

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

MAGAZINE



Mike Cottrell
College of Business
fuels economic
development

Nationally competitive scholarships
open doors of opportunity

East-West connections expand
partnerships, intercultural studies

**A *team*
effort.**





Spring/Summer 2019

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

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FROG Week marks the transition of incoming freshmen in the Corps of Cadets from civilians to cadets at UNG, one of six senior military colleges in the nation. The acronym FROG stands for Freshman Recruit Orientation Group. Like all other Corps events, cadets plan and lead FROG Week activities with supervision from the military instructors and staff.

During one of the outdoor training exercises at UNG's Pine Valley Recreation Center, recruits are tasked with getting their entire company up and over a high-wall obstacle. The task requires strength, problem-solving and teamwork.

Photo by Peggy Cozart



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“Our students have earned in excess of \$1.2 million in nationally competitive scholarships, and the number of awards this year is at an all-time high.”

Helping students fulfill their potential

Six years ago, we began a systematic effort to identify and mentor students with potential to receive national competitive scholarships that range from small travel stipends to as much as \$165,000. These awards are invaluable to students as they complete their studies and sometimes enter graduate school.

Since then, our students have earned in excess of \$1.2 million in nationally competitive scholarships, and the number of awards this year is at an all-time high. We have been a national top producer for Fulbright Awards for two years and added four additional Fulbright Awards this year. Additional awards this academic year include:

- 15 Gilman Awards
- 4 Critical Language Scholarships
- 2 Boren Awards
- 1 Japanese Exchange Teaching Fellowship
- 1 Rangel Scholar

Three students became the first-ever from UNG to win these highly competitive and prestigious scholarships:

- Harry S. Truman Scholar - John Blessing
- Goldwater Scholar - Shea Barfield
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship - Caroline Brown

John’s story is particularly inspiring. A first-generation college student, John almost did not go to college. Today, he is double-majoring in history and political science at UNG’s Gainesville Campus, and he has earned one of the country’s most prestigious and competitive scholarships and plans to go to law school.

We have also cheered on other students this spring, including our Ranger Challenge team, which won third place and the ROTC Cup in the international Sandhurst Competition, and a pair of entrepreneurs from the Mike Cottrell College of Business who made it to the finals of the Georgia InVenture Prize Competition.

As educators, we delight in the proverbial “lightbulb” moments when students suddenly understand challenging concepts, when they experience opportunities that lead to new knowledge and skills, and, most importantly, when they are able to fulfill their potential.

More than 2,500 students graduated from UNG this year. Along their journeys, they were mentored by incredibly dedicated faculty and staff who provided encouragement and guidance to help them achieve their goals. As alumni and friends of UNG, you, too, provide vital support to ensure that our students have an exceptional educational experience and that they are prepared to serve and lead locally and globally. Thank you for sharing our commitment to education, leadership development, and student success.

Sincerely,

Bonita C. Jacobs
President



In the 2018 Best Colleges ranking by U.S. News & World Report, UNG was named among the nation's most innovative universities and the top university in the South for students graduating with the least amount of debt.

University enrollment hits new record

With 19,722 students enrolled across its five campuses and online in fall 2018, UNG grew 5% over fall 2017. UNG's enrollment has increased about 45% since spring 2012, defying state and national trends. President Bonita

Jacobs attributes the growth to the opportunities students find at UNG.

"Our increasing enrollment and the demand for our programs reflect UNG's consistent national recognition as one of the best values in higher education and the commitment of our faculty and staff to educational excellence," Jacobs said.



UNG's \$620 million economic impact boosts regional growth

UNG had a \$620 million economic impact and an employment impact of 6,769 jobs in northeast Georgia during fiscal year 2017, according to an annual study produced for the University System of Georgia.

"This study is a timely reminder of the significant role UNG has in advancing economic growth and prosperity in the areas we serve," UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs said. "The report complements our ongoing work with industry and community partners to increase educational attainment and regional economic development efforts that enhance this region."

The study measures direct and indirect spending that contributes to the university's service region, particularly the communities surrounding UNG's campuses in Blue Ridge, Cumming, Dahlonega, Gainesville, and Oconee County.

Nighthawks crack NSA Codebreaker Challenge

In the National Security Agency (NSA) Codebreaker Challenge — a highly competitive, 100-day, nationwide cyber contest with 377 schools — UNG placed third, just behind Oregon State and Georgia Tech.

Eighty-one UNG students participated in the competition, which was a hands-on opportunity to develop reverse-engineering and code analysis skills while working on a realistic problem set centered around the NSA's mission.

“We're proud that UNG had the number of competitors to put us among the top 10 schools by participation rate, and that our students were able to do the hard work to solve the challenges to finish third,” said Dr. Bryson Payne, professor of computer science and director of the UNG Center for Cyber Operations Education.



UNG finished third nationally among 377 schools, behind Oregon State and Georgia Tech.



Brendyn Melugin, 26, from Norcross, Georgia, is pursuing a degree in psychology.

Veteran wins national ACE Student of the Year

UNG senior Brendyn Melugin, a former U.S. Army paratrooper majoring in psychology, was named the national American Council on Education (ACE) Student of the Year, which is presented to an adult learner who has used ACE credit recommendations to earn a college degree or advance a career.

“Their program helped me receive between 12 and 16 college credits based on my military experience and training,” Melugin said. “This saved me at least a semester of time.”

Melugin used that time to participate in undergraduate research with a faculty mentor. The experience has inspired Melugin to work with the Army Research Institute. The ACE award provides \$1,000 to Melugin for his education; he plans to use it for graduate school.



Mitchell Fariss '17, left, and cadet Evan Setter, right, interned at the White House last year.

White House interns deem experience ‘unforgettable’

Mitchell Fariss, a 2017 UNG graduate, and Evan Setter, a sophomore majoring in political science, interned at the White House during fall 2018.

Fariss, who earned a degree in international affairs, worked in the Office of Public Liaison. Setter, who is from Woodstock, Georgia, worked in Vice President Mike Pence's office.

“These internships help them connect their experiences in the classroom with real-world problems and concerns,” said Dr. Dlynn Williams, head of the Department of Political Science and International Affairs at UNG.

Hardee leads College of Education as new dean



Dr. Sheri Hardee is the new dean of UNG's College of Education, but it is not a new setting for her. Hardee has worked at UNG since 2009 and had served as associate dean since 2015. She began her new role in January.

As the college's chief academic officer, Hardee leads planning and implementation of its academic programs, defines strategic priorities, and builds strong relationships with private- and public-sector partners.

Hardee has a doctorate in social foundations in education, and both a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of South Carolina.

She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the social foundations of education and has published articles in journals such as *Teaching Education*, *The Journal of Education Foundations*, *Critical Questions in Education*, and *Thresholds in Education*.

"We have such talented faculty and staff in the College of Education, and I am truly excited to have the privilege of working with them in this new capacity," said Hardee.

Mendoza to lead diversity and inclusion efforts across campuses

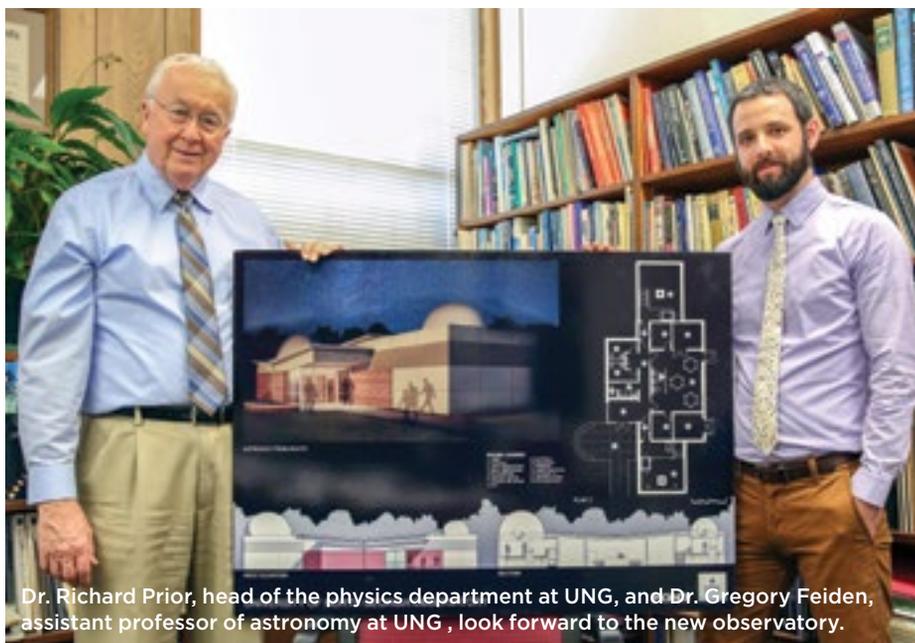


Dr. Pablo Mendoza, UNG's first director of diversity and inclusion, has a big charge: promote diversity and inclusion efforts that inform and enrich the university's teaching, learning and work.

"We are preparing students to live in a more diverse and demographically changing environment than has existed in the recent past," Mendoza said. "An atmosphere of diversity and inclusion is an added benefit for the cross-cultural competency of students, faculty and staff."

Mendoza is collaborating with individuals and groups at UNG and beyond to collect baseline data about diversity and inclusion at UNG and use it as a launching point.

"As a large university with five distinct campuses and a mission focused on developing globally prepared leaders, we know that leveraging our differences and ensuring that we are a welcoming, diverse and inclusive organization contributes to our success on all levels," said Kate Maine, UNG chief of staff.



Dr. Richard Prior, head of the physics department at UNG, and Dr. Gregory Feiden, assistant professor of astronomy at UNG, look forward to the new observatory.

Stars align for new observatory

A new state-of-the-art facility will replace UNG’s 20-year-old North Georgia Astronomical Observatory and will feature two new telescopes that will allow students to see deeper into space. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the project in January; the facility should open in summer 2020.

The facility will stand on top

of a hill about four miles from the Dahlonega Campus, near UNG’s Pine Valley Recreation Facility. The estimated construction cost of the 3,200-square-foot building is about \$1.4 million.

The new academic facility will be open to the public following regular Friday night programs at UNG’s George E. Coleman Sr. Planetarium.

Oconeefest raises nearly \$16,000 for scholarships



UNG scholarship recipients from Oconee County thanked the community for bolstering their dreams of a college education at the fifth annual Oconeefest scholarship fundraiser in October. The event raised about \$15,700 for scholarships for Oconee County students attending any UNG campus, including more than \$3,500 from a first-ever live auction.

In-state tuition available to students in counties on Tennessee and North Carolina borders

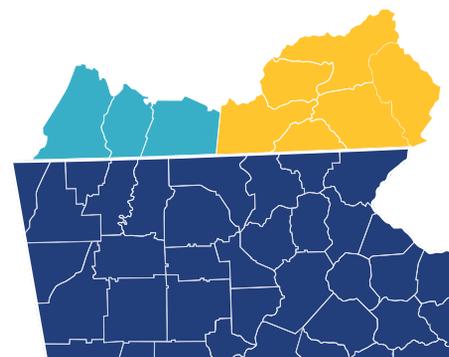
Students from a handful of counties in North Carolina and Tennessee that border UNG’s service area are now able to attend UNG using in-state tuition rates.

The move supports UNG’s mission to expand educational opportunities in the region and benefits students in Jackson, Swain, Graham, Cherokee, Clay, and Macon counties in North Carolina and Polk, Bradley and Hamilton counties in Tennessee.

“UNG plays a large role in

educational attainment in this region, and these counties are connected to communities that we currently serve,” UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. “This effort enables UNG to expand opportunities for quality, affordable education and enhance regional economic development in the Appalachian region.”

UNG is the 11th University System of Georgia institution to offer waivers for counties in the states that border Georgia.



Students from nine counties that border UNG’s service area may apply now for summer and fall semesters and receive the tuition waiver.



Students mobilize for mock emergency

An on-campus epidemic struck 20 students returning to the U.S. with an unidentified viral microorganism and the university was left to handle the situation without external assistance.

That was the scenario for a mock emergency that gave students an opportunity to work in a low-stress environment, while providing them with real-world experiences.

Simulations involving more than 700 students, faculty and staff were staged at UNG's Convocation Center at

the Dahlonega Campus in February.

The annual exercise produced by the College of Health Sciences & Professions brings together students from Corps of Cadets, athletic training, counseling, nursing, and physical therapy degree programs.



'Southern Vines' showcases state's wine industry



Georgia's wine industry has experienced a revival that is having a positive impact on tourism and the economy. Dr. Benjamin Garner, assistant professor of marketing and management

in UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business, showcased the wine industry in a 26-minute film "Southern Vines: The Rebirth of Wine in Georgia" broadcast on Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) in December.

"The most unusual fact I learned was that Georgia has a really old wine history dating back to the colonial days," Garner said. "I also was really surprised to learn that Prohibition laws from 100 years ago still affect wineries today."

Garner's research was supported by a \$10,000 UNG Presidential Incentive Award, and he chose to create a documentary for its potential to reach more people.

"So often, our academic work is only read by a handful of other academics, maybe 100 people, at most,"



From left: Dr. Ash Mady, Dr. Benjamin Garner and Dr. Cesar Ayala celebrate the screening of Garner's documentary "Southern Vines."

he said. "With a documentary that gets shown on GPB, my film will reach somewhere between 13,000 to 54,000 people, on the first viewing. So the impact of my work is more significant this way.

Film is a great way to communicate ideas to people in the community."

UNG President Bonita Jacobs initiated the awards program in 2013 to encourage academic excellence, scholarly activity and innovation and has awarded more than \$1.3 million to date.

"The resulting professional development and research projects have enriched our academic environment both in and out of the classroom," Jacobs said.

Garner's research is especially significant to the region now. In 2018 wineries in the Dahlonega area became part of the new Dahlonega Plateau American Viticultural Area, a federal designation that speaks to geography, geology, climate, and the ability of vineyards and the wine they produce.



Senior Savannah Simpson completed her student teaching at Gainesville Middle School.

Middle grades education program expands to Gainesville

The bachelor's degree in middle grades education is expanding to UNG's Gainesville Campus in fall 2019.

"This was a big project for us. Middle grades is a high-demand program," said Dr. Chantelle Renaud-Grant, associate professor of middle grades education and coordinator of middle and secondary education at UNG.

Renaud-Grant said having the program in Gainesville will open more doors into the Hall County and Gainesville school systems for student teaching and will enable UNG to add greater diversity to its middle grades education cohorts.

UNG now offers more than 30 bachelor's degree programs at the Gainesville Campus.



Tommy Otley, a UNG graduate student, is part of the guide dog research team.

Physical therapists' research aims to limit pain for guide dog users

UNG's Department of Physical Therapy is breaking new ground in its study of guide dogs, the visually impaired people who use them, and their harness devices.

Among the major findings is that guide dog use sharply reduces the risk of falls for visually impaired people, a result that Dr. Teresa

Conner-Kerr, dean of UNG's College of Health Sciences & Professions, said the university is the first to uncover. But an increase in joint pain complaints is also noted in these individuals after switching from other mobility aids to a guide dog, according to the research. Conner-Kerr said she and her fellow researchers want to develop a formal way of helping fit a dog and leash to their user to prevent physical problems.



Deployed Army officer, alumnus surprises daughter and family with commencement visit

Taylor Kirby was one of more than 600 students who was excited to walk across the stage to receive a degree during UNG's fall commencement ceremonies in December, but she couldn't have predicted tears flowing before her ceremony even began.

Kirby's father, 1993 UNG alumnus Army Col. Norman "Chip" Kirby Jr., made a surprise visit to watch Taylor graduate, thanks to a short leave from

active-duty military service in the Middle East. With assistance from UNG staff and his wife Jan, also a 1993 graduate, Kirby surprised Taylor and the rest of his family just before the ceremony. Taylor stepped into her father's embrace and began crying tears of joy.

"I'm excited to graduate anyway," Taylor Kirby said. "And then he gets to be here."



Wes Thomas, right, is thanked by Dr. Mac McConnell, vice president of business and finance at UNG, for his four decades of service.

Associate dean retires after 40 years of service

Wes Thomas, associate dean of student involvement, is retiring on June 30 after 40 years of service to UNG.

“Dean Thomas’ unwavering loyalty to UNG, his care and advocacy for students, calm disposition while managing complex challenges, enthusiasm for and belief in students, and his consistently high standard of professionalism will be the hallmarks of his lasting legacy at UNG,” said Dr. James F. Conneely, UNG vice president for student affairs and enrollment management.

Thomas has worked with orientation, Student Government Association and Nighthawks Entertainment during his time at UNG. A common thread in each of those roles has been his support for students.

“Good or bad, I feel like we’re here to educate students, and you can’t learn without sometimes making mistakes,” Thomas said. “And you can’t make mistakes if people don’t give you enough room to try things.”



Senior earns National Science Foundation research award worth \$134,000

Caroline Brown keeps making history, and her faculty mentors at UNG aren’t one bit surprised.

The latest honor for the May 2019 graduate from Carrollton, Georgia, is acceptance into the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, worth a total of \$134,000 for her graduate research endeavors. Brown, who will begin a doctoral biochemistry program at Yale University later this year, is the first student to win the award while enrolled at UNG.

“It opens the door into any lab that I want to work in because I bring my own funding with me,” said Brown, who earned a chemistry degree with a biochemistry focus. “That primary investigator doesn’t have to pay me because the National Science Foundation is.”

A year earlier, she was the first UNG student to be named a Goldwater Honorable Mention, an award given to exceptional college students in natural sciences, engineering and mathematics in the United States.

Two students receive Boren scholarships

UNG senior and cadet Alexander Ross wants to serve his country as an interpreter. UNG junior Laine Hunt dreams of being a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department. Both have a good chance after receiving David L. Boren Scholarships for 2019.

The scholarship pays up to \$20,000 for students to spend up to a full academic year studying abroad. The scholarship also requires

recipients to commit to work in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

Both students said that a year commitment will give them an advantage.

“I’ve always wanted to work for the government, and the Boren Scholarship is a good way to get my foot in the door,” Hunt said.

First the students will study abroad. Ross, who is from Barnstable,



Massachusetts, and is pursuing a degree in Russian, will study Russian in Kazakhstan. Hunt, who is from Macon, Georgia, and is pursuing a degree in international affairs, will study in Arabic Oman.

Commandant earns governor's commendation

Col. Palmer's 20 years as commandant at UNG makes him the longest-serving Army ROTC commandant in the nation.



Retired U.S. Army Col. James T. Palmer will retire from his role as commandant of cadets at UNG at the end of June after 20 years in the role, making him the longest-serving Army ROTC commandant in the nation.

Palmer's accomplishments and service include: a 75% increase in the size of the Corps of Cadets from 1999 through 2018; founding the Corps Advisory Council and the Corps of Cadets Alumni Network; supporting the deployment of cadets in the Georgia Army National Guard to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2004; and serving as interim vice president of student affairs at UNG.

"Few others have invested so much of themselves into the success of the Corps of Cadets and this university nor upheld so strongly the values of both," said UNG President Bonita Jacobs. "I am thankful to Col. Palmer for his service to the university and his service to the nation during his distinguished military career. His legacy at this university will be long-lasting, and his presence and leadership will be missed."

Palmer was honored Jan. 7 with a commendation from Gov. Nathan Deal to recognize his years of service to the university, the state of Georgia and the nation. Palmer said he was surprised and honored to be recognized for a second career that has been almost as long as his 26-year Army career. He is most proud of helping to grow the Corps of Cadets in both size and quality during his tenure. But what legacy does he hope to leave?

"That I had a small part in developing many highly educated leaders of character," Palmer said. "My friends and colleagues will probably remember that I was always a proponent of academic achievement, that I favored professionalism over tradition, and that I expanded the opportunities for all cadets to serve others after graduation."

Palmer is married to the former Judy Norris of Toccoa, Georgia; they have two daughters, Kristin and Meredith, son-in-law Justin, and one grandson, Jace. His awards and decorations include the Master Parachutist Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Legion of Merit.



Retired Col. James T. "Tom" Palmer and his wife, Judy, are honored by Gov. Nathan Deal.



Alumnus selected as UNG's next Commandant of Cadets

Col. Joseph Matthews, a military intelligence officer and 1994 graduate of UNG, has been hired as the university's Commandant of Cadets.

Dr. James Conneely, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management at UNG, announced the hiring.

"In addition to Col. Matthews' 26 years of military service and leadership experience, he brings to the position enormous dedication and passion to our cadets' success. I am confident that his leadership will continue the positive momentum established by retired Col. Tom Palmer and our Corps of Cadets," Conneely said. "Matthews' background and experience in military intelligence will be an asset as we continue to build our cyber and strategic studies programs, and he is enthusiastic about our language

programs and global engagement opportunities for cadets."

Matthews currently serves as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2), 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii. He and his wife Sarah, a 1995 alumna, have three children: Alaina, who is a freshman at UNG, and Mary and David, who attend schools in Hawaii.

"I feel this is a great opportunity to give back to the university and Corps of Cadets; they gave so much to my wife and I when we were students in Dahlonga," Matthews said. "This is truly a dream come true. Now, after 26 years of military service, I look forward to continuing to serve our country by helping mold the next generation of UNG cadets into great leaders in our Army and society."

Alumnus wins Best Ranger Competition for record third time

UNG alumnus and Army Capt. Mike Rose became the first person to win the David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition three times when he and teammate Capt. John Bergman earned a victory at the event in April at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Rose and Bergman represented the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The pair also teamed up to win the Best Ranger Competition in 2014 as second lieutenants when stationed with 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Keith Antonia, associate vice president for military programs at UNG and a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, said Rose made UNG proud.

"It takes unbelievable guts, stamina and grit just to complete the grueling competition. In fact, more than half the buddy teams consisting of the Army's most elite soldiers drop out from sheer mental and physical exhaustion or injury," Antonia said. "Winning the competition is a tremendous feat. Winning a second time is awe-inspiring. But winning a third time is unprecedented and puts Capt. Rose in a category all by himself."



Capt. Michael Rose, '11, and Capt. John Bergman won the Best Ranger Competition in April.

The competition takes 62 hours and involves tests of physical fitness, including runs and marches, and of marksmanship.

The same weekend Mike Rose won the Best Ranger Competition, his younger brother, Paul, was part of the UNG Ranger Challenge team that won the ROTC Cup and finished third in the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition at West Point.

Olmsted Foundation sponsors Corps of Cadets overseas outreach



The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation increased its annual grant to \$26,000 for UNG's Corps of Cadets' overseas travel and cultural immersion to provide opportunities for Atlanta-area cadets at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to also take advantage of the trips.

The Olmsted Foundation, UNG and Georgia State University's ROTC program have entered into an agreement for cadets from Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Clark Atlanta University to be part of these overseas trips, which typically last one to three weeks with UNG cadets. Cadets from all three HBCUs participate in Georgia State's ROTC program.

Previously, 17 UNG cadets have gone overseas through Olmsted Foundation grants.

21 cadets earn Distinguished Military Graduate honor

Twenty-one cadets from UNG have been ranked in the top 20% of the nation among more than 5,000 ROTC cadets assessed by U.S. Army Cadet Command for the 2018-19 academic year.

Cadets are ranked on the national Order of Merit List by achieving superior GPAs, strong performance in the Army physical fitness test, and proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training.

The UNG cadets ranked in the top

20% in the nation, which earns them the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate, are: Connor Bane, Christopher Bissett, Hunter Blocher, Arthur Brands, Jasper Bridgeman, Austin Brumby, Henry Crawford, Terry Ellis, Tyler Farney, Drue Hoagland, Matthew Ilaio, Evan Myers, Zachary Navara, Dylan Richards, Robert Rogers, Jacob Starrett, Charlotte Walton, Donald Wescoat, David White, Matthew Williams, and Logan Young.



UNG finishes third and repeats ROTC title at Sandhurst

Experience proved beneficial for UNG's Ranger Challenge team in the international 2019 Sandhurst Military Skills Competition.

With six of its 11 team members part of a group that finished fourth at Sandhurst in 2018, UNG was the top ROTC team for the second year in a row and third overall out of 49 teams in the event held April 12-13 in West Point, New York. UNG was the lone team not from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to finish in the top five.

"This was a great team and a great outcome," said Army Maj. Donovan Duke, an instructor in the Department of Military Science at UNG and coach of UNG's Ranger Challenge team. "The team really worked hard this past school year. They were ready."

UNG finished ahead of 14 of West Point's 16 teams, as well as teams from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, 15 other ROTC programs and 14 international military academies.

"We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments," said Col. Joshua D. Wright, professor of military science for UNG's Corps of Cadets. "They have earned every bit of the results, no doubt."



Women's basketball team wins NCAA Southeast Regional

Head Coach Buffie Burson led the UNG women's basketball team to the best season in its 14 years of NCAA competition, reaching the Division II Elite Eight in 2018-19.

Her program finished with a 30-5 record, an NCAA Southeast Regional title and Peach Belt Conference

regular-season and tournament championships.

"It's hard to put into words the amount of gratitude and love I have for this team. They have been connected, unselfish and unbelievably locked in all season," Burson said after a 99-54 loss to Lubbock Christian in the Elite Eight

on March 26 in Columbus, Ohio. "The loss at the Elite Eight will sting for a while, but I hope that our players will soon reflect on the amazing run and history made for the program and university and be as proud as we all are of them."

As the No. 2 seed in the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional, the Nighthawks reached the Elite Eight with victories against Lander University in the Sweet 16, Wingate University in the second round and Emmanuel College in the first round.

This is the fourth time Burson led UNG to the 30-win plateau in her 25 years as head coach. Burson also reached the 500-win mark this season with a 68-63 victory against Flagler College in December.

The women's basketball team became the fifth in UNG history to reach an NCAA championship round, joining softball, baseball, cross-country, and women's tennis.



Softball team wins sixth straight PBC title

The UNG softball team won the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) tournament for the sixth year in a row with a string of dramatic victories in early May.

UNG trailed in two of the three games but beat UNC Pembroke 7-5, Flagler College 4-2 and then Georgia Southwestern State University 3-1 to earn another PBC title.

UNG, which was 42-11 overall after the PBC tournament and 16-4 in PBC regular-season play, earned the chance to host an NCAA tournament regional as the Southeast Regional No. 1 seed.

The UNG softball championship team earned two-game sweeps in seven of its 10 Peach Belt Conference series.





Rifle team finishes record-breaking season

The UNG rifle team completed the season with a program record for its average score of 4,612 and a program-best final national ranking of No. 18. The team capped the year with a second-place finish at the Southern Conference Championship in March.

UNG earned first place in seven of its 14 events this season, including its sixth consecutive state title in January. UNG is one of only two Division II athletics departments with a rifle team and competes against Division I schools on a regular basis.

Coach Cantrell addresses Knight Commission



UNG head baseball coach Tom Cantrell served on a panel at the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics meeting in October in Washington, D.C.

The Knight Commission was formed to promote a reform agenda that emphasizes the educational mission of college sports. Throughout the years, the NCAA has adopted a number of the commission's recommendations, including the rule that requires teams to be on track to graduate at least 50 percent of their players to be eligible for postseason competition.

Cantrell and others discussed coaching education, certification requirements and professional development in college sports.



Marble



Fowler



Pittman



Dunn



Phillips

Four athletes and one coach inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

The UNG Athletics Hall of Fame committee inducted five new members in February as part of its ninth induction class.

The newest members of the UNG Hall of Fame are Randy Dunn '80, coach/administrator; Tom Fowler '52, men's basketball, baseball; Syretha Marble '09, women's basketball; Sarah Phillips

'11, softball; and Sean Pittman '01, baseball.

The UNG Athletics Hall of Fame honors individuals who have earned outstanding athletic achievement or made substantial contributions to UNG. A nine-member board of directors is responsible for the Athletics Hall of Fame operations and serves as

selectors for all honorees, based on nominations.

"Each of these distinguished individuals have had a profound impact on North Georgia athletics, and their contributions are fitting examples of what it means to be a student-athlete, coach and administrator," UNG Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves said.

Make-A-Wish and athletes surprise family



Make-A-Wish and the athletics department surprised Hope Nix and her family with a trip to Disney World.

Hope Nix and her family experienced many memorable moments Feb. 13 at UNG. The 5-year-old Dahlonega, Georgia, girl signed a one-day contract with the women's basketball team and was introduced with the starting lineup.

Hope was also the star of the halftime show when three fairy princesses delivered her wish: a trip

to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The entire day was part of the Make-A-Wish reveal coordinated with UNG Athletics. Make-A-Wish arranges experiences described as "wishes" to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Hope was selected as a recipient this year. She has aicardi syndrome, which is a rare genetic disorder

characterized by the absence of a bridge connecting two sections of the brain.

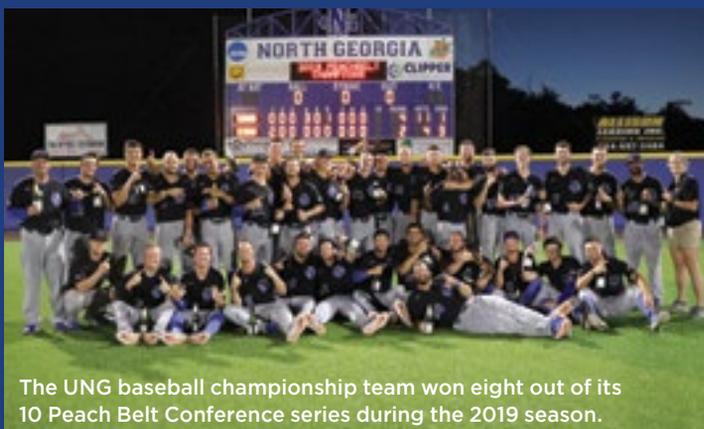
UNG hosted the Make-A-Wish reveal after raising more than \$10,000 this year to help grant at least one wish. It was the school's seventh consecutive reveal. The university has raised at least \$10,000 every year since 2010-2011, totaling more than \$164,000 and equaling 16 wishes being granted.

Lindsay Reeves, director of athletics at UNG, said holding a Make-A-Wish reveal on campus has helped the student-athletes learn and value the importance of giving back to the community.

UNG athletic teams raised more money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation than any other NCAA Division II school in 2017-18, marking the third-straight year the school has been the Division II leader.



Hope Nix watches the women's basketball game from her mother's lap.



The UNG baseball championship team won eight out of its 10 Peach Belt Conference series during the 2019 season.

UNG baseball team wins PBC title

The UNG baseball team earned a share of the regular-season conference Peach Belt Conference (PBC) championship and the No. 1 seed in the 2019 PBC tournament.

The Nighthawks clinched the title for the third time in five years with a 4-2 win against Columbus State on May 5, the final day of the regular season.

UNG finished with a 19-11 conference record and was 32-18 overall entering the PBC tournament. The Nighthawks were the No. 1 seed in the PBC tournament.

Basketball broadcast nationally on ESPN3

The national spotlight shone on UNG when ESPN3 televised the women's and men's Peach Belt Conference home basketball games against Columbus State on Jan. 9.

It was also Operation Nighthawks of Honor Night, which commemorated 12 UNG alumni killed during or associated with the Korean War. A ceremony honoring these service members was held at halftime of the women's game.

The ceremony featured UNG's 12 NCAA head coaches displaying commemorative memorabilia that honored the fallen soldiers. The memorabilia was auctioned off at the end of the 2018-19 academic year, with proceeds supporting UNG's Hoss Matthews Friends are Forever Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The pair of basketball games on ESPN3 made UNG the first Division II school to have five of its teams host nationally televised matchups.

"There is no better platform to showcase our award-winning Operation Nighthawks of Honor initiative than in front of a national audience as part of the



NCAA Division II Showcase," UNG Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves said. "Honoring fallen soldiers who have a connection to UNG is one of our department's most noble endeavors. The collaboration between our department, Student Affairs, the Corps of Cadets, and the Student Government Association added to the excitement of the night."



Operation Nighthawks of Honor



Evans to lead men's basketball program

Dan Evans has been named as the new men's basketball head coach at UNG - only the fourth coach in program history.

Evans spent the previous six years at NCAA Division II Ohio Dominican University (ODU), where he totaled 76 victories and reached the 2017-18 NCAA tournament by winning the Great Midwest Athletic Conference tournament. Evans led his team to a 37-22 mark the past two seasons, including 20-11 in 2017-18.

"Coach Evans possesses a clear understanding of the core values of UNG and will mentor our student-athletes to successes on the court, in the classroom and in the community," UNG Director of Athletics Lindsay Reeves said.

Evans succeeds Chris Faulkner, who coached men's basketball for 16 seasons and has taken on a new role as development officer for UNG Athletics.

Evans finished as the third-winningest coach in ODU history.

"My family and I feel incredibly blessed and excited to be joining the University of North Georgia family and the Dahlonega community," Evans said. "We look forward to leading our men's basketball program into the future with tremendous young men who will represent our program in a first-class manner. We are eager to get on campus and get to work shaping Nighthawks basketball with our student-athletes."

What inspired you to pursue this project?

Each year my introductory computer science courses contain a few students with disabilities, and I have seen firsthand the barriers they face. My project is focused on designing accessible lab activities for students with disabilities, especially for those with visual impairment and specific learning disabilities.

How will this help students?

I hope to develop multimedia-based lab activities and visual logic block-based lab components to make the material accessible to students with disabilities. It will provide uniquely designed learning tools based on students' specialized needs in introductory computer science courses.

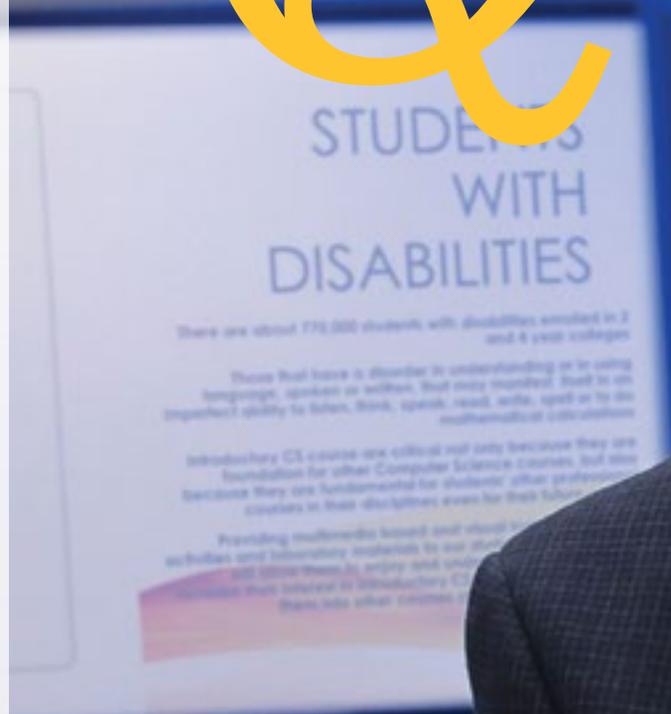
How does your research support teaching?

Academic research aims to create new outcomes, ideas and experiments associated with the process of teaching. Research is especially important in computer science because it is a field that constantly develops and in which specific skills change quickly with advanced computer technology. In addition, the research process is about a specific inquiry through critical thinking and thoughtful reflection; it plays a pivotal role in keeping the teacher up-to-date.

Why have you enlisted members of the Coding Warriors Club to help with your project?

The club has many talented students and is geared for programmers and coders to gather and emerge in a simulated environment that mimics computer science jobs in the real world.

Undergraduate students who participate in research like this can develop independent critical thinking skills along with their regular course studies. The research process will have lasting influence for them to prepare for future careers.



Since 2013, President Bonita Jacobs has awarded more than \$1.3 million through the Presidential Incentive Awards, geared to encourage innovative research.



Where I Lead: **Making computer science accessible**

BIO

DR. JIANJUN YANG, associate professor of computer science, loves his field of study and the opportunity to share it with others. This year, he earned two Presidential Incentive Awards to make computer science labs more accessible to students with disabilities.

NISTS: 17 years of advocating for

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart



Dr. Bonita Jacobs recognized an emerging national trend at the turn of the 21st century: the percentage of college students who transferred from one institution to another was growing, but resources to help them and the higher education professionals who serve them were not.



UNG President Bonita Jacobs, right, founded the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) in 2002. Dr. Janet Marling, left, is the current executive director of NISTS.

Jacobs, then-vice president for student development at the University of North Texas, devised a solution. She founded the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) in 2002 to tackle the highly complex issues that transfer students face. Two years later, she published, “The College Transfer Student in America: The Forgotten Student.”

“Transfer students are a unique and growing group who have much to contribute to the college campus community, but they sometimes encounter challenges associated with the transfer process. It is important to student success to have higher education professionals trained to address the specific needs of transfer students, and NISTS helps educate those who serve this population,” Jacobs said. “Each year, NISTS finds innovative ways to raise awareness and educate the higher education community about transfer issues to ensure a student’s experience at a new institution is positive and successful.”

The only national organization solely focused on transfer students, NISTS has evolved into an innovative association that empowers practitioners, faculty and administrators to be transfer champions using the lenses of education, research and advocacy.

“Mobility is reality. College students are earning credits from, and moving between, multiple institutions

en route to a degree,” said Dr. Janet Marling, who has served as executive director of NISTS since 2011. “It is imperative that we simplify the process so students don’t incur unnecessary delays in graduation and increased educational costs.”

Originally operating from the University of North Texas, NISTS relocated in 2012 to UNG, which offers a unique perspective on the transfer process, given the institution’s consolidation in 2013 that brought together a four-year university and a two-year college.

NISTS supplies higher education professionals with a variety of resources, including a post-master’s certificate in transfer leadership and practice and a prominent annual conference.

The newly developed certificate is a one-of-a-kind program that offers 12 doctoral-level credit hours and features an in-depth examination of transfer student issues and research-based information. The professional development opportunity acts as a precursor to doctoral work like UNG’s Doctor of Education in higher education leadership and practice.

“It’s a win-win,” Marling said. “Our students learn how to be better transfer professionals while testing their interest in pursuing a doctoral degree.”

The annual NISTS conference



Transfer students are a unique and growing group who have much to contribute to the college campus community, but they sometimes encounter challenges associated with the transfer process.

— Dr. Bonita Jacobs
UNG President



provides strategies to improve transfer student programs and services, equipping professionals from two- and four-year institutions, state agencies, higher education associations and foundations with the knowledge needed to advocate for transfer students and develop holistic student experiences.

Notable transfer student facts



NISTS initiated National Student Transfer Week in 2017; it will be celebrated October 21-25 this year.



UNG sponsors a Transfer Experience Retreat, a low-key overnight retreat open to all incoming transfer students that is designed to enhance the transfer experience.



UNG senior and transfer student Isabella “Bella” Michel won the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award from the American College Personnel Association’s Commission for Admissions, Orientation, and First Year Experience.

Where I Lead: Advocating for others

BIO

JOHN BLESSING, a senior from Gainesville, Georgia, pursuing a bachelor's degrees in political science and history with a focus in pre-law, was selected as UNG's first Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation Scholar and the university's first entrant into the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program — both programs are for students seeking careers in public service.

While at UNG, Blessing was named a Newman Civic Fellow and founded three student organizations. These are impressive accomplishments for the first-generation student who didn't consider applying for college until his junior year in high school.



To what do you attribute the success you've experienced at UNG?

This university gives students like me a chance that other universities wouldn't. I messed up in high school because I was a kid. But UNG said "Let's bring him in and see what he can do." Since then, I have never gotten less than an A, and I've founded three organizations. That's because this university gives students who normally wouldn't have a chance the option to make something of themselves. It's not something you would find at other universities.

Why did you apply for the Truman Scholarship?

Interestingly enough, it was when I won the Newman Civic Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year. I met Dr. Anastasia Lin (assistant vice president for research and engagement and an associate professor of English), and she said "You are a good candidate for the Truman scholarship."

What do you think stood out about your Truman application?

My hope is that they saw that I have grit. I don't quit. When it comes to getting something done, I am on that route and I don't stop. I made a decision and that's where I'm going. My hope is that they saw that I am genuine. Leadership is something that I use to ensure myself and others benefit in some way. I've done well and plan to do more.

What is your ultimate goal?

Ultimately, I want to defend the rights of those who have difficulty being able to advocate for themselves. I know from my background I had difficulty advocating for myself, and I had to climb my way up to do that. Some people don't know they have these opportunities. Right now, elections lawyer is my goal.



Mike Cottrell

College of Business fuels economic development

Support from the Cottrells has helped the college lead in the region's economic development

By Edie Rogers
Photos by Peggy Cozart

In 2006, when Mike Cottrell committed a transformative gift of \$10 million to the university in support of the College of Business, he championed a vision to build strong graduates and strong communities in support of regional economic development. Since then, the Mike Cottrell College of Business (MCCB) has grown in size and stature.

The college now serves more than 4,300 students — about 23% of UNG’s nearly 20,000 students — in an array of undergraduate and graduate programs. Also, it is among the less than 5% of the world’s business schools to have earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, a hallmark of excellence.

A NEW DEAN & A NEW FACILITY



Dr. Mary Gowan
Dean, Mike Cottrell
College of Business

The college moves into 2019 with a new dean at the helm—Dr. Mary A. Gowan, who previously served as a dean and professor at James Madison University, dean of Elon University’s Martha and Spencer Love School of Business, and as an associate dean at George Washington University’s School of Business. Gowan, who began her new role in February, noted UNG’s leadership in accounting, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, and supply chain logistics, and she is excited to help build on the strong foundation in those and other areas.

“A lot of good seeds have been planted,” Gowan said. “I get to come in and help them to flourish.”

Also on the horizon is a new MCCB building at UNG’s

Dahlonge Campus. The building will include updated educational space, laboratories and equipment for cybersecurity and computer forensics programs.

“Currently, business courses and faculty are spread across multiple buildings, which diminishes the synergy that results from being in a common space,” Gowan said. “This facility will create a learning environment to ensure our students are well equipped to enter the high-demand workforce in a high-tech industry.”

The facility received \$2.3 million in support from the state legislature this year for planning and design funding of the project and a new commitment of \$10 million from Mike Cottrell to help fund construction.

INNOVATE UNG



The team of Samuel Herrera, right, and Caleb Hearn was among the five teams in the finals in the statewide Georgia InVenture Prize competition.

Cottrell's transformational gift in 2006 helped create UNG's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to encourage business development. With support from the center, a UNG student team took its idea to the statewide stage and finished in the top five of the inaugural Georgia InVenture Prize competition held in April in Atlanta.

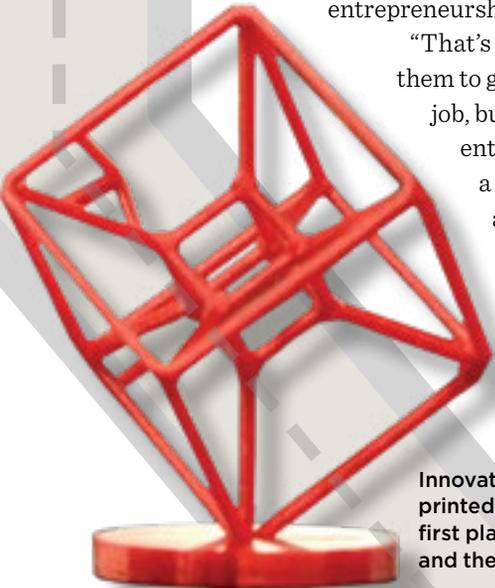
Business students Samuel Herrera and Caleb Hearn won the innovateUNG Pitch Challenge and its top prize of \$2,000 in February and advanced to the state competition, where they pitched their Opus Affinity app. The app aims to help Georgia's craft breweries tell their stories and build brand loyalty with videos delivered via custom QR codes on the bottles.

Six teams competed in the innovateUNG Pitch Challenge; their innovative concepts included a guitar stand, a restaurant proposal, a decoy for turkey hunting, and more. The quality of the students' ideas impressed the center's director, Dr. Ruben Boling, who noted that innovation and entrepreneurship is an impetus for job-creation.

"That's the quality that we're looking for all our entrepreneurship students. We want them to get to that point where they understand they can create not just their own job, but a valuable business," Boling said. "When you have the ability to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables entrepreneurs to create new businesses on a regular basis, it has a major impact on the economic condition of the community and region. These student startups add value and help create jobs."

UNG President Bonita Jacobs echoed that excitement.

"UNG has encouraged entrepreneurship for years, among our students and in the region, and this competition is an opportunity to showcase how innovative and resourceful our students are," Jacob said.



Innovate UNG award winners received 3D printed trophies as well as cash prizes for first place (\$2,000), second place (\$1,000) and the people's choice award (\$500).

SUPPLY CHAIN LOGISTICS

A new degree concentration in supply chain management and a growing partnership with industry come at a perfect time to help prepare the region for the workforce needs associated with the Georgia Port Authority's new inland terminal in Hall County. Former Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal announced the 104-acre facility in late 2018 and it is scheduled for completion in 2021.

MCCB leaders and Syfan Logistics, a Hall County, Georgia, firm that specializes in transportation logistics, formed a mutually beneficial partnership in 2017. Many UNG students intern at Syfan Logistics during its annual holiday shipping project and the summer break. Leadership from Syfan, in turn, helped UNG hone its curriculum for the Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in supply chain management and logistics.

"It was good collaboration for both sides," Dr. Cesar Ayala, assistant professor of management, said. "It helps us improve our curriculum. We can teach students the skills employers like Syfan expect them to have. We also know what attributes and qualities industry officials are looking for in future employees."

During regular visits to Ayala's classes, Syfan officials explained how the logistics industry is not limited to truckers and dispatchers but provides multiple career opportunities. That message resonated with UNG senior Kondwani Kapembwa. The finance major from Lusaka, Zambia, interned at Syfan for 10 weeks—an experience that helped her land a job with a capital investment firm in Virginia months before her graduation.

"It was one of those unexpected things," she said. "Not a lot of finance majors look at supply chain management as an option. But the internship opened my eyes to what I could do with my finance degree."





President Bonita Jacobs, right, poses with Mike Cottrell, who has supported UNG through two gifts totaling \$20 million as well as annual funds to support programs and scholarships in the Mike Cottrell College of Business.

Mike Cottrell: A visionary supporter of education and communities

In recognition of extraordinary and generous support of UNG, the University System of Georgia Foundation presented Mike Cottrell with one of its highest honors — the Regents’ Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award — at its gala in February.

Cottrell and his wife, Lynn, have made two transformational gifts to UNG: \$10 million in 2006 to kick off the university’s first-ever capital campaign and support the Mike Cottrell College of Business, and a second \$10 million gift in 2018 to support a new business

facility at UNG’s Dahlonega Campus. Additionally, the Cottrells provide significant support each year for business programs and scholarships.

“I am grateful to Mike and Lynn Cottrell for their exceptional generosity in having made the two largest contributions in UNG’s 145-year history,” UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. “In making these significant and highly visible gifts, the Cottrells have supported our current and future students and helped our graduates compete in regional and global communities to obtain high-level employment and become the business leaders of the future.”

Cottrell is a leading entrepreneur in the north Georgia region, and Cottrell Inc. is the top manufacturer and marketer of over-the-road car haulers in the world. The Cottrells are longtime supporters of the university because of their belief in UNG and the education it provides students across the region.

With financial support from the Mike Cottrell Endowment Fund, the college has earned AACSB accreditation and is recognized as a “Best for Vets Business School” by Military Times. The Cottrell MBA was ranked as the fifth-best public, part-time MBA program in Georgia by U.S. News and World Report’s 2018 Best Graduate Schools report.



In September, the college will play a key role in UNG’s 2019 Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) Summit, which will feature the theme of “North Georgia Means Business.” The event, fashioned after a successful “2018 REED Summit: Not Everyone in Healthcare Wears Scrubs” that focused on careers in the region’s healthcare industry, will cover the business environment in the region and careers in business. For event details, visit ung.edu/REED.



10 YEARS OF MBA



In its first decade, the Cottrell MBA program has awarded more than 200 degrees, expanded to two campuses, and added graduate-level certificates in cybersecurity, entrepreneurship and innovation, and technology leadership. A part-time program built for working professionals, the Cottrell MBA was recognized as one of the top five public, part-time MBA programs in Georgia in the U.S. News & World Report 2018 Best Graduate Schools rankings.

The program has grown quickly in 10 years, from 27 students in the first cohort to 73 students currently enrolled in the program. That growth is expected to continue as the need for business managers continues to outpace the supply across Georgia. According to the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL), the business management job sector is growing across the state, with 7,380 more managers needed just by 2019.

The Cottrell MBA's affordability and convenience drew 50-year-old Bruce Wing, president of Strategic Wealth LLC in Alpharetta, Georgia, to

return to school to seek an MBA and continue to a doctorate.

"The University of North Georgia is an excellent school with a very good reputation, and I personally know several of its excellent professors," Wing said. "As the 'old guy' going back to school, it's fun to talk with talented men and women a generation younger than me. I like to think that my past experience as a senior officer for a Fortune 500 company and my current experience as an entrepreneur add a little color to the classroom discussions."

The Cottrell MBA enrolls students from various academic backgrounds, not just those with bachelor's degrees in business. That diversity adds value to the learning experience, said Steven Kronenberg, director of graduate programs for MCCB.

"Our students range from those with years of corporate experience to students who are just getting started," Kronenberg said. "These students also come from a variety of industries, which further enhances the classroom experience."



Nationally competitive scholarships open doors of opportunity

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart

Four UNG students will travel to Thailand, Kyrgyz Republic, Indonesia, and Russia to spend 10 months as English Teaching Assistants. Six will head to Spain, Taiwan, Japan, and Jordan this summer to participate in credit-bearing study abroad programs. Four will trek to China and Japan, respectively, for a cultural immersion program. And two more will study a critical language for up to a year in Oman and Kazakhstan in exchange for working with the U.S. government for a year upon their return.

They are UNG's Fulbright finalists, Early Summer Gilman scholarship recipients, Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) finalists, and Boren award winners. These are just a handful of highly competitive scholarships UNG students have won in spring 2019. In fact, UNG collected two new awards this year: John Blessing was the school's first Truman Scholar while Brendyn Melugin became UNG's first American Council on Education (ACE) Student of the Year.

Each student plans to use their overseas experience and scholarship to help further their future professions in education, languages, law, and military and government service.

For example, Petrus Schoeman plans to use his time in Russia as a way to achieve his dream.

"My ultimate goal is to make language learning apps," the 2018 UNG graduate said.

So far, he is fluent in Chinese thanks to a yearlong study abroad in the Asian country. Now, the 27-year-old,

who was born in South Africa and lives in Dahlonega, Georgia, wants to be fluent in Russian.

Schoeman will have that chance as one of four UNG finalists selected for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. He will spend the 2019-20 academic year teaching English to Russian students.

The other UNG finalists selected for the prestigious award are:

- **Marcel Cantu** who will teach in Thailand. The Newnan, Georgia, native graduated in May 2019 with a degree in English education.
- **Melissa Silva** who will teach in Kyrgyz Republic. The Gainesville, Georgia, native will graduate in August 2019 with a degree in Spanish.
- **Caitlyn Webb** who will teach in Indonesia. The Suwanee, Georgia, native graduated in May 2019 with a degree in history education with a minor in Spanish.

Two UNG students were named alternates. If a finalist withdraws, the alternate may become a finalist. The two are:

- **Jenna Labbie** who hopes to teach in Taiwan. The Locust Grove, Georgia, native graduated in May 2019 with a degree in history and secondary education.
- **Emily Symmes** who hopes to teach in Republic of Kazakhstan. The Cumming, Georgia, native graduated in May 2019 with a degree in Russian.

Fulbright finalists and countries from 2015-19

2018-19 Katie Smith, South Korea | Amanda Hamilton, South Korea | Lily O'Clery, Taiwan

2017-18 Nicholas Allen, Senegal | Faith Brown, Bulgaria | Rachael Bryant, South Korea | Mitchell Fariss, Germany
Darion Gibson, South Korea | Katie McCullough, Poland | Noah McDaniel, India | Anita Renfroe, Malaysia

2016-17 Cody Bijoux, Taiwan

2015-16 Jacob Dietrich, Oman | Erika Evans, Russia



Marcel Cantu
Fulbright Finalist



Petrus Schoeman
Fulbright Finalist



Melissa Silva
Fulbright Finalist



Caitlyn Webb
Fulbright Finalist



Jenna Labbie
Fulbright Alternate



Emily Symmes
Fulbright Alternate

“Our faculty and staff have done an amazing job of mentoring our already talented students to compete successfully for some of the nation’s most prestigious scholarship opportunities and help them fulfill their potential.”

— UNG President
Bonita Jacobs

Fulbright finalists spend 10 months in their respective countries as English Teaching Assistants. Schoeman, who earned a degree in computer science, said the constant interaction with Russian students will help him two-fold.

“I can get teaching experience, which is important to make language learning apps,” he said. “And I want to find out from Russian students the kind of software and apps they want to use to learn another language. For me to have this opportunity of language education is huge.”

The Fulbright program is a highly competitive fellowship that enables graduates to pursue academic endeavors overseas. It is designed to increase mutual understanding between U.S. citizens and residents of more than 160 foreign countries.

“UNG’s mission is focused on developing globally prepared leaders,” UNG President Bonita Jacobs said. “Our faculty and staff have done an amazing job of mentoring our talented students to compete successfully for some of the nation’s most prestigious scholarships and help them fulfill their potential.”

UNG’s odds of securing finalists have increased in recent years as more students apply.

“As UNG increasingly focuses on global engagement, we are also seeing an increase in the number of students interested in the Fulbright,” said Dr. Anastasia Lin, assistant vice president of research and engagement. “For all of these scholarships, the first few wins really set the stage for more involvement, more applications and potentially more scholarships.”

This year, 20 students applied for the Fulbright; 13 were named semifinalists, which marked a new record for UNG.

Becoming a semifinalist is no easy task. The process is filled with workshops to choose a location,



Dr. Anastasia Lin, left, and Dr. Victoria Hightower help guide students through the application process for nationally competitive scholarships.

develop essays and identify goals; campus interviews and meetings with faculty mentors to fine-tune proposals; and one-on-one attention on essays from Lin and Dr. Victoria Hightower, assistant director of the Nationally Competitive Scholarship (NCS) Office at UNG.

However, the first step is the same. It begins with a student.

For Cantu, her inspiration to teach abroad began with a mission trip to Kenya before high school. In the east African country, she taught children the colors, shapes and basic English words.

“I feel in love with teaching and traveling,” the 20-year-old from Newnan, Georgia, said. “The Fulbright is the natural fit for that.”

Silva decided to apply for the Fulbright after Dr. Alexander Wisnoski, assistant professor of history, encouraging her and others to conduct undergraduate research or study abroad.

“He said we need to do something that makes us stand out from the rest,” the 21-year-old from Gainesville, Georgia, said. “It hit me that I needed to try.”

During her application process for the Fulbright, Lin suggested she

apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. The Gilman is awarded to U.S. citizen undergraduate students who receive Federal Pell Grant funding at two-year or four-year colleges or universities to participate in study and intern abroad programs. It is geared toward supporting students who are underrepresented in study abroad programs.

As a first-generation student with parents from Mexico, Silva fits the bill. She said she applied to study in Spain for the summer “to find links to my Mexican culture since Spain colonized Mexico.” She will have that chance as one of six students awarded a 2019 Early Summer Gilman.

With one scholarship in her belt, Silva felt confident about her Fulbright application. Turns out she was right.

“I feel like I am about to live a lavish lifestyle,” Silva said. “I am so excited to see the world. And I look forward to getting to my own classroom to teach students and learn Russian from my students.”

Silva is one of six students who earned **Early Summer Gilman Scholarships**. The other five are:

Gabriella “Gabi” Fleck, majoring in Spanish, will study in Spain.

Elias Keif, majoring in strategic and security studies with a concentration in cybersecurity and East Asian studies with a concentration in Chinese and in the ROTC Chinese Flagship, will study in Taiwan.

Alexa Hernandez-Lopez, majoring in visual arts, will study in Japan.

Gabe Holder, majoring in Spanish and minoring in Arabic, will study in Jordan.

Naomy Huaman, majoring in international affairs, will study in Japan.

The four **Critical Language Scholars** finalists are:

Daniel Shearer, who is pursuing a degree in East Asian studies with a concentration in Japanese studies and a minor in leadership, will be in Japan.

Josh Shepherd, who is pursuing a degree in Chinese and a minor in Spanish, will be in China.

Donnie “Jamar” Shumaker, who is pursuing a degree in East Asian studies with a concentration in Chinese and a minor in Chinese language and culture, will be in China.

Rachel Wilson, who is pursuing a degree in finance and a minor in Chinese, will be in China.

The CLS program is a fully-funded overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. Its goal is to broaden the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries.

It is highly competitive, with acceptance rates of 10%, Hightower said. This makes UNG’s accomplishment of four finalists significant.

“UNG’s four finalists and four alternates reflect our commitment to cultivating academically talented global leaders,” Lin said. “This also indicates UNG’s prowess in teaching critical languages.”

UNG’s two **David L. Boren Scholarships** winners are:

Laine Hunt, who is pursuing a degree in international affairs with a Middle East track, will study Arabic in Oman. Her goal is to work in the intelligence community.

Cadet Alexander Ross, who is pursuing a degree in Russian and a member of the Corps of Cadets and in the Georgia National Guard, will

study Russian in Kazakhstan. His goal is to become a linguist with the National Security Agency. Ross is UNG’s second Boren to Oman and first to Kazakhstan.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense’s National Security Education Program, Boren Scholarships are worth up to \$20,000 for a recipient to spend up to a full academic year studying abroad. They receive the scholarship in exchange for their commitment to seek work in the federal government for at least one year after graduation.

Two new firsts for UNG were the **ACE Student of the Year** and the **Truman Scholar**.

Brendyn Melugin was named the national ACE Student of the Year, which is presented annually to an adult learner who has benefited from the use of ACE credit recommendations to earn a college degree or advance a career.

John Blessing was selected as a Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation recipient, a nationally competitive award that provides up to \$30,000 for undergraduate students to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or public service.

UNG students have received the following awards in the past six years

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 41 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships. | 9 Critical Language Scholarships. | 3 National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program Huayu Enrichment Scholarships. |
| 15 Fulbright Scholarships with nine awarded in 2017. | 6 Chinese Government Scholarships Newman Civic Fellowships Chinese Government Scholarships Woodrow Wilson Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Teaching Fellowships. | 2 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation finalists. |
| 14 David L. Boren Scholarships. | | |
| 10 Freeman-Asia Scholarships. | | |

Annual Scholarship

Scholarship Gala celebrates record \$1.8 million in student scholarships



ship Gala

By Clark Leonard

Photos by Peggy Cozart and Estefani Orea '20



The seventh annual UNG Scholarship Gala held March 29 celebrated a record \$1.8 million in scholarship funds awarded to students who entered or attended UNG in fiscal year 2018.

Increasing scholarship funds has been one of President Bonita Jacobs' top presidential priorities, and the first scholarship gala was held in 2013 as part of her inauguration.

The total dollars raised from the evening equaled \$186,850. An 8.7% increase over 2018 and a 59% increase over 2017.

In addition to thanking donors for their generosity, the black-tie optional event at the university's Convocation Center included dinner, entertainment and the presentation of the Summit, Champion and Presidential Leadership awards.

Retired Army Col. James T. Palmer, a 1973 alumnus who will retire as UNG's Commandant of Cadets at the end of June, received the Summit Award. It recognizes an individual, family or organization for significant contributions to scholarships at UNG over an extended period, particularly when those contributions serve to change the expectation for scholarship giving at UNG. Palmer has been instrumental in the growth of fundraising mechanisms for the Corps of Cadets. His 20-year tenure with the Corps followed a 26-year active-duty career.

Georgia House of Representatives Speaker David Ralston, a UNG alumnus, earned the Presidential Leadership Award. The award recognizes an individual who has made a significant, positive impact on the life and advancement of the university. A Blue Ridge, Georgia, resident, Ralston led the effort that secured state funds for UNG's standalone Blue Ridge Campus, which is scheduled to open in fall 2020.

Dr. Randy and Peggy Kirner, a 1967 alumnus and his wife who established the Randall and Peggy Kirner Scholarship in July 2017, received the Champion Award. It recognizes an individual or organization for significant contributions within the past two years that promote scholarship and giving to UNG.

Clockwise from top left:

Retired Army Col. James T. Palmer, a 1973 alumnus who will retire as UNG's Commandant of Cadets at the end of June, received the Summit Award. | Cadet Col. Tyler Farney, commander of UNG's Boar's Head Brigade, was one of the student speakers. | Attendees pause for a photo before entering the gala. | Dr. Bonita Jacobs and UNG Foundation Board Chair Jimmy Faulkner celebrated the record \$1.8 million in scholarship funds awarded to UNG students. | Dr. Randy and Peggy Kirner, a 1967 alumnus and his wife who established the Randall and Peggy Kirner Scholarship in July 2017, received the Champion Award. | Military officials and cadets donned their dress uniforms for the special evening. | Former dean Mike Hyams and his wife Diana posed for photos as they arrive.



Illustration by Josie Toney

Helping first-generation students succeed at UNG and beyond

By J.K. Devine
Photos by Peggy Cozart

Armando Tercero-Escobar never planned to go to college. He intended to get a job after graduating from Gilmer High School.

The Ellijay, Georgia, native also didn't want to leave home, since his mother was diagnosed with cancer. Plus, his grades started to slip. That is, until members of the Upward Bound Program got Tercero-Escobar back on track.

"They were there for me and made sure that I graduated," the UNG freshman said. "They helped me with my college applications and scholarships and made sure I had everything I needed. I decided to go to college to make my mother proud and make sure her sacrifices for me weren't for nothing."

Helping first-generation students like Tercero-Escobar prepare for and be successful in college is the purpose of Upward Bound. Funded through a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program provides tutoring sessions, ACT/SAT and college preparation sessions, career exploration, cultural experiences, and

college visits during the academic year. In the summer, students live in the residence halls and attend classes at UNG's Dahlonega Campus to get the full college experience.

The program is limited to 120 students: 60 from Gilmer High School in Ellijay, Georgia, and 60 from Johnson High School in Gainesville, Georgia. After the first full year in operation, Dr. N. Latrice Richardson, program director of Upward Bound at UNG, said the results are measurable.

Of the 10 Gilmer High students who graduated in spring 2018, eight attend UNG's Blue Ridge Campus while the other two enrolled at Dalton State. Only freshmen, sophomores and juniors at Johnson High School were enrolled in the Upward Bound Program in fall 2017, so the program will have its first graduating cohort this spring, with several accepted into Georgia colleges.

"I'm encouraged by the successes of our first year and the achievements both programs have experienced in year two of the grant. We are strengthening

partnerships in the community and building our capacity to serve students on the UNG campuses in a meaningful way,” Richardson said. “All of the 2018 Upward Bound graduates from Gilmer High are still enrolled in college in the 2019 spring semester.”

UNG freshman Kameron Stone is one of eight graduates at the Blue Ridge Campus. She attributes her success of being a college student to Anna Speessen, the Upward Bound counselor at Gilmer High.

“She was there to answer any questions regarding FAFSA and how everything works,” Stone said. “She put college terms into a way I could understand.”

Her sister, Halee, agreed. Kameron and Halee are two of a set of quintuplets.

“The stress of the process of applying for college in its entirety was definitely lessened, as we were wonderfully guided with knowledgeable advice that made things much more easily understandable and simple,” Halee said.

Upward Bound is not the only UNG program focused on assistance for first-generation students. In 2017, the university was awarded \$1.13 million over five years for the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Its purpose is to continually serve 25 high-achieving, low-income, first-generation and/or underrepresented students who want to enroll in graduate school.

The McNair Scholars Program identifies and prepares UNG sophomores, juniors and seniors for post-baccalaureate studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Each is matched with a faculty member



The stress of the process of applying for college in its entirety was definitely lessened.

— Halee Stone
Upward Bound graduate



It’s not one big step to college. There are multiple steps.

— Thomas Hayes
McNair Scholar

to conduct scholarly research and establish a formalized mentorship, said Iris Royal, program director of the McNair Scholars at UNG.

So far, the program — just like Upward Bound — can tout quantifiable success. A handful of UNG seniors were accepted into graduate-level programs.

Based on these results, Iris Royal said UNG will exceed its milestones. The program’s success is evident in the changes to students, which is the goal.

“When I see a student comes from doubt that they can go to graduate school, and then see them in our office every week filling out applications, or when I see a student who thought they weren’t good enough to go to graduate school, and now they are talking about schools everywhere ... it warms my heart to see that,” said Royal, herself a McNair Scholar graduate.

Currently, 25 students are in the McNair Scholars program. While they strive to achieve their graduate school goals, they also give back to Upward Bound.

Thomas Hayes, a McNair Scholar and junior pursuing a degree in computer information systems, was one of the counselors for Upward Bound’s summer program. The 27-year-old from Suwanee, Georgia, said his focus was to keep things in perspective for the high school students.

“I tried to keep them looking at the whole experience and let them know it’s a step-by-step process,” Hayes said. “It’s not one big step to college. There are multiple steps. If you look at each individual step, you won’t get overwhelmed with the path of attending college and graduating.”

East-West connections extend partnerships, intercultural studies

Building partnerships
around the world
is one way UNG
helps prepare
students to
be leaders
in a global
and
diverse
society.

By Clark Leonard
Photos by Peggy Cozart

For years, the growth of those relationships was concentrated in Europe. The London Experience, which happens during spring break, started 25 years ago in the Mike Cottrell College of Business, and the Corps of Cadets has forged partnerships with military schools in Hungary, Romania and Poland. An agreement with Goethe-Institut, the premier global German language and cultural organization, sends UNG students to study in Germany each summer.

But as Asia is becoming a larger player on the world

stage, UNG's connections are growing at a rapid clip on that continent.

"Asia's importance has been obvious for many years, and in response, UNG has established connections with key partners for both cadets and our civilian students," said Dr. Christopher Jespersen, dean of UNG's College of Arts & Letters. "Helping UNG students develop expertise in East Asian languages, cultures, and societies is a vital part of these new and expanding partnerships. They provide opportunities that set UNG graduates apart and help them succeed."



Strong Partner In Japan



A trip during the spring semester highlighted the growing connections between UNG and Nanzan University.

Ten students and two faculty members from Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, visited UNG in the spring, and their collaboration began even before their arrival with online interactions through video chats and a text messaging app.

That served as preparation for producing 8- to 10-minute videos about college life in the U.S. The visit was part of a collaborative online international learning (COIL) program for Nanzan, which partners with eight U.S. universities, including UNG, Georgetown University and Arizona State University.



UNG students will travel to Japan this summer for a similar, eight-week COIL experience. This fall, UNG students will have the option to go on a semester-long or academic-year exchange to the Japanese university for the first time, with Nanzan students coming to UNG for academic-year exchanges. The eight-week summer study abroad trips led by Dr. Tomoe Nishio, assistant professor of Japanese at UNG, in 2017 and 2018 were previously the longest trips available in UNG's partnership.

While they had already been working together for a year and a half, UNG formalized its partnership with Nanzan with an official agreement in November 2018. The collaboration benefits students in UNG's Japanese language programs and new Bachelor of Arts in East Asian studies, which launched in spring 2019. Japanese courses had a combined total of 201 enrollments in the fall 2018 and spring 2019 semesters.

"It is a great accomplishment to have established such a deep partnership with Nanzan University within just a few years," Nishio said.

Ten students and two faculty members from Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, visited UNG earlier this year.



A group of 22 students, two staff members and a faculty member from UNG visited a variety of sites in Japan to learn about the country's government and culture through the Kakehashi Project.

These connections are indicative of a larger trend of UNG's growing footprint in Asia. Sadie Foote, study abroad adviser in UNG's Center for Global Engagement, is glad to see that trend.

"It gives students another perspective," Foote said. "It helps them grow in terms of flexibility and adaptability in a culture that's much different from American culture."

Nishio's special topics class welcomed the Japanese students this spring. She called the collaboration that paired four UNG students with two to three Nanzan students each "Project Sakura," which means "cherry blossom."

"It's an amazing experience for students to have this cultural immersion."

-Sheila Schulte
Associate Vice President for International Programs

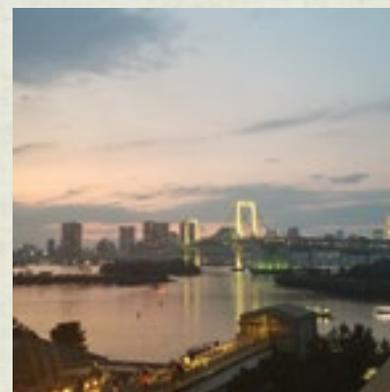
Nishio says the shorter exchanges encourage students to learn their collaborators' language and consider a more long-term study abroad in the future. Sheila Schulte, associate vice president for international programs at UNG, agrees.

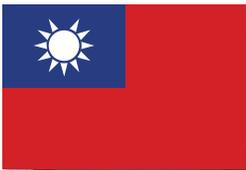
"It's an amazing experience for students to have this cultural immersion," Schulte said. "Our hope is that it broadens their perspective and opens their eyes to see that they can study abroad for a summer, a semester or a year."

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HOSTS 25 FROM UNG

Another opportunity in Japan came through the country's government. A group of 22 UNG students, accompanied by Dr. Michael Proulx, associate professor of history; Foote; and Katie Beccue, program coordinator for the College of Arts & Letters, traveled to Japan for a nine-day visit through the Kakehashi Project during UNG's spring break in mid-March. The Japanese government paid all the expenses for the group from UNG to learn more about the government and culture of Japan.

"The Kakehashi Project was an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to not only experience the beauty that is Japan firsthand and get wonderful insight into the rich history of the country, but to get an amazing look into the culture that helped shape my ancestors, my family, and myself," said senior London Taylor, who is from Buford, Georgia, and is pursuing a degree in film and digital media.





Corps of Cadets Adds Two Taiwan Agreements



Col. Yihsung Lin of Taiwan's Management College, National Defense University, and UNG President Bonita Jacobs celebrate the new partnership.

UNG's Corps of Cadets added two partnerships with separate colleges within Taiwan's National Defense University (NDU) during the fall semester and extended a third Taiwanese partnership that has existed since 2012.

UNG's renewed agreement with the Republic of China Military Academy (ROCMA) extends the university's first-ever military student exchange program that to-date has sent 15 UNG cadets to study in Taiwan.

Cadet Tyler Avret, a junior from Evans, Georgia, pursuing a degree in Chinese, was thankful for the semester he spent at ROCMA and is glad more students will get to be a part of similar exchanges.

"Going out and living in a different culture is eye-opening," Avret said. "You see how everything is interconnected."

One of the two new partnerships, with the Management College at NDU, located in Taipei, was signed this past summer to facilitate the exchange of students and faculty. UNG President Bonita Jacobs traveled to Taiwan in October to sign the second agreement, a student and faculty partnership with the NDU's Political Warfare Academy, also known as Fu Hsing Kang College, in Taipei.

CRITICAL LANGUAGES PLAY VITAL ROLE

UNG's programs in critical languages undergird much of the expansion of partnerships in Asia. They provide students with knowledge of the languages of host countries, which makes them more likely to study abroad.

UNG's Bachelor of Arts in modern languages offers a concentration in Chinese language and minors in Korean and Japanese.

"The University of North Georgia is fortunate to have a winning combination of excellent language programs and scholarship opportunities, which pave the way for all UNG students to access education abroad opportunities in Asia," Schulte said.

Chinese Language Flagship, Project Global Officer (Project GO), and the Japan Foundation have all awarded grants that have bolstered UNG's language and study abroad efforts in East Asia.

UNG received the \$400,000 grant from the Japanese Foundation in 2016.

The Chinese Language Flagship allows students to study the language for four years at UNG, then have a capstone year abroad. UNG gained approval this spring to award flagship funds to civilian students in addition to eligible cadets — a move aimed to increase participation. For the first five years, nine of those sent for the capstone year were cadets while only four were civilians.

The university also has gained a second partner university, National Taiwan University, where students can spend their capstone year abroad. The other is at Nanjing University in China.

Project GO is a "collaborative initiative to improve language skills, regional expertise and intercultural communication skills of future military officers."



UNG LAUNCHES EAST ASIAN STUDIES DEGREE

UNG's East Asian studies bachelor's degree offers concentrations in Chinese, Japanese and Korean studies.

Dr. Sung Shin Kim, director of the East Asian studies program and professor of history, said this spring she advised 15 students in the new degree program, with seven of those in the Korean studies concentration.

The Japan Foundation grant allowed UNG to hire three faculty members for Japanese studies. That was the final piece of a puzzle built for more than a decade to form the East Asian studies degree offerings.

As the East Asian studies program grows, Kim and other faculty members are exploring additional partnerships with universities in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.



A New Partner In India



Dr. M.B. Srinivas of BML Munjal's College of Engineering and Technology finalizes the new partnership during a visit to UNG's Dahlongega Campus.

This past fall, UNG's physics and marketing departments and the Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis (IESA) inked an agreement with an Indian university, BML Munjal University.

Dr. J.B. Sharma, assistant department head of physics at UNG, visited BML Munjal when he was in India to see family. He was

impressed with the private university, which was founded in 2014 and has partnerships with the likes of Siemens, IBM and the Imperial College of London.

Sharma connected with Dr. M.B. Srinivas, dean of BML Munjal's College of Engineering and Technology, which led to the agreement. UNG and BML Munjal will work to form faculty and student exchanges through Sharma; Dr. Mohan Menon, management and marketing department chair in UNG's Mike Cottrell College of Business; and Dr. Jeff Turk, director of IESA.

"Engagement between the oldest democracy and the largest democracy in the world is very important," Sharma said. "It will be beneficial for both societies."

With the expansion of UNG's partnerships through language programs, East Asian studies and the Corps of Cadets, such relationships will continue to be a major player in UNG's global footprint.

CLASS NOTES

1980s



Greg Anderson, '80, recently retired from the Cartersville (Georgia) Parks and Recreation Department. For the past 38 years, Anderson's department has won numerous awards and increased the park acreage from 155 to more than 655.



Greg Murray, '02, was named the 2019 Lumpkin County Teacher of the Year. He has taught Georgia history to eighth-graders at Lumpkin County Middle School in Dahlonega, Georgia, for the past seven years, having previously taught special education. Murray earned a bachelor's degree in special education and played basketball for UNG from 1999-2001.



Maj. Gen. Allan Elliott, '84, retired from the Army Materiel Command Headquarters, where he served as chief of staff and assistant deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Reserve. During his 35 years in the U.S. Army, Elliott commissioned infantry, served as deputy commanding general of the 108th Training Command, and deployed to Iraq in 2006 and to Afghanistan in 2013.

Leslie Jarchow, '06, a Hall County native, was elected to the Flowery Branch (Georgia) City Council. She graduated from UNG with a bachelor's degree in political science.



Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, '88, who graduated from UNG with a degree in marketing, was assigned as director of J-3 Operations/Cyber at U.S. Africa Command in Germany. The Distinguished Military Graduate commissioned as an Aviation Officer directly out of college.



Butan Amedi, '06, who graduated from UNG with an associate degree in civil engineering, had an op-ed article published in the Jerusalem Post after a recent visit to Israel. Amedi, a native of the mountaintop town of Amadiya located in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, said his background influenced his take on the subject matter.

1990s



Jay Parrish, '99, who was previously deputy chief at the Gainesville (Georgia) Police Department, took over as chief Feb. 1. Parrish served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for six years after graduating from UNG with a degree in management.



John Simpson, '08, was named interim head of school for Lakeview Academy in Gainesville, Georgia. Simpson has worked at the academy for 14 years

2000s

Katie DeFoor, '01, was chosen as the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year for Jack P. Nix Elementary School in Cleveland, Georgia. The mother of four is a third-generation teacher who has taught art to middle and elementary school students for the past 14 years. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in art education.

and served as admission and external relations director, dean of students and a coach. He is also chairman of the Gainesville Parks and Recreation board and pastor at Lanier Christian Church and previously was honored as the Gainesville Jaycees' Young Man of the Year. Simpson graduated from UNG with a master's degree in education.



Chris Grimes, '09, who has been working in emergency operations for Forsyth County (Georgia) for the past 12 years, was promoted to the county's director of emergency management. Grimes earned a bachelor's degree from UNG, a Master of Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University, and is a certified Georgia Emergency Manager.

2010s



Frank Zamora, '10, was recognized as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year in Hall County, and was named a finalist in the statewide competition.

He received an Associate of Arts degree in history from UNG and serves as the social studies department chairman at Johnson High School in Gainesville, Georgia.

Kelley Kostulakos, '11, was presented with the 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year title for Tesnatee Gap Elementary School in Cleveland, Georgia. The teacher of 12 years graduated from UNG with her bachelor's and master's degrees in early childhood and special education. Kostulakos has been a teacher in White County for four years and previously won the Teacher of the Year award in Hall County.

Melissa Simpson, '17, executive director of Film Impact Georgia, judged the South Georgia Film Festival in Valdosta, Georgia. She graduated from UNG with a bachelor's degree in film and digital media and contributed to both the Atlanta Film and Rome Film Festivals.

Aaron Friedman, '17, was sworn in as a probation officer after graduating in the top 10 percent of his class. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Anita Renfro, '17, was selected for a regional interview for the White House Fellowship. Only around 15 Americans are chosen every year to serve as a White House Fellow. Renfro was both a David L. Boren Scholarship and a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipient while at UNG. She graduated with a degree in Arabic.



Lyric Jones, '18, was the first UNG graduate selected for the prestigious Hopkins Nanjing Master of Arts Program — the only Chinese MA in the world recognized by both countries. The program is a joint venture between Johns Hopkins University and Nanjing University. Jones graduated with a major in Chinese and completed the Chinese Language Flagship Program.



Townsend named to U.S. Army Africa Command

Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, a 1982 alumnus of UNG, has

been assigned as commander of the U.S. Army Africa Command (US AFRICOM). Townsend currently serves as commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. He will become only the fifth commander of U.S. Africa Command, replacing U.S. Marine Corps Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser.



Two alumni join Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame

Two UNG alumni, retired Army Lt. Gen. Benjamin Randolph Mixon '75 (left) and retired Air Force Lt. Col. George Robert Partridge (right), were among 17 inductees to the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame in November in Columbus, Georgia. UNG alumni account for 11 of the 100 inductees since the Hall of Fame was established in 2013.

Mixon served 36 years on active duty and had numerous combat deployments. He now serves as a trustee of the UNG Foundation.

Partridge, who has been awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star, completed two years as a cadet at UNG before enlisting in the Air Force in 1952. He retired after 33 years of service and 5,000 hours of military flying time.

More than 30 UNG alumni from the classes of 1954 to 2018 celebrated with Mixon and Partridge during the induction.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

John E. Armstrong '80
December 21, 2018

Eloise Hood Ash '39
February 2, 2019

Joy Busby Baker '61
November 12, 2018

Merra Griffeth Bauerband '57
December 12, 2018

Daniel Kemper Bell
September 30, 2018

Geneva Williams Bennett '38
February 15, 2019

Marjorie Pinson Black '59
February 6, 2019

Hannah Sarae Blythe
October 18, 2018

Jayme M. Bohne
January 27, 2019

Elaine Dayton Bonner '90
January 24, 2019

Suzanne League Bourne '46
March 19, 2019

Robert Lee Bowers '71
April 10, 2019

Marviene Miles Brand '66
March 28, 2019

Donald Jewel Carter '54
February 7, 2019

Thomas Leo Charlson '74
April 17, 2019

Douglas Wayne Clegg '65
January 1, 2019

Frances Wright Coker '63
January 16, 2019

Jeanna Rozetta Collins '85
February 10, 2019

Juanita Odessa Cook '53
November 19, 2018

David Monroe Cooper '68
September 30, 2018

Ronald David Corder '75
January 6, 2019

Larry Dean Crisler '61
October 18, 2018

Nanci Cowart Davis '61
December 6, 2018

Hubert Jackson Deaton '49
September 23, 2018

Margaret Hearn Dixon '57
March 14, 2019

John Kevin Douglas '85
March 19, 2019

Margaret Reynolds Dudley '05
January 5, 2019

Martha Sue Freeman Dyar '41
December 8, 2018

Shirley Howard Elliott '56
October 28, 2018

Roxanne E. Ellison '94
March 31, 2019

Doris Dieskow Engerrand '58
January 20, 2019

Winfred Leon England '62
February 1, 2019

Edgar Isidro Flores '16
December 13, 2018

James Pinkson Flowers '64
April 6, 2019

Andrew Murray Gallup '19
November 17, 2018

Billy Ross Garrett '60
December 3, 2018

Patsy Sosebee Griffin '75
December 19, 2018

James Melvin Hawkins '70
October 5, 2018

Mildred Holbrook Hazelrigs '72
January 1, 2019

**Margaret Frances Mangleburg
Hicks** '44
January 4, 2019

Mary Prickett Hill '58
March 8, 2019

Andrea Lynne Hittepole '90
November 22, 2018

Joshua Pierce Holland '08
December 20, 2018

Billy Lewis Ivey '53
October 11, 2018

Barbara Aiken Jones '63
January 27, 2019

John Christopher Jones '91
October 25, 2018

Molly M. Jones
September 24, 2018

Mohammed Basit Kassim '18
December 29, 2018

George Dewey King '41
October 7, 2018

Lecia Lanford Landolt '79
January 4, 2019

Edith Iler Lanier '44
November 19, 2018

Vickie Jordan Loyd '65
November 15, 2018

Mary Marcile Mashburn '83
December 11, 2018

Bobby Ray McLendon '52
January 31, 2019



DeKalb County Police Officer Edgar Isidro Flores, who graduated magna cum laude from UNG in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, was killed in the line of duty on December 13, 2018.

The UNG Police Department observed Flores, as they do every Georgia Police Officer killed in the line of duty, by placing a thin blue line mourning band across their badge. The band was worn until Flores was laid to rest on Dec. 18.

Flores had served with the DeKalb County Police Department for 18 months.

Allen Parker Miegel '50
April 3, 2019

Alex Isaac Molina
March 31, 2019

Sara Elrod Moore '49
March 1, 2019

Lynn Bennett Nahlik '78
September 22, 2018

Robert E. Nelson '50
January 3, 2019

Ryan Alex Oreszko
March 3, 2019

Talmadge H. Perry '79
March 17, 2019

G. Vicky Cadora Pharr '76
October 14, 2018

Phillip Ray Plummer '60
April 6, 2019

Nancy Broadrick Posick '69
December 23, 2018

Sylvia Randall Pound '60
November 22, 2018

Betty Dee Rennie '95
February 17, 2019

John R. Robinson '62
December 24, 2018

Hope Flowers Ross '04
January 13, 2019

Henry Frederick Rue '93
November 23, 2018

Charles McDonald Russell '40
February 16, 2019

Beverly Bryan Russell '61
January 2, 2019

William Dillmus Sailors '76
March 31, 2019

James Robert Sawyer '64
December 12, 2018

William Henry Shaw '84
February 20, 2019

Christopher Dale Still
October 15, 2018

Dale M. Stone '62
March 30, 2019

Alice Allen Surratt '61
January 18, 2019

Charles L. Todd '84
October 8, 2018

Lamar V. Waldrip '54
September 29, 2018

Marsha Hammond White '79
April 5, 2019

Billy B. Wood '54
March 7, 2019

Rebecca Tate Yawn '74
December 25, 2018

George Edward Zeigler '37
December 29, 2018

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Tammy Michelle Allen
February 2, 2019

Kaye Taylor Biddy
April 3, 2019

Jan Burt
November 1, 2018

Lester Eugene Conyers
January 24, 2019

William Jerry Head
April 9, 2019

Terrence W. Holeman
January 1, 2019

Darrell Ivey
October 6, 2018

Mary Ruth Miller
December 6, 2018

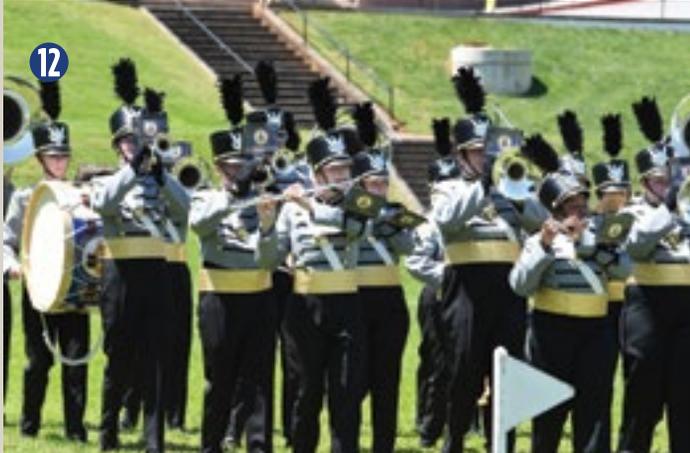
To honor a former classmate or mentor, consider making a gift in their memory to the UNG Foundation at unggive.org.

ALUMNI '19 WEEKEND

Photos by Peggy Cozart, J.K. Devine and the UNG Corps of Cadets

- 1.** Saturday's Corps of Cadets 5K Fun Run. **2.** Revel on the River at Pine Valley. Climbing was open to attendees.
- 3.** The UNG class of 1959 held a reunion dinner Friday night. **4.** Jasmine Bouges received the Paul M. Hutcherson Student Award at Saturday's UNGAA Alumni Awards Banquet.
- 5.** Col. Palmer and his family at the Military Awards Review on Sunday. **6.** Band X played at Revel on the River held at Pine Valley. **7.** Brig. Gen. Michael L. Scholes Sr., '88, guest speaker at the Memorial Retreat.
- 8.** Alumni hit the links Friday morning for the annual golf tournament. **9.** Members of the Class of 1959 enjoyed their 60th reunion. **10.** Kiersten Wilson (with plaque) was the Dot Strother Scholarship Recipient. **11.** The annual golf tournament is held at Achasta Golf Club in Dahlonega.
- 12.** UNG Golden Eagle Band at the Military Awards Review. **13.** Maj. Dan Brown, '09, received the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award at the UNGAA Awards Banquet.
- 14.** Cadets fire the cannon during the Memorial Retreat. **15.** Dr. Carlise Womack-Wynne was honored with a Distinguished Professor Award at the UNGAA Awards Banquet.





Upcoming Events

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

JUNE

June 1

UNG Baseball vs NCAA Division II Baseball Championship
Cary, N.C.

June 2 - 7

Driver's Education Class
Gainesville Campus

June 11

Alumni Gathering
Brunswick, Georgia

June 12

Alumni Gathering
Savannah, Georgia

June 13

Alumni Gathering
Augusta, Georgia

June 22

Fall 2019 New Student Orientation
Gainesville Campus

June 25

Meet Mike Cottrell College of Business Dean Dr. Mary Gowan Smokejack BBQ, Alpharetta

JULY

July 6

Guest Artist Concert: Franklin Pond Chamber Players
Gloria Shott Auditorium
Dahlonega Campus

July 24

Transfer Student Orientation
Blue Ridge Campus

AUGUST

August 2

Summer 2019 Commencement and Commissioning Ceremonies
Dahlonega Campus

August 10

Defensive Driving Class
Gainesville Campus

August 24

Starlight Celebration and Fireworks
Gainesville Campus

SEPTEMBER

September 2

A Little Night(Hawk) Music Concert Series
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

September 20-21

Communication, Media, & Journalism's Georgia Film Festival
Gainesville Campus

September 23

Philip Snyder, cello, and Miya Suen, piano
Gainesville Campus

September 26

RAD Self Defense Class
Gainesville Campus

September 27-29, October 4

Gainesville Theater Alliance presents The Ugly Duckling
Pearce Auditorium - Brenau University

September 27-29

Boar's Head Weekend
Dahlonega Campus

OCTOBER

October 1

RAD Self Defense Class
Gainesville Campus

October 7

A Little Night(Hawk) Music Concert Series
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

October 19

Gold Rush Parade
Alumni House
Dahlonega Campus

October 19

Class of '79 40th Reunion
Dahlonega Campus

October 19

Class of '94 25th Reunion
Pine Valley, Dahlonega

NOVEMBER

November 4

A Little Night(Hawk) Music Concert Series
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

November 5-16

Gainesville Theater Alliance presents Legally Blonde: The Musical
Hosche Theatre - Brenau University

November 8

Corps Veteran's Day Review
Dahlonega Campus

November 8-11

Gainesville Theater Alliance presents Arms and the Man
Ed Cabell Theatre
Gainesville Campus

DECEMBER

December 5

Women's Holiday Scholarship Luncheon
Chattahoochee Country Club
Gainesville

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 5

UNG FAMILY DAY

Alumni House
Dahlonega Campus

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If you've been dreaming about that promotion or new job, there has never been a better time to take that step. Earning a graduate degree can open doors to personal growth, career advancement and even greater financial reward.

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 - Higher Education Leadership and Practice*
 - History
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 - Physical Therapy
 - Public Administration*
 - Teaching
- Specialized certificate programs are available, also.
- * available online

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STARLIGHT

CELEBRATION & FIREWORKS

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA'S GAINESVILLE CAMPUS

University of North Georgia
Gainesville Campus
Saturday, Aug. 24*
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.
Fireworks at dark

ung.edu/starlight



***In the event of inclement weather, the rain date for Starlight is September 7.**



Learn more at
www.ung.edu/news



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