

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

SUMMER 2021

Georgia



TALKING DAWGS

UGA Alumni at the Forefront of Podcasting

**TO BULLDOGS,
TOMORROW ISN'T
JUST ANOTHER DAY.**

*It's hope.
It's potential.
It's a promise.*

The stories in this issue are supported by generous gifts from alumni, friends, parents, and students. When you contribute to a fund on campus, your commitment fuels limitless possibilities. Bulldogs are building a better tomorrow for our state and our world.

AMP UP THE FUTURE OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Music Business Excellence Fund (p. 16)



TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH UGA STUDENT-ATHLETES

Swimming and Diving Support Fund (p. 18)



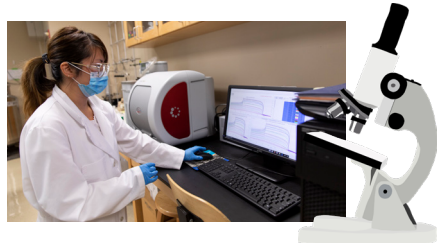
JOIN THE FIGHT TO SAVE LIVES

*Human Trafficking Research and
Outreach Fund (p. 22)*



POWER INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

CCRC General Research Fund (p. 56)



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**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**



Georgia



How has UGA's Music Business Certificate program navigated a year without live music? Find out on p. 16.

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
SUMMER 2021

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ON THE COVER



DIGITAL COLLAGE BY
JACKIE BAXTER ROBERTS

The Gold Dome of the Georgia State Capitol. A college football player. An armchair. And, most importantly, a microphone. All are elements of *Georgia Magazine's* Summer 2021 feature on alumni podcasters. Which image goes with which podcaster? Turn to page 28 to find out.

Summer Serenity

THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S campus is undeniable, and the sunsets at Lake Herrick are no exception. The lake is a South Campus treasure. Not only is it a valued recreational asset, but the lake also provides invaluable research and educational opportunities. This living laboratory is a favorite among students for activities ranging from picnics to paddle boarding.



DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

Georgia

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"By keeping Georgia's rural communities in mind in all that we do, we are helping our entire state to thrive, from the Appalachian Plateau to the Coastal Plain and all points in between."

Committed to Rural Georgia

Promoting success through teaching, research, and service

Georgia is home to rural communities throughout the state that contribute to our vibrant culture and economy, and UGA is committed to their success. Through our teaching, research, and service activities, we are helping them address critical needs and create opportunities.

UGA is considered a leader in rural student success. Our ALL Georgia program serves more than 4,000 UGA students from rural Georgia each year. Offering scholarships, academic coaching, networking events, student success workshops, and summer programming—including Dawg Camp and the Freshman College Summer Experience—the ALL Georgia program represents a university-wide effort to connect and support students with a focus on embracing rural identity. This spring, UGA convened students, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and community members from around the nation for a two-day virtual discussion on the success of rural students in American higher education.

Researchers in every college and school at UGA are working to strengthen rural Georgia in a variety of ways, from improving agriculture to growing tourism. To encourage additional faculty to pursue research in rural Georgia, the university held its first Rural Faculty Engagement Workshop earlier this year. Through virtual sessions and a visit to a rural community, 20 faculty members learned about rural Georgia's demographics and trends, high-impact community engagement practices, and existing UGA Public Service and Outreach and Extension networks with which they can partner to further support communities, small businesses, farmers, nonprofits, and local governments across the state.

A recent project with far-reaching impact on rural Georgia has been the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's collaboration with the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI). As part of the initiative, the institute developed a map identifying broadband internet availability in Georgia's 159 counties, down to the household level. Since the map was unveiled last summer, the GBDI team has partnered with internet service providers to address gaps in coverage—more important than ever when much of our education, business, and health care has moved online during the pandemic. The institute continues to work with the state's Broadband Office to further expand broadband internet services.

By keeping Georgia's rural communities in mind in all that we do, we are helping our entire state to thrive, from the Appalachian Plateau to the Coastal Plain and all points in between.

Jere W. Morehead
President



COMMEMORATE THE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF DESEGREGATION AT UGA

HONOR THEIR LEGACY. MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT.

Sixty years ago, Hamilton E. Holmes (BS '63) and Charlayne Hunter-Gault (ABJ '63) became the first Black students to register for classes at UGA. They were soon followed by UGA's first Black graduate, Mary Frances Early (MMED '62, EDS '67).

\$60-FOR-60

Join The 1961 Club in commemorating the 60th anniversary of desegregation at UGA with your gift of \$60 or more to the Black Alumni Scholarship Fund. Your support will ensure that students, regardless of socioeconomic status, have access to a college education. Make your gift at gail.uga.edu/60for60.



ALUMNI



1961 Club
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA TO Z

News, accomplishments,
and accolades from the
UGA community



INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

UGA Faculty Help Identify Killer of Bald Eagles

▶ The alarm bells began ringing years ago when dozens of eagles were found dead near an Arkansas lake.

Their deaths—and, later, the deaths of other waterfowl, amphibians, and fish—were the result of a neurological disease that caused holes to form in the white matter of their brains. Field and laboratory research over nearly three decades has established the primary clues needed to solve this wildlife mystery: Eagle and waterfowl deaths occur in late fall and winter within reservoirs with excess invasive

aquatic weeds, and birds can die within five days after arrival.

But until recently, the toxin that caused the disease, vacuolar myelinopathy, was unknown.

Now, after years spent identifying a new toxic blue-green algal (cyanobacteria) species and isolating the toxic compound, an interdisciplinary research group from the University of Georgia and international collaborators have confirmed the structure of this toxin.

Susan Wilde (above right), an associate professor of aquatic science in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, first discovered the cyanobacteria and says the public should exercise caution when eating birds or fish from contaminated lakes.

Wilde and others have been studying the cyanobacteria since 2001, when bald eagles began dying in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Their most recent study maps the bacteria's genome, the final puzzle piece to understand how it develops and survives.

DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

LANDING JOBS

91% of 2020 Grads Working or in School

► Of UGA's Class of 2020 graduates, 91% were employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation, according to career outcomes data released by the UGA Career Center. About six out of 10 graduates were employed full time, 22% were attending grad school, and 8% were engaged in post-graduation internships/fellowships or were not seeking employment.

"The impact of COVID-19 on the job market has been significant with fewer job opportunities, postponed or rescinded job offers, and more students altering plans to attend graduate school," says Scott Williams, executive director of the UGA Career Center. "Overcoming all of these challenges reflects the tenacity, determination, and resilience of the Class of 2020."

Of those who reported full-time employment, 40% cited the Career Center as the most effective resource used during their job search. Another 29% credited experiential learning for helping them find employment, indicating the university-wide experiential learning requirement is boosting career preparation.

RANKED AMONG THE BEST

Top 10 Spots for Online Programs

► The quality of the University of Georgia's online degree programs has been recognized with several top 10 rankings from *U.S. News and World Report*.

At the master's level, the Mary Frances Early College of Education's programs ranked fourth overall, marking the college's third consecutive year in the top 5. The college's program in instructional design and development is also ranked fourth, and the educational administration and supervision program is ranked ninth in the nation. The online bachelor's degree in special education moved up to No. 10.

In the Terry College of Business, the online master's program in business and technology was ranked No. 4 in the non-MBA category.



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

Despite a challenging year, 91% of UGA's class of 2020 graduates were employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation.



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

WE'RE NUMBER ONE

UGA Reclaims Top Spot for New Products to Market

▼ The University of Georgia has returned to the top of AUTM's national rankings for the number of products developed by industry partners based on UGA research discoveries, marking the seventh straight year UGA has placed among the top five schools in the country for this metric. UGA previously ranked No. 1 in 2019.

AUTM, formerly known as the Association of University Technology Managers, conducts an annual survey of intellectual property licensing and startup activities by universities and research centers. This latest survey is based on data from fiscal year 2019, when 53 UGA products reached the market.

While many of the products that earned UGA its top ranking may not be available at your local pharmacy or home improvement store, they break down among familiar categories: horticultural and commercial plant cultivars, software and educational tools, research and laboratory tools, and

animal health products. Several, for example, are poultry vaccines developed to protect against pathogens impacting Georgia's poultry industry.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

MARY FRANCES EARLY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Online Master's in Education

RANKED NO. 4

TERRY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Online Master's in Business and Technology

RANKED NO. 4

MARY FRANCES EARLY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Online Bachelor's in Special Education

RANKED NO. 10

U.S. News and World Report's 2021 Best Online Programs

TOP DAWG

UGA President Receives Executive Leadership Award

▶ UGA President Jere W. Morehead JD '80 received the 2021 Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education-District III this spring.

CASE is a global association dedicated to educational advancement, serving professionals in development, alumni relations, and marketing and communications. District III of the association comprises institutions in nine Southeastern states, including Georgia.

Among other criteria, nominees were assessed on leading their institution to higher levels of success. During Morehead's tenure as president, the University of Georgia's four-year completion rate has risen from 61% to 71%, while the six-year completion rate has climbed to a record 87%, exceeding the averages of peer institutions.

Applications for admission, meanwhile, have risen over 80%, and the academic credentials of entering students have reached record levels. *U.S. News & World Report* has rated UGA a top 20 public university for five consecutive years, including a rank of No. 15 in 2020.

Morehead has served at the University of Georgia since 1986 in both faculty and administrative roles. Prior to becoming president, he served as senior vice president and provost from 2010 to 2013. Earlier, he held a range of administrative posts, including vice president for instruction, vice provost for academic affairs, and associate provost and director of the Honors Program. Morehead began his career at UGA as an assistant professor in the Terry College of Business and advisor to the School of Law's moot court program.



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

Students at the President's Welcome Back event in August 2019 pose for photos with UGA President Jere W. Morehead.

CLASSICAL EDUCATION

McClellan named Gates Cambridge Scholar

▶ University of Georgia graduating senior Emeline McClellan (left) of Good Hope will continue her studies in classics this fall as one of 24 Americans selected as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. The scholarship fully funds postgraduate study and research in any subject at the University of Cambridge in England. McClellan is UGA's eighth Gates Cambridge Scholar in the program's 20-year history.

An Honors student in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, McClellan AB '21, AB '21 graduated in May with bachelor's degrees in classical languages and classical culture with a certificate in medieval studies. As she pursues a master's degree in classics at Cambridge, McClellan plans to write a thesis on Augustine's theories of music, committing herself to a forward-looking examination of ancient musicology.



STEPHANIE SCHUPSKA

OFFERING SUPPORT

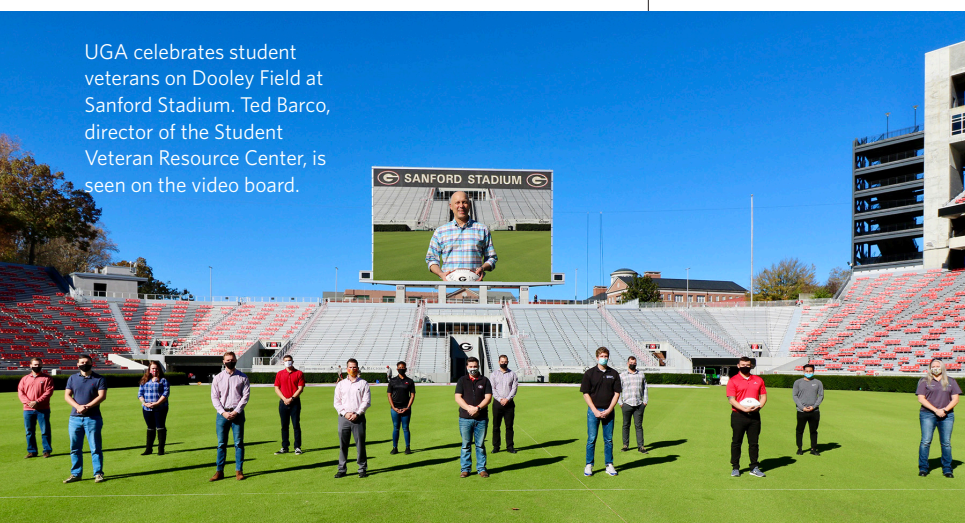
UGA Top Institution for Service to Student Veterans

◀ The University of Georgia has been named the top Tier 1 research institution in the nation in *Victory Media's* Military Friendly Schools 2021 rankings.

The designation recognizes the university for its outstanding commitment to and programs for student veterans and their families. UGA was named the top institution in 2017 and has ranked in the top three each year since.

Founded in spring 2013, the university's Student Veterans Resource Center serves as the go-to location for wayfinding and entry into an array of services provided by the university while also offering wide-ranging support and advocacy for student veterans.

UGA celebrates student veterans on Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium. Ted Barco, director of the Student Veteran Resource Center, is seen on the video board.



SPECIAL

BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Regional Decline and Increase of Butterflies

► Climate is likely the biggest driver of butterfly abundance change, according to a new study by University of Georgia entomologists.

Researchers in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences found notable increases in butterfly populations in the southeastern and Pacific Northwest regions of the United States while the southwestern and mountain states show a decline.

The team of scientists examined abundance and biodiversity trends for North American butterflies over a period of 25 years using a unique community-based science dataset that has recorded observations of over 8 million butterflies across 456 species, 503 sites, and nine ecoregions.

Average precipitation and temperature during the sampling period appeared to be the strongest drivers of this complex mosaic of abundance responses. Overall, the data showed a very slight decline of less than 1% per year.

Butterflies are ecologically important because they are pollinators, herbivores, and prey, making them useful indicators of changes in the environment.

Butterflies that are increasing in abundance might be benefiting from locally improved food resources or reduced stress in areas that have become wetter.



OLIVIA SMITH

This skipper butterfly takes a break at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

PERILOUS POULTRY

Backyard Chickens Risk Pathogen Spread

▼ The hobby of keeping backyard chickens was already on the rise, and it has become even more popular during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a University of Georgia researcher cautions that the practice has risks people may not be considering.

Sonia Hernandez, professor of wildlife disease at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the College of Veterinary Medicine, says backyard chickens could provide an opportunity for disease-causing microorganisms to jump from chickens into wildlife and potentially people.

There are a number of practices that backyard chicken owners can implement to reduce the risk of pathogen emergence, such as keeping feeders where only the chickens can reach them, using an enclosure to prevent wild birds from interacting with the chickens, and removing contaminated water sources.

ERUPTIVE DISCOVERY

Research Finds Link Between CO₂, Big Volcano Eruptions

► New findings from the University of Georgia may lead to better early-warning systems for volcanic activity.

Volcanologists from the University of Georgia and two Swiss universities found a link between carbon dioxide and the volume of gas trapped in magma, which could help predict the intensity and magnitude of a volcanic eruption. Higher levels of CO₂, they found, led to an increase in the total volume of gas in magma, which may result in violent eruptions.

The amount of CO₂ stored in magma depends on a few factors, including the magma's physical composition, the volcano's location, and the architecture of the volcanic system.



SPECIAL



CHAD OSBURN

MUSEUM SUPPORT

Biennial Gala Goes Online

► In January, the Georgia Museum of Art was set to host its biennial gala, *Elegant Salute*. For decades, the proceeds from the evening have provided vital funding to support the museum's programs, but the COVID-19 pandemic meant that it couldn't go ahead as planned.

Instead, the museum pivoted to establish the Fund for the Future Endowment. This multiyear endowment campaign's initial goal of \$1 million will ensure that the annual interest can provide much needed stability and immediate support for daily operations.

The museum is already halfway to its goal, with gifts continuing to arrive. To contribute to the Fund for the Future, you can visit the web address at right or mail a check (made payable to UGA Foundation) to: Georgia Museum of Art, Fund for the Future, 90 Carlton St., Athens GA 30602.



DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

*Elegant Salute:
Biennial Gala Now Online*

[BIT.LY/FUNDFORTHEFUTURE](https://bit.ly/fundforthefuture)

EMINENT SCHOLAR

New Isakson Chair to Begin Work This Fall

► Anumantha Kanthasamy, an internationally renowned researcher specializing in Parkinson's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders, has been appointed as the first John H. "Johnny" Isakson Chair and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Parkinson's Research. He will join UGA in fall 2021.

Kanthasamy is currently Distinguished Professor and Eugene and Linda Lloyd Endowed Chair and Eminent Scholar in Neurotoxicology at Iowa State University. His work ranges from basic neurological science to translational medicine, including the identification of biomarkers for early detection of Parkinson's and drug discovery for new treatments.

The position was endowed earlier this year when the campaign goal of \$4.5 million was reached. The final contribution came from Sen. Isakson himself.

Isakson **BBA '66** was elected to the U.S. Senate three times and served for 15 years. After his 2015 diagnosis with Parkinson's, Isakson continued to work in public service until his health compelled him to resign in December 2019. In 2017, Isakson received the Fox Foundation's Parkinson's Advocacy Award for his work to improve the lives of people living with the disease and for his advocacy in funding new treatments.



SPECIAL

SOLUTIONS FOR DEADLY DISEASES

New UGA Center will Battle Flu

► The National Institutes of Health has awarded the University of Georgia a contract to establish the Center for Influenza Disease and Emergence Research (CIDER). The contract will provide \$1 million in first-year funding and is expected to be supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of NIH, for seven years and up to approximately \$92 million. Scientists in the multi-institutional center will work to increase understanding of the influenza virus emergence and infection in humans and animals while also making preparations to combat future outbreaks or pandemics.

The contract is the university's second major NIH award for influenza research in less than two years. These two awards represent a potential NIH investment of more than \$220 million in UGA's flu research, which unites scientists from a wide range of disciplines across the university.

In addition to faculty from multiple units across UGA, CIDER will include external

partners such as Boston Children's

Hospital, St. Jude Children's Hospital,

the University of Rochester, and the

University of Melbourne. It will be

directed by S. Mark Tompkins,

professor of infectious diseases

in UGA's College of Veterinary

Medicine, and its deputy

director will be Pejman

Rohani, Regents' Professor

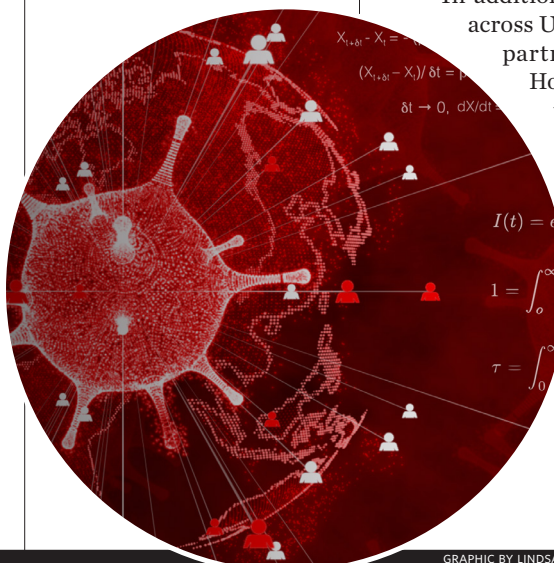
and UGA Athletic Association

Professor in Ecology and

Infectious Diseases in the

Odum School of Ecology and

College of Veterinary Medicine.



GRAPHIC BY LINDSAY BLAND ROBINSON

HOOP DREAMS

Taylor Named SEC Coach of the Year

► Joni Taylor, who led one of the largest single-season turnarounds in Georgia Lady Bulldog basketball history, has been named the 2021 Southeastern Conference Women's Basketball Coach of the Year, headlining an impressive list of All-SEC accolades for the Lady Bulldogs.

Georgia made it to the finals of the SEC Tournament—which featured the first-ever title-game matchup between teams coached by Black women (Taylor and South Carolina's Dawn Staley). The Lady Bulldogs then advanced to the NCAA Tournament, where they reached the second round.

In addition to Taylor's Coach of the Year honor, senior guard Que Morrison was named the SEC Co-Defensive Player of the Year and placed on the league's All-Defensive Team. Senior center Jenna Staiti was named a second-team All-SEC selection, while Lady Bulldog rookie Sarah Ashlee Barker earned a spot on the SEC All-Freshman Team.

Taylor is Georgia's second SEC Coach of the Year winner in program history. Hall of Fame head coach Andy Landers earned the distinction in 1984, 1986, and 1996.

Taylor, who agreed to a contract extension through 2027, was also a finalist for the Werner Ladder Naismith Women's Coach of the Year Awards.



ANTHONY WALSH



SPECIAL

Joni Taylor led Georgia's women's basketball team to a 21-7 record and the second round of the NCAA Tournament this past season.

Vicki Michaelis will be the Carmical Sports Media Institute's inaugural director.

FIRST PITCH

New Institute Focuses on Sports Storytelling

► Sports media education, already a signature program at the University of Georgia, is expanding with the establishment of the John Huland Carmical Sports Media Institute.

Vicki Michaelis, a longtime sports journalist who came to UGA as the John Huland Carmical Chair in Sports Journalism and Society in 2012, will be the institute's inaugural director.

The Carmical Sports Media Institute will give UGA's undergraduate Sports Media Certificate program a home base and a distinct brand as well as the resources to increase student support and experiential learning opportunities, on-campus programming, community outreach, and industry networking.

Housed in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Carmical Sports Media Institute will operate on foundational journalistic principles while innovating the future of sports storytelling.

The Carmical Sports Media Institute made possible through a gift from the Atlanta-based John Huland Carmical Foundation, which now has committed more than \$3 million to sports media education at UGA.



SPECIAL



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

Karsen Hicks AB '18, MA '19, interviews a Heritage High School football player in 2017. Hicks is now a content associate at ESPN.

ANIMAL INSTINCT

Wildlife Reclaims Nuclear Disaster Site

► In the decade since an earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused a nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan, the surrounding towns have struggled to return to normal. But that's not the case for wildlife.

Vast swaths of land once inhabited by people are now home to a larger population of dozens of different species.

James Beasley, associate professor of wildlife ecology and management at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the Savannah River Ecology Lab, says the physical landscape once created a natural boundary between humans and wildlife. But these boundaries no longer hold true, creating a huge conflict with people moving back near the area. Using wildlife cameras set up throughout the exclusion zone, Beasley's team has seen how wildlife is moving through the space.

Now, the researchers are aiming to get a better understanding of the physiological effects of living in a radioactive landscape. Beasley and others have developed a new type of GPS transmitter that records radiation levels along with animals' movements. Later this year, one of Beasley's graduate students will travel to Japan to gather data on whether animals' behavior within evacuated areas differs from animals in non-radioactive environments.



SPECIAL

A raccoon dog wanders in front of wildlife cameras set up in Fukushima, Japan, by UGA associate professor James Beasley's team.

FAMILY FIRST

Family Life Can Make You a Better Boss

▼ The COVID-19 pandemic has meant more time at home for many of us. Now, a new study reveals that for working parents, an increase in quality time with their families may have some unforeseen benefits.

New research from the University of Georgia has found that positive interactions with your child during your off hours can make you a better leader. The study examines whether participants had experienced positive interactions with their families—such as working together on a project or laughing together—each day after work.

The results of the study showed links between positive family interactions after hours and more effective family leadership during the workday.

“You take your kids out for a walk. You chat about how your day was. These are positive family events that help you feel you connected with your kids,” says Szu Han “Joanna” Lin, assistant professor in the Terry College of Business and lead author of the study. “Your needs are satisfied at home. And on the next day, you'll be more motivated to help your employees.”



SPECIAL

Rachel Pless, **BSES '19, MS '20**, an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) assigned to the Grow It Know It program, works with children in the afterschool program at the East Athens Community Center.

GROW IT TO KNOW IT

Teaching Youngsters About Nutrition

► While schools in Clarke County went online for much of the year, students in East Athens learned about agriculture and nutrition through an in-person, hands-on University of Georgia program offered at East Athens Community Center.

The Office of Service-Learning's Grow It Know It program, a collaboration with Clarke County middle schools, was offered two afternoons a week, serving about 15 students.

Service-Learning partners with the student-run UGarden to provide content for the program, which educates students about gardening, cooking, agricultural sustainability, and nutrition.

In addition to providing an interactive and educational afterschool activity, the students also take home meals they have prepared during the day. So far, students have learned about composting, transplanting plants, harvesting produce, using knives, and preparing recipes. They even learned some basic carpentry skills by helping build garden beds and benches at the community center.



SHANNAH MONTGOMERY

Igniting the Spark of Innovation

The University of Georgia is becoming synonymous with words like “innovative,” “cutting-edge,” and “pioneering.” Its focus on collaboration, creativity, and entrepreneurship perfectly aligns with its rich history as a land- and sea-grant institution focused on improving lives, communities, and industries across the state.

In recent years, a groundswell of support—including \$10 million in funding from the UGA Foundation—has accelerated the development of the Innovation District. The district is a comprehensive ecosystem of places, programs, and people designed to take on challenges from multiple angles, shape discoveries into marketable solutions, and educate tomorrow’s creators to be skilled, experienced, and versatile. The Innovation District fosters entrepreneurship and provides pathways for companies to connect with faculty and students to address business challenges.

As this thriving ecosystem continues to develop, private support—from generous individuals and foundations to corporations of all sizes—has been crucial. Donors understand the power of funding to ignite the spark of innovation that can change lives and improve the world. They also understand how innovation could benefit their own businesses and communities in the future.

- The SunTrust Foundation and the SunTrust Trusteed Foundations helped launch Studio 225, a student incubator/accelerator space in downtown Athens, and contributed to the student-led Kickstart Fund that provides seed grant money to student and faculty startups.
- The Delta Air Lines Foundation provided significant support to renovate the Spring Street Building into the Innovation Hub, which provides flexible workspace to support faculty startup companies and to enable students and industry partners to collaborate on company-based research and development. It also helped launch the Student Industry Fellows Program.
- The Georgia Power Foundation provided funding to expand UGA’s Startup Mentor Program, which pairs experienced entrepreneurs with faculty members to help coach and inspire them. The foundation also helped create an innovation summer camp for local youth to gain entrepreneurship skills through UGA.

Mark Mahoney **BBA '83** is the owner of Jackrabbit Technologies, which offers class management software for gymnastics, dance, swim, cheer, music, and child care businesses. As an entrepreneur himself, he appreciates the emphasis UGA is placing on preparing the next generation of innovators. That’s why he not only made a significant gift to UGA’s Entrepreneurship Program Excellence Fund, but he also is among the first to sign the new Innovators’ Pledge (see below).

“I am thrilled to support our young entrepreneurs in their effort to start their own businesses. Since my own entrepreneurship and company idea is rooted from my experience at UGA, it excites me that these students will have so many more resources than when I was at UGA.”

—MARK MAHONEY **BBA '83**
OWNER OF JACKRABBIT TECHNOLOGIES

Learn more about how the Innovation District is driving economic development and community impact at INNOVATION.UGA.EDU

id INNOVATION
DISTRICT
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

SEEKING EARLY ADOPTERS

The Innovators’ Pledge is a nonbinding commitment by Bulldog creators, equity holders, and entrepreneurs to share their future successes with their alma mater. As this community of innovators grows, pledge signers will enjoy networking, educational events, and access to university resources that will help make their visions a reality. Become an Innovators’ Pledge early adopter. | GIVE.UGA.EDU/INNOVATORS

 **INNOVATORS' PLEDGE**

Innovation District programs offer projects, funding, and guidance as faculty and students get their ideas off the ground. Private gifts help make much of this possible.



Nedza's Waffles

Joe Nedza BBA '16 launched his pop-up waffle business while he was still a student. In 2016, he took home the \$5,000 prize from the UGA Idea Accelerator Program, which introduces students with business ideas to a mentor board of experienced entrepreneurs, advisers, and investors. Last year, Nedza took his business to the next level by establishing a brick-and-mortar location near the Five Points neighborhood in Athens.



inNOveta Biomedical

Hitesh Handa, 2021 UGA entrepreneur of the year, develops infection-resistant coatings for medical devices. I-Corps helped Handa found inNOveta Biomedical to facilitate commercialization of his discoveries. In 2020, the company was awarded more than \$1 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop his patented technology for the prevention of catheter-associated infections.



Candidus

Co-founded by **Marc van Iersel**, the Vincent J. Dooley Professor of Horticulture, and **Eric Mattos PhD '13**, Candidus offers customized lighting solutions for greenhouse agriculture that give plants just the right amount of light. UGA's Innovation Corps (I-Corps) helped the pair identify customers and design a business plan. The startup has attracted funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Research Alliance.



CyanVac

Biao He, GRA Distinguished Investigator and the Fred C. Davison Distinguished University Chair in Veterinary Medicine, is a renowned virologist and vaccine developer whose numerous biotechnology companies develop new vaccines. His work has been translated into vaccines and treatments for deadly infections such as rabies, tuberculosis, and HIV. In 2019, one of his companies, Blue Lake Biotechnology, secured \$6 million in private investment to develop a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine.



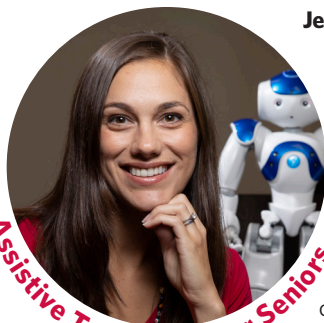
GoodTech

Adrienne Baldwin-White, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, participated in UGA's Innovation Bootcamp, which provides tailored training to tenure-track faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and graduate students to prepare them to participate in an innovative, entrepreneurial environment. After graduating from I-Corps, she formed GoodTech, a UGA startup company that creates tools to prevent sexual assault on college campuses.



Thryft Ship

In fall 2020, **Valeria Brenner's** concept for a web browser extension that makes shipping easier for Instagram merchants won first prize and \$2,500 through UGA's Idea Accelerator Demo Day finals. The funding is allowing the marketing and international business major to continue her research as she develops her product.



Assistive Technology for Seniors

Jenay Beer, assistant professor in the Institute for Gerontology, was among the first participants in UGA's Innovation Fellows program, which helps faculty members translate their ideas into solutions and products. Beer designs assistive technologies for older adults that help them manage life and health transitions as they age. Thanks to the program, she received personalized coaching and \$10,000 to support customer discovery and facilitate connections with industry partners.



FCS Technology

FCS Technology is a UGA startup company based on research conducted by **Leidong Mao**, a professor in UGA's School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The company is developing a device to isolate tumor cells from blood for diagnosis and evaluation of cancer treatment efficacy. In 2019, the company was awarded \$225,000 from the National Institutes of Health to further develop its technology.

Support funds on campus that are sparking innovation and entrepreneurship. Your gift could help discover a product or business that improves lives. | [GIVE.UGA.EDU/INNOVATION](https://give.uga.edu/innovation)

David Barbe, director of the Music Business Certificate program for the last 11 years, brings a plethora of experience to the job. Barbe is a songwriter, touring musician, record label owner, music publisher, and much more.



The Show Must Go On

A pandemic might have rocked the music industry, but it didn't stop UGA's music business certificate program from forging ahead in unique ways



WRITTEN BY ALEXANDRA SHIMALLA MA '19

Beyond the hedges and classroom buildings in Athens sits a downtown bursting with bars, clubs, and music entertainment venues, where bands like R.E.M., Drive-by Truckers, and Widespread Panic got their start. There are publicists, merchandise companies, radio promoters, booking agents, artist managers—an entire city of musical opportunities.

“For many years, Athens has had this amazing music scene, but for the first 30 years of it, there was no music business program at UGA,” says David Barbe **AB '86**, who's been the program director for 11 years. “The music business certificate filled the void.”

The program began in 2006 and was built on the small but robust music scene in Athens and a desire from the original director, Bruce Burch **BSEd '75**, to create something at UGA that seized these local opportunities for students interested in the industry, giving them a place to learn and grow. The program began with just 22 students and now has some 200 per year.

Putting in the Work

The certificate provides the education and experience needed to give students a leg up in the industry.

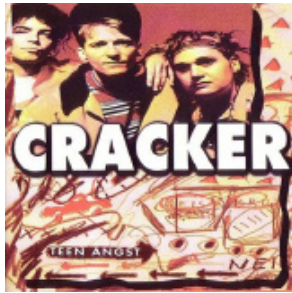
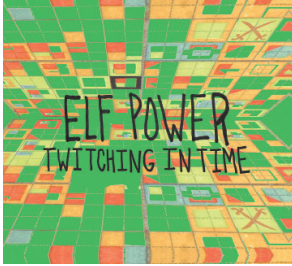
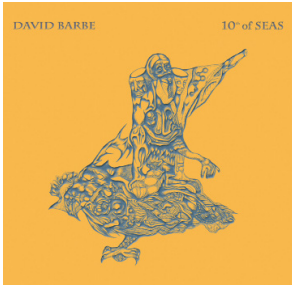
The 21-credit-hour program encompasses a handful of core classes, such as the fundamentals of and emerging issues in the music business industry, paired with whatever electives the students choose to take. The interdisciplinary, “a la carte” feel of the certificate program allows students to customize their experience to fit their future goals.

“It's pretty rare for me to find two students whose path through this is identical, even two kids who seemingly want to do the same thing,” Barbe says.

Students must complete an internship during their academic year in the capstone class, which the program facilitates through Barbe's extensive list of industry contacts. Of course, students can opt for an additional summer internship elsewhere, but the hands-on experience they get from an Athens-based record label or venue is quite different than what they might find in one of music's major cities.

“Because of the size of the industry in Athens, it's a place where it's not an overwhelming experience to just dive right in and get your feet wet,” says certificate alumna Stephanie Self **BMus '07, BBA '07**, who is a partner of a business management firm in Nashville. Self was also part of the program's first class.

“In Athens, I could work in a venue. I could work at a printing company. I could work at a nonprofit rehearsal space or recording studio. Having a smaller music community provided a deeper, more well-rounded experience because in a small company, you do all of it. You have access,” says Self. “The people running these businesses were an extension of our professors, so they were willing to teach us what they were doing.”



Left, the latest albums from David Barbe, Andrew Reiger's Elf Power, and the first album from David Lowrey's time as a member of Cracker.

Right, Lane Marie O'Kelley is the program coordinator as well as a graduate of the Music Business program.

Pandemic Problems

Like it has with everything else, the pandemic created headaches for students within the certificate program.

Without live music, every angle of the industry has been affected.

"Many musicians have been unemployed for almost a year now due to lack of gigs," says program coordinator Lane Marie O'Kelley **AB '17**. She is also a graduate of the certificate program and an Athens-based musician. Before COVID, O'Kelley was performing on a weekly basis. Like many other musicians, she had to cancel all of her spring and summer gigs last year and is still waiting to connect with a live audience again.

Still, the program was able to pivot and help students find opportunities.

Although the internship list was much shorter this past year, the program linked students with virtual alternatives. Students completed telework internships in social media marketing, blog writing, and data tracking, such as organizing digital album catalogs or analyzing songwriting royalties.



PETER FREY

Hope for the Present and Future

Despite the challenges, the program is still a community of passionate, like-minded students. "The instructors, courses, and internship offerings weren't specific to one genre," says Cecile Duncan **ABJ '15**, a certificate graduate who works as a radio and digital promotions manager for Merge Records in Durham, North Carolina. "Looking back, that mix feels very special to me—that kids into EDM or country or hip hop or indie rock were all in group projects together, learning the same essentials, all getting value from the same program."

Students learn from current industry professionals. In fact, it's a requirement for faculty to be currently involved in the industry. Andrew Rieger **AB '94**, a lecturer in the program, owns an indie record label (Orange Twin Records) and is part of a touring band, Elf Power. Tom Lewis, the program's associate director, is an engineer and producer with 35 years of experience. David Lowery, a senior lecturer, is an artist, producer, and songwriter with a platinum-record career; he's also an active voice in the artists' rights movement and on issues of intellectual property.

And Barbe? Well, he's done just about everything you can think of and then some. He owns a recording studio and a music publishing company. He's a producer. He's an engineer. He's a songwriter and was a touring musician. He's booked shows and acted as a concert promoter. "Being in it helps me know it better. The music business changes, not just generationally or annually, but day by day," says Barbe. "I think it helps students to see that we're teaching you what we live—I'm in it because I believe in it."

Barbe also has a gift for remembering names...like all the names of all the students who have graduated from the certificate program since he took over in 2010. These alumni are now a mix of industry professionals whose class photos line Barbe's office hallway. Current students get the opportunity to engage with these professionals via guest speaking events, which have continued virtually during the pandemic. Students can also talk one-on-one with

alumni who span the spectrum of music business careers and connect for potential internships.

"The reason that the program is so successful is that it all comes back to David Barbe. The program certainly would not be what it is and would not be held in such high regard across our entire industry if it weren't for his connections," says Robert Knotts **BBA '13**, a graduate of the certificate program and vice president of distribution at 30 Tigers in Nashville. "The level of knowledge that David's able to impart is so much more applicable than I think students realize."

Barbe, his hallway of composites, and the music business certificate program aren't going anywhere; they'll continue to rally, virtual setting or not. After attending his first concert in the Classic City, Barbe found his community and isn't leaving. "I think that's what a lot of people find in the music business program," he says. "They realize they've found their community." **GM**

Prepare the next generation of music industry leaders and pioneers by making a gift to the Music Business Excellence Fund. | GIVE.UGA.EDU/MBUS.



A WINNING LEGACY

WRITTEN BY AARON HALE MA '16

When the pools finally emptied out in Greensboro, North Carolina, it was clear the Georgia Bulldogs had done something special: Both the men's and women's teams finished in the top 10 at the 2021 NCAA Division I Swimming & Diving Championships.

The Georgia Bulldog women's swimming & diving team took eighth place at the finals, its 29th top-10 NCAA finish but the first since 2017. The men took fourth (the second-highest ranking in its history). And with returning swimmers like freshman Jake Magahey, who won an individual national title in the 500 freestyle, the Bulldogs are equipped to compete for championships years to come.

Although both teams had been hungry to claim a national championship in 2021, just getting the chance to complete the season was a relief.

AN ABRUPT END

A year earlier, after a slow start to the season, the two UGA teams fought their way into the top 10 heading into the NAAs. Jack Bauerle '75, head coach of both Bulldog teams, called them among the most improved in his 42-year career. Both squads felt like they had a shot at an NCAA title.

"We were locked and loaded," says Bauerle, himself a former Bulldog swimmer. "We were ready to go."

UGA was preparing to host the women's NCAA finals on March 13, 2020, in Athens. But in the days leading up to the competi-

tion, the magnitude of the rapidly spreading coronavirus became clear.

Plans for the competition started to change on a daily and then hourly basis, as everyone tried to get a handle on the pandemic. The spectator list dropped from an expected full house to just family, to no spectators at all. A week before the event began, it became clear that the whole competition had to be canceled. The student-athletes were sent home. As everyone hunkered down in those early days of lockdown, the NCAA's banners and wayfinding

signs were abandoned at a quiet Gabrielson Natatorium.

It was a gut punch for both of the Bulldog teams, especially the seniors. Some of the swimmers had prepared to compete for individual national championships; some were even Olympic hopefuls.

Months later, in the summer, Bauerle would look out of his Ramsey Student Center office, which sits right next to the pool, and still see the NCAA's abandoned signs, a daily reminder of business left unfinished.



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

UGA swimmers warm up ahead of the Women's SEC Swimming Championships in Athens.

A POWERHOUSE

If Bauerle needed a lift, he only had to look above the pool to the dozens of red banners boasting UGA swimming titles, evidence of the sustained success the Swimming & Diving program has had under his tenure.

For the women's team: seven NCAA team titles, eight runner-up finishes, and 12 SEC Championships.

For the men's: 21 individual NCAA championships.

And then there are the Olympics. Every four years (pandemics notwithstanding), a handful of men and women—current and former UGA swimmers—represent the U.S. and other nations

in the pool at the Olympic Games. If you watch the Games, you know the names: Gunnar Bentz **BBA '18**, Melanie Margalis **BSFCS '14**, Allison Schmitt **BS '14**, Maritza McClendon **AB '05**, and Amanda Weir **M '08**, to name a few. Bauerle has been a head coach or assistant coach for three Olympics.

The team's student-athletes are equally impressive in the classroom, racking up dozens of NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships. Georgia was the first athletic program to have three recipients named NCAA Woman of the Year.

The success has been hard fought.

A BULLDOG FOR LIFE

Bauerle, now the Tom Cousins Head Swimming and Diving Coach, came to Athens in 1970. A native of Philadelphia, he had been recruited by programs nationally but chose Georgia after a visit to Athens. When he arrived, Bauerle was the only swimmer who hailed from north of the Mason-Dixon line. Sporting wavy blond hair and a pair of black Chuck Taylor sneakers, he might have seemed like an outsider but felt at home right away.

During his time as a swimmer, he set a handful of school records and captained the Bulldogs for two seasons.

In 1979, legendary Bulldogs football coach

and athletic director Vince Dooley needed to fill the women's swimming and diving coach position. Bauerle got the job.

Bauerle credits Dooley not only for giving him a chance but also for giving him room to build a program.

"It took us a long time to get going," Bauerle recalls. "It took about 10 years to crack the top 10."

As he was building the women's program, he was given the reins to the men's team in 1983. Over time, Bauerle learned how to connect with swimmers. How to bring out the best in highly recruited athletes and those who were swimming under the radar. He

had help from loyal assistant coach Harvey Humphries, who coached with Bauerle until retiring in 2019.

As success grew, recruiting top swimmers became easier.

The teams—particularly the women's team—really hit their stride in the late '90s and early '00s, winning back-to-back-to-back NCAA titles and stringing together a remarkable 103 straight dual and tri-meet wins at Gabrielsen Natatorium—including against top-tier opponents. From 1999 to 2016, the Bulldogs had their dynasty on lockdown, placing first or second in the nation for all but three seasons.



SPECIAL

Above, as a Bulldog swimmer in 1974, Jack Bauerle was the Georgia record-holder for the 200 fly.

Right, Georgia swimmer Sandra Scott **BSEd '20** embraces Bauerle during Senior Day at Gabrielsen Natatorium in February 2020.



ANTHONY WALSH

THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE

Eight-time Olympic medalist and former team USA captain Allison Schmitt was part of that success. She recalls that the quality of her teammates made her a better swimmer.

"Every day at practice, you had someone to race," she says. "But it wasn't like we were competitors who butted heads. We were teammates and best friends making memories together, holding each other to a standard that would push us and make us the best that we could be."

Bauerle and the other coaches weren't just interested in how the team swam. They

made sure the student-athletes were making the most of their college degrees.

"A lot of coaches talk about academics," says former UGA team captain Mark Dylla **BBA '12**. "It really matters to Jack. There is a life after swimming, and our education takes care of that."

Dylla is now the senior director of digital transformation at Rubicon, a fast-growing Atlanta-based green technology company.

Schmitt says the UGA Swimming & Diving coaches also focus on each student-athlete's personal growth.

"What stood out to me in a college setting was their emphasis not only on being a great athlete, but also a student, leader, and being part of the community," says Schmitt. As a student, Schmitt would sometimes walk through downtown Athens with Bauerle. He seemed to know everyone he passed. Schmitt thought it was remarkable how much Bauerle was a part of his community.

"College is a place where you really grow as an individual," she says. "And that has helped me with who I am today. I credit them with teaching us that at that age."

‘NOT DONE YET’

All of that past success, that attention to detail, made the 2020-2021 season a little less daunting.

Summertime COVID-19 protocols restricted swimmers from coming to campus. So that left Bauerle and the coaching staff scrambling to find pools for the swimmers to touch water.

The coaching staff, including longtime associate head coach Jerry Champer and former Bulldogs captain and national champion Stefanie Williams Moreno **BSed '03**, brought stability to what could have been a chaotic season, Bauerle says.

And with minimal interruptions—although there were plenty of sacrifices and social distancing—the Bulldogs were able to put in a season that could become a foundation for renewed dominance.

For right now, the Bulldogs have turned their attention to Omaha, Nebraska, where several will compete at U.S. Olympic swimming trials for the opportunity to go to the Olympics.

Next, they hope to get ready for a more normal season. With returning stars and a solid recruiting class for both teams, the Bulldogs are prepared to do even more.

Because even after 42 seasons, even with his status as the NCAA's winningest active swim coach, Bauerle is still hungry to compete.

When asked if he's nearing retirement, the 69-year-old Bauerle grins as he growls, "I'm not done yet." **GM**



Georgia swimmer Gabi Fa'amausili swims during the 100 yard backstroke during the Women's SEC Swimming Championships at the Ramsey Center.

ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

Support these impressive student athletes by donating to the Swimming & Diving Support Fund. | [GIVE.UGA.EDU/SWIMDIVE](https://give.uga.edu/swimdiv)

DAWGS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Every morning at 5:01, Allison Schmitt's alarm goes off, pushing her out of bed and toward the pool in Tempe, Arizona.

Although Schmitt retired from swimming in 2016 to work on a Master of Social Work at Arizona State University, the drive to compete pulled her back. And while she's heard the rumblings that she's too old to be elite (she turns 31 in June), the doubts have only pushed her to work harder.

"I've taken the approach that age is a blessing," she says. "I'm able to focus more and be more aware of the little things—not just my nutrition but recovery and connection with my stroke."

Schmitt is one of dozens of former and current Bulldogs looking to represent their nation at the Summer Olympics and Paralympics.

Dating back to 1936, nearly 120 UGA athletes and coaches have qualified for the Olympics and Paralympics in about a dozen sports—mostly in track and field and in swimming and diving. But a fair number of athletes have come from other sports, such as equestrian and basketball.

In 2016, Schmitt, captain of Team USA women's swimming, along with 35 other athletes and coaches, represented 13 different nations in seven different sports, including golf (Bubba Watson **BSFCS '08**) and table tennis (Yijun "Tom" Feng **M '20**).



Allison Schmitt **BS '14** (left), Leah Smith, Maya DiRado, and Katie Ledecky, with their gold medals after the 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

MICHAEL SOHN

FUN FACT

UGA's first Winter Olympics athlete was none other than Bulldog football legend Herschel Walker, who competed in bobsled in 1992.



SPECIAL



modern slavery

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry. UGA faculty and alumni are working to end it

WRITTEN BY LEIGH BEESON MA '17

The timing was almost unbelievable. Allison Ausband, Delta's senior vice president of in-flight service, had just been to a Delta Lunch and Learn about human trafficking. Later that same week, her husband got a call from one of his employees.

"My daughter has been taken, and we think she's been trafficked."

Ausband was horrified. The teenage girl had been walking to a friend's house just north of Atlanta when someone grabbed her off the street.

"You could just hear the emotion on the other side of the phone," says Ausband **ABJ '83**, a UGA Foundation trustee. "I'm a mother as well, and my wheels just started turning. There's this resource, and here's this resource."

After five grueling days, the woman's daughter was found at a local food mart. Although she survived, the girl was traumatized. And the scars from the experience ran deep. She left the city.



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

David Okech, director of the Center on Human Trafficking Research & Outreach and associate professor in the School of Social Work.

Right, Lydia Aletraris, program coordinator for APRIES and associate research scientist in the School of Social Work.

Unfortunately, the girl's story isn't that uncommon.

"Human trafficking is real, and it's around you. It's hidden in plain sight," says David Okech, an associate professor in the University of Georgia's School of Social Work and human trafficking expert. "It destroys people, households, and communities."

The U.S. Department of State defines human trafficking as obtaining some type of labor or commercial service through force, coercion, or fraud. Put even more simply, it's modern-day slavery, a worldwide industry that's worth about \$150 billion and a lucrative international criminal enterprise that's second only to drug trafficking.

"Forced labor makes up the majority of human trafficking, but that's not what people really think about when they think about trafficking," says Lydia Aletraris, program coordinator for the UGA-founded international consortium Africa Programming and Research Initiative to End Slavery (APRIES) and an associate research scientist in the School of Social Work. "They usually think about sex trafficking."

But trafficking can take many forms, from sex work to field labor to domestic work. Victims are typically lured into these "jobs" by promises of high wages and a better standard of living, sometimes in a more developed country. But those assurances quickly prove untrue.

It's hard—if not impossible—to pin down the actual number of trafficking victims. Current estimates believe tens of millions of people are forced into labor worldwide each year. In the U.S., experts estimate around 50,000 people are trafficked across state and international borders. No state is immune.

For researchers like Okech, not knowing the scale of the problem is a huge obstacle to devising the best solution. But it's one he's trying to fix.

What UGA is doing to help

To further efforts to combat this global problem, the university established the Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach this spring. Housed in the School of Social Work, the interdisciplinary center is a collaborative effort that aims to identify better ways to measure the prevalence of trafficking while crafting real-world solutions to equip policymakers and nonprofits with the tools and information they need to combat trafficking on a large scale.

Okech serves as the center's inaugural director and is joined by colleagues in the College of Public Health, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Law, in addition to the School of Social Work. Another key element of the center is its immersive learning environment for students across the university. Okech and his team plan to include students in nearly every facet of their work—from researching, to writing manuscripts for publications and grant applications, to engaging with stakeholders and meeting with government officials to better understand how policy is made.

In addition to the new center, Okech, along with APRIES, received a \$19.75 million grant from the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to study how, why, and how frequently trafficking occurs in West Africa.

The grant scales up a \$4 million grant Okech previously received to collect data on the prevalence of human trafficking in parts of Sierra Leone and Guinea, and enables Okech's team to study the prevalence of trafficking in Senegal as well. It also gives organizations sorely needed funding to implement preventive programs and provide support to trafficking survivors.

The goal of APRIES is to reduce the prevalence of modern slavery across the globe by helping community-engaged agencies in the area implement prevention, prosecution, and protection strategies. To this aim, Okech and his team also launched the Prevalence Reduction Innovation Forum. This global research program enlists scholars in the U.S. who work closely with local scholars to test and develop the best

ways to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking in six countries—Brazil, Costa Rica, Morocco, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Tunisia. The forum aims to standardize how human trafficking is defined and measured in research, and it's the first of its kind.

"Getting to a more consistent definition will be helpful given that we already know these prevalence rates are probably so inaccurate in so many different ways," Aletraris says. "Having better estimates means we can have more effective programming to combat human trafficking."

In addition to filling a sizeable data gap, the project builds a framework for combating trafficking and reintegrating survivors toward a path of stability and productivity. Already, consortium members have developed a model for reintegration, increasing transparency in labor supply chains in the cocoa and garment industries, and helping former child soldiers reacclimate to civilian life.

CURRENT ESTIMATES BELIEVE

**TENS OF
MILLIONS**

OF PEOPLE ARE FORCED INTO
LABOR WORLDWIDE EACH YEAR

HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HAPPENS IN ALL

**50
STATES**

*"Having better
estimates means we
can have more effective
programming to combat
human trafficking."*

—LYDIA ALETRARIS,
APRIES PROGRAM
COORDINATOR AND ASSOCIATE
RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN THE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



EDWIN HAMMOND

Industry efforts

For Allison Ausband, that phone call was a turning point.

Years earlier in 2011, Delta became the first airline to sign the ECPAT International Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct, the world's first and only voluntary set of business principles that travel and tour companies can implement to prevent the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

But Delta CEO Ed Bastian issued a challenge to Ausband.

He wanted to know how the company could get closer to and better support survivors. And he wanted her to lead the effort.

"I head up a steering committee that focuses on helping make the journey for survivors to move more quickly from being a survivor to a thriver," Ausband says. One aspect of that was the creation of an apprenticeship program at Delta for survivors through a partnership with Wellspring

Living. Through the program, survivors can build resumes and receive mentorship from Delta employees. (The participants' backgrounds aren't shared, so they are treated like any other Delta employee.)

"I think that's honestly where I've learned the most," Ausband says. One woman who came through the program had been trafficked by her mother as a young child. "I, to this day, have never met a more courageous woman. If there's inspiration for me every day, she is my inspiration to fight harder and faster, every single day."

According to Ausband, Delta makes it a priority to educate the entire Delta team across the globe on signs of human trafficking. In addition to their regular jobs, everyone from flight attendants to check-in crew are gauging whether a traveler seems to be there willingly. Some of the signs include whether an individual avoids eye contact, if all their credentials are held by someone

else, or if they're nonresponsive to questions and their travel companion answers for them, among others.

That training pays off.

"Two of our mechanics were at a fast-food restaurant in Florida, and they were sitting next to these young girls and men," Ausband says. "They had taken the training. They said, 'Are you seeing the same thing I'm seeing?' They were recognizing the signs of trafficking from the training."

The Delta employees walked out to get the tag number of the suspicious group's car. They reported it. It turned out to be a stolen car, and the girls were being trafficked.

"We should care because these are human beings, every single woman, child, man, young boy," Ausband says. "If everybody just knew the signs of trafficking, we could all do something about it." **GM**



Allison Ausband (left) is a fierce advocate for training Delta employees and the public on how to recognize signs of human trafficking.

“We should care because these are human beings, every single woman, child, man, young boy. If everybody just knew the signs of trafficking, we could all do something about it.”

—ALLISON AUSBAND,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF IN-FLIGHT
SERVICE AND LEADER OF DELTA’S
EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE
FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

THE STATE DEPARTMENT’S OFFICE
TO MONITOR AND COMBAT
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

has awarded almost

**\$20
MILLION**

TO UGA-BASED APRIES

*to supplement its international human
trafficking research and programming work*

Georgia efforts

Two other prominent UGA grads are also making strides to end trafficking: First Lady of Georgia Marty Kemp **BSHE '90** and Attorney General Chris Carr **BBA '95, JD '99**.

In January 2020, the First Lady and the Georgians for Refuge, Action, Compassion, and Education Commission (GRACE) partnered with the Georgia Department of Administrative Services to launch human trafficking awareness training for

all State of Georgia employees and the general public. Gov. Brian Kemp **BSA '87** and the First

Lady established the GRACE Commission after the FBI named Atlanta a top city for human trafficking.

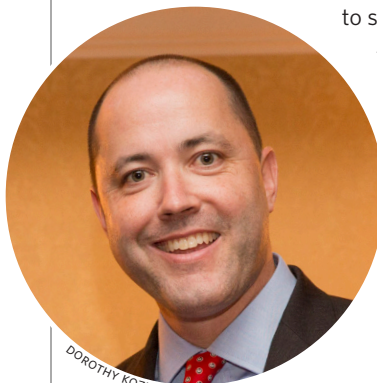
The commission brings together public officials, law enforcement, experts in human trafficking, and other stakeholders to seek justice for victims and hold traffickers responsible for their actions. Carr and Allison Ausband both serve on the commission.

In 2019, Carr announced the creation of the state’s Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit at the Department of Law. The unit works with statewide partners to combat human traffickers and buyers.

Gov. Kemp and the First Lady have supported a number of pieces of successful legislation that support survivors of human trafficking and provide justice for traffickers.



DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI



DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

Join the fight against human trafficking by donating to the Human Trafficking Research and Outreach Fund. | GIVE.UGA.EDU/TRAFFICKING



TALKING DAWGS

Podcasting is one of the most exciting communications advances to come along in a generation. Portable, customizable, and immediate, there is a podcast for everyone. Of course, UGA alumni are at the forefront.

WRITTEN BY ERIC RANGUS MA '94 | RACHEL FLOYD AB '19, MA '20 | HANNAH BARRON | IRELAND HAYES

Chuck Bryant ABJ '95 and Josh Clark M '00

*Co-hosts of **Stuff You Should Know**, a podcast that educates listeners on a variety of topics ranging from science and history to pop culture and conspiracy theories.*



SPECIAL

How did you get into podcasting?

Josh Clark: Chuck (right, above) and I started out as writers for the website HowStuffWorks. The guy running the site said, 'You know what? Not everybody reads articles on the web all day long. So, let's take these great, well-researched, well-written articles and turn them into something else.'

Did you meet while at UGA?

Clark: We shared a common wall at HowStuffWorks. We would do the prairie dog thing—we'd pop up and tell the other person the interesting things we just learned.

What is your favorite part about podcasting?

Chuck Bryant: The immediacy and the connection. Podcasting is a very personal medium. Oftentimes we're literally in people's ears while they're exercising, cleaning the house, or doing chores. I like to say we're all friends and family; we just haven't met yet.

What's your favorite episode of *Stuff You Should Know*?

Bryant: I can't think of an individual one, but it's cool to shine a light on things that you didn't learn in school or history class growing up. Many stories are not necessarily lost to time but just aren't as well-known as they should be.

Clark: The episodes I find gratifying are about everyday topics that people think they know everything about. Then we explain all the interesting stuff about it. For that reason, I'm going to say the episode about ballpoint pens. That's my current favorite.

—Ireland Hayes



STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW



ARMCHAIR EXPERT

Monica Padman AB '09, AB '09

Co-host, co-producer, and co-creator—with Dax Shepard—of **Armchair Expert**, which celebrates the messiness of being human.



MICHAEL FRIBERG

VICTORIA WALL HARRIS

You had been friends with Dax Shepard (inset, right), an actor and writer known for his roles in hit shows like *Bless This Mess* and *The Ranch*, and his wife, actress Kristen Bell, best known for her roles on *Veronica Mars* and *The Good Place*, for some time. How did the podcast get started?

Monica Padman: We have a really fun rapport. We love to debate. We would sit outside on their porch and just argue. Happily so, but we would argue about everything and debate different points. It came about in a natural, organic way. We were sitting at a table, and Dax said, "I think it would be fun to do a podcast."

I said, "I can help. I can try to produce that."

And now you have more than 300 episodes. What were the first ones like?

Padman: Our first episode is with Kristen, and we didn't know what we were doing. I didn't say a word. It took time for us to figure out who we were and what was interesting to talk about. Really, it all came down to authenticity. We are not interested in talking about the joys and big triumphs. It's so much more interesting to talk about people's stumbles and their human-ness. That's what we like talking about off-air, so it bled in.

We have never spent much time thinking about the brand or molding it into anything, or even the podcast personas versus our personal personas. It is us.

The guests you host on *Armchair Expert* are A-listers who also appear on *The Tonight Show* or *Jimmy Kimmel*. Is that intimidating?

Padman: At first it was. Early on we had [producer and writer] Judd Apatow as a guest. That was so intense for me. It's like, "I have to impress him," I thought. That led me to being in my head the whole time and not being present, not being myself. After that, I realized I need to separate those things and be present. Because we are so comfortable now, the intimidation factor has gone away; it's more excitement.

Celebrity interviews are a mainstay, but you've been expanding your content under the *Armchair Expert* umbrella. One of those new series is *Monica and Jess Love Boys*.

Padman: We would say the phrase "Monica Loves Boys" a lot as a joke. Then I thought, this could be fun to follow my dating life. I brought in our friend Jess, who is the opposite of me. He is addicted to dating, and I don't really date, so I thought it might be fun for the opposites to come together and weigh in.

I did not know it was going to get so vulnerable. Because we are talking with our best friends, it feels safe. In some ways, I compartmentalize that it is going out to the world. I don't fully register that all the time ... until I see comments, of course.

Trying to preserve some anonymity and privacy while doing what we do is a hard balance. I commend anyone who can. We just put it all out there.

—Eric Rangus MA '94

Annie F. Downs BSEd '02

The New York Times bestselling author, speaker, and founder of the *That Sounds Fun Network*, a collection of podcasts, which includes her own 450-plus episode show, **That Sounds Fun**.



SPECIAL

How did you start your career?

Annie Downs: I wanted to write books before I knew podcasts were a thing. When I moved to Nashville, the goal was to write books, so I self-published. That got me a few opportunities to speak in front of small groups. When I finally got my first book published by a publishing house in 2012, writing and speaking became my full-time job.

The podcast started in 2014. Someone asked me to interview another author. They didn't have a place to release it, so I mentioned my blog. Then they suggested I start a podcast and, hand to heaven, I said, "That sounds fun."

Faith is a driving force behind everything you do. How do you translate that in the podcast?

Downs: Since my time at UGA, particularly because of the Wesley Foundation, faith is central in my life. It's an important part of me, but there are other important parts, too. One of the things that matters most to me is that anyone who wants to listen feels welcome—even if they don't agree with everything I say. We learn, we grow, and we change.

I am not afraid, ashamed or quiet about my faith, but I'm also not quiet about how I feel about international soccer. And I'm not quiet about how I feel about the Bulldogs. I'm not quiet about how I feel about anything. Everything I love, I love loudly. I'm proud of that.

This past year has been anything but fun. How have you approached it through your work?

Downs: I travel and speak, I write books, and I podcast. Two of those are things I can do in a lockdown situation. The benefit of doing podcasts is we get to be in people's ears. So, for an entire year, I still had conversations that brought hope and joy, encouraged people to be healthy and find fun, and encouraged people to remember the good things in life.

To me, the year felt like an honor to be a content creator, particularly in the podcast space as we continued to be active in people's lives as they were sorting out a world we've never lived in.

—Eric Rangus MA '94

Tram Jones BBA '10

Physician working in a Haitian-run medical clinic in Port-au-Prince. The clinic is supported by the U.S.-based nonprofit Light from Light, whose executive director is Hannah Jones AB '12, Tram's wife.



How did you become interested in creating your podcast, *Overseas*?

Tram Jones: We'd been in Haiti for about a year. It's a hard place for people to live, and I wanted to tell those stories. We discussed how to get the word out, and we decided a podcast was a pretty good way.

Some of the medical cases you share are difficult to discuss. How do you find the strength to do that?

Tram Jones: Telling the story makes it easier to deal with. It gives dignity to the patient. This is not just a child who is nameless who's suffering. This child matters. Their life matters. If we can tell the story, at least the child isn't suffering in anonymity.

I also try to tell non-medical stories that are more uplifting, like what the daily life is like in Haiti.

Your podcasts are short—about 10 minutes each. Is that by design?

Tram Jones: I prefer the conciseness. It's perfect to have just one story. Also, I think it gives some freedom. If a story is sad, you aren't dwelling on it for an hour or two.

Hannah Jones: Tram can't say this about himself, but I can because I'm not directly involved in the podcast: He tries to find the balance of honesty with emotion by laying the facts out without imparting it in the end. To do that with emotional stories is hard. So much of what you hear could have a value judgement or an overt emotion applied to it, and that's not the point. Tram's point is to share stories, not to have an agenda about how that lands with the listener.

You end each podcast with a message encouraging others to learn about Haiti. Why is that important?

Tram Jones: Countries get put in a box. There is poverty here; I'm not denying that. But Haiti is a diverse country, and there is value in people speaking about their experiences. I'm a foreigner, and I've only lived in Haiti for one year. Certainly that gives me an interesting outlook, but it is by no means the whole picture.

—Eric Rangus MA '94



SPECIAL

PEACHPOD

Kyle Hayes BSEd '12 and Luke Boggs AB '15, AB '15

Co-hosts of **PeachPod**, which is dedicated to Georgia politics with a smattering of Washington thrown in.



PETER FREY

How did you become interested in podcasting about Georgia politics?

Kyle Hayes (inset, with microphone): I was interested in doing the show from Chuck Bullock's classes. [Charles Bullock III is a legendary UGA political science professor who has taught Southern politics to generations of Georgia Bulldogs]. Those classes give you a strong foundation on Southern politics and history. I became interested in those issues but didn't know how I would do that as a job.

Who is your typical audience?

Hayes: I think we attract people who work in Georgia politics or maybe students of Georgia politics in school. They already have a certain knowledge about what's going on, and they are looking for a deeper analysis.

Luke Boggs: There are also a decent number of elected officials. We will get feedback from them, and that's exciting. We also get a lot of UGA students. I'm in law school at UGA, and fellow students will come up to me and say, "You're that guy from *PeachPod*!"

With a closely watched election in 2020 and a governor's race in 2022, it looks like Georgia will be the center of the political universe for a while. What do you think about that?

Hayes: It's both exhausting and exhilarating. Breaking news never seems to stop in Georgia. It's interesting for me that Georgia sits at the center of so many political, ideological, and demographic trends that seem to be changing. Because of those changes, it seems to be contributing to the heightened intensity of divisions at the State Capitol. I think it's interesting, and it adds to our mission of how these changes are affecting our state and how we can best explain them to listeners.

How do you approach a discussion of something as divisive as politics?

Boggs: We aren't trying to embody any politician's opinion as much as we are trying to explain it and break it down systematically. It's not both-siderism; we want to be analytical.

—Eric Rangus MA '94



THE BUBBLY SESH

Shawlini Manjunath-Holbrook ABJ '05

Co-host of *The Hallmark Channel's* official podcast, **The Bubbly Sesh**. She also hosts her own podcast, called **Feel the Good**.

In 2017, you and your friend/co-host Jacks (Jacklyn Collier) started your own Hallmark Channel-themed podcast. How did you get to work for the company itself?

Shawlini Manjunath-Holbrook: I emailed the CEO out of the blue and pitched him our show. It took a few weeks, but he messaged me back and said, "Let's meet."

It felt like we were heroines of our own Hallmark Channel movie. We walked into that board room and had 30 minutes on the calendar. It turned into two hours! Eventually, he walked us to an even bigger board room with 40 of their advertising people. He just said, "Tell everybody who you are and what you do." At the end, he said, "You are all great. I want you at the upfronts with our advertisers, and we are going to acquire you."

I can't believe my email led to that. I remember thinking, "What do I have to lose?" Put yourself out there; the worst thing that can happen is someone says no.

Describe your shows.

Manjunath-Holbrook: On *The Bubbly Sesh*, we love talking about relationships and romance and a lot about Hallmark movies, especially the romantic comedies every Saturday night. They just don't make big-budget rom-coms anymore. When I started watching The Hallmark Channel, that was where I found rom-coms again.

Feel the Good, my personal podcast, is a mix of uplifting and/or reflective conversations with tastemakers, influencers, experts, community creators, fellow podcasters, and creatives doing good, feeling good and spreading good. I love engaging in conversations that promote positivity, education, wellness, spirituality, and personal empowerment.

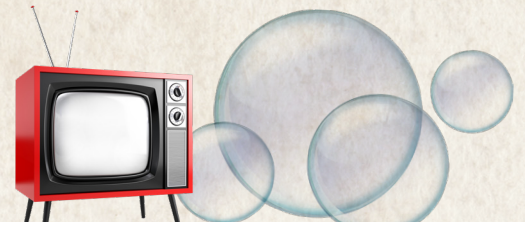
And your *Bubbly Sesh* audience is really loyal.

Manjunath-Holbrook: One of the cool things about my job with Hallmark Channel is that we are a bridge to our fans. I love fan engagement. We are now recapping the TV series *When Calls the Heart*, and that is so much fun. You get to talk about character motivations in a different way than you would in a movie. Movies end. There is a conclusion. But a TV show is evolving. With each episode, you evolve with the show you are recapping.

And we have to talk about Hallmark Christmas movies.

Manjunath-Holbrook: The Hallmark Channel creates a place of goodness and kindness at Christmas. They know how to create a world you can escape into. And the stories are always about respect, kindness, and love. You won't ever see something that's mean spirited. Even if there is a character that is a "villain," there is still a mature interaction or conflict resolution that is the ideal.

—Eric Rangus MA '94



SPECIAL

THERAPY FOR BLACK GIRLS



Joy Harden Bradford PhD '06

Therapy for Black Girls is a weekly chat about mental health and personal development that is geared toward Black women.

How did you get into podcasting?

Joy Harden Bradford: By listening to other podcasts. Before *Therapy for Black Girls* was my full-time job, I had a one-hour commute and spent a large amount of that time listening to podcasts. I fell in love with the medium and thought that it would be a great way to share mental health information with my audience. I published the first episode in April 2017.

You have created more than 200 episodes of your podcast. Do you have a favorite?

Bradford: My favorite episode is Session 50, entitled “This Isn’t What I Imagined.” It’s my favorite because I feel like it really gets at the heart of what so many Black women struggle with—these ideas about what our lives should look like and others’ expectations of us. I feel like it’s an episode lots of people can relate to.

What is one of the largest stigmas/misconceptions around mental health that you would like to debunk?

Bradford: One of the largest misconceptions about mental health is that therapy is only helpful if you’re in a crisis. A lot of crises could be avoided if more people looked at therapy as preventive work.

Why do you think it is so important for Black women and girls to have access to a show like yours?

Bradford: I think the show gives the community language for how they’re feeling and practical strategies and tools for how to take better care of themselves and one another. Everyone may not want to go to a therapist, but many people can still benefit from listening to a podcast episode.

—Ireland Hayes



SPECIAL



Cristen Conger ABJ '06 and Caroline Ervin ABJ '06

Creators and co-hosts of the podcast *Unladylike* and co-authors of *Unladylike: A Field Guide to Smashing the Patriarchy and Claiming Your Space*.



DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

DOROTHY KOZLOWSKI

UNLADYLIKE

What does 'Unladylike' mean?

Cristen Conger: The name *Unladylike* emerged out of research in feminism, gender, and intersectionality. Back in the day, 'lady' referred to wealthy-enough white women who adhered to traditional gender roles. *Unladylike* is our shorthand for the anti-racist, anti-classist feminism embedded in the media we make.

How did your experiences in Grady College and at *The Red & Black* shape you and your podcast?

Caroline Ervin: *The Red & Black* was how we met. The summer I was editor-in-chief, Cristen (left, above) came on as a writer, and she was one of my favorites. Cristen was game for any event. It was kismet.

Conger: Both Grady and *The Red & Black* taught us this commitment to journalism—instilling the hunting down of stories, new angles, and walking away educated. Reporting is still the backbone of what we do, just with different tools. Objective reporting and digging for facts is more important than ever with all of the misinformation online.

What does it mean for your podcast to explore taboo topics—that is, topics outside of the mainstream and not usually discussed in conventional media?

Conger: Often, the more taboo issues are, the more we need to normalize talking about them. It is a misnomer to call them "taboo" because they are just stories about people living their everyday lives—they are just different than ours. We don't sensationalize those topics; we discuss them in an accessible, educational, and respectful way. Listeners feel validated when they hear it's OK to have these feelings.

What do you see for the future of *Unladylike* Media?

Conger: In the immediate future, we are planning to change the format by adding advice episodes. We also are adding new types of conversations to the roster. We need to be vigilant in activism, [understanding] intersectionalities, and amplifying marginalized voices. We have to use our platform and privilege for good. We want to use our media to develop new voices and create a platform and space for their voices.

I learned from my research that you are one of relatively few female-led podcasts. What are some of the challenges you and other women face in the industry?

Ervin: The podcast space of white and male, which is generally dominant, is changing. It's becoming the media that we wish we had.

Conger: The barrier to entry is low, but the podcast industry at large is still very much dominated by white men. The barrier to making money is a major problem.

What's it like to present at TEDxUGA? Why did you want to participate?

Conger: When we met at UGA, neither of us had a clue that we'd become business partners, much less podcasters. So, getting the chance to speak at TEDxUGA is an exciting, full-circle moment for us. We welcome any opportunity to spread our *Unladylike* motto: Stay curious. Build empathy. Raise hell.

—Hannah Barron



PUNT AND PASS

Drew Butler ABJ '11, MS '13 and Aaron Murray BS '12

*Former Georgia Bulldog greats—Butler as a punter and Murray as a quarterback—who now co-host **Punt and Pass**.*

Tell me about your student experiences at UGA.

Drew Butler: I absolutely loved my time at Georgia. I was fortunate to be in Grady College, one of the best journalism schools in the country. I also enjoyed being a football player. Georgia football is different than anywhere else; it's a true brotherhood.

Aaron Murray: I came from a different background than Drew (opposite, right). I grew up in Tampa and knew nothing about the Bulldogs. When I came to Athens, I fell in love with the campus, downtown, and the facilities. So, I took a leap of faith, and it was the best decision.

What led you to come together to create the podcast?

Butler: Looking at the podcast landscape, there was a void in the voice of recent players. There were guys who had played in the '80s or '90s but not guys who had played just a couple of years ago in these stadiums, for these coaches, against these teams. I called Aaron and said I want us to talk about Georgia football, the SEC, and the biggest games in college football from a player's perspective. Two days later, he said let's do it.

Murray: Going to journalism school, Drew was more versed in the media world. I had obviously done lots of interviews, but I was always the one answering questions. It's a different world when you're having to discuss topics and be entertaining.

Are you more critical of the game and its players now as podcasters than you were when you were playing?

Murray: I'm very nit-picky, but I was always like that with myself. So, that's how I approach my job. People expect you to be honest. If a guy had a terrible game, we're going to say he didn't play well. You try to end on a positive note, but honesty is everything.

Butler: I like to think of things outside the box and focus on the things that determine outcomes of games. We balance each other out well in that regard. **GM**

—Rachel Floyd AB '19, MA '20





PETER FREY

The Academic Perspective

Keith Herndon ABJ '82

Director of the James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management, and the William S. Morris Chair in News Strategy and Management, and Grady College faculty adviser for the Institute's podcast, **The Lead**



STEPHANIE MORENO

What would you say is the importance of podcasting for the news and other industries, and creating "mobile news" as well—particularly in a historical context?

Keith Herndon: Podcasting has become a replacement to listening to the radio. Podcasting gives us the ability to engage in storytelling in ways that are intimate and personal.

What has it been like to lead *The Lead*, and what impact has that podcast had on the UGA community?

Herndon: We started *The Lead* in the Cox Institute as a training process to teach the art of the audio interview and audio editing. It is an extracurricular project, but it has done a lot more. We have made great content and even won the Society of Professional Journalists Regional Award with Charlotte Norsworthy AB '19, MA '20 as host. *The Lead* has also been used as instructional material, with notes and behind the scenes details from the producers, so it is a holistic training experience for both the producers and its student listeners.

What do you see as the future of podcasting?

Herndon: Podcasting is going to be a growing medium for a while. Any media that breaks the billion-dollar barrier in advertising is a big market. Platforms like Spotify are expanding, I see the market overall as continuing to grow and expand. There are more content companies getting involved in the market, including established players like NPR. With podcasts expected to add 25 million monthly listeners this year, podcasting won't slow down anytime soon.

—Hannah Barron



Read extended Q&As with all of our podcasters and find links to their shows and much more on the Georgia Magazine website. | [NEWS.UGA.EDU/TALKING-DAWGS](https://news.uga.edu/talking-dawgs)

Bulldog Bulletin

NEWS AND EVENTS FOR UGA ALUMNI

Message from the Executive Director

As COVID-19 vaccinations continue, the Office of Alumni Relations is considering how and when we can safely host in-person events and programs for alumni. As I write this in April, I don't know what our fall lineup will entail, but I encourage you to visit alumni.uga.edu/calendar for the latest updates. Hosting virtual events for the past 14 months not only helped prevent the spread of the virus but also allowed us to connect with alumni who don't live near Athens or an alumni chapter. We plan to continue offering ways for alumni to share the Bulldog spirit both in person and online in the coming year. Speaking of virtual, we hosted our annual Alumni Leadership Assembly online in February, and I want to thank the 200+ alumni volunteers who participated. These graduates give their time, energy, and financial support to strengthen the Bulldog network around the world, and we appreciate them!

—Meredith Gurley Johnson BSFCS '00, MEd '16
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UGA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Generous Bulldogs Lead Third Successful Georgia Giving Week

In April, more than 3,000 generous UGA alumni and friends contributed to the university during the third-annual Georgia Giving Week, raising more than \$2 million for funds across campus. These resources help address UGA's most pressing needs, such as preparing veterinary students for difficult surgeries with 3D-printed bone models and supplying students in need with self-care and hygiene products.

Missing Out on Alumni News?

We get it. Sometimes you receive too many emails. If you opted out of UGA Alumni emails months or years ago, you might wonder why you missed out on an event, a profile of a former classmate, free career resources, and more. If you'd like to welcome alumni news back into your inbox, visit alumni.uga.edu/reconnect and we'll take care of the rest!

Alumni Career Resources

The UGA Career Center offers a range of career resources for alumni at any stage in their career. Looking to land a new job? A self-guided, four-week Job Search Bootcamp will help you better communicate your skills to employers and get hired. Check out this and other resources and programs to build the career of your dreams at career.uga.edu/alumni.

A BULLDOG BARK TO ...



SPECIAL

In late January, Super Bowl champion, author, and literacy club advocate Malcolm Mitchell AB '15 moderated a virtual book discussion with Delia Owens BS '71, author of *The New York Times* bestseller *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Thanks to these two outstanding authors for sharing their conversation with more than 700 alumni and friends who listened in online.



SPECIAL

On Feb. 11, hundreds of business leaders participated in a virtual Bulldog 100 Celebration to recognize the fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by UGA alumni. Among those celebrating from home with family was Mike Durand BBA '06, owner of J&M Pool Company in Senoia. His company landed at No. 51.



SPECIAL

Nashville Alumni Chapter Vice President Marlteeze Saffold BSA '09 showed his Bulldog spirit during February's Alumni Leadership Assembly. This annual alumni volunteer training event was held virtually this year.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

CHAPTER NAME: Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW Dawgs)

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: Tracey Koerner BBA '91

NUMBER OF ALUMNI IN THE AREA: 2,257

The Dallas-Fort Worth chapter is one of UGA's largest and most active alumni chapters in the country. Its regular programming includes bimonthly book clubs, service opportunities, and events. Recently, they hosted a virtual chat with UGA football greats Rennie Curran BBA '17, and Drew Butler ABJ '11, MS '13. The DFW chapter has strong representation and events throughout both the Dallas and Fort Worth metro areas.



Find your chapter: ALUMNI.UGA.EDU/CHAPTERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected with us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. #AlwaysADawg // [ALUMNI.UGA.EDU/SOCIAL](https://alumni.uga.edu/social)

DON'T MISS OUT

JUNE 12

Attack the Day 5K

Lace up those red and black sneakers and get ready to join in the second annual virtual 5K for UGA alumni and their friends and families. Register at alumni.uga.edu/ATD5k.

JULY 31

Bulldog 100 Nomination Deadline

Nominate a fellow graduate for one of UGA's highest recognitions. Bulldog 100 celebrates the fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by UGA alumni. Details at alumni.uga.edu/b100

For more events, visit alumni.uga.edu/calendar.

CONTACT US:

Moved? Changed your name? Added a new Bulldog to the family? Let us know! alumni.uga.edu/update or (800) 606-8786.

Kelsey Coffey AB '20 was one of 4,400 students to earn a UGA degree in December. The pandemic added a few hurdles for the Class of 2020, but we're proud to welcome these Bulldogs to the UGA alumni family.

@kelseycoffey



UGA Latino alumni took time in December and January to write welcome notes to students who gained early admission to UGA. These alumni volunteers were thrilled to share their Bulldog pride with these admitted students.

@ugalatinoalumni



Did you know there are more than 25,000 pairs of married UGA alumni? In February, we asked our alumni family to share their Bulldog love stories. Here are photos of two couples we featured on Instagram (from top): Kyle AB '99, MEd '03 and Kristen Giesler BS '00 (who met as hallmates in O-House in 1996) and Kaylee Ewing BBA '19, BBA '19 and Colin Rice BBA '18 (who met on the executive board of their professional fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi).

@UGAAlumni



Richard AB '88 and Gloria Costigan BSEd '89 attended a men's basketball game at Stegeman Coliseum in February—as they shared on Twitter: “Just a couple of UGA alumni still hanging around Athens and the UGA campus all these years later.” We love seeing our alumni around town. Go Dawgs!

@richardcostigan



The Human Behin

CLASS NOTES

Compiled by Rachel Floyd AB '19, MA '20, Ireland Hayes, and Hannah Barron

1995-1959

Carlos Adkins Jr. BSPH '55 is a supply pharmacist at Convenient Care Pharmacy in Thomasville.

1960-1964

Raymond Busbee BSF '62, MS '64, PhD '69 retired from his position as professor at Marshall University in Huntington, WV, after 26 years.

Arnold Young BBA '63, LLB '65 was named a 2021 Super Lawyer. He is a partner at Hunter Maclean in Savannah.

1965-1969

Penn Clarke BBA '66 released the book *Dolphins & Penn: Tacking Through Life*, which describes his encounters with dolphins while living aboard his sailboat.

Marcia Mathis AB '68 retired from her position as lower school principal at Brookstone School in Columbus.

James Ward Jr. AB '69 retired from his position as an investment adviser.

Mark Warren BS '69 received the 2020 Will Rogers Medalion Award, which recognizes quality works of cowboy poetry, for *Promised Land*, the third of his series *American Odyssey*.

James Wilder BBA '69 retired from his position as commercial real estate broker at Wilder Leasing and Management in New Port Richey, FL.

1970-1974

Janice Reeves Johnson BSEd '70 published her novel *A Heart's Memory*.

Ella Lowe ABJ '71 retired from her position as a reporter at the *South Bend (IN) Tribune* after 38 years.

Bill Hilley BBA '72, MBA '74 retired from his position as senior vice president of Synovus Bank of North Georgia in Marietta after 29 years.

1975-1979

Rolando Ortiz BFA '76 retired from his position at American Airlines.

A 33-PART SOCIAL MEDIA STORY. "Nobody is going to read something that long," Brandon Stanton thought at first. But the woman's story was so compelling.

Stephanie Johnson is a 76-year-old New Yorker. Known as Tanqueray, she was incredibly candid, relaying stories about mob bosses and the grittier side of NYC in the '60s and '70s.

"I knew it was lightning. She was lightning," says Stanton AB '08. "After I shared her story, everyone was just obsessed with her." (Including actress Jennifer Garner, who wondered in her comment why this woman's life wasn't a Netflix series.)

Tanqueray's life struck such a chord with followers that when they found out her health was failing, they donated millions to a GoFundMe campaign Stanton created to help her live out the rest of her days comfortably. Tanqueray's story is just one of thousands Stanton, a street photographer based in New York City, has shared on his social media accounts and blog, Humans of New York (HONY).

What started as a creative project ultimately turned into an online community 20 million strong and four books, including *New York Times* bestsellers and a children's book.

HUMAN ORIGIN

Stanton spent the first two years after graduation working in finance in Chicago. It was a lucrative but stressful job, and he'd started taking photos after hours to ease his stress. When he was laid off, Stanton figured he might as well give photography a chance full time.

So he packed his stuff and moved to New York City. He'd visited only once but knew it was where he could make his concept work. He'd photograph 10,000 random people on the streets and plot those photos on a map of the city.

"That was the idea that got me to NYC, with just two suitcases, completely broke," Stanton says. "And then I started innovating from there, and it became less about the map and more about the daily content."

Naturally, Stanton would strike up conversations with his subjects. One day, he decided to throw a quote in as a caption of sorts when he posted one of his shots. HONY hadn't estab-

and Humans of New York

Brandon Stanton AB '08



SPECIAL

lished its massive following yet, but Stanton took the 67 likes on that photo as a sign.

“I realized that was what I was being called to do,” Stanton says. “What I got very good at wasn’t so much the photography. It was that I had stopped 5,000 strangers. I had gotten very good at making them feel comfortable and taking their photograph. So, if that was what I was good at, wouldn’t it make sense to then learn about that person?”

He went from spending two minutes with a subject to an hour or more, sometimes learning things about them they’d never told anyone else. They have the option to remain anonymous, but many choose to share their faces—and their stories—with the world.

FOCUSING ON THE WORK

Even for staunch HONY fans, the photo above might be one of the first times you’ve seen Stanton’s face. It’s a deliberate choice he makes, to remain behind the camera.

“I joke that I’m invisible, but I’m purposefully invisible,” he says. “If this was Brandon Stanton Photography, I don’t think it’d be nearly what it is today.”

It’s been over a decade of producing content and showcasing real people from over 20 different countries, and Stanton isn’t slowing down.

He’s working on more long-form stories in the same vein as Tanqueray’s. Another recent multipost story about an immigrant couple

who were at risk of losing their restaurant saw another massive outpouring of support from the HONY community. The fundraiser for Cristy’s Kitchen raised over a million dollars for the family, providing desperately needed relief.

“It wasn’t like a means to an end; it was just a means,” Stanton says. “Did I know that it was going to be this wonderful and this crazy and this satisfying of a life that I could build around it? No idea. Social media didn’t even exist when I started HumansofNY.com. I wasn’t focusing on the audience. I wasn’t focusing on the likes and the feedback. I was just focusing on the work.”

WRITTEN BY LEIGH BEESON MA '17

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James Allen AB '78 retired from his position as the senior associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesboro.

1980-1984

Lonnie Roberts AB '80 was named president of Coastal Pines Technical College in Waycross.

Lance DeLoach BSED '81 retired from Southern Crescent Tech-

nical College after 18 years in higher education.

Donny Luker BBA '81 retired from his position as partner at Mauldin and Jenkins in Atlanta.

Cliff Williams BBA '81 retired from his position as partner at Mauldin and Jenkins in Atlanta after 39 years.

Sophie Anderson BBA '82 released *The Notebook Meeting: How to Finally Organize Your Life*

and *Reach Your Mountaintop Moments*. She is also director of operations at Impacting People, a marriage ministry service. She and her husband, David, are co-producers of the marriage podcast, *The Red Truck Marriage*.

Reid Spearman AB '82 is a certified manager of quality and organizational excellence at Dakota Consulting in Silver

Spring, MD.

Karen Nelson BS '83, DVM '88 received her master's degree in veterinary forensics at the University of Florida.

Christopher Phillips BSFR '83, MFR '85, JD '88 was named a 2021 Super Lawyer. He is a partner at Hunter Maclean in Savannah.

1985-1989

Angela Vinson BSEd '85 released the book *I Learned the Most from RJ* in November. She is director of federal programs and system test coordinator for Jefferson City Schools.

Deborah Howard BMus '86 is an elementary music specialist for Atlanta Public Schools.

Kevin Turner ABJ '88 is self-employed in the insurance industry in Chicago.

James Waldron ABJ '88 is a partner at SRI, an executive recruiting firm, in Los Angeles.

1990-1994

Michael Abramowitz ABJ '90 was promoted to public relations director for membership & inclusion for the PGA of America. He is also co-chair of Kayla Cares 4 Kids.

Leslie Armstrong BSFCS '91 is the client services representative of Affinity Technology Partners in Brentwood, TN.

Barry Forrester BSEd '91 is a travel nurse.

Matthew Brown ABJ '92 is managing editor of *The Times-Georgian* in Carrollton.

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Making Room

Doris Hager BSHE '80



SPECIAL

SPECIAL

WHEN DORIS HAGER ENTERS A restaurant, food might be the last thing on her mind.

As an interior designer, she notices everything from the location and surrounding businesses to the details on the ceiling.

Founder and principal of Hager Design International (HDI), Hager BSHE '80 has made a name for herself in the hospitality design industry. Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, her design firm helps clients marry their business identities with their space presentation.

"The beauty about hospitality design is that it's not personal," she says. "It's not someone's house where there's an attachment. It's very creative, and there's always something new to learn."

Residential design often caters to a homeowner's styles and preferences. Hospitality design decisions, on the other hand, are largely business driven. Companies trust that Hager and her team will not only make smart financial choices, but that those choices will contribute to the success of the company, its

customers, and its employees.

"Trust is the key to any business relationship," she says. "There's so much riding on their trust in us. It's not just their revenue; it's their reputation. It's their jobs."

Before a single coat of paint is applied, Hager's team (shown above, design director Zandro Tumaliuan, left, and senior interior designer Karl Travis) produces detailed drawings that consider building code, egress, safety, and overall space planning.

"We are always fighting the stigma that interior designers are just 'decorators,'" she says. "We're not interior architects, but we're highly technical."

Hager has worked with hundreds of brands, including Marriott, Johnny Rockets, and Fairmont Hotels and Resorts. And her hard work is paying off.

In 2021, HDI became the first international company to land a spot on the Bulldog 100 list as one of the fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by University of Georgia alumni.

"I'm thrilled to be recognized among so

many other successful businesses," she says. "I have very fond memories of my days at UGA."

Among those memories is a final project she submitted for an interior design course that piqued her interest in hospitality design. She laughs when recalling the floor plan she created as an undergraduate.

"I was so proud of the work at the time. But thinking back, the tables and chairs were so far apart that you could drive a truck through them!"

Hager has come a long way since her days on campus. And while her work spans Canada and the U.S., Georgia is never too far out of mind. Born in Canada, she spent her teenage and early adult years in Georgia and still regularly visits family in Augusta.

"It still feels like home," she says.

WRITTEN BY HAYLEY MAJOR

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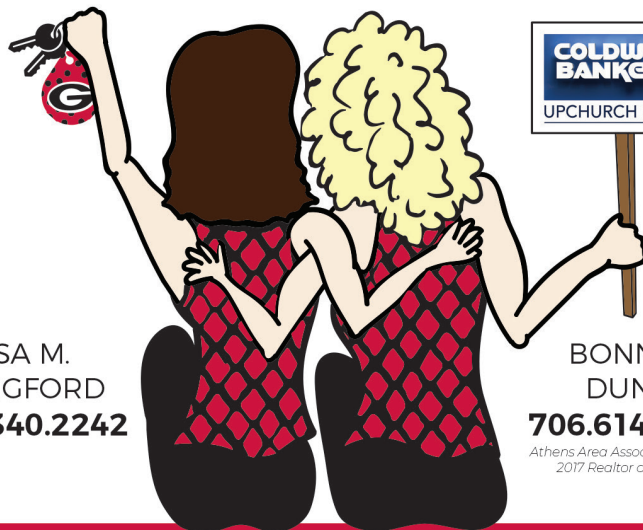


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Becky Halliday BMus '93, MEd '95 is an associate professor of music education at the University of Montevallo. She received the 2020 Lacy Powell Outstanding Music Educator Award from the Alabama Music Educators Association.

1995-1999

Melisa Clark BSFCS '95 is the principal at the Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School in Augusta.

Charles Peeler BS '95, JD '99 is a partner at Troutman Pepper's White Collar and Government Investigations Practice Group in Atlanta.

Cade McDonald BBA '96 is an industrial real estate broker at Hughes Commercial Real Estate in Atlanta.

Marius Valdes BFA '98 created a mural for the Medical University of South Carolina Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital in Charleston.

Charlene Gardner BS '99 is a senior quality assurance engineer for Elekta, a medical device company in Atlanta.

Angie Wiggans AB '99, MA '20 received the MDF 2020 Above and Beyond Award from the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation for her research and articles on muscular dystrophy.

2000-2004

Kelly Smith AB '00 is the director of physician engagement at the Nashville Academy of Medicine.

2005-2009

Christie Johnson ABJ '07 is senior editorial producer at CNN in Washington, D.C.

People Person

Jamelia Outlaw Smith ABJ '03



PETER FREY

Early in her career, Jamelia Outlaw Smith ABJ '03 recognized a business challenge that would shape her professional path: the need for employees to feel understood, included, and valued by their organizations.

That seems simple on the surface, but it can be complex for large companies like Cox Enterprises, where Smith serves as senior enterprise program management leader and certified diversity professional.

It's a leadership role many major companies have established in recent years, sprouting offshoots including degree programs, certifications, and national associations to cultivate this emerging profession.

"Leaders understand that we are not going back. Multiculturalism is here to stay," Smith says. "The companies that will win are the ones that see how that can benefit the company and act on it."

What many organizations struggle with is how to move diversity and inclusion ef-

forts beyond boilerplate and box-checking to meaningful initiatives, offerings, and programs for employees. Smith is at the forefront of this evolution, developing concrete tools and processes that leaders can adapt to their needs.

"They know they need diverse employees, but how do they operationalize it?" Smith says. "They need someone who can see the biases that affect performance and address that. The combination of HR and business knowledge is hard to find."

Smith grew up in Dekalb County in a primarily African American community. Her experience at UGA was her first real exposure to diversity. She thrived in that environment, living in Creswell Hall, serving as an RA for two years, and participating as an orientation leader in 2002.

After graduating with a degree in public relations from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Smith landed a job at WarnerMedia (formerly

Turner Broadcasting System). Through her involvement with employee resource groups, she saw firsthand how employees responded to an environment that was openly supportive of their individual and group identities, within the context of shared organizational goals. She later earned certification as a diversity professional through the National Diversity Council.

"Happy and engaged employees mean happy and engaged customers," Smith says. "Now, my customers are employees. We know they are going to work harder, stay longer, attrition rates will go down, and promotion rates will go up if we build an inclusive environment."

Equipped with marketing and customer service experience, Smith joined Cox in 2014 and transitioned to the diversity and inclusion area in 2017, becoming director in 2019. She could not have foreseen what the next year would bring—particularly for Black employees. Just as the COVID-19 global pandemic was disrupting daily life, the death of George Floyd in May 2020 gave rise to an urgent need for response and support.

"We knew that our employees were troubled," Smith says. "There was the pandemic, and now people of color were watching something truly horrific, on a scale we hadn't seen before, at least visually. And they had to deal with it without the support of friends and extended family and colleagues. We couldn't hug each other."

Smith and her team organized forums where groups of coworkers could gather virtually to share their reactions. Senior leaders attended, which Smith initially worried might stifle the dialogue.

"It's a risk because you want people to be open and honest," she says. "But it actually gave the senior leaders a chance to hear from people they probably never would otherwise and the other way around."

"This role is really a people role, with heart at its core," Smith adds. "It's becoming more analytical, as it should, because that shows the maturity of the discipline. But really it's about how we improve the organization by improving the experience of our people."

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Public Servant

Carla Wong McMillian JD '98



SPECIAL

Georgia Supreme Court Justice Carla Wong McMillian was planning to be a high school history teacher.

But in her junior year of college, McMillian JD '98 ran into her high school speech and debate coach when she went home to Augusta on a break. He suggested going to law school instead. She'd never thought about becom-

ing a lawyer, but on his advice, she took the LSAT, applied to law school, and got into the University of Georgia School of Law. She hasn't looked back.

Fresh out of law school, she started working for Federal District Court Judge William O'Kelley in Atlanta, followed by a partnership at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan (now Eversheds Sutherland). She didn't have any plans to leave

the firm. But then two superior court judges resigned in Fayette County, where she lived.

She'd thought about applying to fill one of the positions, but if she was selected, she knew that she'd eventually have to run for election. "That was something that I never really wanted to do," McMillian says.

She thought she'd made up her mind, but she kept thinking about her two children, who were young at the time.

"I wanted to be able to tell them that I would do what I could to serve the community where they were going to be growing up," she says. "Also, especially for my daughter, that I was not going to be afraid to take risks, even though I was very comfortable in my career and at the firm."

With the encouragement of her husband, fellow lawyer and UGA Law grad Lance McMillian JD '98, she applied and was appointed to the State Court of Fayette County by then-Gov. Sonny Perdue DVM '71.

A few years later, after a successful election campaign, a position on the Georgia Court of Appeals opened.

"Several people asked me whether I would apply. I said no."

But ultimately McMillian changed her mind. In 2013, she was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Nathan Deal where upon her election in 2014, she became the first Asian American elected to statewide office in Georgia.

Six years later, Gov. Brian Kemp BSA '87 appointed her to the Georgia Supreme Court, making her the first Asian American on the court.

"I'm glad to be able to open doors for other people who are behind me and set an example," McMillian says. "Growing up in Augusta, Georgia—even though my family has been in Augusta for over 100 years and there's a longstanding Chinese community there—we didn't see many Asian Americans in public service or in leadership positions. I'm glad to be able to be in this position so that I can show others like me growing up here in the South that yes, you can become leaders in whatever field you choose."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she was sworn in outdoors with just the governor, his staff, and her immediate family members who live in her household. But the ceremony was still significant to McMillian.

"It was April 10, and my father had actually passed away 30 years ago that day," McMillian says. "It was bittersweet that I was able to be appointed to the Supreme Court, but it was also the day that I was remembering my father. He never got a chance to see me even graduate from high school because I was only 16 when my father passed away. I think he would have been very proud."

WRITTEN BY LEIGH BEESON MA '17

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Your Honor

Shawn Ellen LaGrua AB '84



SPECIAL

When Shawn Ellen LaGrua was 12 years old, she started attending a new school and almost immediately spotted injustice: The boys could wear shorts, but the girls could not.

So, she reached out to the local TV station, and they put her on the air.

"I gave my pitch, and I won. Sort of," LaGrua AB '84 says.

"They changed the policy; boys couldn't wear shorts to school anymore. It was a little bit of a hollow victory," she admits.

The experience piqued and encouraged her budding interest in law. And when she was in her third year of law school, an internship with the Fulton County District Attorney's office solidified her devotion to the field.

LaGrua spent more than 20 years trying cases, and over time, she began to notice a pattern.

"When I started as a prosecutor, I would say the average age of your violent criminal was 19, 20, 21 years old, dropping

out of high school around the 11th grade," LaGrua says. "Fast forward 20 years, when I take the bench, the average age of your violent criminal is 16 or 17, dropping out in the 9th grade. So, I started thinking about it."

The average sentences for these mostly young men were about 10 years.

"They've now been raised in the prison system," she says. "They've learned from gang members. They have no education. They have no job skills."

Without those skills, LaGrua says, the defendants were almost guaranteed to reoffend. Then a Fulton County Superior Court Judge, LaGrua wanted to stop the recidivism. So, she started identifying defendants who had an opportunity, with the right structure and guidelines, to break out of their dangerous and criminal lifestyles.

She would allow her qualifying defendants to be out on bond for two years, requiring them to report to her personally every month. The list of requirements was long: They had to be in school and bring her their report cards. They had to keep reading logs and bring her handwritten book reports. They had to pass regular drug tests and abide by curfews. Perhaps the most daunting task? By the end of the program, they had to have a high school diploma or GED, with plans to go to college or a trade school.

LaGrua calls the effort, known as My Journey Matters, one of her proudest accomplishments.

"I had one guy I had to send to prison with a five-year sentence," LaGrua says.

"He got out and returned to court as part of his sentence to see me. Within a week of getting out, he already had a job and education. He's now been with the City of Atlanta for five years, just bought his first house, and he will never go back into the system."

When LaGrua was appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court by Gov. Brian Kemp BSA '87 in December 2020, she passed the program on to Fulton County Superior Court Judge Rachelle Carnesale.

As a Supreme Court Justice, LaGrua leads the Chief Justice's COVID-19 Task Force. The group consists of judges representing each type of court, public health officials, and a doctor from the Department of Public Health, among others. The goal is to provide guidance to courts on how to navigate the pandemic and in particular, how to safely resume jury trials and other in-person proceedings while protecting the public health of those involved.

But with those challenges comes a silver lining.

"The thing about the task force that's been so rewarding is I've never seen attorneys be so collegial with each other from opposite sides," LaGrua says. "I think for all the bad that COVID's done, people have had to work together to get things done. I think it's humanized lawyers a lot."

WRITTEN BY LEIGH BEESON MA '17

Mario Ponsell AB '08 is a operations manager at Amazon Logistics in Bethpage, NY. He is also an executive officer of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Leigh Wilson BS '08 is a pediatric dentist at Caroline Kids Dentistry in Charlotte.

Marlene Brochu BSA '09 is CEO and co-founder of the Vein of Galen Malformation Support Network nonprofit in Atlanta.

Wendy Hsiao AB '09 was named an honoree in the Leader category for Ragan Communications and PR Daily's 2019 Top Women in Communications. She is the account director at Hope-Beckham in Atlanta.

2010-2014

Jennifer Dickey BSFCS '10 married **Josh Dickey BS '07** in August 2017 and is a private practice therapist at Perspectives Psychological in Smyrna.

Sook Kyung Yoon BS '10 is an interventional pain management specialist at Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville, GA.

Amanda Burnham BSA '11 is a pediatric inpatient specialist at Longstreet Clinic in Gainesville, GA.

Alexander Levitt BBA '11 is a consultant in applied behavioral science for Moxie, a marketing solutions agency in Atlanta.

Jenaé Moxie AB '12 was named a member of the 2021 Pathfind-

er Program by the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Charles Hicks AB '13, ABJ '13, JD '20 is an associate attorney at Hunter Maclean in Savannah.

David Mapp AB '13, JD '16 is counsel to U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla of California at his office in Washington, D.C.

Deegan Mundy ABJ '13 is the senior producer at French | West | Vaughan in Raleigh, NC.

Megan Strecker ABJ '14 is the marketing coordinator at Minden Medical Center in Minden, LA, and received her Master of Business Administration from LSU Shreveport in December.

2015-2020

Jennifer Lee BS '15 is a marketing manager for MidCap Advisors, a boutique private investment banking firm in New York City.

Brandon Quarles BMus '15 is a lecturer of classical saxophone at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Ajesh Patel BBA '16 is a finance manager at HOS Management, a hospitality management and development company in Savannah.

Michelle Roberts AB '18 is a retail market manager at Synovus Bank in Athens and is president-elect for the Rotary Club of Athens.

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IMPROVING THE WORLD BY GIVING BACK

Brian BSAE '97 and April Hembree Crow BSEH '95 feel compelled to leave the world better than they found it—and they've done that professionally and by giving back to UGA.

“**W**e want to make our community, the world, and our environment a better place,” Brian says. “It’s our duty to help those around us.”

Brian is chief software officer for Xylem, a leader in developing water solutions through smart technology. He uses data to optimize electric smart grid projects and freshwater networks to build more efficient systems. This has led to cost savings for communities of all sizes and better problem-solving for utility providers.

“I want our communities to have thriving economies,” Brian says. “The state needs small communities as well as large. Without cost-effective energy, communities cannot be competitive economically, and without access to clean drinking water, communities cannot exist.”

April’s career began at The Coca-Cola Company, where she helped lead its environmental platform for more than two decades. While there, she was instrumental in creating the Trash Free Seas Alliance and was a founding member of the American Institute for Packaging and the Environment. In 2018, she helped launch Circulate Capital, an impact investment fund focused on decreasing plastic waste in the ocean. She

The Crow family from left to right: Brian, Greer, Garner, and April.



SPECIAL

also serves on the board of the Captain Planet Foundation.

“Brian and I were both involved in Georgia 4-H, which had an element of community service,” April says. “4-H taught us to look at how our community and actions connect to the greater world. This eventually led to my studies in environmental science at UGA.”

The Crows, who live in Atlanta with their two children, are excited about UGA’s future. They are enthusiastic about its focus on innovation and entrepreneurship (see p. 14), which they think will help keep the brightest Bulldogs in the state. That optimism has led the couple to contribute their time and financial support to their alma mater.

April was named to UGA’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2012, is a trustee for the Georgia 4-H Foundation, serves on the UGA Alumni Association Board of Directors, and mentored two students through the UGA Mentor Program. Brian serves on the UGA Board of Visitors and has been

keenly focused on campus innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in the UGA College of Engineering.

“I am excited about UGA expanding its engineering program,” Brian says. “I couldn’t be prouder of the university and the students who are graduating from it.”

That pride has translated into financial support. They have given to the College of Engineering Enhancement Fund, UGA 4-H General Fund, the Terry Complex Building Fund, and the UGA Athletic Association. Recently, they contributed a gift in honor of their parents, Thomas and Nadine Crow and James and Brenda Hembree, that will create a collaborative working space for students.

“So many people helped us, so a lot of our motivation is the ‘pay it forward’ mentality,” Brian says. “It’s part of our duty to help others and hope they will continue on to help our children and future generations.”

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APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

The Showstopper

Anthony Rodriguez BFA '91



ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

THOUGH HE'S NOT NECESSARILY proud of it, Anthony Rodriguez's career path was heavily influenced by a case of math phobia.

Coming into the University of Georgia, Rodriguez BFA '91 liked the idea of standing in front of people and convincing them that something was true. So, he thought he'd be a

great lawyer.

"And then it came down to the fact that law had a math requirement, so I went to the theater instead," he says.

Things turned out just fine for Rodriguez, the co-founder and producing artistic director of the Aurora Theatre in Lawrenceville, who's garnered a respectable acting resume

that includes stage, commercials, and voice work.

"The ironic part, is virtually all I do now is math," says Rodriguez, who manages a \$3.2 million annual budget.

That's been especially true during a pandemic that's shut down any resemblance of normalcy to his professional theatre. It turns out that Rodriguez spent his whole life preparing for the role of the resourceful and resilient producer.

ACT I: AN ACTOR PREPARES

At UGA, once Rodriguez decided on a theatre major, he threw himself into it. His first passion was acting, but he got a job in the scene shop and learned how to build sets, paint scenery, and operate the theatre's fly system.

He found a few choice roles on the stage too, including playing the lunatic Renfield in the theatre department's production of *Dracula*.

The diversity of experience proved useful.

Rodriguez went on to an acting career in Atlanta and Chicago, but he supplemented his income with gigs in scene shops and event companies.

ACT II: THE DAWN OF A NEW THEATRE

Eventually, Rodriguez settled in Gwinnett County and founded Aurora Theatre with his partner, Ann-Carol Pence. When the theatre opened, Rodriguez helped build sets, advertise, sell tickets, and act in the shows.

Over time, Aurora Theatre has become a valued part of the community. So much so, that the City of Lawrenceville partnered with the theatre on a \$35 million expansion project, which broke ground in 2019. The project will add a 500-seat theatre to the existing main stage, a converted Methodist church sanctuary that holds 250.

ACT III: THE LIGHTS GO OUT

Aurora was two weeks into a seven-week run of the musical *On Your Feet*, the story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan, when the pan-

WRITTEN BY AARON HALE MA '16

demic shut everything down.

The team left the stage set and the costumes in the dressing rooms, hoping to pick it all back up.

“When it first started, we thought we’d be gone for a couple weeks, a month maybe,” Rodriguez says.

Instead, Rodriguez had to put his math skills to the test, getting to the tedious work of fundraising and applying for grants and loans to keep his theatre alive. But Rodriguez also knew that he had to continue to engage with his audience.

ACT IV: THE SHOW GOES ON

Aurora Theatre tried a few digital performances, but Rodriguez admits that his small company can’t compete in digital entertainment with the likes of Netflix and Hulu.

“My content is never going to be that well produced. So we started doing the things we do best.”

That is live, in-person, community-building performances.

They hosted outdoor stand-up comedy and a cabaret show. Rodriguez performed his annual one-man “A Christmas Carol,” allowing only 40 people into the main theater, less than 25% capacity.

The shows have been successful. Performances have sold out. Still, the theatre is barely treading water.

ACT V: HOPE FOR A HAPPY ENDING

Construction continues on the expanded theatre, including an outdoor courtyard for safer performances. Rodriguez hopes the project will be done this summer and that things get closer to normal—whatever that looks like—for a big October show.

But he’s not ready to start planning for the next major production. Yet. For now, he’s focused on what he can do: “Just stay in touch and connected with our patrons in the best way possible so that when we do re-open, they know we’re still here and that we’re still doing the work that we’ve always done, which is building a legacy for the arts in Gwinnett County.”



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Amanda Morris BSEd '19 is an area manager for Amazon in Kissimmee, FL.

brand communications at WGN America in Atlanta.

GRAD NOTES

ARTS & SCIENCES

Omkar Acharya MS '19 is a software developer at BlackRock in Atlanta.

BUSINESS

Jonathan Killian MBA '12 is vice president of creative marketing and

EDUCATION

Lynn Bump MEd '95 retired from Forsyth County Schools after 30 years as an educator.

Jeffrey Nunn EdS '96 retired from his position as a teacher for Stephens County Schools after 34 years.

Mary Ann Devine EdD '97 was named a Fellow to the Academy of Leisure Sciences, which inducts outstanding and distinguished leaders in research and scholarship in the leisure sciences.

Zach Hurst MEd '06 is the vice president and managing director of the

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Grape Expectations

Matt Lindsay BBA '92, PhD '99



ANNIE LINDSAY

Matt Lindsay often enjoys a nice glass of pinot noir with dinner. He calls it a “fascinating grape” and likes exploring how wines made from the varietal in France differ from those in California.

These days, Lindsay is likelier to be considering the business model of the wine club that shipped his pinot noir than what is in the bottle. It is the result, he says, of mixing business with pleasure.

Lindsay BBA '92, PhD '99, president of Mather Economics, an Atlanta-based economics consulting firm, recently expanded his firm's practice to include services for the wine industry, targeting wineries that offer direct-to-consumer wine clubs.

“There is a lot of mystery about wines during the purchase decision,” Lindsay says of the buying process. “You don't know if you're going to like it until you try it.”

When shopping for wines, consumers

often waver over price and quality. Lindsay uses data analytics to help wineries understand what their customers will purchase and for how much.

After stints at UPS and Arthur Andersen Business Consulting, Lindsay launched Mather Economics in 2002.

Before entering the wine market, Mather Economics was already serving several other industries, including technology, telecommunications, lotteries, and media and publishing. Lindsay based his business around the idea that companies need data to understand their customers and optimize their operations.

For example, the company developed ways for newspapers to grow their subscriber revenue with smarter pricing strategies.

“Newspapers never really had any science behind their subscription pricing,” says Lindsay. So, his firm built sophis-

ticated economic models to support its newspaper clients with targeted subscription offers and renewal prices.

One of those clients helped his foray into the wine industry. As publisher of *The Dallas Morning News*, Jim Moroney had worked with Mather Economics for several years. And then, when Moroney retired and opened the Six Mile Bridge Winery in Paso Robles, California, he discovered that wineries had the same lack of insight into their wine club subscribers that newspapers faced. They didn't understand who canceled their subscriptions or why.

He thought of Lindsay's economic models and hired him to support his wine club and introduced him to nearby wineries as well. Those introductions included Lindsay's recently-added client TH Estate Wines, a Paso Robles winery owned by former Bulldog All-American defensive back Terry Hoage and his wife, Jennifer.

“Matt gives you confidence because he's using data to support your business. It's not an opinion. It's not subjective advice,” Moroney says. “Matt's demeanor also helps. He's very calm and methodical in his approach.”

Lindsay's expansion into the wine sector came as wineries turned to wine clubs to help overcome sales lost when restaurants closed or curtailed operations due to the coronavirus pandemic. *Wine Enthusiast* magazine reported in November that wine clubs were “helping U.S. wineries stay afloat” during the downturn.

Lindsay acknowledged the wine industry's challenges present many “fascinating economic questions.” His firm joined the American Association of Wine Economists, but Lindsay described himself as still “an aspiring wine economist” as well as a consumer on a journey to better understand wine.

“Once you know more about wine and you become a better consumer of wine, it's a very compelling thing,” Lindsay says. “It's a really wonderful learning curve.”

WRITTEN BY KEITH HERNDON ABI '82

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Rock Star

Paul Egins AB '86



SPECIAL

WHEN HANK AARON OFFERS YOU a job, you take it.

Over Christmas break in 1986, Paul Egins was just a few months removed from his UGA graduation and in the middle of a graduate assistantship at Florida A&M University when his phone rang. It was the Braves Hall of Famer. At first, Egins thought it was a friend playing a prank on him. Several pals knew he'd sent the team his resume, and he expected little would come from it.

Then he recognized Aaron's voice. And he stood up straight.

"I was blown away," Egins recalls.

Aaron invited Egins **BS '86** to interview for a position as a trainer in the Braves minor league system. A couple days later, in Aaron's office in the old Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, Egins accepted. That was the start of a three-decade friendship between the two men.

Even after Egins moved on to the Colorado

Rockies in 1991, Aaron remained a mentor and a confidante until his death earlier this year. Egins's move west was a leap of faith, but a carefully considered one.

"I think I kind of knew it then, but moving allowed me to grow," says the Columbus native. "I always had Hank looking out for me, and I was tuned into Atlanta and Athens, and the state of Georgia, but now 30 years here, it's been beneficial for me."

Egins started his job 18 months before the expansion Rockies played their first game. He is now the franchise's second-longest-tenured staff member. At a time when the team had no players yet, Egins began as assistant director of scouting. He moved on to serve as director of player development and then director of major league operations. He was promoted to senior director in 2018.

Egins serves as the Rockies' traveling secretary, coordinating arrangements when the

team is on the road and in spring training, but his role includes a far wider range of responsibilities. Not only does he coordinate players' rooming arrangements on the road during the season, he also handles payroll (including daily meal money). During spring training he helps the coaching staff run team meetings.

Since he travels with the players on the road all year, Egins has become a trusted ally and advocate. For him, developing a rapport with athletes harkens back to his days as a UGA student when he was a member of the athletic training staff.

"The players—their livelihood is their bodies. If they are injured or they need treatment, they have to have a certain level of comfort and trust with their trainer," he says. "We get to know the players on a more personal level than even the coaches do."

That can be a challenge, too, particularly when players move on. But it can be poignant, as well.

In February, the night five-time All-Star Nolan Arenado was traded from the Rockies to the St. Louis Cardinals, he called Egins to say goodbye. The next call Egins received meant even more. It was Arenado's parents, who thanked him for everything he did for their son since the day the Rockies drafted him in 2009.

The respect for Egins is something that reaches far beyond Denver. His love for the Georgia Bulldogs, for instance, is well known across the majors. On the road, Egins will often find UGA memorabilia left for him in visiting clubhouses and team hotels.

Egins also understands the importance of his role as an African American in a major league front office.

"You always want to be good at your job. But I really feel like I *have* to be good," he says. "Because I need to stay in this position so people can see me, identify with it, and hopefully encourage them to take a similar path."

"At first, I thought the only way I could get into sports was as an athlete," he says. "What I try to tell people now is that there are other opportunities—accounting, PR, training. I try to encourage people: You don't have to be the ball player all the time."

WRITTEN BY ERIC RANGUS **MA '94**

APPLAUSE FOR ALUMNI

Running Through Adversity

Jarryd Wallace AB '19



PETER FREY



PETER FREY

When he was just 19 years old, Jarryd Wallace thought he'd never run again.

As a former state champion cross country runner at Oconee High School, Wallace AB '19 was shocked when doctors told him his only chance at living a normal life, much less being an athlete, was to amputate his right leg from the knee down.

Wallace first felt pain in his leg during his junior year of high school. He was diagnosed with compartment syndrome, a common problem for runners. But the pain didn't go away, and Wallace had his first surgery to relieve the pressure in his leg.

When the bandages were removed four days later, it was clear that something had gone wrong. The suture from his surgery had come undone and blood had seeped into his leg. Sixty percent of his muscle from the knee down was dead. To get his leg back to normal, Wallace submitted

to almost two years of surgery and treatments. None of it worked.

"I went from being extremely active to sleeping on the floor of my parents' room being completely immobile and needing assistance for almost everything," he recalls.

UGA honored the athletic scholarship if offered to Wallace before his injuries, so Wallace was able to study close to home. But early on, he started depending on alcohol and drugs to ease the ongoing physical and emotional pain. After rediscovering his Christian faith, Wallace visited the doctor who told him he would need to amputate his leg if he ever wanted to have a chance at being an athlete again. The decision for Wallace was surprisingly easy.

"I was comfortable and trusted the Lord's plan for me, and realized that it was different than the one I had for myself. I understood that the loss of the leg was not the loss of my life. If anything, it became a second opportunity at life," he says. "I don't know how to explain how a 19-year-old can make that decision other than just having the peace that came with trusting that plan."

The year after the surgery removed half his leg, Wallace ran the fastest time in the world in the 100-meter race at the Parapan American Games. Since then, he's been to two Paralympic Games, held four world records, earned three gold medals in world championship events, and won multiple national championships.

Wallace is still working with UGA trainers as he gears up for the upcoming Paralympics in Tokyo, which were postponed one year because of the pandemic. So Wallace took advantage of the extra time.

"Looking back, I think the postponement for me, mentally and physically, might have been a blessing in disguise. This year has really given me the opportunity to step back, focus on the process, and get healthy."

At the same time, Wallace is working to pave the way for other amputee athletes. He's collaborating with the Japanese company Xiborg to develop a new running blade. So far, there are only a handful of companies that make them, and Wallace hopes to push the industry forward. As director of the company's Affordable Blade Project, Wallace hopes to create greater accessibility to cost-effective running blades and give more people the chance to run again, while also giving them some hope for their future.

"So many times we let our present circumstances dictate our drive and our goals. But the only way to move beyond whatever your circumstance may be is to begin having a dream and letting those desires dictate your response. Allowing ourselves to look ahead and letting that fuel the decisions we make."

WRITTEN BY RACHEL FLOYD AB '19, MA '20

Trust Company of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

Chanda White MEd '09 is the director of social services for Brightmoor Hospice in Griffin.

ENVIRONMENT & DESIGN

Joshua Gillespie MHP '12 is director of planning and development services for Orange County, VA.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Sarah Brunnig MS '82 is a lecturer at the University of Florida teaching the fundamentals of human nutrition.

LAW

Jeffrey Foster JD '93 was named

supreme court judge for the Alcovy Judicial Circuit in Monroe.

Stacey Chavis MSL '19 is an adjunct professor of political science at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta.

PUBLIC HEALTH

William Potts-Datema DRPH '18 was named treasurer of the national board of the Society for Public Health Education and is president of the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education.

SOCIAL WORK

Schnavia Hatcher MSW '98 is the dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.



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Class Notes is the first section we work on, so keep these deadlines in mind: for the Spring (March) issue, submit by December 1; for Summer (June), submit by March 1; for Fall (September), submit by June 1; for Winter (December), submit by September 1.

<p>Quickest way to send Class Notes E: gmeditor@uga.edu W: ugamagazine.uga.edu</p>	<p>Or send a letter to: <i>Georgia Magazine</i> 286 Oconee Street, Suite 200 North University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602-1999</p>	<p>UGA Alumni Association Please submit online at alumni.uga.edu/classnote</p>
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Debra Mohnen

Georgia Athletic Association Professor in
Complex Carbohydrate Research

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Franklin College of Arts & Sciences

Member of the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center

“Many scientists and industrial engineers think of pectin too simply, and this inhibits our ability to take advantage of pectin’s structural and functional complexity to improve plants and develop carbon-neutral products. Those products will be essential as the state and nation move toward a sustainable economy and society. I am honored to work with and help train the excellent students and researchers at the University of Georgia as we continue the exciting challenge of understanding the molecular mechanisms for making and using this multifunctional polymer.”

Pectin is more than just the thing your grandmother used to thicken her homemade jam. At the University of Georgia, researchers like Debra Mohnen are studying the compound, which is essential in every plant cell. Without pectin, plants can’t grow, stand upright, reproduce, or fight back against disease-causing microorganisms. By learning more about pectin’s structure and how it is synthesized, researchers can potentially alter plants to grow larger and increase crop yields, bringing the world closer to a more secure food supply.

ANDREW DAVIS TUCKER

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T.J.

T.J. Callaway (BBA '07)
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