Engineered for Success

Rapid growth and a bright future for UGA’s College of Engineering
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ON THE COVER

Our engineering cover highlights tools engineers use in several of the disciplines offered at UGA including agricultural, computer, and biological engineering.

Designed by Jackie Baxter Roberts
Photo by Peter Frey
THIRTY UGA STUDENTS spent the day at the state Capitol rubbing elbows with Georgia lawmakers in February for the fourth annual Dawgs at the Dome event. The day involved breakfast with state representatives, individual meetings with legislators, and, of course, photo ops with Hairy Dawg (left). This event benefits the students as well as lawmakers. While students receive crucial experience in political affairs, the lawmakers are able to tap into the concerns, opinions, and perspectives of the university community.
A Promising Start

Celebrating Five Years of the College of Engineering

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the founding of UGA’s College of Engineering. As you will read in the pages ahead, the faculty, staff, and students of the university’s newest college already are earning recognition for their innovative programs and impactful research.

The College of Engineering is one of the fastest growing public colleges of engineering in the country. Since its establishment in 2012, enrollment has tripled to nearly 2,000 students. As enrollment has grown, so have the college’s degree offerings. Recently, for example, the college partnered with the Terry College of Business to create a dual degree program that allows students to earn a BS in engineering and an MBA in five years. This program, which is unique within the University System of Georgia, gives students the engineering expertise and management skills necessary to become leaders in business and industry.

The research enterprise of the college also has tripled over the five-year period, and growth is expected to continue as new interdisciplinary research collaborations take root. In the last year, the New Materials Innovation Center, the Georgia Informatics Institutes for Research and Education, and the Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems were established, bringing together researchers from a variety of disciplines to find solutions to some of the most complex challenges facing our society.

The college is heavily engaged in public service activities as well, providing hands-on assistance to communities across Georgia and beyond. In Spalding County, for example, engineering faculty and students are helping to determine infrastructure needs for an economic development project through UGA’s Archway Partnership program. This outreach effort is just one of many examples of the college helping to address critical needs.

As the College of Engineering continues to grow and evolve, I look forward to the bright future ahead for its faculty, staff, and students—and the remarkable ways they will help UGA fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and service.

“As the College of Engineering continues to grow and evolve, I look forward to the bright future ahead for its faculty, staff, and students—and the remarkable ways they will help UGA fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and service.”

Jere W. Morehead
President
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These top corporate matching programs have helped thousands of Bulldogs double – or triple – their gifts to the University of Georgia.

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Does your company offer matching gift opportunities?

You and your employer can help grow the number of opportunities for UGA students and faculty to change the world.

Find out more at give.uga.edu/matching.
Making practice perfect

A new Indoor Athletic Facility, dedicated in February, will let the big Dawgs practice, rain or shine. The $30.2 million project was completely funded by private gifts and includes a football practice field, 65-meter track runway and jumping pits, and batting cages that can be lowered from the ceiling—all in a climate-controlled environment.

The facility will support the training needs of more than 600 student-athletes.

Such facilities have become the norm for college football, and the addition of the Indoor Athletic Facility puts the Bulldogs in a league with its conference counterparts.

“This new indoor facility will provide a first-class, state-of-the-art practice environment that will benefit our sports and student-athletes for decades to come,” says Greg McGarity, UGA J. Reid Parker director of athletics.
Professional programs climb the rankings

▲ UGA’s MBA programs and law programs performed well in The U.S. News and World Report’s recent graduate school rankings.

The School of Law ranked among the top 30 law schools in the nation, with recognition for its strength in international law (18th) and trial advocacy (21st). Georgia Law’s score for “employed-at-10-months” placed it among the top 25 law schools nationally.

The Terry College of Business’ part-time professional MBA program moved up one spot to No. 33 among all programs and 20th on the public business schools list. Meanwhile, the full-time MBA program climbed seven spots to 48th overall and 24th among public institutions.

FLAVOR OF GEORGIA

Grinding out a win

▲ Jaime BSA ’99 and Harry Foster, owners of Georgia Grinders Premium Nut Butters, savored the sweet taste of success when they took the grand prize at UGA’s 2017 Flavor of Georgia Contest.

The Georgia Grinders Pecan Butter was chosen as the best of 33 finalists.

The annual contest, conducted by the UGA Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development, is a chance for food businesses to showcase their new products. A team of food industry experts and grocery buyers judged the final round of the contest, rating the products on qualities including innovation, use of Georgia theme, market potential, and flavor.

“We had 117 products submitted this year and some of the toughest competition we’ve seen in the contest’s 11-year history,” says Sharon P. Kane, Flavor of Georgia contest coordinator. “These 33 products represented are truly the best of the best.”

(Above) The UGA Food Product Innovation and Commercialization, or FoodPIC, Center was dedicated on Jan. 30 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

(Right) High School STEM interns Dylan Blohm and Megan Pitts make and serve samples of mini cheesecakes topped with Georgia-grown blueberries and pecans during a tour of the FoodPIC Center.

FOOD BIZ

Georgia’s test kitchen

▲ A new facility on the University of Georgia Griffin campus could improve the development of Georgia foods while strengthening the state’s economy.

Dedicated in January, the Food Technology Center is the new home for the Food Product Innovation and Commercialization (FoodPIC) Center. The facility is designed for short-term partnerships between food entrepreneurs and UGA scientists.

“FoodPIC is where food entrepreneurs go with their ideas, and we turn them into reality,” says FoodPIC director Kirk Kealey.

The facility can adapt ideas into edible prototypes. From there, FoodPic can help with the processes required to get the food onto grocery store shelves.

The center focuses primarily on Georgia foods and commodities such as peaches, peanuts, and blueberries. Kealey’s goal is for the center to become the best facility of its kind in the country.
OUT OF THIS WORLD

UGA satellite selected for space launch

The UGA CubeSat project was among a group of satellites selected by NASA to fly aboard missions planned to launch in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

The project is led by a team of undergraduate students and faculty from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering. Once completed, UGA’s SPectral and Ocean Color Satellite, or SPOC, will acquire image data to monitor coastal ecosystems, with a specific focus on the Georgia coast.

NASA selected 34 small satellites from 19 states and the District of Columbia to fly as auxiliary payloads aboard missions planned to launch in the next three years.

“Having UGA build a payload is an honor, but having it selected for launch makes it a reality for myself, the students, and the university,” says David Cotton, assistant research scientist and adviser on the project.

FANTASTIC FOUR

Life sciences affirming

Georgia Bio, the state’s life sciences industry association, recognized four UGA leaders and their units for the significant contributions they have made to Georgia’s life sciences industry.

Derek Eberhart, director of Innovation Gateway; Alan Darvill, director of UGA’s Complex Carbohydrate Research Center; Robert Ivarie, professor emeritus of genetics; and Steven Stice, director of UGA’s Regenerative Bioscience Center, accepted awards.

“We are pleased to see such strong recognition of UGA’s impact on the state’s burgeoning life sciences industry,” says David Lee, UGA vice president for research. “These awards to UGA bioscience leaders affirm the advances we have made in supporting entrepreneurship and translational research at the university.”

EXCHANGE RATE

International appeal

UGA has been named one of the top producing Fulbright institutions this year with 15 Fulbright students and six Fulbright scholars for the 2016-17 academic year.

UGA is one of only sixteen institutions included on the list announced by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program. Each year, UGA assists faculty, students, and recent alumni as they work through the Fulbright application and interview process.

“I am proud of the students and scholars who have been selected to represent our nation in this prestigious program,” says President Morehead. “Their collective achievement is a testament to the strength of this institution as one of the very best public research universities, and we wish all of them well in their pursuit to make a positive difference in the world.”

(Left to right) David Cotten of the Center for Geospatial Research, computer science and astrophysics major Caleb Adams, associate professor of geography Deepak Mishra, and mechanical engineering major Megan Le Corre of Peachtree City worked along with a team of students and professors in a collaborative effort to design, build, and deploy (with the help of NASA) a cube satellite.
AGING IN PLACE

There’s no place like home

Aging in place is the ability to live in one’s own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably regardless of age. UGA researchers are making strides to make that more possible for low-income citizens through the training and use of service coordinators.

Most Americans want to remain in their homes as they age, but it isn’t always feasible for low-income citizens living in public housing complexes, says Heidi Ewen, lead author of an article recently published in the Journal of Housing for the Elderly and assistant professor in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The researchers propose new protocols for service coordinators, like bringing educational programs in homes rather than externally, as well as placing kiosks in public housing lobbies that would allow residents to easily communicate with their service coordinators.

NEW DIGS

College of Pharmacy is expanding in Augusta

For the first time in its more than 40-year history, the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy’s program in Augusta has its own facility after the completion of a $3.2 million demolition and renovation project.

Located on the Augusta University Health Science campus, the 10,000-square-foot facility doubles the educational space for the program’s expanded course offerings.

A second phase of the Augusta expansion will begin soon.

UNCORKED

Supporting Georgia’s wine growers

Wineries are becoming big business in Georgia, and UGA’s Cooperative Extension is working to support the state’s wine growers.

UGA Extension hired its first full-time wine grape specialist, Cain Hickey. Hickey is helping growers across the state improve their vineyards and research new growing practices and grape varieties that could improve the quality and reputation of Georgia’s wines.

Over the past decade, the emphasis of Georgia’s wine production has broadened. While muscadine grapes are still widely spread across the state, more growers have introduced traditional and hybrid wine grapes to farms in north Georgia.

According to a 2014 study, Georgia’s wineries have more than a $7 million annual impact on the state’s economy. With Hickey’s expertise, Georgia wine growers have the potential to make that impact even greater.
Shop ‘til you drop

Couture a la Cart, a pop-up retail boutique, gives students in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences retail entrepreneurship class the ability to put their skills to work.

“This is not teaching entrepreneurship, this is doing entrepreneurship,” says instructor Clair McClure. “All of it is generated by the students.”

Operated out of a custom-designed golf cart, the mobile retailer can be stationed on different parts of campus such as outside Dawson Hall, the main library, and the Arch. The cash-only cart sells handmade fashion merchandise from local vendors.

FREEDOM FOCUS

Pressing issues

Sonja R. West, UGA School of Law professor, has been named to the Otis Brumby Distinguished Professorship in First Amendment Law, a post shared by the law school and Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“Both law and journalism students will benefit from her experience and insight on this important American right, and this appointment continues the university’s commitment to equipping our students with the tools to be successful once they graduate,” says Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge, Georgia Law dean.

West specializes in constitutional law, media law, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Grady College and the law school are assembling a world-class team of First Amendment scholars who will help UGA students understand fundamental U.S. rights.

WELCOME HOME

New leadership

UGA will welcome two new deans to campus in July with the addition of Matthew Auer in the School of Public and International Affairs and Lisa K. Nolan in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Auer comes to the university from Bates College in Maine with a long record of academic leadership and service in multiple government agencies.

Vet Med alumna Lisa K. Nolan DVM ’88, MS ’89, PhD ’92 returns to campus from Iowa State University with several honors, including being named a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.
Study defines thunderstorm asthma epidemic conditions

As allergy sufferers can attest, thunderstorm activity can exacerbate asthma and respiratory ailments. UGA researchers are exploring new ways to predict thunderstorm asthma outbreaks that may one day provide early warnings for affected areas.

A study published by researchers from UGA and Emory University is one of the first to include thunderstorm diagnostics that assess storm severity. They found that the combination of rainfall, winds, and lightning from thunderstorms in conjunction with pollen or mold spores can worsen asthma symptoms. Rainfall and high humidity rupture bioaerosols (like fungi and pollen). Electrical activity from thunderstorms causes pollen to break apart further, and winds can spread pollen ahead of the storm. Combined, these factors can reach epidemic proportions.

Last year when strong storms moved across southeastern Australia, an asthma epidemic struck Melbourne and the surrounding area. High pollen concentrations dispersed by strong, gusty winds led to multiple deaths and a flood of residents seeking medical attention for respiratory problems.

By cross-referencing several forecast modeling tools, the public and emergency service providers can be better prepared for the incidence of thunderstorm asthma events.

“While this study does not yet provide the capability of predicting thunderstorm asthma outbreaks, our methodology may provide a key piece to the puzzle for alerting public health officials about what storms may trigger an episode and which ones may not,” said co-author Marshall Shepherd, Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences.

STARTING EARLY

Flower phenom

University of Georgia assistant professor Andrea Sweigart is in rare company. She was among 102 scientists to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers in the early stages of their research careers.

Sweigart was commended by the National Science Foundation for “significant contributions toward understanding the molecular, genetic, and evolutionary mechanisms that underlie the origin of species” and for her work “engaging high school teachers in evolutionary genetics research.”

She and her lab have spent years collecting data on the genetic basis of adaptation in Mimulus, a genus of wildflowers found throughout western North America. Their work has provided key insights into how new species form.

MAKE ’EM LAUGH

Student script wows

Grady College student Patrick Bailer’s script “Father Help Us” won second place in the Original Television Series Pilot Category at the annual Festival of Media Arts hosted by the Broadcast Education Association. The script started as a class assignment for the entertainment and media studies student.

Bailer’s script, chosen from entries out of 174 colleges nationwide, revolves around a priest torn between his parish duties and his former life in stand-up comedy.
BRINGING ATHENS TO YOU:

THAT’S OUR COMMITMENT.

WHETHER YOU’RE LAUNCHING START-UPS IN CALIFORNIA, BREAKING THE NEWS IN NEW YORK OR DISCOVERING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS IN TEXAS, A UGA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTER IS NEVER FAR.

Get news + invitations from your local chapter by updating your contact information: alumni.uga.edu/myinfo
The UGA family is coming together in support of the COMMIT TO GEORGIA Campaign.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Greetings! As we approach the end of the 2017 fiscal year, I am pleased to share that countless individuals and groups have committed to supporting UGA since the public launch of the Commit to Georgia Campaign in November. On these two pages, we highlight just a few of those supporters. In future issues of Georgia Magazine, we will share campaign updates and dive deeper into the three campaign priorities: removing barriers and opening doors for students, enhancing the learning environment, and solving grand challenges for the state and the world. Thank you for your ongoing support. I invite you to renew your commitment before the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and continue your support in the coming fiscal year that begins July 1. Go Dawgs!

Trey Paris  BBA ‘84, MBA ‘85
Chair, Commit to Georgia Campaign Committee

INDIVIDUAL DONORS  | Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program

Through the new Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program, the UGA Foundation matches any gift in the amount of $50,000, $75,000, or $100,000 to establish an endowed need-based scholarship. The program has the potential to create as many as 400 to 600 new scholarships.

As of early May, more than 85 scholarship commitments had been funded with 48 being awarded for the fall 2017 semester. Sabrina BSEd ‘99 and Chad BBA ’98 Collins were among the first donors to establish a scholarship through the program. “I’ve always been blown away by how the Bulldog Nation really takes care of its own,” said Chad. “If we have the chance to provide that for someone else, how can we not?”

(For another Georgia Commitment Scholarship donor profile, see page 53.) Learn more about the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program at give.uga.edu/georgia-commitment.

VOLUNTEER BOARDS  | Alumni Association Board of Directors

Volunteer groups on campus have embraced the goals of the Commit to Georgia Campaign, including the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors. This group of passionate alumni serves in an advisory capacity to promote, support, and advance the programs and services provided by the UGA Alumni Association. These efforts include a commitment to supporting and promoting the fundraising efforts of the university. Each year, every member of the board of directors makes an annual gift to UGA. In addition, these individuals educate their fellow alumni and friends about the campaign and encourage them to follow their lead.
The Class of 2017 set a Senior Signature fundraising record this year by donating 2,164 gifts for a total of $110,000. This is $19,500 more than the previous record held by the Class of 2015. The Senior Signature campaign gives graduating students the opportunity to donate to a school, college, department, or scholarship fund on campus that has enhanced their UGA experience. These students’ generous contributions are part of the Commit to Georgia Campaign, and their names are on the Class of 2017 Senior Signature plaque in Tate Plaza.

When faculty and staff make private gifts to UGA, it highlights their belief in the work taking place on campus. Meet Andre Simmons BBA ’01, assistant manager of UGA’s Accounts Payable Department, and his wife, Cara Winston Simmons AB ’03, MEd ’07, director of the Student Success and Advising Center in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Their support extends beyond their day-to-day roles as university employees. They are UGA donors and contribute to the FACS Fund for Excellence, the Multicultural Services and Programs Development Fund, and the College of Veterinary Medicine Support Fund. “We give because of our wonderful memories at UGA,” says the couple. “Giving back increases the opportunities and experiences of our students. It’s the least we can do for a university that has given so much to us.”

The Simmonses are not alone in their support. As of the end of March, UGA faculty, staff and retiree commitments totaled more than $20.7 million to the university since the Commit to Georgia Campaign began in 2012.
WORK WITH A VETERINARIAN, AND ASK FOR THE BIRD SETTING.”

The advice was unusual, but it turned out to be exactly what Asen Kirin needed. The UGA professor of art history was curating a show for the Georgia Museum of Art and needed to investigate the authenticity of a portrait whose history was largely unknown. He consulted a local conservator, who mentioned that colleagues elsewhere had worked successfully with veterinarians to X-ray works of art.

Fortunately, the museum and the College of Veterinary Medicine have strong ties—three faculty members at the college serve on the museum’s membership board. Dr. K. Paige Carmichael PhD ’94 was instrumental in connecting Kirin with the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, where technicians including Charleen Romine documented the painting during several X-ray sessions.

“This was the first painting.”

Art historian Asen Kirin (above) has been studying a private collection of previously undocumented Russian art.
The experience was novel for Romine, but it was crucial to Kirin’s work. “Portrait of a Youth,” dated 1827 and signed by Alexey Venetsianov, is part of a private collection of Russian art that is on long-term loan, and is a promised gift, to the museum. Kirin began examining the collection—virtually unknown for decades—in January 2013, eventually selecting nearly 200 pieces to display last fall during the exhibition “Gifts and Prayers: The Romanovs and Their Subjects.”

But before “Portrait of a Youth” could be displayed, Kirin had to verify that it was the work of Venetsianov, one of the most significant Russian painters of the early 19th century. It’s rare for a well-known artist to leave an unknown work, but the painting’s provenance, or chain of ownership, couldn’t be traced before 1974.

Kirin first sought X-rays to confirm that the canvas had not been scraped and reused, a common method of forgery. This confirmation was a significant first step in authentication, and working with the College of Veterinary Medicine meant that the portrait didn’t have to travel far. It also allowed Kirin to more thoroughly (and affordably) document the painting.

“Without their help, getting this far in the authentication process would have been a major monetary expense—and not easy,” says Kirin, a professor at the Lamar Dodd School of Art. “The museum’s standards for documentation are high, and this painting has been thoroughly documented and studied through different methods of scientific imaging.”

For Carmichael, professor of veterinary medicine, the project was a welcome opportunity to foster interaction between art and science. “I’m a big fan of getting rid of silos. These kinds of partnerships open people’s eyes to possibilities that they may not have considered. If they learn that connections can be made between fields that don’t seem connected on the surface, then hopefully in the future they’ll reach out and try to answer questions in a more complete manner,” she says.

“These kinds of connections are important in fostering lifelong learning. I really hope that in the future we’ll have more outside-the-box thinking.”

The “Portrait of a Youth” sessions seem to have sparked additional cross-campus collaboration. Veterinary technicians have since examined objects for research projects in other disciplines, including Antartic scallop shells for geology and soil samples for geography.

X-ray can be used to authenticate paintings but also can reveal other elements like materials used and an artist’s technique.

The UGA College of Veterinary Medicine provided X-ray equipment to help authenticate “Portrait of Youth” (right). X-rays (example left) confirmed that the canvas had not been scraped and reused, a common method of forgery.

GIVE.UGA.EDU/GEORGIA-MUSEUM-OF-ART
Caroline Moore ABI, MA ’16 enrolled at the University of Georgia unsure of what she wanted to become after graduation. Four years later, she came out prepared for a career in public relations and advertising.

Moore, who now works for The Wilbert Group PR firm in Atlanta, credits UGA faculty and staff for preparing and supporting her while she earned her degree. Through learning experiences in and out of the classroom, she developed the skills that employers in her field are seeking.

It paid off with a job that Moore loves. “I’m having a blast. I have a lot of different responsibilities, which means I’m doing something different every day,” she says. “I’m learning a lot.”

Moore is one of many in UGA’s Class of 2016 able to translate a degree into a career opportunity.
The UGA Career Center reported a 95 percent career outcomes rate for the Class of 2016—13 percent higher than the national average.

Of that class, 65 percent were employed full time, 20 percent were attending graduate school, and roughly 10 percent were either employed part time, working a full-time internship, or were self-employed within six months of graduations, according to data released in February.

“Our university is very outcomes-focused. We want our students to succeed after they graduate,” says Scott Williams, director of the UGA Career Center.

Through resume workshops and career fairs, visits to the classroom from successful UGA alumni, and mentoring from UGA faculty and staff, the university offers many opportunities for students to prepare for their careers.

And the university has taken this commitment even further. UGA’s experiential learning initiative, implemented for undergraduates entering in fall 2016, requires every student to engage in at least one experiential learning opportunity that enhances learning and positions them for success after graduation.

While UGA graduates go on to careers across the country and around the world, about 70 percent of employed graduates choose to join the Georgia workforce.

That’s no surprise, says Jill Walton, UGA’s executive director of corporate and foundation relations, given the career opportunities in this state—including 18 Fortune 500 companies.

“We are very lucky in the state of Georgia to have so many successful companies—companies that want to hire our students,” Walton says.

Tom Sturdevant, a college recruiting leader at Georgia-Pacific, says UGA students create a positive first impression when meeting with hiring managers and recruiters.

“Most importantly, we’ve noticed how their level of preparedness and professionalism transfers to the workplace,” says Sturdevant. “UGA provides their students with professional experiences through numerous organizations and opportunities, which also help individuals develop the leadership and interaction skills we value so much in our work environment.”

“I’m having a blast. I have a lot of different responsibilities, which means I’m doing something different every day. I’m learning a lot.”

—Caroline Moore, UGA graduate and account coordinator for the Wilbert Group in Atlanta

“We’ve noticed how [UGA students’] level of preparedness and professionalism transfers to the workplace.”

—Tom Sturdevant, a college recruiting leader at Georgia-Pacific
Moore left UGA a highly-qualified perspective employee. As a Foundation Fellow in the Honors Program, she had the opportunity to study abroad and earn a master’s degree in advertising and public relations as she completed her undergraduate degree.

What also set Moore apart was her hands-on experience.

For her senior capstone project, Moore took an integrated advertising and PR course with Karen Whitehill King, the Jim Kennedy Professor of New Media and Professor of Advertising, and Juan Meng, associate professor of public relations. Moore and her classmates developed an ad and PR campaign for the TBS talk show “Full Frontal with Samantha Bee.” They presented their work to TBS staff.

That experience, she says, helped her land a post-graduation fellowship that allowed her to work for PR and advertising agencies for six months before she found her current job.

While Moore is specifically grateful for the support from those in the Grady College and the Honors Program, faculty and staff throughout UGA’s other schools and colleges are doing the same types of things for their students.

“We have exceptionally bright students,” Williams says. “And we have a lot of individual faculty and staff who care about their students and what happens after graduation.”

DEVELOPING EXPERIENCES

BY THE NUMBERS

Career Outcomes Rate

The Career Outcomes Rate is calculated from the percentage of students who are either employed, continuing their education, or not currently seeking employment within an average of 6 months after graduation.

Career Outcomes Rate Breakdown

- 65% Employed Full-Time
- <1% Not Seeking
- <1% Self-Employed
- 4% Employed Part-Time
- 5% Full-Time Internship
- 20% Attending Grad School

Of All Full-Time Employed Graduates...

- 58% had jobs before graduation
- 91% had jobs within 3 months of graduation
- 99% had jobs within 6 months of graduation

There is an 85 percent knowledge rate among those who earned a UGA degree (undergraduate, graduate and professional) from August 2015 to May 2016. The knowledge rate is calculated as the number of graduates for which outcomes data has been collected divided by the total number of UGA graduates. Outcomes information is collected via surveys, phone calls, departmental collaboration, employer feedback, National Student Clearing House, and LinkedIn.

Learn more about the Career Outcomes Survey at career.uga.edu/outcomes.

65% employed full-time

95% career outcomes rate

U.S. national average

20% attending grad school

5% full-time internship

4% employed part-time

<1% self-employed

<1% not seeking

95% total of

95% one year

95% one year

95% one year

95% one year

95% one year
ENGINEERED FOR SUCCESS

CASSIE WRIGHT
Just five years after being founded, UGA’s College of Engineering is already fulfilling its promise to Georgia. Created to fill the needs of this rapidly growing state, the university’s College of Engineering is showing growth in all areas—including enrollment, research, placement, and corporate partnerships—and is poised to reach even greater heights by the end of its first decade.

“Judging by all metrics associated with the college, we’re growing,” says Dean Donald Leo. “We’re really serving the purpose of why the college was formed.”
ENGINEERING IS ONE OF UGA’S OLDEST academic subjects, with classes offered as early as 1844 and the first engineering graduates receiving their diplomas in 1868. Focused on civil engineering first and later agricultural engineering, the program was moved to what is now the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. But progress was interrupted by the Great Depression. It wasn’t until 1993—when biological engineering was added—that the program began to grow again.

The Faculty of Engineering was established in 2001; two years later, it received institute status with degree-granting privileges. The College of Engineering was created in 2012.

“There was a recognition that giving students more options to study engineering was important for the state of Georgia,” Leo says. “Today there are 50 percent more students across the state studying engineering than there were 10 years ago. I think it’s a healthy ecosystem for the state to have multiple engineering programs that serve students and families throughout Georgia.”

UGA’s program is serving Georgia residents; 93 percent of engineering undergraduate students are from this state. And the overall number of students has tripled in recent years. In 2011, enrollment in engineering programs totaled a little more than 600 students. Last fall, there were nearly 2,000 students, and engineering has become a high-demand major—students must apply to enter the college.

The addition of biochemical, environmental, and computer systems engineering in 2005 and civil, electrical/electronics, and mechanical engineering in 2010 have broadened options for students and expanded the college’s reach.

“That’s a multiplier on the impact that we have on the state and in the region and in the nation,” Leo says. “The breadth of programs is going to connect into a broader array of industries.”

An increasing number of corporate partners are demonstrating their support for the College of Engineering. The partnership program, only a year old, has attracted 20-plus companies—including AT&T, GE, and Lockheed Martin—that provide financial support to enhance the quality of engineering education. The college’s career and internship night also is attracting more support. Three years ago, 40 employers participated; last fall, there were 100, including Carter Engineering Consultants, a civil engineering and land surveying firm in Watkinsville that is also a corporate partner.

“It was amazing to see how many different employers were there looking for engineering graduates,” says Jeff Carter BSAE ’95, founder and principal engineer. “The college is doing a great job of reaching out to the engineering community.”

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Abhijit Marar, a Ph.D. student, aligns the optics for a super-resolution microscope in professor Peter Kner’s microscopy lab. The lab is developing new techniques for improving the resolution of three-dimensional fluorescence imaging of biological samples.
“In the real world, as an engineer, you’re going to have to go out and seek answers, seek resources to apply to your design.”
—Stephan Durham

TO BETTER SERVE THE STATE OF GEORGIA, UGA’S COLLEGE of Engineering must graduate students who will not only fill jobs, but excel at them.

The capstone senior design course, taken by each student, offers hands-on opportunities to work on real-world projects with clients all over Georgia, including the Chattahoochee Hills city council and the city of Metter, both repeat clients.

“They’re astounded by the quality of work that the students do,” says Stephan Durham, who co-teaches (with Assistant Professor Jason Christian) the joint capstone course for civil and environmental engineering.

During fall and spring semesters, students in the course tackle a real-world problem and maintain an ongoing dialogue with the client. “You might have the mayor, you might have members of the city council—everyone that’s involved or has a stake in that project is sitting at the table,” says Durham, associate professor and assistant dean for student success. “The students realize that it takes a lot of different people to make these projects happen. I think for them there’s a realization that engineering is a very collaborative type of profession.”

“The thing that I really took away from that class is not just the engineering aspect of it, but having to prepare a presentation to the client and explain our findings, calculations, and design to them,” says Abby Caballero BSCE ’16. “Sometimes that’s the hardest part.”

To equip students for such situations, Durham and Christian look for opportunities to foster professional development. Through collaborations with UGA’s Archway Partnership and Fanning Institute, the students connect with community administrators and earn leadership certification through the capstone course. They also gain maturity and confidence in their abilities, Durham says.

“I think they quickly learn that not everything is in a book,” he says. “In the real world, as an engineer, you’re going to have to go out and seek answers, seek resources to apply to your design.”

Caballero, who now works for a structural engineering firm in Tucker, agrees. “When we do our homework problems, you don’t worry about money,” she says. “You can make as much concrete as you want or as big a beam as you want—you just make it work. But when you’re doing a real problem, it has to be feasible.”
Like Caballero, the university’s engineering students are graduating and finding work. The college’s Class of 2016 had a 90 percent placement rate, according to a career outcomes survey conducted by the UGA Career Center.

The availability of well-trained graduates helps the state recruit new businesses and retain existing ones, says Sean McMillan, director of UGA’s economic development office in Atlanta.

“Corporations considering Georgia as a new location are constantly seeking a pipeline of talent,” he says. “The number one question is, ‘Where can I find my workers?’”

“Talented, technically trained engineers are in constant demand. Those skills are not enough. A well-rounded graduate who is flexible, can troubleshoot, and can work well with others is what companies are chasing now.”

The College of Engineering is taking advantage of UGA’s liberal arts environment to better prepare students.

“We recognize that for us to be successful, we need to build on the other great strengths of UGA,” Leo says.

“Science and Consideration,” a course created with researchers in the School of Social Work, introduces students to empathy as a learned skill that improves communication. A new program offered in partnership with the Terry College of Business allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree in engineering and an MBA within five years. And another new program, developed with the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, offers students a dual degree in German and engineering that includes a year abroad for coursework and an internship with a German company.

Such investments are creating graduates that are in demand in today’s job market, Leo says.

“When companies give us feedback about students they’ve hired, for interns or co-ops or full time, the feedback we get is that our students are very well rounded,” Leo says. “They feel like our students are ones that they can put in front of a client immediately. They understand how to communicate, how to work in teams.”

Carter Engineering Consultants has had an internship program since 2004, when the firm was founded. Carter and his fellow principal engineers, Brian Kimsey BSAE ’95 and Mark Campbell BSAE ’02, have hired a number of UGA students as interns, and some of those have become full-time employees after graduation.

“So much of our profession is not just engineering,” he says. “It’s also being able to talk with clients and government entities. We’ve found that the graduates we’ve hired have been able to do that.”
Last year, UGA announced its partnership in a new national public-private consortium to revolutionize the fiber and textiles industry through commercialization of highly functional advanced fibers and textiles for the defense and commercial markets. The partnership, Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), includes leading research universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Fortune 500 companies like Corning. AFFOA is just one example of the College of Engineering’s thriving research, which has seen a 250 percent increase in funding during the last five years.

With rapid growth in every area, leading the college through the next five years requires thoughtful planning, Leo says. “We’re at a scale now where we’ve grown quite rapidly, but we do have to realize that many engineering programs are four or five times bigger than us in terms of the number of faculty and students,” he says. “We have to be very strategic in what we want to invest in, and what we want to be good at. Going forward, those investments are going to give us leadership in areas of excellence that we want to be known for.”

One such investment is the Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS), announced last fall. IRIS will explore ways to strengthen traditional “gray” infrastructure systems (such as water and sewage treatment, urban drainage, energy, and transportation) and integrate them with “green” and “blue” infrastructure (green spaces, bodies of water, and ecosystems) that perform vital functions such as buffering storms and cleansing water and air.

IRIS joins three other institutes—the New Materials Institute, the Engineering Education Transformations Institute, and the Georgia Informatics Institutes for Research and Education—in searching for ideas that can be transformed into solutions for society’s pressing challenges.

This spring, the college restructured into three academic units: the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; the School of Chemical, Materials and Biomedical Engineering; and the School of Environmental, Civil, Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering.

While growth necessitates some changes in infrastructure, Leo wants to make sure that the college retains its identity while preparing students to join Georgia’s workforce. “Leadership, communication, teamwork—those have really been a hallmark of this program since back in the day when [the focus] was agricultural engineering,” Leo says. “The opportunity and challenge that we have now is continuing that tradition now that we have 2,000 students instead of 200.”
Serving Those Who Served

UGA has become a higher education leader for student veterans

BY AARON HALE MA’16

Mandy Enloe’s dream was simple. The Woodstock native wanted to fly planes, just like her dad.

Aspiring to be a pilot, she joined the U.S. Air Force in 2010 and was assigned to work on U2 aircraft as a mechanic at Beale Air Force Base in California. It was gritty, demanding work; she was usually the only woman in a unit of 800, and she loved it.

“I’m not your typical ‘girly’ girl,” Enloe says. “I liked working on planes and getting dirty.”
But when it was time to decide whether to re-enlist or move on to a new career, she started to rethink her plans. Her initial goal was to become an Air Force pilot, but her interests changed along the way. Instead, she’ll follow her passion for fitness, something she discovered when she joined the service. She wants to become a personal trainer for the Department of Defense working with the special forces operations.

She’s still determined to fly—but she’ll do that as a civilian, working toward her fixed-wing license.

Once Enloe made up her mind, she looked back to her home state to get a college degree. “I’m from Georgia and I was born a Dawg,” she says. “I want UGA on my diploma, and (the College of Education) has an excellent exercise science program.”

In 2016, Enloe came to UGA, becoming one of about 250 student veterans enrolled at the university.

In recent years, the university has strengthened its commitment to supporting student veterans, who can face unique challenges. Launched by the university’s Division of Student Affairs in 2013, the Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) aims to ease veterans’ transitions onto campus, enable access to services, and help them make the most of their UGA education. It’s also become a way for student veterans to connect with each other.

That commitment has paid off. The graduation rate among UGA’s student veterans is 85 percent—on par with UGA’s nonveteran students and well above the national average of about 50 percent. In 2016, UGA was named the top institution in the nation for student veterans among tier-one research institutions by Victory Media.

“I’m from Georgia and I was born a Dawg. I want UGA on my diploma.”
—Mandy Enloe
American men and women join the Armed Forces for a variety of reasons, including a sense of duty. Another top reason is the education benefits provided by the post-9/11 GI Bill, according to a survey from the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families. Nationwide over 450,000 student veterans have earned their degrees using the 9/11 benefit since 2009. However, student veterans pursuing a bachelor's degree may take up to two years longer than their nonveteran peers, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“A challenge for student veterans is that as older nontraditional students they are often pulled in multiple directions at the exact same time with school, family, work, and health issues,” says Ted Barco, director of UGA’s SVRC. “Left unaddressed, this has the potential to become a knot of tangled issues—often further tightened through veterans’ sense of self-reliance, which at times may work against their long-term interests.”

To deal with these issues the SVRC builds responsive networks (such as mentoring programs) with students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners.

Another challenge is the transition. Most UGA undergraduate veterans are transfer students coming from schools and colleges across Georgia. Many of them, like Air Force veteran Kyle McReynolds, find the switch to a large and rigorous university like UGA difficult.

“I was a prime example of what we call transfer shock,” says McReynolds. In 2014, McReynolds switched from active duty to the Air Force Reserve and transferred from a community college to UGA to work on a business management degree.

The large campus was intimidating, and his classmates were younger and seemed better prepared for the rigors of college, plus McReynolds signed up for a course load that he realized he wasn’t ready to handle.

He came to the SVRC for help and found a mentor in Barco, who directed him toward the kinds of financial and academic resources he needed to survive his first semester and acclimate to campus.
“A challenge for student veterans is that as older nontraditional students they are often pulled in multiple directions at the exact same time.”
—Ted Barco

BARCO, A RETIRED USAF LIEUTENANT colonel, has 32 years of national security experience that includes service with six institutions of higher education.

Part of his mission at UGA is to make the university’s robust student services such as financial aid, health services, and advising more accessible to student veterans. Through collaborations across multiple divisions and departments, the SVRC has helped bring UGA’s comprehensive services to student veterans.

“Ted has an innate ability to reach across the university,” says Dean of Students Bill McDonald.

But Barco is not going it alone. In addition to help from UGA faculty, staff, and administrators, the SVRC has relied on student veterans to build programs and to support each other.

In 2016, Victory Media named UGA the nation’s top tier-one research institution for student veterans.

GIVE

STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER FUND

Support UGA student veterans who have already sacrificed so much for others. Your support will provide scholarships, awards, and emergency funding to our student veterans.

give.uga.edu/SVRC
One of the programs that helps UGA stand out from other colleges is a career-readiness program tailored for student veterans.

Some veterans come to college thinking that with a background in the military, all they need to move to their next chosen career is a degree—but it’s more complicated than that, says Dan Phillips, who completed his MBA in the spring.

“People appreciate what you did in the military,” says Phillips, who served as an officer in the Army Rangers. “Military service proves that you can deal with people and work hard. But at the end of the day, employers want somebody who will be reliably productive in their industry.”

Last year, Phillips, along with Ryan Mohney BSFR ’08, a former Air Force Captain, spearheaded the start of a new career-readiness program for student veterans. Working with Barco they’ve piloted a coaching-based program that starts at enrollment and runs through graduation.

Veterans’ military experience becomes an advantage in the job market once they have academic and internship experiences comparable to other candidates, Mohney says. “That’s what we want to capitalize on.”

McReynolds was one of the first student veterans to sign up for the career-readiness program. He is working to become a commissioned officer in the Air Force and is leveraging his UGA education to build leadership and management skills.

Based on career advice from the SVRC, he re-engineered his resume, expanded his network, and then looked to the private sector to add experience. Last summer, he interned with First Data in Atlanta. This summer, in addition to getting married, McReynolds is interning for Amazon.

Advice from Mohney and Phillips has been instrumental in pushing him forward. “Having them to guide me has been like having two more big brothers,” he says.

Part of what has kept students like McReynolds and Mandy Enloe afloat during their time at UGA has been the fellowship with other veterans. A lot of that interaction happens on the fourth floor of the Tate Student Center, home to the SVRC and First Data Student Veterans Lounge.

“A lot of us find it hard to relate to other students. We’re older or have different experiences,” says Enloe, who is the incoming president of UGA’s Student Veterans of America Chapter. “So what helps us stay connected to the university is getting other veterans together so we all know that we’re here for each other.”
Shuman becomes president
On July 1, Bonney Shuman BBA ’80 will begin her two-year term as president of the UGA Alumni Association. The St. Simons Island resident retired in 2011 as CEO of Stratix Corp., which has helped end users, distributors, and other organizations gain a competitive edge by utilizing automatic data since 1983. Shuman has worked with industries and companies to establish their bar code guidelines and is a former board member of Women in Packaging and the Georgia Women’s Business Council. Shuman just completed her two-year term as vice president and strategic plan chair for the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has two children, Billy and Mary Ellen, who graduated in May.

Affinity Group Leadership Councils
In January, the UGA Alumni Association announced the inaugural members of the Women of UGA Leadership Council and the UGA Young Alumni Leadership Council. These individuals, along with the current Black Alumni Leadership Council, will plan programming for and provide advice on engaging groups within the UGA Alumni Association. View the list of alumni volunteers at alumni.uga.edu/networks.

Love UGA? Join Digital Dawgs!
Become a social media ambassador for a chance to win prizes, such as gift cards and products from alumni-owned businesses. Getting started is simple: connect your social media accounts to the program and then look for email updates filled with news about UGA and fellow alumni. All you have to do is click the story to spread the news to your online network.
alumni.uga.edu/digital dawgs

CONTACT US: Have you moved? Changed your name? Keep your record up to date at alumni.uga.edu/myinfo.
For more information: (800) 606-8786 | alumni.uga.edu

A BULLDOG BARK TO ... For 80 years, the UGA Alumni Association has annually recognized distinguished alumni, faculty, and friends who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the university. This year’s honorees are:

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<td>Kathelen Van Bclarem Amos JD ’82</td>
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<td>Kessel D. Stelling, Jr. BBA ’78</td>
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Learn more about these inspiring individuals at alumni.uga.edu/alumniawards.
TUESDAY, JUNE 6 | THURSDAY, JUNE 8
UGA in the Bay | UGA in L.A.
The red and black is coming to the West Coast and hosting receptions for alumni, friends, and parents. Anyone who will be in San Francisco or Los Angeles is invited to participate in these Bulldog gatherings. Register at alumni.uga.edu/universityevents.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
UGA in Washington Reception
UGA alumni, friends, and elected officials from Georgia will gather from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Union Station for this annual gathering in the nation’s capital. Details at alumni.uga.edu/universityevents.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23
Young Alumni Night at Sweetwater Brewing Co.
Join hundreds of young alumni for this annual event in Atlanta. Learn more at alumni.uga.edu/sweetwater.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, SEPT. 7-9
UGA vs. Notre Dame Weekend
Gearing up for the UGA vs. Notre Dame football game Sept. 9, the UGA Alumni Association will host a reception for Chicago-area alumni, parents, and friends on Thursday evening. The Chicago Alumni Chapter will host a casual drop-in mixer on Friday. The official UGA tailgate in South Bend sold out in record time. Any additional openings will be posted at the URL below on Aug. 1 at 9 a.m. Email alumni@uga.edu with questions. Details at alumni.uga.edu/notredame.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14
40 Under 40 Awards Luncheon
The annual 40 Under 40 Awards Luncheon will be in Atlanta to recognize 40 of UGA’s most outstanding young alumni. The event is open to the public and details will be posted at alumni.uga.edu/40u40.

For more events, visit alumni.uga.edu/calendar.
Summer is wedding season. And with nearly 25,000 married alumni couples, it’s the perfect time to explore how a few of those couples met at UGA.

LAW SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS

Law school is as grueling as it is competitive; it was also, at least for Allison and Steve Thornton, kind of romantic.

The Thorntons are two among thousands of Georgia Bulldogs who met and fell in love while going to school in Athens. For Allison and Steve, their three years at UGA’s School of Law was the perfect environment to get to know each other, to work together, and to fall in love.

Law school students typically don’t have much free time between taking classes and studying. That turned out to be an asset for first-year law students Allison Elmore and Steve Thornton in 1989. They had all their classes together, so that meant they got to study together along with a tight-knit group of classmates.

“Law school is a lot like high school,” Allison says. “There are only about 200 hundred people in a class. We had lockers and all our classes in one building. You just hang with those people a lot.”

By the end of the first year, Allison and Steve were dating, although neither could recall having a first official date. Rather than becoming a distraction, their relationship made law school easier.

“Since we were going through it together, we could help each other a lot,” Steve says. “She was a great study partner and helped me get through a number of exams.”

During their second year, Allison and Steve teamed up for moot court, a competition in which law students argue fictional cases. The moot court adviser at the time was Jere W. Morehead, now president.

They were an effective duo, becoming finalists for the law school’s Talmadge Moot Court Competition in 1990. The following year, they were selected to face off against a team from the University of Florida, an annual ritual before the Florida football game in Jacksonville.

They won. And a few weeks later, Steve got down on one knee at Harry Bissett’s on Broad Street and asked Allison to be his wife.

Of course, the answer was yes. They weren’t the only law school couple in their class, but somehow a local reporter got wind of their engagement. The following Valentine’s Day, the Athens Daily News ran a front-page story about their relationship.

They married in June 1992 and will celebrate their 25th anniversary this summer.

Steve is the founder of Thornton Law Firm in Atlanta. Allison, who recently completed a stint as the visiting legal writing professor at the Emory University School of Law, is helping Steve with his practice.

They have two daughters. Their youngest, Linda, is in high school. Rachel is now a second-year student at UGA.

They married in June 1992 and will celebrate their 25th anniversary this summer.
24,670
UGA ALUMNI MARRIED COUPLES

WEB OF LOVE

More Bulldog love stories shared on the web

Kristin Cox BBA ’13
Ryan Cox BBA ’13
“We first crossed paths in Russell Hall for Freshman College in 2009. Fast forward to spring semester 2012, and we ended up in neighboring apartments on the same three-month study abroad program in Verona, Italy. He asked to take me on a date a couple of times, but I said no because I didn’t want to make it weird within this very small group of people on the trip. That excuse didn’t work, so our first date was in Salzburg, Austria. We came home and spent our senior year together, graduated in 2013, got engaged in Sanford Stadium the day before the win over Clemson in 2014, and were married last spring. Athens is forever our happy place. Go Dawgs!!”
—Kristin

Debi Jeans Stansell BS ’76
Sid Stansell BS ’76
“I met my husband January 1973 at Tony’s diner in downtown Athens. We were invited to lunch after church by mutual friends and happened to sit by each other. That afternoon we went to see a movie at the Beechwood shopping center. A snow storm had covered the parking lot during the movie, and our car slipped and slid all the way back to campus. The next day all classes were called off and we spent the day playing in the snow.
Sid lived in Russell and I lived in Brumby so we saw each other often that quarter. By April we were engaged and married September 8, 1973. We lived in married housing and graduated from UGA the summer of ’76. I walked across the graduation stage carrying our first child. That August our first daughter was born, and 22 years later she walked across that stage again!
Forty-three years, two children, and 6 grandchildren later and we are still happily married. We cherish the years at UGA and hold a fond place in our heart for Athens.”—Debi

Ebony Townsend BS, BA ’13
Justin Respress BS, BA ’11, JD ’14
Ebony Townsend BS, BA ’13 and Triple Dawg Justin Respress BS, BA ’11, JD ’14 met in 2008. Justin was the first person Ebony met during her GA Daze visit to Athens. Ebony had gotten lost on campus trying to find Brumby Hall, and the program director, Mrs. V., sent Justin to find her. Well, Justin found Ebony and that was the beginning of forever! They are getting married in June.
Ebony is a doctoral student, dedicating her research to ensuring health equity for marginalized populations. Justin is a corporate and real estate attorney at Halperin-Lyman, LLC. They live in Atlanta.

Crawford Patterson Hammond ABJ ’94
Chris Hammond BBA ’93
“My husband and I met in 1991 when we both worked security at Reed Hall. We’ve been married 21 years. Two years ago we welcomed our third son and named him Reed!"
—Crawford
1960-1964
A.D. “Pete” Correll BBA ’63 of Atlanta was named a 2017 Georgia Trustee by the Office of the Governor and the Georgia Historical Society. The title is the highest honor the state of Georgia can bestow.
Elliot Palefsky BS ’63 of Savannah retired as professor emeritus of psychology at Armstrong State University and, after 25 years, retired as a pediatric psychologist with Tidelands Child Evaluation Center.
Sam Wellborn BBA ’64 of Columbus was re-elected to a full five-year term on the State Transportation Board. Wellborn represents the 3rd Congressional District.

1965-1969
C. Carter Black III BSA ’65, DVM ’68 of Summerville received the J.T. Mercer Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Black serves on the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Equine.
Thomas Hudson BSEd ’67, Med ’68 of Hanover, Maryland, penned CARLAW IV: The Federal Government’s War on Car Dealers (CounselorLibrary.com LLC, 2016), which looks at changes in the relationship between the car-dealership industry and government regulation.
Don Smith ABJ ’68 of Athens was promoted to general manager of the Oconee Hill Cemetery.

1970-1974
Jack Lance AB ’70, MA ’72 of Conyers retired as general counsel to the Rockdale County Board of Education in 2014 and received the honorary title of general counsel emeritus from the board in recognition of his service.

The first 1,000 days
When Janice Giddens BSFCS ’05 applied to the International Agriculture Certificate Program in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, she knew what she wanted to do.
“Teaching people the importance of growing indigenous and nutritious foods is as important as teaching them why they should consume them,” she wrote in her 2005 application essay. “This program will give me the ability to do this.”

Fast-forward a decade, and Giddens is doing the work she set out to accomplish. As a fellow with the Gardens for Health International, she developed nutritional programs for families in Rwanda by helping caregivers design and plant home gardens that promote both crop and diet biodiversity.

Giddens oversaw the implementation of a project aimed to prevent childhood malnutrition by targeting the health and nutrition of pregnant women. The goal of the Antenatal Care Program is to intervene during the 1,000 days between conception and a child’s second birthday—time when nutrition plays a crucial role in development and health. She also managed a project involving three community groups—people living with HIV/AIDS, community health workers, and mothers of children with malnutrition—and a demonstration garden that has crop-specific, nutrition-focused signage.

“We are constructing an educational path that contains signs providing nutritional messages targeting pregnant women and the mothers of young children,” she said. “The path allows participants to see the food growing and to learn about its specific nutrient benefits.”
Alabama, bicycled Route 66 in two stages in 2016.

Andie Moss BSEd ‘71 of Washington, D.C., is founder and president of The Moss Group Inc., a D.C.-based criminal justice consulting firm. In 2016, the firm opened an Atlanta office to focus on southern correctional policy and practice while continuing to work nationally.

Mary Anne Owen BSEd ‘72 of Augusta retired from Augusta University as an associate professor emerita. Owen is the former director of the Nuclear Medicine Technology Program at Augusta University.

Doris Miller BSA ’73, DVM ’76, MS ’78, PhD ’81 of Watkinsville received the 2016 Dobbins Mahaffey Advocacy Award from the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Miller is a professor of anatomic pathology at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine and is based in the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Brad McColl M ’74 of Gainesville created “Saving Grace,” a photography exhibit based on the book Historic Rural Churches in Georgia. “Saving Grace” was displayed at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center as part of its Winter Exhibitions earlier this year.

Phil Scoggins ABI ’74 of Columbus was inducted into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame in February. Scoggins is a news anchor at WRBL and has been with the station for 19 years.

1975–1979

Roz Dimon BFA ’75 of Shelter Island, New York, traveled to Tokyo in March, where her work was featured in the International Symposium: Urban Disaster and Art 9/11-3/11. This summer, she will premiere a signature DIMONscape, commissioned by the Shelter Island Historical Society.

Susan J. Kite BBA ’75 of Woodstock joined BrandBank as the business development officer in government-guaranteed lending in December.

John Barrow AB ’76 of Athens is an in-house volunteer for the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Barrow, who was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2005 to 2015, will spend six months as a staff attorney on a pro bono basis for clients of the Atlanta Legal Aid’s office.

Jane Singer ABI ’76 of London, England, was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award by Grady College. Singer is a professor of journalism innovation at City, University of London.

Nancy Lebey Solana BFA ’76 of Savannah presented her watercolor and oil paintings in an exhibit at the Hospice Savannah Art Gallery earlier this year.

Michael Topper BSA ’76, DVM ’80, PhD ’97 of Harleysville, Pennsylvania, is president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Bonnie Arnold ABI ’77 of Los Angeles, California, was awarded the John Holliman Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award by Grady College. Arnold is the president of Dreamworks Animation.

Sara Baker AB ’77 of Athens wrote The Timekeeper’s Son (Deeds Publishing, 2016), a coming-of-age novel that explores the lives of two residents in the small town of Milledge, Georgia, following a tragic accident.

Ina Cook Hopkins ABI ’77 of Athens is the author of Rock Eagle: Centerpiece of Georgia 4-H (Georgia 4-H Club Foundation Inc., 2016). The book chronicles the beginning of the Cooperative Extension Service and Georgia 4-H, focusing primarily on the development of the world’s largest 4-H center and its programs.

Kevin Knox BBA ’77 of Dallas, Texas, was honored by the Cox School of Business Alumni Association at Southern Methodist University with an endowment fund in his and his family’s name, the Tryna and Kevin Knox Family Alumni and External Relations Endowment. Knox is the assistant dean of external relations and executive director of the Cox Alumni Association at SMU.

Bruce Lauriault BSA ’79 of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, serves on the site leadership team for Samaritan’s Purse Disaster Relief.

Stuart Thomas BS ’79 of Athens was appointed to the board of trustees at Southern College of Optometry. Thomas is the owner of Thomas Eye Center.

1980-1984

Lorene Evans BMus ‘80 of Atlanta retired from Dekalb County Schools after 31 years.
Veterinarian Aleisha Swartz travels to animal shelters nationwide to coach disease prevention protocols.

“The challenges can be big,” Swartz says. “But as a group of professionals, we can help each other get through those challenges and overcome them.”

That is why she has taken a special interest in encouraging shelter staff to become effective leaders. In her roles at Hawaiian Humane and at the University of Wisconsin, Swartz has implemented shelter medical and surgical protocols, conducted staff trainings, and participated in animal cruelty investigations.

In January, she traveled to New York City to help care for 500 shelter cats who were under quarantine after an infection with a rare form of avian influenza.

“A great part about this position is my ability to make an impact and expand it,” she says. “Because now I’m not helping just one animal, I’m helping others who help more animals.”

Shelter medicine as a specialty was in its infancy while she was in school, but Swartz found ways to get involved through various community outreach programs. While at UGA, she hosted “Spay Day” events through the Canine Club and provided spay-neuter services in underserved areas in Georgia and across the country.

“Under the direction of veterinarians, we got training, but we also provided a service to the community,” she says. “I think those experiences definitely shaped me and put me on the path to where I am today.”

Despite being faced with challenges on a daily basis, Swartz says the opportunity to work toward the greater good makes it all worth it. “In shelter medicine, my highs are higher and my lows are lower,” she says. “But my successes are so much more rewarding because I know I’m making a difference.”

written by camren skelton
Back issue of the publication.

Lamar Smith BSAE ’83 is president of the Home Builders Association of Georgia.

Linda Stevenson ABJ ’83, MA ’87 of Waltham, Massachusetts, is the medical strategic operations lead in neurodegeneration at Biogen.

Jay Watson AB ’83 of Oxford, Mississippi, coedited Faulkner and History (University Press of Mississippi, 2017), which explores how Faulkner’s work is used by both historians and literary scholars to provide historical context for their work.

Laura Spinella ABJ ’84 of Franklin, Massachusetts, published Unstrung (Montlake Romance, 2017), a story about a talented violinist who must decide whether to save her tumultuous marriage or rekindle a prior romance. The novel received a starred review from Publishers Weekly and was named to its list of most anticipated books for spring 2017.

1985-1989

Herschel Walker M ’85 received the 2016 Doak Walker Legends Award in February. The award honors former college running backs who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their communities.

Wes Dean BBA ’86, MBA ’10 of Cumming is the chief technology officer for PrimeRevenue.

Deane Speer Price BBA ’86 of Atlanta was promoted to president of Aderant, an Atlanta-based legal software company.

Drew Ferguson M ’88 of West Point was elected in November to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent Georgia’s 3rd Congressional District.

Chris Johnson AB ’88 is a Farmers Insurance Agency owner in Marietta.

Amy M. O’Quinn BSEd ’88 of Fitzgerald penned Marie Curie for Kids: Her Life and Scientific Discoveries, with 21 Activities and Experiments (Chicago Review Press, 2016). The book aims to help readers ages 9 to 12 understand the importance of Curie’s discoveries while also inspiring their own exploration of science.

Molly Jordan Willis AB ’88 of Albany was appointed a member of the American Pecan Council, an organization charged with the formation and handling of regulations for pecans and that is consulted by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Kevin L. Bryant BSpH ’89 of Anderson, South Carolina, was named lieutenant governor of South Carolina.

Peter Way AB ’89 of Martinez retired after 24 years of service as an Army reservist. Way is on the board of directors for VetDogs.

Scott Woerner BSEd ’89 of Sautee Nacoochee was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in December.

MIND THE GAP

A facelift for African laboratories

A gap between African laboratory facilities and international laboratory standards is hindering the fight against malaria, says Alexandra Wright BSHP ’88. The public health scientist returned to campus in February to present the 25th annual Darl Snyder Lecture.

Bed nets are one of the most effective ways to prevent malaria, a common threat in African communities, Wright says. However, the nets must be tested in regions where they will be used—and that requires upgrading substandard African lab facilities to meet international guidelines.

“The staff and capacity is there,” she says. “The lab just needs a face lift.”

Wright, who holds a master’s degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is a doctoral candidate at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, is working on a Gates Foundation-funded initiative to improve the standard of malaria laboratories in East and West Africa. For the past three years, she has focused on building an international standard laboratory in Tanzania so that bed nets can get tested in a modernized environment and rolled out to the public faster. At the end of February, it became the first malaria lab in Africa to pass international certification.

“We really invested in young Tanzanian scientists and built this together from the ground up,” she says. “Working with aspiring and motivated scientists was really a successful way to build a sustainable laboratory.”

The lecture series was established in 1992 in honor of Darl Snyder, a long-time UGA professor and administrator with a passion for international programs. Snyder passed away in February, just eight days shy of his 95th birthday.
APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Ahead of the curve

Bakari Brock BBA ’01 has a knack for getting in on the ground floor of small companies that turn out to be very big.

His resume reads like a who’s who of digital all-stars: YouTube, Google, Twitter. Now he’s with Lyft, a ride-sharing company, where he serves as senior director of U.S. operations.

“Lyft allows you to take casual carpooling from one place to another,” he says. “It’s basically your friend with a car.”

The company has a presence in 46 states, but it’s not quite a household name yet. Brock is not concerned.

“YouTube and Twitter weren’t household names when I joined them,” he says.

His parents—still living in Dunwoody, where Brock grew up—can attest to that.

After graduating from UGA, Brock earned a law degree at Harvard University and worked at Atlanta firm Kilpatrick and Stockton before joining YouTube. His mother had just seen the popular video of a skateboarding bulldog on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”

“She said, ‘You’re leaving a great firm in midtown to go to the skateboarding dog company?’” he says. “And then it became a very popular phenomenon.”

When he left YouTube to join Twitter, his new employer had fewer than 100 staff members.

“I told my mom, and she said, ‘You’re leaving for the I-had-cornflakes-for-breakfast company? Who wants to read a tweet?’”

Brock joined Lyft, based in San Francisco, in 2014. He works in three main areas—business development, policy and government relations, and operations. When he began, the company had no airport partners—they now have 150. One of the most recent is Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which became official Jan. 1 after Brock and his team of 11 spent more than two years working with the city, airport staff, and airline partners.

“Lyft’s goal is to transform how we think about transportation,” he says. “We have a vision where many people will not need to own a car. It’s more of a Netflix subscription-style model where you can just buy a package of miles from us.”

With millions of rides provided, Lyft seems to be proving—again—that Brock’s instincts are correct.

“I feel pretty good about my track record so far,” he says, “so I’m just going to keep going with my gut.”

Written by Allyson Mann MA ’92

1990-1994

Richard Ball BBA ’91 of Duluth handles sales and leasing of new and pre-owned vehicles at Infiniti of Gwinnett, a company he has been with for eight years.

Kent Fountain BSA ’91 of Surrency was named the 2016 Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year by the National Cotton Ginners Association in February.

Keith Johnson BSA ’91 of Athens is vice president of human resources and employee development at Jackson Electric Membership Corporation.

Scott Proffitt AB ’91 of Cumming is the co-founder and president of Advanced Compliance Solutions Inc.

Gregory Woodman BBA ’91 of Cumming was named president of the Atlanta chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society. Woodman is the risk manager for iStar Inc.

Matthew Brown ABJ ’92 of Moultrie is the sports editor of The Moultrie Observer after 11 years with the Houston Home Journal in Perry. In September, he will celebrate 25 years in sports journalism.

Austin Scott BBA ’93 of Tifton is chairman of the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit for the 115th Congress. Scott is serving his fourth term as the U.S. Representative for Georgia’s 8th Congressional District.

David Wright ABJ ’93 is the author of My Brother’s Keeper (White Rocket Books, 2014), the first of three in the Galahad’s Doom series, a trilogy of sword and sorcery fantasies with an underlying Christian theme.

Leigh Nanney Hersey ABJ ’94 of Monroe, Louisiana, and Bryna Bobick BFA ’97, EdD ’08 of Memphis, Tennessee, edited.
World War II veteran Harold Berkman BBA ’49 served his country over 70 years ago but is still making an impact today.

Last year, he was honored with the Order of Saint Maurice in the rank of legionnaire by the National Infantry Association.

The Order of Saint Maurice is awarded to soldiers and civilians who have served the infantry community with distinction, made a significant contribution in support of the infantry, and “represent the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence, and dedication to duty.”

Berkman served as a combat infantryman in the European Theater of Operations during WWII. After graduating from UGA, Berkman went on to become vice dean and professor of management and marketing at the University of Miami before retiring.

He founded the Harold & Muriel Berkman Charitable Foundation, an organization that provides funding to support and promote the endeavors of future business leaders. The foundation aims to recognize the achievements of men and women who have served in the military.

In addition to the Order of Saint Maurice, Berkman has also been named by France a Knight of the Legion of Honor.

The Handbook of Research on the Facilitation of Civic Engagement through Community Art (IGI Global, 2016). Hersey is an assistant professor of political science in the School of Behavioral and Social Science at the University of Louisiana Monroe, and Bobick is an associate professor of art education at the University of Memphis.

1995-1999

Robert Halfacre BBA ’95 of Seneca, South Carolina, is the senior vice president and commercial banking officer for the Anderson office of Carolina Alliance Bank.

Chris Rotalsky BLA ’95 is the public works director for the city of Gainesville.

Jonathan J. Tuggle BBA ’95 of Atlanta was selected to Georgia Trend magazine’s 2016 Legal Elite and was recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer for 2017 in the area of family law. Tuggle is a partner at Boyd Collier Nolen & Tuggle.

Win Walstad BBA ’95 of Atlanta was promoted to partner at BT Wealth Management LLC.

Heather DeGaetano AB ’97, JD ’01 of Chattanooga, Tennessee, is the director of development for the Chi Omega Foundation.

Ryan Hope AB ’97, JD ’00 of Athens was sworn in as Athens-Clarke County Municipal Court Judge in January.

Paxton W. Poitevint BBA ’97 of Bainbridge was named chief operating officer of Southwest Georgia Farm Credit in December.

Michael Popham BS ’97 of Lilburn celebrated 19 years as a software engineer for the Home Depot.

Heath Schondelmayer BBA ’97 of Columbus is the president of Columbus Bank and Trust.

Tracy Adkins AB ’98 of Asheville, North Carolina penned Ghosts of Athens: History and Haunting of Athens, Georgia (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016) which examines the history and ghostly folklore surrounding various locations in Athens.


Darius Pattillo BSEd ’99, JD ’02 of Decatur was sworn in as district attorney for Henry County in January. Pattillo is the first African-American to hold this position in Henry County.

Martin Weinberg AB ’99 of Shannon, Alabama, was appointed to the board of directors for the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority.

Mark Wiggins BBA ’99 of Nashville, Tennessee, is a partner at Avintus.

2000-2004

Kristi Greer BSFCS ’00, MEd ’05 of Watkinsville was an Athens Athena nominee in November 2015. Greer is an education and development officer for Oconee State Bank.

Jason Kreher ABI ’00 of Portland, Oregon, was awarded the Henry W. Grady Mid-Career Alumni Award by Grady College. Kreher is the creative director for Wieden & Kennedy.

John Peach BSEd ’00 of Macon is the assistant athletic director for compliance at Mercer University.

Brandon C. Powell BBA ’00 of Atlanta founded HatchWorks, a digital technology firm that helps bring companies into the digital age.
CLASS NOTES

Jarred Williams BS ’00, MS ’02, DVM ’06 of Athens is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (Large Animal). Williams is a clinical assistant professor of large animal emergency medicine at UGA’s College of Veterinary medicine.


Janet Kelly ABI ’02 of Kathleen is the assistant vice president for enrollment services at Central Georgia Technical College.

Colleen Oakley ABI ’02 of Smyrna penned Close Enough to Touch (Simon & Shuster, 2017), a novel that follows the unexpected love story between a woman allergic to human touch and a divorced father of two.

Sonbol Shahid-Salles AB, BS ’02 and Gregory Harris of Gulf Breeze, Florida, welcomed their son, Graham Armand Harris, on June 8, 2016.

Will Collins BBA ’03 of Forsyth is an associate partner with New York Life Insurance Company.

2005-2009

Collin Closek BS ’05 of Salinas, California, is an Early Career Science Fellow at the Center

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Drone detectives

HIGH ABOVE THE EARLY BRONZE Age burial site in southern Jordan, a buzzing drone casts an unstinting eye on the devastation below. Disinterred human bones litter a moonscape pocked with more than 3,700 holes, the telltale scar of the looter’s spade.

“As an archaeologist, it’s heartbreaking to see,” says Morag Kersel MHP ’00, co-director of Landscapes of the Dead, part of the Follow the Pots project, who is attempting to “stop destruction at the source.”

Jordan’s unemployment reached nearly 29 percent in 2014, according to the World Bank, making looting an attractive venture to online sellers who trade in Holy Land relics, Kersel says. Ceramic pots, some of them 5,000 years old, have sold on eBay for $50 to $200.

Using drones at the Fifa burial ground (which is three football fields long by one wide) has allowed Kersel, an associate professor of anthropology at DePaul University, and her collaborator, Austin Chad Hill, a research associate and lecturer at Dartmouth College, to better monitor the desecration of heritage sites. Until 2013 they relied on satellite imagery, but the images were of poor resolution.

The drone data is expected to help the Jordanian government develop ways to minimize looting—a formidable challenge.

“The government is cash-strapped, and perhaps this is not a first priority,” Kersel says. “But they’ve really done an amazing job at protecting what they can. There are thousands and thousands of sites. It’s very difficult to monitor all of them at all times.”

Drones are revolutionizing archaeology, allowing scientists to not only monitor a site’s destruction but also to document excavations and provide digital elevation models.

Back on the ground, Kersel conducts ethnographic research, interviewing looters, dealers, collectors, government employees, and museum officials to learn about their motivations in both the illicit and legal antiquities trade.

She’s also working with the nonprofit Petra National Trust to develop programs that teach school-aged children why looting deprives them of learning about their cultural past.

It’s a passion that Kersel developed at UGA, where she wrote her master’s thesis on the legal protection of cultural landscapes.

“There’s still a lot we can learn from the looters and what remains of the landscape,” she says. “What we need is a better type of collector, someone who’s discriminating, who asks questions, and who doesn’t buy anything without a backstory.”

WRITTEN BY ANDREW FAUGHT
for Ocean Solutions at Stanford University.

Taylor Lamm AB ’06 opened Oconee Brewing Company in Greensboro.

Harris G. Martin AB ’05, JD ’09 of Savannah is a partner at Bouhan Falligant LLP.

Michael Paupeck BBA ’06 of Atlanta was selected to Georgia Trend magazine’s 2016 Legal Elite in the area of real estate and construction law. Paupeck is a partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial.

Chris Raiford BSFC ’06 of Richmond Hill was named branch manager of the Ameris Bank Richmond Hill location.

Frank Reddy ABJ ’06 of Atlanta is the author of Eyes on the Island (Fiction Advocate, 2016), a mystery-thriller novel set in the barrier islands of Savannah.

Josh Wood AB ’06, JD ’10 of Atlanta was promoted to partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial.

Brian Dunn BLA ’07 of Nashville, Tennessee, is a land-use planner at Civil Site Design Group.

Chinasa Elue BS ’07 of Kennesaw is an assistant professor in the department of education leadership at Kennesaw State University.

Alan Holcomb AB ’07 of Atlanta was promoted to partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial.

Charity “Nikki” Mayes ABJ ’07 of Atlanta and her husband, Kyle, welcomed their daughter, Carolina Hope, on May 9, 2016.

Mary Charles Howard BLA ’08 is the executive director of Athensmade, a nonprofit organization that aims to educate, support, and promote homegrown brands, entrepreneurs, and creative professionals in Athens.

Joshua W. Jones AB, ABI ’08,
MBA ’16 of Atlanta was appointed to UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs Board of Visitors and the UGA Young Alumni Council.

Maggie Law BS ’08 of Birmingham, Alabama, is an orthodontist at Great Smiles Orthodontics.

Regina Williams BS ’08 of Raleigh, North Carolina, graduated from North Carolina State University in December with a doctorate in counseling and counselor education.

Meghan E. Claiborne AB, BBA ’09 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was honored with the Sean Peretta Service Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Claiborne is an attorney at Duane Morris LLP.

Alisha Jaume BSEd ’09 married Mark Boone AB ’14 on June 20, 2015.

Dalton Macdonald AB ’09 of Washington, D.C., is an attorney for the U.S. Office of Special Council.

2010-2014

Lauren Warbington Fletcher BBA ’10, JD ’13 of Vienna joined the law firm of Lawson & Reid LLC as an associate in February.

Sarah H. McKinney BSW ’10 of Athens was appointed president and CEO of the Athens Area Community Foundation. McKinney serves as director of development for the Georgia 4-H Foundation at UGA.

Megan Taylor Mills BSEd ’10 married Alex Mills BSEd ’10 in April 2016. The couple resides in Nashville, Tennessee, where Megan is a travel consultant with Epperly Travel.

Whitney Murphy BSA ’10 of Brooklet is a crop protection sales representative with Dow AgroSciences.

Tyrone Rivers BS ’10 of Spencer, New York, is the assistant director of Cornell University’s Upward Bound program, a federally funded college readiness program for high school students from low-income families and students from families in which neither parent earned a college degree.

Brooke Beach ABJ ’11 of Woodstock received the John E. Drewry Young Alumni Award from Grady College. Beach is the founder and chairman of Marketwake, a digital marketing agency.

Natalia Cooper BSEd ’11 of Nashville, Tennessee, is an educational consultant in the special education department of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

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Lila Hardy BBA ’11 of Atlanta is a university relations recruiter for Chick-fil-A Corporate Headquarters.

Travis Johnson AB ’11 of Atlanta was appointed Chief of Staff for the Georgia

Patricia Andrews Fearon AB, ABJ ’09 joined an elite class of scholars when she was named a 2017 recipient of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

Established by a gift from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the scholarship fully funds postgraduate study and research at the University of Cambridge in England. It is awarded to intellectually outstanding postgraduate students with a capacity for leadership and a commitment to improving the lives of others.

Fearon earned bachelor’s degrees in religion and journalism at UGA before going on to earn a master’s degree in the study of religions from the University of Oxford. As a journalist, she has traveled to over 40 countries working for media outlets and non-governmental organizations, but her passion lies in conflict mediation and the science of perspective-taking.

With the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, Fearon plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology at Cambridge University’s Selwyn College, where she looks forward to “exploring the ways we can learn to listen in even the most hostile environments.”

Patricia Andrews Fearon in Rajasthan, India, where she was a photographer documenting children rescued from forced mining labor.
Hooked on the sea

After 40 years as a merchant mariner, Sandra “Sam” Pirtle MA '95 knows her way around really big ships. She’s one of the first American female officers licensed to sail on unlimited-tonnage oceangoing vessels. As a certified marine surveyor, she provides vessel condition evaluations, appraisals, and damage assessments, and often serves aboard American-flagged container ships. She’s also a published author.

“Because my father got rid of our TV when I was a kid, I became a reader,” says the Honolulu resident. “National Geographic was my favorite and I became enchanted with Jacques Cousteau, so I decided I wanted to be an oceanographer.”

Enrollment in the Texas Maritime Academy right out of high school was a life-changer. “The day I arrived and saw the big ships, I was hooked on ships and the sea. And I love steel ships—the bigger, the better.”

After graduating from the academy as a merchant marine officer, Pirtle sailed for four years before joining the U.S. Coast Guard. Five years later she enrolled in graduate school at UGA—initially in journalism, but later she switched and earned a master’s in sociology of occupations and organizations. While in school she freelanced for The Red & Black and Athens Banner-Herald newspapers.

“One of my greatest influences was Conrad Fink,” she says of the late professor and veteran Associated Press reporter who taught in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication for 30 years. “He was the first shoreside person I’d ever met whose life was as exciting as mine was at sea.”

She credits Fink with inspiring her to write her own stories, which she does while at sea. Using her given name, Sandra L. Pirtle (she’s known as Sam to friends and colleagues), her first self-published novel, The Accidental Texan, debuted in May 2015 on Amazon.

Pirtle combines her life on land as a marine surveyor with periodic multimonth assignments as a deck officer on container ships. She’s often asked about her time at sea.

“Life at sea isn’t always logical as the movies make it appear,” she says. “Movies tend to explain why things happen the way they do, but the sea is unpredictable. You have to be ready for anything.”

Written by Pamela A. Keene
Preserving place

Carleton Wood cultivates what is historic and unique at the Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange (right). The estate celebrated its centennial last year.

Carleton Wood’s job is to preserve a sense of place at the Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange.

Wood MS ’94 is executive director of the 35-acre historic estate in LaGrange built by textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway and his wife, Ida. The breathtaking 13,000-square-foot home was completed in 1916 next to the venerable Ferrell Garden, which dates to 1841. The Callaway family estate is open to the public for tours.

With the help of his team, Wood preserves this historic property, which celebrated its centennial last year, and maintains the heritage of one of the best preserved 19th-century gardens in America.

In modern gardening, there tends to be a lot of homogeneity, Wood says, where the same types of plants are often used in the same way throughout an entire region. It can be hard to differentiate one place from other.

“Hills and Dales has its own unique history that no other historic house and garden shares,” he says. “When you’re trying to preserve that landscape and that heritage, you’re preserving that unique sense of place.”

In different ways, Wood has maintained a sense of place with UGA through the relationships he’s preserved over the years.

When Wood enrolled at UGA in the early ’90s, he was expecting to be just one student out of tens of thousands. But he found a small, welcoming community in the horticulture department, what is now part of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

There, he developed friendships among fellow graduate students and found personal connections among faculty.

Wood’s major professor was Tim Smalley MS ’86, PhD ’88.

As Wood recalls, Smalley (still a UGA faculty member) was new to the faculty and eager to work with graduate students. The two worked closely together on research and Wood’s thesis.

“He was very much a mentor for me and became a friend,” Wood says. “Looking back, it developed into a much deeper relationship than I thought it would.”

Nearly 25 years later, the two keep in touch by phone a few times a year.

WRITTEN BY AARON HALE MA ’16
The first African-Americans to enroll at UGA as freshmen, (from left to right) Kerry Miller, Mary Diallo, and Harold Black discussed their undergraduate experience at UGA in a talk at the Chapel in January.

The three are members of UGA’s Class of 1966. Miller BBA ’66 had a 29-year career in telecommunications, Diallo AB ’66, MA ’73 is a faculty member at Florida A&M University, and Black BBA ’66 is a professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee.

Enrolling at UGA in 1962, wasn’t easy—even if they were following in the footsteps of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter, who transferred to UGA as its first African-American students in 1961. As students, they recalled facing hostility from some administrators, faculty, and students. But they also found allies in the nearly all white student body of the 1960s.

In the end, they were happy with their decision to attend UGA. “If I had to do it over,” Miller said. “I would go to the University of Georgia.”
After a back injury ended her gymnastics career, Emily Bridgers BSED ’09 assumed her competition days were over. Doctors believed she would never run again, much less lift weights. Eleven years later, the former Gymdog is back in the gym, defying the odds and competing at the highest level in a different sport: CrossFit.

Bridgers was first introduced to the conditioning program in 2010, when she and former teammate Kelsey Ericksen Pohlmann BSA ’07, DVM ’12 played around with various workouts in the UGA weight room. She found that CrossFit not only strengthened her back but added that competitive aspect back into her life.

“I can’t say that my back has been pain free the whole time, but it’s significantly stronger, significantly healthier,” she says. “Any flare-ups I have aren’t even relative to my old injury. I’m pushing my limits, which you do in any sport.”

It’s clear that pushing her limits has paid off. In February, she broke a Guinness World Record for most weight lifted in one minute overhead squat (female). The next day, she won the Michelob ULTRA pull-up challenge with 39 pull-ups in 95 seconds—a performance that earned her an all-expense paid VIP trip to the Super Bowl.

Alongside coach and now husband Ben Benson, Bridgers has competed in the South East Regional Competition for the past five years, where she placed in the top 10 every year. Bridgers placed sixth in the 2014 CrossFit Games—her best finish to date—and, in January, placed first with her team at Wodapalooza, a four-day fitness competition held in Miami, Florida.

Bridgers attributes much of her success in CrossFit to her gymnastics background.

“You have to be willing to push yourself almost every day to an uncomfortable level if you want to do well,” she says. “There’s something behind the sport of gymnastics that made me mentally tough from a young age.”

When she isn’t training, Bridgers and her husband coach clients at CrossFit Terminal, the gym they own in Atlanta. Bridgers plans to compete in at least one or two more CrossFit Games seasons before going into retirement, but her goals have shifted.

“Over time I’ve realized that your focus just has to be on getting better and doing whatever you can to continue to progress,” she says. “I just want to stay healthy and be a good example to other people.”

Written by Camren Skelton

Emily Bridgers broke a Guinness World Record for most weight lifted in one minute of overhead squats by a woman (4,140 pounds).
Will Brown ‘17 is committed to the future of Georgia’s family-owned farms. A native of Crawford, Georgia, Will grew up in a deeply-rooted agricultural family. Will’s scholarship helped him get to the University of Georgia, and now he studies both agricultural business and applied agricultural economics.

After graduation, Will plans to use the skills he’s learned to increase the income of struggling Georgia farmers and benefit the environments in which they work.

“I want to learn skills that allow me to help my county create meaningful jobs and support community involvement programs and pro-agricultural youth education.”
Rookie of the year

Thomas Rosenbloom BS ’12 has Netflix to thank for his recent triumph. In March, the rookie completed the Iditarod, the 1,000-mile race running from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

Rosenbloom was inspired to complete the Iditarod after watching the documentary “The Toughest Race on Earth” during his junior year at UGA. He moved to Alaska and spent two years working as a dog handler at Wolf’s Den Kennel in Cantwell, training himself and the dogs that would eventually lead his team.

“To say the Iditarod is an emotional rollercoaster is quite clichéd and doesn’t quite grasp the magnitude of the ups and downs that you will traverse as you’re going along the trail,” he says. “But the most difficult part of the Iditarod is not the human aspect, it’s managing your dog team and keeping them happy and healthy.”

Facing sleep deprivation, 50-below temperatures, and rugged terrain, Rosenbloom completed the race in 11 days, 14 hours, and 49 minutes.


Rod Andrew Jr. PhD ’97 of Central, South Carolina, is the author of The Life and Times of General Andrew Pickens (The University of North Carolina Press, 2017), a biography of the South Carolina militia commander in the American Revolution.

Anne Marie Chotvacs MPA ’99 of Alexandria, Virginia, is the senior director of international operations and policy for the Boeing Company’s government operations office.


Jason Shiflet MS ’99 of Gastonia, North Carolina, completed a PhD in Infrastructure and Environmental Systems from the University of North Carolina Charlotte in August 2016.

Kelly Gordon PhD ’01 of Austin, Texas, was named director of the School of Fine Arts at Concordia University Texas. Gordon is also the director of theatre and co-director of the honors program.

Kevin U PhD ’13 of Las Vegas, Nevada, is the global director of data science with the Las Vegas Sands Corporation.

Shiyu (Rachel) Wang MS ’16 was awarded the John A. Knauss Marine Policy fellowship for 2017. Sponsored by the National Sea Grant College Program, the year-long fellowship places current and recent graduate students with hosts in the legislative and executive branches of government. Wang is a fellow in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Aquaculture.

BUSINESS

Mark Halsey MBA ’79 of Hagerstown, Maryland, is the executive director of the University System of Maryland.

Chad McWhorter MBA ’09 of San Francisco, California, is a director in the investor relations group at Carmel Partners.

Blake Walker MBA ’15 of Alpharetta is a program manager at Equifax.

Roger Brathwaite MBA ’16 of Atlanta penned Time is the Brain (Lulu Press, 2016) in order
When Ernesto R. Perez BBA ’89 was two years old, his mother brought him to the United States from Cuba. Despite only having a third-grade education, she was in pursuit of the American Dream, and instilled in her son a strong work ethic that has guided him throughout his career.

Today, Ernesto is the CEO of Alvarez and Marsal, Taxand, LLC, in Miami. He leads 250 professionals in nine offices throughout the U.S. and London in providing tax consulting services to multinational companies, and private equity and high net worth individuals. His wife, Jamie, is the CEO of the Perez household, and ensures their children, Tyler, 17, and Kate, 13, are instilled with the same work ethic from which Ernesto benefited.

Ernesto and Jamie, who graduated from the University of Florida, value their college experiences. This led the couple to be among the first to establish a scholarship through the new Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program. Through this program, the UGA Foundation matches any gift in the amount of $50,000, $75,000, or $100,000 that establishes an endowed need-based scholarship.

“UGA not only gave me a great education, but also instilled in me a passion to shoot for the stars and to never give up on my dreams. My time at UGA established in me an intellectual curiosity that continues to drive me. For that, I will always do what I can for the university.”

The Ernesto and Jamie Perez Scholarship Fund was established in late 2016 and has already funded a four-year award for a UGA student, a feature of the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program that greatly appealed to the couple. The remaining portion of their contribution will support the fund’s endowment.

“I came to this country in 1969 with a single parent. Along the way, my mother, family members, friends, teachers and colleagues took an interest in me and provided me with the support that has allowed me to be successful. There are families that do not have the means to send their children to college. By establishing a need-based scholarship, we wanted to help more students who are financially challenged to attend college. I cannot think of a more gratifying feeling than being able to give back to the university and support others like I was.”

Follow in the Perezes’ footsteps and establish a need-based scholarship through the Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program. Visit give.uga.edu/georgia-commitment.
to share his story as a young stroke survivor. The book also portrays life for stroke survivors after they leave the hospital, post follow-up care, and the process of reintegrating into the world.

Amber Guyton MBA ’16 of San Antonio, Texas, was promoted to product management director at USAA Federal Savings Bank.

Alexandra Hill MBA ’16 of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a product manager for SharkNinja.

EDUCATION

Michael Perry MEd ’84 became director of the City of Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department.

Robin O. Warren MEd ’88, Eds ’92, PhD ’03 of Clarksville penned Women on Southern Stages, 1800-1865: Performance, Gender, and Identity in a Golden Age of American Theater (McFarland & Company, Inc., 2016), a work that reveals the integral role of women in theater during the Civil War and Antebellum periods and their contributions to history.

Keith Fletcher MEd ’02 of Palmetto Bay, Florida, is the executive director and vice president of City Year Miami and received the South Florida Business Journal’s 40 under 40 award.

Flora Tydings EdD ’03 was appointed chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents system.

Shelly Gleaton Blair MAT ’14 of Monroe received the Outstanding New Teacher of the Year Award for the 2015-16 school year from Walton County School District. Blair teaches Pre-K at Walnut Grove Elementary School.

Ashley Baker PhD ’16 of New Orleans, Louisiana, was promoted to associate athletics director/senior woman administrator at Xavier University of Louisiana.

ENGINEERING
Zeeshan Rizvi PhD ’16 of Horseheads, New York, is a process control research engineer at Corning Inc.

ENVIRONMENT & DESIGN
Don Christy MS ’03, PhD ’14 of Starkville, Mississippi, is executive director of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Water Management District.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES
Jennifer Cronin MS ’00 of Leesburg, Florida, is a renal dietitian and osteodystrophy manager at DaVita Healthcare Partners Inc.

JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION
Jay Mayfield MA ’02 is the director of communication and marketing at the McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

LAW
Monroe Lynn Frey III JD ’80 of Brunswick was appointed Dawson County’s in-house legal representation.

Samuel M. Olmstead JD ’04 of Silver City, New Mexico, was awarded the State Bar of New Mexico’s Award for Outstanding Children’s Court Prosecutor for 2016.

Eadaoin Waller JD ’05 of Duluth

Don Carter ABI ’38, an esteemed alumnus and accomplished journalist, died in March at his Sea Island home, three months shy of his 100th birthday.

“Don Carter will be remembered as one of Grady College’s iconic alumni,” says Charles Davis MA ’92, dean of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. “One of journalism’s giants, he always kept the college foremost in his heart, giving of his time, talent, and treasure.”

During his long career, Don Carter reported, edited, and managed newspapers in Macon, Atlanta, New York, Washington, D.C., and Miami. He was the founding managing editor of The National Observer. He was vice president for news at Knight-Ridder for six years before his retirement in 1982.

Editor-in-chief of The Red and Black while a student, Carter served on the campus newspaper’s board of directors for more than 25 years.

In 2004, Don and his wife, Carolyn ABI ’40 (who died in 2010), began an endowment that became the Carolyn McKenzie and Don E. Carter Chair for Excellence in Journalism. In 2014, Don established by gift and bequest the college’s first endowed gift to journalism excellence.

Don says the Carters’ gifts will help train journalists “for generations and generations to come”.

by kent middleton
was appointed regional vice president of the Irish Networks Across America. Waller is a partner in the corporate and business transactions group of Andersen, Tate & Carr PC. Sean M. Ditzel JD ’06 of Marietta co-founded the law firm Abernathy Ditzel LLC. David Tyler Adams JD ’16 of Atlanta and Kathleen B. Hicks JD ’16 of Atlanta won the 2017 Scribes Brief Writing Award from The American Society of Legal Writers.

VETERINARY MEDICINE
Michael Younker DVM ’82 of Fayetteville was named the 2016 Veterinarian of the Year by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Younker is a co-founder of the Fayette Veterinary Medical Center. Gary Baxter MS ’88 of Athens is chair of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Board of Regents. Baxter is director of the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the College of Veterinary Medicine’s associate dean for clinical services. Lynn Bahr DVM ’91 of Marietta serves on the Pet Professional Guild’s Cat Committee. Bahr is the founder and CEO of Dezi & Roo Pet Solutions. Eric Mueller PhD ’86 of Watkinsville is president-elect of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and will become president in October. Mueller is a professor of large animal medicine and surgery at UGA and a chief medical officer for the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Tim Loonam DVM ’00 of Lexington, South Carolina, is featured in the book Farewell to Football? An American Fan’s Examination of Conscience, written by Steven Liparulo. Loonam is a mixed-animal practitioner at Grace Animal Hospital and Pet Lodge. Jonathan Hawryschuk MS ’01 was appointed vice president and regional manager of the Western Florida unit of Axiom Bank. Caitriona Matthews DVM ’09 of Columbus received the 2016 Clare B. Reagan Recent Graduate Award from the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association. Matthews is a small animal practitioner at Weems Road Animal Hospital. Linlei Ward DVM ’12 of Kingstree, South Carolina, was presented with the Image Award for her practice, Four Square Veterinary Care, by the Williamsburg Home-Town Chamber.
“A research experience provides an enormous number of professional development skills that significantly improve students’ classroom experiences—asking questions, talking with faculty, presenting technical data, working in a team, communicating complex ideas using simple words, making decisions with imperfect information, etc. We want students to regard research as a very natural, integrated, and necessary part of their classroom experience, not an out-of-body experience that they are required to have in order to graduate. We also want them to see the connection of veterinary bioengineering/biomedicine to their own disciplines, expanding their horizons beyond a specific technical topic they learn in the classroom. Research is one of the greatest forms of experiential learning; it provides students with life skills.”

Karen J.L. Burg
Harbor Lights Chair in Small Animal Studies

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