at the institutions is of utmost importance," the website said. "In this ranking, we are dedicated to showing who's leading the way in delivering quality online degree programs in Georgia."

UNG is ranked at No. 17, which is higher than Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology, which are ranked No. 20 and No. 21, respectively. The Best Schools acknowledged the diverse graduate degrees and associate degrees offered online as reasons UNG made its list.

Lauren Billet is able to earn her Master of Arts in International Affairs from UNG while studying abroad in Amman, Jordan.



UNG is ranked in the TOP 20 of the best online schools in Georgia

The Best Schools website



UNG Career Center takes leading role in new Junior Achievement Discovery Center

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart

The partnership forged between UNG and Junior Achievement (JA) of Georgia years ago to improve financial literacy and leadership development has grown stronger with the development of a Career Center inside the new Mike and Lynn Cottrell JA Discovery Center at North Georgia, which is only the third JA Discovery Center in the state.

The center opened in August at Forsyth County’s new Alliance Academy for Innovation, which is near UNG’s Cumming Campus. The UNG Career Center takes center stage in the lobby area, where students have an opportunity to explore career options as they enter and depart the Discovery Center. “We felt that we could have the biggest impact on middle-school





students by sponsoring the career center to give students the opportunity to explore different career options and the education programs available at UNG to help them to reach that career goal,” said Dr. Richard Oates, vice president of UNG’s Gainesville Campus.

Lee Highsmith, executive director of the North Georgia District of JA of Georgia, said the center will serve 15,000-plus middle-school students from Forsyth, Hall, Lumpkin, and Dawson counties, along with students from the cities of Gainesville and Calhoun, Georgia.

In the center, sixth-graders will participate in JA BizTown, which teaches the students about

running a business. Eighth-graders will participate in JA Finance Park, which teaches them about personal financial literacy. Before they arrive, students will perform in-class lessons to prepare them, followed by a half-day simulation at the center.

UNG’s Career Center will welcome students with an interactive space that encourages students to ponder their future.

“It gets students thinking about ‘What can I do after high school?’” Oates said, adding the career center is accessible to all. “It will be constantly accessible when the center is open. Students, parents and adults can explore the educational options at UNG and potential career paths.”



UNG alumni are used to highlight career and educational opportunities in the Career Exploration Center inside the Mike and Lynn Cottrell Junior Achievement Discovery Center in Cumming, Georgia.



Best of Both WORLDS

Growth in dual enrollment opens more opportunities

By Edie Rogers
Photos by Peggy Cozart

Every weekday morning, Janet Mendoza rides the school bus from East Hall High School to the Jones Early College campus, where she takes a college English course three days a week. Then, she takes the bus back to East Hall High to finish out her school day.

During fall, Fridays especially are hectic for Mendoza. In addition to her classes both at Jones and East Hall, Mendoza is the clarinet section leader in the East Hall High School Viking Band. After finishing her school day, Friday afternoons are a rush of homework, time with friends and family, and getting ready for the football game.

Before even finishing high school, Mendoza has become the first in her family to attend college thanks to Georgia's dual-enrollment program and UNG.

Janet Mendoza, a current dual-enrolled student at UNG, is the clarinet section leader in the marching band at East Hall High School.

For fall 2017, UNG had the **SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF DUAL-ENROLLED STUDENTS** among all public colleges and universities in Georgia

“One thing that interested me about dual enrollment was the opportunity to get both high school and college credit, with no cost at all,” Mendoza said. “I would tell others considering dual enrollment to do it. You’ll thank yourself later when you don’t have to pay for classes. Plus, you meet so many new people in the process.”

When she graduates from East Hall in May 2020, Mendoza plans to pursue a career as a physical therapist and hopes to do so at UNG. She’ll have a head-start on completing that degree thanks to the credits earned through UNG’s dual enrollment program.

The state’s dual enrollment program provides funding for students at eligible high schools, who meet the academic requirements, to take approved college-level coursework for credit toward both high school and college graduation requirements. During the 2010-11 school year, 1.4 million high school students took courses at colleges and universities nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Education. That’s 10 percent of the entire high school population, and the numbers are growing.

While it’s not the case in every

state, in Georgia dual enrollment is virtually free after state lawmakers three years ago eliminated costs for tuition, fees and textbooks. That and other legislative changes to boost the program have helped fuel a 181 percent increase in the number of dual-enrollment participants since the 2011-12 school year, even though overall high school enrollment only increased 8 percent in that timeframe, according to the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA).

Charles Bell, coordinator for dual enrollment at UNG, said the legislative changes, coupled with the support of Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, have boosted the program at UNG as well.

“One of the things Gov. Deal wanted to do was provide every student with the opportunity to take college classes,” Bell said. “The result is a more educated Georgia, and dual enrollment contributes to that as a key component of the governor’s Complete College Georgia initiative, which seeks to increase the number of Georgians with college credentials.”

“One thing that interested me about dual enrollment was the opportunity to get both high school and college credit, with no cost at all.”

— Janet Mendoza

Mendoza, a first-generation college student, takes a course from UNG at the Jones Early College campus.





In Georgia, improvements to dual enrollment enacted by the state legislature in 2015 have helped fuel a 181 percent increase in the number of participants since the 2011-12 school year, even though high school enrollment only increased 8 percent in that timeframe. In 2015-16, there were 23,693 public school students taking part in dual enrollment in Georgia, according to the Governor's Office of Student Achievement.

The number of dual-enrolled students at UNG has increased fivefold in just five years. In fall 2013, UNG had 253 dual-enrollment students taking 630 courses. In fall 2018, there are 1,249 dual-enrolled students taking 3,168 courses at UNG's five campuses, on-site at two area high schools, or online.

Steady growth in the program at UNG has allowed for the creation of unique aspects that set it apart from other dual-enrollment programs in the state and the nation, and additionally help fuel its popularity.

Jones Early College in Hall County is a collaboration among three area postsecondary institutions, including UNG, for students from six high schools to take courses at one location. The program is the only one of its kind in the nation. Students are bussed from their home campus to the Jones Early College campus in Gainesville, Georgia, where they attend five days a week, even when their college classes aren't scheduled to meet, and then back at the end of the school day. The on-site students have the rights and privileges of a college student, with the added benefits of provided transportation, tutoring, field trips, and guest speakers, Bell said. The model is advantageous for students who may not have transportation and for those who aren't ready to trade the familiar high school halls for a college campus.

"Dual enrollment is meant to transition students between high school and college, and early college does this, but gives even more support. So those students who may not have been quite ready to leave campus, it builds their self-esteem and their responsibility level so that when they do go to college, they are fully aware of

what you need to be a college student," Bell said.

UNG has created a second, on-site, dual-enrollment opportunity in Jackson County, where students from East Jackson Comprehensive, Jackson County Comprehensive and Commerce high schools all take courses from UNG faculty on the East Jackson campus.

The ability to participate in college life isn't just reserved for the on-site dual enrollees; all dual-enrolled students at UNG are given access to student support services, activities and events. Other than a few age-related restrictions, such as joining fraternities or sororities, living in residence halls or participating in NCAA sports, dual-enrolled students at UNG are encouraged to participate fully in the college experience.

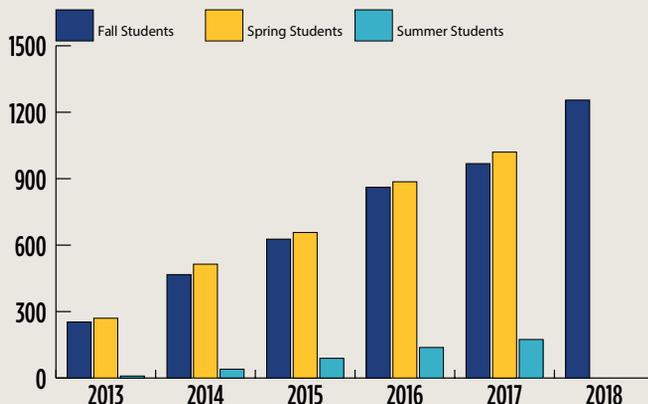
"That's one thing that we do that a lot of schools don't—we give them the total freedom to be a college student. It's part of being a college student, and we want to give them the best experience possible," Bell said. "One of the biggest things about student retention is being invested in college and how do you become invested? Great teaching, great advising, great services, yes, but they also have to feel part of the campus. So, one of the great things about UNG's dual-enrollment program is that they can participate."

Though departments and offices across



Charles Bell, coordinator for dual enrollment

UNG Dual Enrollment



Popularity of dual enrolled growing at UNG

Changes by the Georgia legislature made dual enrollment virtually free and have contributed to the steady growth in the program at UNG. Starting with just 253 dual-enrolled students taking 630 courses in fall 2013, that number has grown exponentially. Steady growth in the program has helped UNG create unique aspects of the dual-enrollment program that set it apart from other programs in the state and the nation.

UNG coordinate to support dual enrollment, the program is housed within academic advising. Bell explained that the dual-enrollment adviser on each UNG campus is the most experienced academic adviser on that campus. Further, the role they play is not prescriptive where they tell students what to do and which courses to take; it's a partnership between adviser and student that is designed to be developmental. It includes creating plans of study, visits to UNG's Office of Career Services and an open-door policy by the adviser.

Albert Bis of Gainesville, who graduated from Johnson High School in Hall County, said those considering dual-enrollment at UNG should rest assured that a great support network is available to help them.

"My advice to high school students who are considering dual enrollment is not to be afraid of it. The support structure in college, at least at UNG, is fantastic, so you shouldn't fear the difficulty of any courses," said Bis, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at UNG and plans to earn a master's and possibly a doctorate.

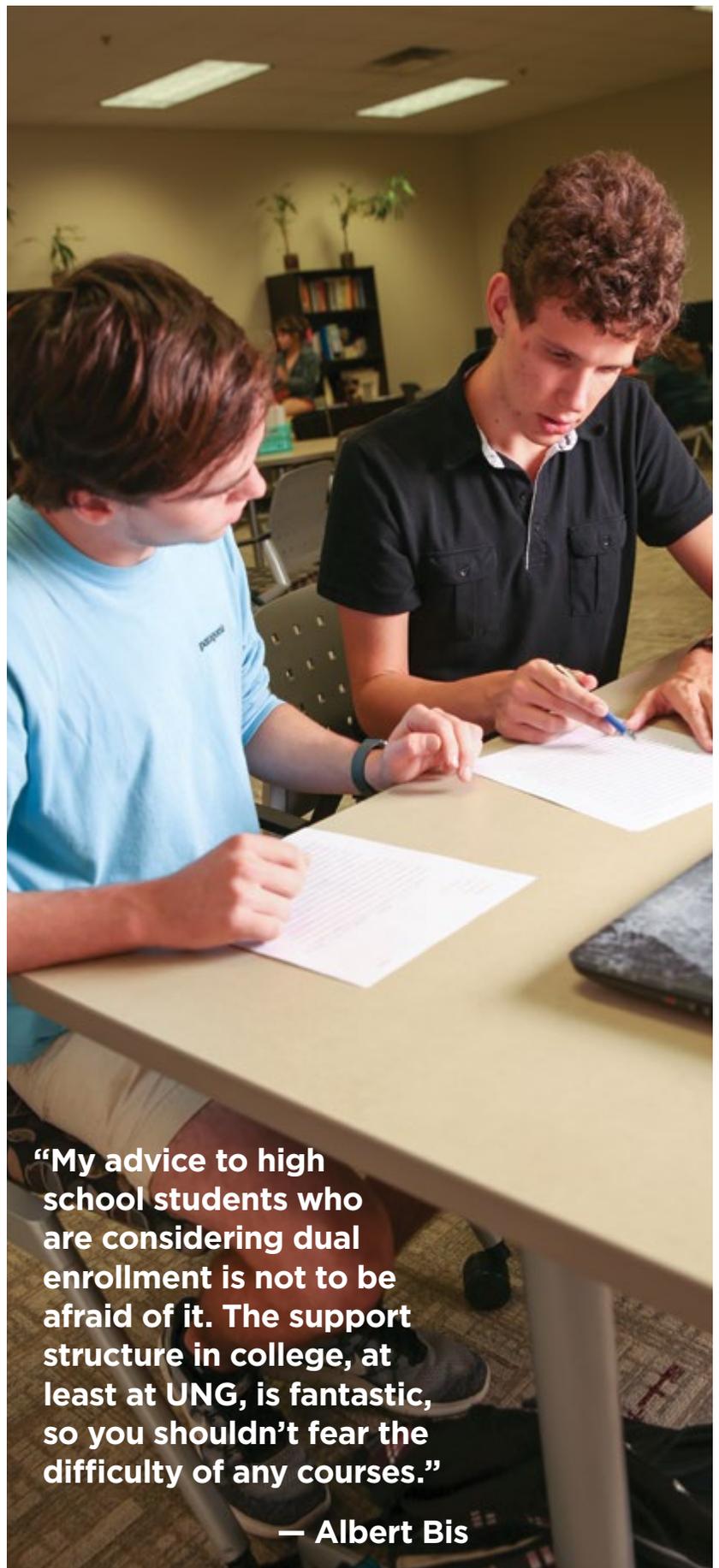
Bell said that's the idea.

"You're developing the whole character of the student, and you both share responsibility in developing that. You're trying to get them to realize their life goals; not just take random classes, but take classes that will benefit them, that will help them, that will stretch them," Bell said. "Sometimes when you're 15 or 16, you really don't know who you are and being in college really forces them to think about 'Where do I want to go in life?'"

Like Bis, who wants to land a spot in upper management at a major corporation or start his own business, some former and current dual-enrollment students at UNG have lofty goals for where they want to go in life.

Samhitha Dasari of Cumming, Georgia, who in May 2018 earned an associate degree in psychology at UNG three weeks before graduating from South Forsyth High School, is enrolled at the University of Toledo in the Bacc2MD program—an eight-year combined bachelor's and Doctor of Medicine program.

"I liked that I was able to have an associate degree before entering college and I also liked that I had the experience of attending college, compared to my peers," Dasari said. "I think dual enrollment is a wonderful opportunity and I believe more people should look into this opportunity."



"My advice to high school students who are considering dual enrollment is not to be afraid of it. The support structure in college, at least at UNG, is fantastic, so you shouldn't fear the difficulty of any courses."

— Albert Bis



“I’m very thankful that this program exists, and that the people who pay their taxes would allow me and others to receive a college education,”

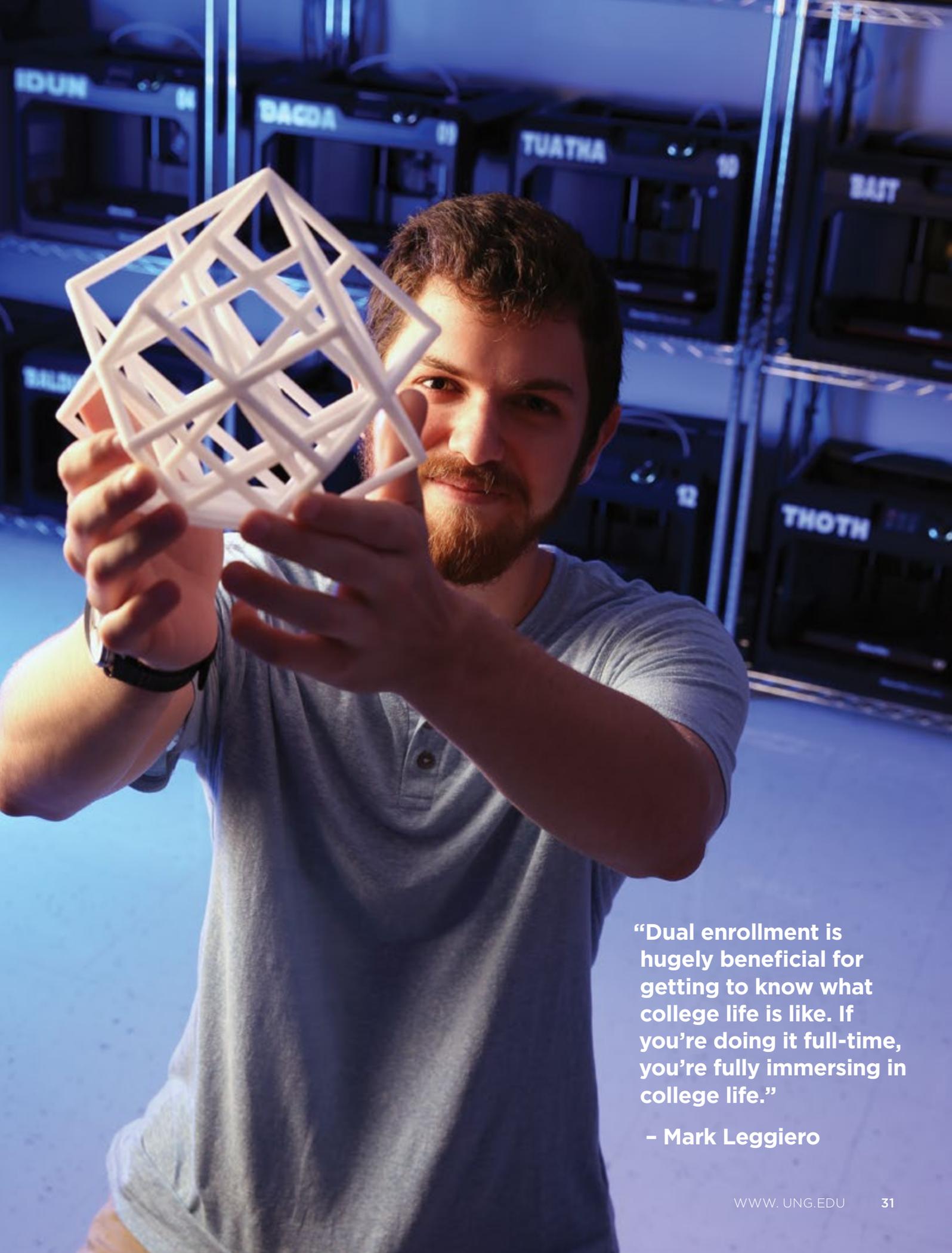
— Samantha Spinaci

Samantha Spinaci, also of Cumming, entered UNG this fall as an 18-year-old junior with an associate degree under her belt. She’s studying journalism at UNG with hopes someday to become an anchor on “Good Morning America.” Spinaci, whose father is from Ethiopia and mother grew up in Brazil, started dual enrollment at age 15 when she learned that her high school, West Forsyth, offered dual-enrollment courses at UNG. She was among the first to sign up, seeking to gain some independence and save money.

“I’m very thankful that this program exists, and that the people who pay their taxes would allow me and others to receive a college education,” Spinaci said. “To be able to advance to a bachelor’s degree at literally no cost is a blessing.”

Mark Leggiero of Braselton, Georgia, graduated from Winder-Barrow High School in spring and took 33 hours of dual-enrollment courses at UNG’s Gainesville Campus. Part of what drew him to UNG was the unique opportunity to pursue a dual degree in engineering and physics.

“I was dual-enrolled full-time during my senior year in high school, so keeping the UNG classes consistent was an easy choice,” Leggiero said, adding that coming in as a sophomore turns his five-year dual degree program into a four-year program that he hopes to complete by 2022. “Dual enrollment is hugely beneficial for getting to know what college life is like. You’re just in class with everyone else as a regular college student and everyone assumes you’re a regular college student. If you’re doing it full-time, you’re fully immersing in college life.”



“Dual enrollment is hugely beneficial for getting to know what college life is like. If you’re doing it full-time, you’re fully immersing in college life.”

– Mark Leggiero

Children's book celebrates history of Dahlonega Campus

UNG President Bonita Jacobs has written the first in a series of children's books that will feature each of the university's five campuses.

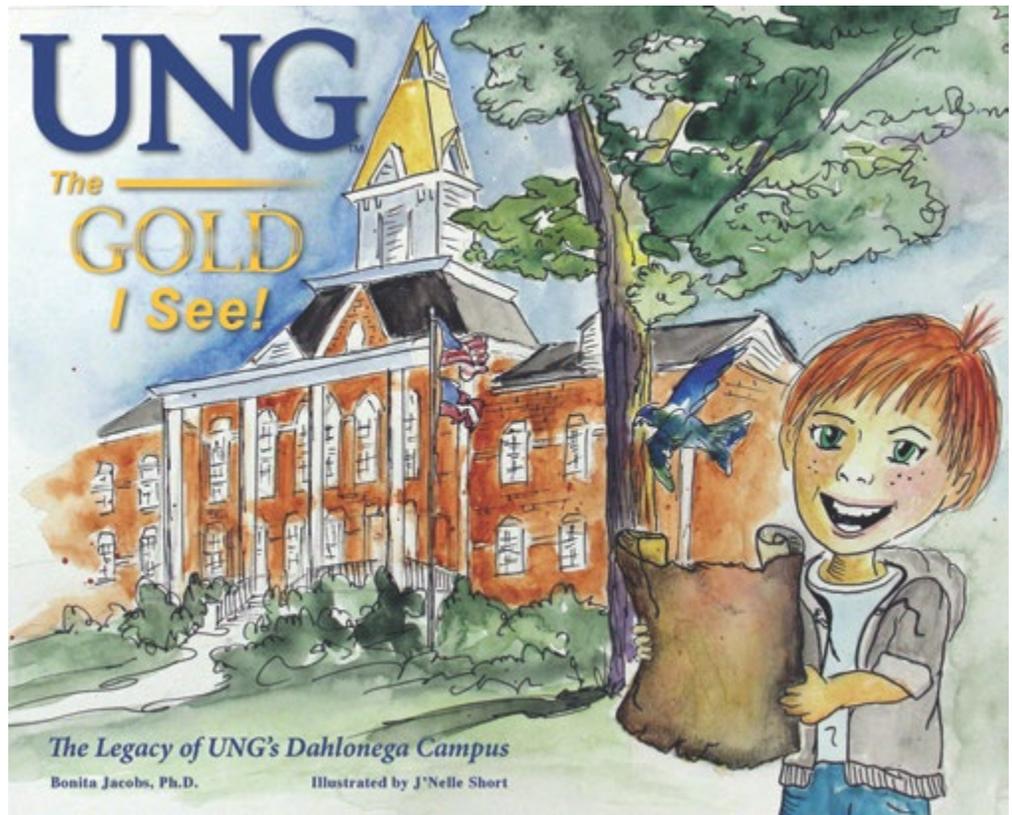
Published by UNG Press, "UNG The Gold I See: The Legacy of UNG's Dahlonega Campus," tells the story of a young boy and his family during their visit to the campus.

"UNG The Gold I See" engages readers of all ages through its multi-generational main characters. Benjamin Brown, daughter Jamie, and grandson Tommy each have a different goal during Visitors Day at the Dahlonega Campus.

The grandfather wants to recall the memories of his years in the Corps of Cadets, while Tommy's mother wants to remember her years in UNG's nursing program. Tommy wants to find the legendary treasure: the gold hidden somewhere on campus. He has Nigel the Nighthawk, UNG's mascot, and a treasure map to guide him; his grandfather and mother have their memories.

"UNG The Gold I See" is the first in a series about the five UNG campuses: Dahlonega, Gainesville, Cumming, Oconee, and Blue Ridge. The book about Gainesville campus is already in development and will release in 2019.

Among her many initiatives at UNG, Jacobs' scholarship support for students has been a major priority. Her inauguration in 2013 was celebrated with the first Scholarship Gala, which has become an annual event. In



creating these children's books, Jacobs said it was important that 100 percent of the retail price goes to scholarships for UNG students.

"UNG's Dahlonega Campus was established in 1873 and has a rich history punctuated by its military emphasis and filled with tradition," Jacobs said. "The book is an attempt to illustrate the campus' uniqueness, document campus traditions, and to provide friends and alumni an opportunity to share the history with their children and grandchildren. It was important to me that all proceeds support scholarships and assist future students who will continue adding to our rich heritage. I look forward to working on similar projects highlighting UNG's other campuses in the future."

The hardback book is priced at \$29.99 and will be released in late November. Look for pre-order information at <https://ung.edu/university-press/books/ung-the-gold-i-see.php>. It is printed in color with illustrations on every page and designed

for Level 4 readers. In addition to the captivating story and images, children will delight in trying to find the hidden Nighthawks as they tour the Dahlonega Campus with the Brown family. A history of UNG is included after the story so parents and grandparents can share more details and history.

Jacobs, the 17th president of UNG, took office in July 2011 as only the second woman to lead one of the country's six senior military colleges. In 2014, Jacobs was named as one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians" by Georgia Trend magazine. She has also been recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of the "Top Education Leaders in Atlanta" and as one of its "Women Who Mean Business".

The book also provided an opportunity for Jacobs to collaborate with her sister, J'Nelle Short, who illustrated the book. Short has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Stephen F. Austin University and is an accomplished artist who has taught art for more than 30 years, including being named "Teacher of the Year" six times.

Faulkner chairs UNG Foundation, new trustees added to board

“Privileged” and “honored” is how Dr. Mark Spraker and Jack Elrod felt when asked to become the newest members of UNG’s Foundation Board of Trustees this fall.

“I was very proud and North Georgia is a unique university, which has progressed throughout the years,” Elrod said. “As a trustee, it is my responsibility to make sure the leadership of the school has the necessary funding to carry out its mission and maintain the facilities in the school.”

Spraker said he can provide the board the faculty’s perspective while UNG Alumni Association President Jim Melton can share his business expertise and support from alumni.

Elrod, Spraker, Melton, and Glennis Barnes are the new members of UNG’s Foundation Board of Trustees. Current member James “Jimmy” Faulkner is the new chairman, replacing Mary Helen McGruder.



Jimmy Faulkner

Faulkner has had more than 40 years of experience in the banking industry and previously served on the BB&T Financial Corporation Board of Directors.

Faulkner also has been a chairman for several organizations such as North Georgia Interfaith Ministries Inc., Lumpkin County Hospital Authority, Georgia Mountains Economic Development Corp., Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce, Community Helping Place, Achasta, UNG Foundation, and UNG Real Estate Foundation.



Glennis Barnes

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Barnes earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing from Jackson State University, and a Master in Business Administration from William Carey University.

Barnes currently serves as the Gainesville, Georgia, area manager for Georgia Power with responsibility for Hall, Dawson, Lumpkin, and White counties.

He also serves on the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce executive board, Junior Achievement board, and the Gainesville Hall Development Authority.



Jack Elrod '73

Elrod graduated from UNG with a Bachelor in Business Administration in 1973 and served in the Corps of Cadets from 1969-73.

He has held board positions on the Metal Service Center Institute, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a number of company-related boards.

Elrod and his wife plan to move to Hilton Head, South Carolina, as he serves on UNG’s Board of Trustees for the second time.



Jim Melton '66

Melton graduated from UNG in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in physics before earning a Master of Science in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech. His wife, Sandy, is also an alumnus of UNG, graduating in 1967. Their children, Heather and Jay, followed suit by graduating from UNG in 1992 and 1996, respectively. Melton’s brother and sister-in-law also claim UNG as

their alma mater.

Melton and his wife live in Cumming, Georgia. As president of the UNG Alumni Association he serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees.



Mark Spraker

A native of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Spraker is a professor of physics at UNG with expertise in nuclear physics. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and physics from Middle Tennessee State University, and earned his master’s and doctorate degrees in physics from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

He is a member of the American Physical Society, Division of Nuclear Physics, APS Forum on Physics and Society, American Association of Physics Teachers, two national honor societies and one leadership honor society.

Where I Lead: Helping students be best version of themselves

BIO

STEPHEN PRUITT, '91, became president of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in July after previously serving as education commissioner in Kentucky. Pruitt also served as senior vice president at Achieve Inc. for five years, focusing on Next Generation Science Standards.





What made you want to go into the education field?

I'm a third-generation educator. I think I was a little bit in denial about what I felt like I needed to be or do at first. As time went on, it just became clear that my home and my heart are in education and it's where I needed to go.

Q: How did UNG prepare you for your career in education?

I went to North Georgia in my junior year, and there were things that I got to do there that I would not have gotten an opportunity to do at other schools, especially bigger schools. Tom Davis was my adviser, and he was also the chair of the chemistry department. He gave me opportunities to learn things about chemistry but also education that I don't think were typical in a chemistry department.

(Physical chemistry professor) Dr. Tom Richardson would come in and sit in my class by invitation and give me incredible feedback about my presentation, about how I would interact with my students, about how I would say things in chemistry to make sure it was completely chemically correct. It really spoke to University of North Georgia's focus on developing educators, whether you were in the education college or the sciences college. There was just a commitment to developing good educators. To this day, even when I'm presenting to a group of 300 people, there were little things he showed me that I still try to do.

Q: What is your most meaningful accomplishment in your education career?

I was a classroom teacher. I'm proud of Next Generation Science Standards, I'm proud of having been the commissioner of education in Kentucky, and I'm certainly proud to be the president of Southern Regional Education Board, but the thing that made me who I am is the 12 years spent in a high school classroom in Georgia.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing education today?

Opportunity and access for each child. The thing that continues to face us is providing an equitable education for each child, and it goes beyond just the achievement gap everybody talks about. It's really about ensuring that each child has an opportunity to be the best version of themselves. If we can ever figure out how to crack that nut, I think we're going to see our economy, our country and the states in SREB take off in an incredible way because our kids will have meaningful, enriching and contributing lives.



By Clark Leonard
Photos by Peggy Cozart

Breaking ground on new Blue Ridge Campus



Todd Bermann, UNG director of capital planning and project management, and Charles 'Skipper' Bryant, manager of landscape and grounds for the Blue Ridge and Dahlonega campuses, visit the future site of the new Blue Ridge Campus.

UNG broke ground this fall on a new standalone Blue Ridge Campus on the heels of exponential growth.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Oct. 17, with numerous officials in attendance, including Speaker of the House David Ralston, a UNG alumnus who represents Fannin County in the legislature and supported funding for the campus.

The campus has experienced 700 percent growth since its opening in 2015, reaching almost 160 students this fall. Blue Ridge Campus Director Sandy Ott is looking forward to moving into the new space once it opens.

"This is going to be a game-changer for this region," Ott said. "It demonstrates the access mission of UNG and provides students

Rep. David Ralston and Sen. Steve Gooch helped secure the funding for the future facility located off Ga. 515.



with the opportunity to pursue a college education from one of the state's leading public universities close to home."

Ott said the new campus, which received \$5.5 million in the state's fiscal year 2019 budget, will allow for additional courses in the core curriculum. That means students will be able to spend a longer portion of their college career at the Blue Ridge Campus.

The new campus will have classrooms and labs that support courses that meet the requirements for an associate degree, preparing students to transfer to another UNG campus to complete their bachelor's degree. UNG will expand professional and continuing education offerings to the area in the future at the new campus.

The building will be located off Ga. 515, easily accessible for Towns, Union, Fannin, and Gilmer counties.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and Ralston announced funding for the new campus in spring 2018. Funds for the new campus are part of the \$26 billion state budget Deal signed.

"We appreciate and are grateful to the support we have received from the state legislature," UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs said. "We are elated at this opportunity and know the educational impact UNG will have on this region will be felt in Fannin County and throughout this region for generations."

Ott can sense the anticipation building for the campus, which is projected to open in fall 2020 on the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Blue Ridge Campus, which stemmed from the commitment by UNG, the community, and school systems to expand access to educational opportunities in the region.

"We know that increased educational opportunities have a ripple effect in the lives of students and their families, as well as the community and employers, who will benefit from a strong workforce and economic opportunities," Ott said. "We are excited to grow with this community and be a part of it for generations to come."

FUTURE HOME OF THE
UNG
UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA™
BLUE RIDGE CAMPUS

UNG received \$5.5 million in state funds to build a new campus in Blue Ridge.



Moving the needle to fill healthcare jobs

By Clark Leonard
Photos by Peggy Cozart

From the Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) Summit to a pair of new degrees, hosting post-professional Doctor of Physical Therapy (ppDPT) students from overseas and partnerships across the healthcare industry, the College of Health Sciences & Professions at UNG is preparing students to fill one of Georgia's fastest-growing career fields.

Titled "Not Everyone in Healthcare Wears Scrubs," the Sept. 6 REED Summit at the Convocation Center on UNG's Dahlonega Campus sought to show the wide variety of jobs

available in healthcare to the northeast Georgia community.

Next year, two UNG degree programs will help educate students to stem the shortage of healthcare professionals in Georgia and nationally. In May, the university received University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents approval for a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approval is pending. Then, in August, the Board of Regents approved a bachelor's degree in healthcare services and informatics administration.

BY THE #S



In the South, the projected shortage is some 13,860 primary care physicians.

Georgia has only 60% of needed primary care providers



900+ UNG nursing students are doing their clinical rotations in Georgia

700 of those students are at Northeast Georgia Health System



Student Victoria Chin-Young works during a graduate-level nursing class at UNG, which has received Board of Regents approval for a Doctor of Nursing Practice. Approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is pending.

CONTINUING TO EDUCATE NURSES

Dr. Teresa Conner-Kerr, dean of UNG's College of Health Sciences & Professions, said with the Master of Science in Nursing Practice being eliminated and the DNP becoming an industry standard, the new degree is crucial to UNG's efforts.

"This really allows us to continue to educate nurses," Conner-Kerr said.

At the national level, Conner-Kerr said a need exists for 2 million more nurses. By providing the DNP, UNG is training faculty to increase the number of nurses with bachelor's degrees.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services projects that the shortage of primary care physicians will reach an all-time high in 2025. In the South, the projected shortage is some 13,860 primary care physicians. In Georgia, the 2016 Kaiser Family Foundation report indicates the state only has 60 percent of needed primary care providers, and Georgia is ranked 39th in the nation in the ratio of doctors per 100,000 people.

"It's hugely exciting for us to know that we're going to be able to shift the needle on providing faculty, as well as providing care

in Georgia," Conner-Kerr said.

Currently, more than 900 UNG nursing students are doing their clinical rotations, with more than 700 of those students at Northeast Georgia Health System, Northside and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta facilities.

Dr. Sharon Chalmers, head of the Department of Nursing, said the DNP program will help fulfill a critical need for healthcare in the region.

"The Appalachian north Georgia region is made up of rural counties and populations with many unmet healthcare needs," Chalmers said. "Students in our DNP program will have opportunities to serve these residents by implementing strategies to address their healthcare needs at a system level."

The DNP degree is open to graduates who have earned a master's degree in nurse practitioner. The 38-hour post-master's program will be offered online with two required face-to-face sessions and also will require the completion of an additional 500 hours of clinical practice beyond the master's degree requirements as part of the DNP work.



BRIDGING THE HEALTH INFORMATION GAP

The healthcare services and informatics administration degree seeks to bridge the gap between medical and information technology (IT) professionals, said Dr. Pamela Charney, a UNG associate professor who will be the program chair for the new degree.

“Right now both sides speak entirely different languages, and that’s why we have so many problems with healthcare information,” Charney said.

The degree will be offered through a mix of in-person and online classes and will be based on UNG’s Cumming Campus potentially by spring 2019.

It will meet a major workforce need, as Conner-Kerr said 5,500 such jobs are currently unfilled in Georgia.

Three classes that will be central to what students take from the healthcare services and informatics administration degree will be electronic health records essentials, usability and healthcare data analytics.

Conner-Kerr said four pathways will be offered within the degree: data analytics, consumer health, healthcare administration, and destination medicine. Students will be able to select one or two main pathways while having the

chance to learn from pieces of the others.

“This is a very innovative, entrepreneurial degree,” Conner-Kerr said.

Another vital component of the program will teach students how to protect patients’ health information in an era when health information has become more valuable than financial information, Charney said. She said stolen health information can be used for Medicare fraud or to access the person’s health insurance.

UNG currently has certificate programs in health informatics and health care administration, which will become part of the bachelor’s degree. This will allow the students pursuing the certificates to further their education.

Conner-Kerr said this will be a degree that’s responsive to students’ and employers’ needs.

“It certainly is going to allow our students to have jobs,” she said.



5,500 healthcare jobs are currently unfilled in Georgia.

INNOVATIVE TOOLS, NEW FACILITIES

Another resource available at UNG that will help train students is the AllCore360°, a \$40,000 innovative machine that helps a variety of patients gain strength by activating their muscles in sequence as they are rotated 360 degrees. Alltrand, the machine's manufacturer, has provided the equipment at no cost for UNG's physical therapy faculty and students to use for research and testing.

"It's exciting to be the first program in the state that Alltrand wants to partner with," Conner-Kerr said.

Another important development for the College of Health Sciences & Professions is UNG's eventual acquisition of the

Chestatee Regional Hospital property in Dahlonega.

While UNG will not occupy the space for the next couple of years, UNG President Bonita Jacobs said the facility could potentially house nursing, physical therapy, and counseling education programs, as well as two existing outreach clinics from the counseling and physical therapy departments that are designed to serve specialized health needs of the community.

"We are very grateful to Gov. Nathan Deal, Sen. Steve Gooch and the Board of Regents for their leadership in facilitating this purchase that will ensure healthcare for this rural community long-term, while also improving healthcare education opportunities," Jacobs said.



UNG assistant professor Michael Polascik helps Erin Hagebusch, a senior cadet majoring in nursing, exercise on the AllCore360°, a machine that helps patients gain strength by activating their muscles in sequence as they are rotated 360 degrees.

REED SUMMIT

Connecting students with healthcare industry professionals

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart

As a UNG freshman, Halee Stone knows she wants to work in the healthcare field, but is not sure which profession to pursue within the industry.

To find a possible answer, the Ellijay, Georgia, resident attended the inaugural Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) Summit held this fall at the Convocation Center on UNG's Dahlonega Campus. Presented in partnership with Northeast Georgia Health System, the REED Summit connected prospective and current college students who want to work in the healthcare industry with an array of career opportunities in that field and exposed

them to educational pathways and industry professionals.

That worked for Stone. She met with a representative from Avita Community Partners, which has facilities in Dahlonega and Gainesville. Avita is a resource for individuals and families in northeast Georgia experiencing the disabling effects of mental illness, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases. Its goal is to assist in the development of safe, stable and meaningful lives for all.

Stone said she mentioned her desire to possibly earn a degree in music therapy. Allan Harden, human resources director for Avita, explained one of his licensed counselors has incorporated music therapy into a treatment. It was music to Stone's ears.

"I thought, 'Wow!' this is the perfect information that I need to hear," she said. "So, coming (to the REED Summit) definitely helped me narrow down my career options."

Stone was not alone. College and high school students as well as professionals in the healthcare field benefitted from the REED Summit. Vendors and sponsors introduced students to many future career opportunities.

The REED Summit included speakers from the private and public healthcare industry as well as panel discussions from experts. Other speakers and panelists included Frank Berry,

Students from Lumpkin County High School attended the REED Summit to learn about the future of healthcare in Georgia.



UNG's inaugural REED Summit connected prospective and current college students with career opportunities and industry professionals.



commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health; Ben Hames, deputy commissioner of workforce for the Georgia Department of Economic Development; and Amy Carter, deputy commissioner of rural Georgia for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Also, Joel Simon, with the national Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, spoke about how partnerships between industry and educational institutions can improve opportunities for students, such as providing educational credit for prior experience, and enhance community prosperity.

The summit stems from the UNG's REED Initiative, which was launched by UNG President Bonita Jacobs as part of the university's Complete College Georgia Plan. The initiative's aim is to build collaborations and share successful community practices to increase education attainment across the northeast Georgia region and strengthen the region's economy.

Kay Keller, director of economic development and community engagement at UNG, said future summits will focus on other high-demand career opportunities and industries that have a significant economic impact in northeast Georgia.



CLASSNOTES

1930s

1960s



Maj. Gen. George M. Johnson, Jr., '38, retired U.S. Air Force, is still going strong at 100. He has experienced the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Fireside Chat, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, America's first man on the moon, the advent of television, computers and cellular phones, and 18 presidents beginning with Woodrow Wilson. He attended UNG and earned an associate degree. He later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from George Washington University. After a career in the Air Force, he retired in 1975. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying

Lawrence (Larry) Young, '64, is the 2018 recipient of the Sen. William Proxmire (Wisconsin) Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given by the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers for many years of distinguished accomplishments and contributions to the practice of consumer financial services law.

Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre.

1980s

1990s

John C. Prosch, '80 and '82, was recognized in March for 35 years of active service to the federal government. He is a program manager at the Pentagon in the Department of the Army's G8 staff. Prior to joining civil service, he served 20 years of active duty in the Army, medically retiring in 1998 from combat related injuries in Desert Storm and Somalia. Prosch is also a life member of the UNG Alumni Association.



Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Fogarty, '83, has been promoted to the three-star rank of lieutenant general and is the new commanding general of U.S. Army Cyber Command in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Fogarty earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from UNG and commissioned as a second lieutenant in military intelligence in 1983. Fogarty previously served as chief of staff for U.S. Cyber Command at Fort Meade, Maryland, and before that commanded the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia.

The U.S. Army will be moving Cyber Command headquarters to a new facility located at Fort Gordon that is estimated to be completed in 2020.

Dr. Jeff Payne, '90, has been named to the Board of Governors of the George L. Smith II World Congress Center Authority.



Gov. Nathan Deal appointed Payne, who is owner of North Georgia Eye Clinic in Gainesville, Georgia. Payne is also president of the Georgia Society of Ophthalmology, a trustee of the UNG Foundation and a trustee for Lakeview Academy. He graduated from UNG with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia, where he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree.



Rep. Kevin Tanner, '95, received the Georgia Chamber's House Legislator of the Year Award. As chairman of the House Transportation Committee, Tanner, R-Dawsonville,

Georgia, spearheaded passage of a bill creating a regional transit agency for metro Atlanta and setting up a process for metro counties to propose to their voter's sales tax increases to finance transit projects in their communities.

Col. Josh Fulmer, '96, is relocating to Fort Gordon near Augusta, Georgia, where he will transition into a brigadier commander in charge of more than 1,000 soldiers and civilian employees. He graduated from Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 2008 and received a Master in Business Administration from Benedictine College. He works at the Pentagon as an intelligence officer for the Department of Army Senior Intelligence. Prior to serving at the Pentagon, Fulmer spent two years of study at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.



Dr. Tavaraz Holston, '98, has been appointed the new president of Georgia Piedmont Technical College. He previously served as the vice president of academic affairs as well

as the vice president for adult education at Lanier Technical College. Holston earned a doctorate in education from Valdosta State University, a master's in management from Troy University and a bachelor's in business administration from UNG.

2000s



Scott Justus, '00, has been appointed by Gov. Nathan Deal to the Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission Board. He is the assistant superintendent of White County Schools and has more than two decades of experience in education as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, athletic director, and principal in Hall County. Justus earned a

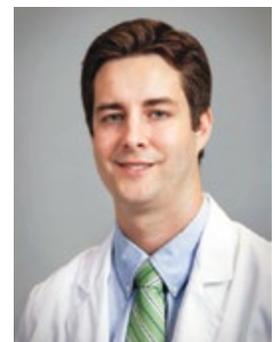
bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Georgia Southwestern State University, a master's degree in health and physical education from UNG, and a specialist degree in leadership from Lincoln Memorial University.

Andrew Ainslie III, '02, vice president and commercial lender at the Bank of Madison, has been elected by his peers in the state as president-elect of the Leadership Georgia Bankers Association (GBA) Executive Committee. Ainslie was in the Corps of Cadets at UNG, where he received his bachelor's degree in finance in 2002. He is also a 2005 graduate of GBA's Georgia Banking School in Athens, Georgia.



Mike Wood, '05, is set to be the next prosecuting attorney in Lincoln County, Missouri. He began his college career on an academic scholarship at UNG. After earning his law degree at the University of Tulsa, Wood served as assistant prosecutor in Lincoln County.

Dr. Zach Balest, '08, recently completed his ophthalmology residency at Emory University and has joined the staff of Gainesville Eye Associates. He will handle cataract and refractive surgery, medical and surgical management of glaucoma and diabetic eye care. A graduate of UNG with a Bachelor of Science degree, he is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and Georgia Society of Ophthalmology.



2000s



Krista Buchanan, '16, has been selected as one of 24 Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows for 2018 by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The highly competitive program recruits recent graduates and career changers with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and math and prepares them specifically

to teach in high-need secondary schools. Buchanan received a Bachelor of Science degree from UNG and is currently pursuing her master's degree at Mercer University.

Greg Thompson, '16, was named the new assistant principal for Morgan County High School. Thompson has a 20-year education career, with 14 years in Morgan County. He was awarded an Ed.S. in leadership from Georgia College and State University (GCSU) in July 2018, earned a master's degree in education from UNG and bachelor's degrees in psychology and health and physical education from GCSU.



Aneta Galazka, '18, has been selected as one of 24 Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellows for 2018 by The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Each fellow receives \$30,000 to complete a specially designed, cutting-edge master's degree program based on a yearlong classroom

experience. Galazka is currently pursuing her master's degree at Georgia State University.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Joel McDonald Adams, '62
September 2, 2018

Earnest Richard Archer, '58
August 15, 2018

Edward J. Austin, '42
May 28, 2018

Edward Tarver Averett, '62
August 14, 2018

Irish Elaine Blackburn, '45
June 17, 2018

James Welton Booth, '48
August 22, 2018

David Eugene Boozer, '62
September 16, 2018

Barbara Lynette Callaway, '63
May 24, 2018

William Nathaniel Cannon, '48
May 10, 2018

Margo Joyce Coleman, '61
July 16, 2018

Martin C. Cozart, '59
April 22, 2018

Carlton Theodore Crowe, '58
May 6, 2018

Floyd Deen, '59
May 15, 2018

William Keith Echols, '69
June 6, 2018

Marcella Henson Foster, '64
July 11, 2018

Claude Casey Fox, '59
September 15, 2018

Howard William Hall, '44
April 15, 2018

Billy S. Hardman, '39
July 31, 2018

Vince Lee Hardy, '16
May 23, 2018

Margaret Sarah Hicks, '08
April 29, 2018

Sela C. Hobby, '80
August 3, 2018

Joseph Walker Huff, '60
August 26, 2018

Ann Woolsey Jackson, '45
June 17, 2018

Jack Walton Jarrett, '56
June 28, 2018

Sondra Norene Jones, '84
May 16, 2018

Harry Crawford King, '68
September 8, 2018

Pauline Langston, '54
April 30, 2018

Mary Louise Mack, '43
April 21, 2018

Charles Y. Massey, '44
September 13, 2018

Louise E. McGowan, '49
August 3, 2018

George Ellis Mills, '51
August 12, 2018

Edward David Morton, '69
May 26, 2018

Paulette Pafford, '70
July 14, 2018

Shirley A. Phillips, '51
August 30, 2018

Nolan E. Ragsdale, '40
April 15, 2018

Richard Garland Reyna, '72
July 28, 2018

Stanley R. Rockett, '67
June 10, 2018

Hugh Alonzo Sawyer, '54
August 9, 2018

Loudean Seabolt, '55
September 18, 2018

Mary Louise Searcy, '58
June 19, 2018

Randall Maurice Shoemake, '96
August 3, 2018

Buck Barrett Smith, '07
August 10, 2018

Laura Chambers Steen, '99
August 26, 2018

Richard M. Torrance, '67
June 17, 2018

Heather Nicole Turner, '04
August 27, 2018

Larry Dean Walker, '94
September 15, 2018

Teresa Ann Watterson, '18
April 5, 2018

Albert Hunter White, '04
July 11, 2018

Mildred Stewart Whittaker, '85
September 21, 2018

Beverly C. Wilson, '58
June 12, 2018

Miriam Wooten, '57
May 22, 2018

Virginia Gayle Wren, '67
May 17, 2018

Faculty, Staff
and Friends

Marjorie Justus Clark
July 4, 2018

Dave Devenny
July 22, 2018

Connie Kanaday
June 6, 2018

William Lee Rogers
July 4, 2018

Joyce G. Sutton
June 2, 2018

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

Friends are FOREVER

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

James Henry “Hoss” Matthews, ’51, served the U.S. Army, including a tour of duty overseas in Korea. He was an expert marksman and earned the Army’s Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge. Beginning in 1993, Hoss and lifelong friend Armor H. Reece, ’53, initiated efforts to form the UNG alumni group Friends are Forever. The organization’s purpose was to bring alumni together to share fellowship founded on North Georgia pride.

The Friends are Forever group had been meeting for close to 10 years before George Thurmond, ’56, started attending. The core group graduated from the classes of 1950 to 1952 and many are veterans of the Korean War. “One year, we had a table of eight. One was a four-star general, one was a two-star, one a one-star and the rest of us were O6s, that doesn’t happen very often,” Thurmond recalled. “The brotherhood and bond is really unique, we were all very competitive and we did our best all the time, there are no slackers among us.”

Helping cadets has always come naturally to the Friends are Forever group. With Matthews’ initiative, they would collect funds to support the Corps of Cadets at UNG. They first decided to give leather belts to senior cadets. Then, they noticed that sabers were not provided by state funds, so they would offer cadets engraved sabers with names of members of Friends are Forever who had departed.

When Matthews passed away, Thurmond made sure the group would continue to meet. Hoss left an email list, four sabers and a checking account with



Hoss Matthews, '51



“Friends are Forever original members have friendships that span over 65 years. My hope is that each recipient will realize they are now part of an elite group. Perhaps when recipients learn the history behind Friends are Forever, they too will value the importance of having friendships that last a lifetime.”

Neal Matthews,
Hoss Matthews’ son



\$4,000 from those informal fundraisers. “When I started, I tried to find the pattern that Hoss had for scheduling luncheons, only to find out that there was no pattern, he would host events as the spirit moved him,” Thurmond said.

Thurmond decided to engrave the

remaining sabers with the names of four-star Gen. William J. Livsey, Col. Benjamin H. Purcell, and Company Commander Lamar T. Oxford – whose brother still attends the luncheons. The last saber was engraved with Matthews’ name. His saber, as petitioned by ret. Col. James T. Palmer, commandant of cadets at UNG, was encased and is kept in a display case in the Pennington Military Leadership Center at the Dahlonega Campus.

When Neal Matthews, Hoss Matthews’ son, started a scholarship in honor of his father, the Friends are Forever group unanimously decided to use the \$4,000 that had been collected by Hoss to kick off the fundraising efforts. Two years later, the fund has raised more than \$22,500 and is close to reaching its endowment goal of \$25,000.

To support the Hoss Matthews Friends are Forever Memorial Scholarship Fund, visit unggive.org or contact the UNG Foundation at 706-867-2876.



Neal Matthews speaks at the Friends are Forever event on UNG’s Dahlonega Campus in 2018.

Upcoming Events

For event times and other details, as well as more event opportunities, please visit calendar.ung.edu.

NOVEMBER

November 29

Harlem Globetrotters
Convocation Center
Dahlonega Campus

DECEMBER

December 1

Holiday Choral Festival
Grace Episcopal Church
Gainesville

December 3

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert
Series:
Ed Cabell Theatre Lobby
Gainesville Campus

December 4

UNG Bands
Riverside Military Academy
Gainesville

December 5

Chamber Orchestra
Ed Cabell Theatre Lobby
Gainesville Campus

December 6

Jazz Band
Gloria Shott Performance Hall
Dahlonega Campus

December 15

Fall 2018 Commencement and
Commissioning Ceremonies
Convocation Center
Dahlonega Campus

December 20 - January 2

Winter Break
No classes

JANUARY

January 7 - 31

Artist Lisa Freeman: Dark Cotton
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery
Gainesville Campus

January 17 - February 14

Artists Talks and Reception:
Elements: Earth, Fire, Air, Water
Bob Owens Art Gallery
Dahlonega Campus

January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Classes

January 23 - February 20

Artist: Cameron Bliss
Oconee Campus Gallery

FEBRUARY

February 4 - 27

Artist: Manty Day: Drips and Drizzle
Roy C. Moore Art Gallery
Gainesville Campus

February 4

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert
Series: Adam Frey and friends
Ed Cabell Theatre Lobby
Gainesville Campus

February 6

Guest Artist Concert: Golden Brass
Series - Peter Steiner, trombone
Gloria Shott Performance Hall
Dahlonega Campus

February 11

Concert: MTNA Guest Artist
Exchange Recital
Ed Cabell Theatre Lobby
Gainesville Campus

February 12-23

Gainesville Theater Alliance
presents Noises Off
Hosche Theatre, Brenau University

February 15

Corps of Cadets Sweetheart Review
Dahlonega Campus

February 15-23

Gainesville Theater Alliance
presents Men on Boats
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

February 25 - March 21

Artist: Zipporah Thompson:
Rootwork
Bob Owens Art Gallery
Dahlonega Campus

MARCH

March 10

Men's Basketball Peach Belt
Conference Finals

March 11-15

Spring Break
No classes

March 29

2019 Annual Scholarship Gala
Convocation Center
Dahlonega Campus

APRIL

April 12-13

Class of '64 55th Reunion
Dahlonega Campus

April 9-20

Gainesville Theater Alliance
presents Cabaret
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

April 12-15

Gainesville Theater Alliance
presents The Kiss
Hosche Theatre, Brenau University

April 19

Nighthawks Scholarship Golf
Tournament
Achasta Country Club
Dahlonega

April 26

Class of '59 60th Reunion

April 26-28

Alumni Weekend
Dahlonega Campus

MAY

May 3-5

Spring 2019 Commencement and
Commissioning Ceremonies
Convocation Center
Dahlonega Campus



Preparing *leaders* in healthcare.

UNG's College of Health Sciences and Professions provides innovative and high-impact health science programs that prepare students for one of Georgia's fastest-growing career fields.

All programs, including our newest bachelor's degree in healthcare services and informatics administration, are backed up by real-world experiences and highly qualified faculty who are among the best in their fields.

Start your journey today at go.ung.edu/healthcare.

UNG | UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA™

UNG is designated as a State Leadership Institution
and as The Military College of Georgia®.

Blue Ridge • Cumming • Dahlonega • Gainesville • Oconee • Online

Join the world of cybersecurity *leaders.*

The demand for highly skilled cybersecurity professionals for government agencies and other enterprises has never been greater, and UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business now offers a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity as well as a graduate-level certificate in cybersecurity to help you develop the advanced skills to be a leader in this growing field.

UNG, one of the state's leading public universities, is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency.

Start your journey today at ung.edu/cybersecurity.

UNG | UNIVERSITY of
NORTH GEORGIA™

UNG is designated as a State Leadership Institution and as The Military College of Georgia®.
Blue Ridge • Cumming • Dahlonega • Gainesville • Oconee • Online



Learn more at
www.ung.edu/news



Find us on Facebook at
[/UNG.UniversityofNorthGeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/UNG.UniversityofNorthGeorgia)



Follow our tweets for the
latest UNG news:
[@UNG_News](https://twitter.com/UNG_News)



Follow our pics for the
latest UNG news:
[@UNG_news](https://www.instagram.com/UNG_news)



Join our community:
University of
North Georgia



Find our latest videos at
[/UnivNorthGeorgia](https://www.youtube.com/UnivNorthGeorgia)