

June 2025

Career Connections

A UNG Career Services Publication



Welcome Summer!

As we wrap up another remarkable year, Career Services extends a heartfelt thanks for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we've helped prepare our students for meaningful careers and lifelong success.

As you take a moment to reflect on the year, we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Inside, you'll find our new Faculty Champion Spotlight, a celebration of some outstanding interns, and the schedule for our Summer Career Chats.

We look forward to continuing our work together in the new academic year. If you're interested in exploring new collaborations or career-related projects for the upcoming year, please contact us at careerservices-dah@ung.edu or visit our Faculty Resources webpage at <https://ung.edu/career-services/faculty.php>- we'd love to help support your ideas.

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Faculty Champion Spotlight:

Dr. Michael Rifenburg



Our inaugural Faculty Champion is an advocate for student success. Dr. Michael Rifenburg serves as a professor of English on the Dahlonega campus. He has been at UNG since 2013 and is a recipient of the University System of Georgia Regents' Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award.

Dr. Rifenburg has partnered with Career Services by welcoming us into his classroom to discuss a variety of career education topics. This spring he facilitated a class visit to Career Services, allowing his students to utilize a new resource- the Iris Photo Booth. His support for students and career development makes Dr. Michael Rifenburg a true UNG champion.

Q: What motivates you to integrate career-related topics into your curriculum?

A: I teach general education writing classes, like English 1101, and teach upper-division courses for students pursuing a Writing & Publication concentration within the English Department. I particularly enjoy partnering with Career Services when I teach the senior seminar course for Writing & Publication students. This course serves as their capstone course, a course they take right before they graduate and leave UNG! Integrating career-related topics into my curriculum motivates me because it empowers students, most of whom are English majors, to connect learning with real-world applications, enhancing engagement and future readiness. It helps them discover passions, build relevant skills, and make informed decisions, ultimately preparing them for success in a dynamic job market.

Q: How do you see career education benefiting UNG students?

A: Career Education, particularly in partnership with Career Services, is so critical to UNG students. Career education equips students with essential skills for professional success. Through services like resume workshops, mock interviews, and career fairs, students gain practical experience and confidence. These resources bridge academic learning with real-world applications, enhancing employability and preparing students for diverse career paths. I want to give a specific shout out to the Iris Photo Booth that Career Services provides. I brought students to Career Services to receive free, and quick, professional headshots that were emailed directly to students.

Q: What skills do students develop in your course(s) that you see as valuable in the workplace?

A: In the English courses I have the opportunity to teach, students develop critical thinking, clear communication, persuasive writing, and analytical reading skills. They learn to interpret complex texts, craft coherent arguments, and collaborate effectively- abilities that translate directly to workplace success in problem-solving, teamwork, and professional communication across various industries and roles. English majors become experts at examining and interpreting raw data and offering written and verbal syntheses and analyses of these data. That is a critical and valuable skill!

Celebrating UNG Interns!

Michelle Silos- English Literature

How did you hear about your internship?

I heard about the **Georgia Legislative Internship Program (GLIP)** through in internship opportunity email I received from UNG; I also saw it posted on bulleting boards around campus and thought it looked cool!

What has been the most valuable (or favorite) part of the experience?

As a person who has never really liked politics and wanted nothing to do with it, it's a bit ironic to find myself interning as a Senate Aide. I've found it most valuable to people watch; I love watching senators, representatives, legislative assistants, interns, and everyone else interact on a daily basis-everyone here has a common goal: do your job and do it right. I've loved learning so much about the legislative process and asking senators, my admin, and other interns many, many questions

How will this help you in the future?

I want to go to law school right after college and become an attorney. It's incredibly inspiring to connect with other interns from schools like UGA, Georgia Tech, and GSU (and more) who have goals similar to mine.



Garrison Bennett, Political Science

How did you hear about your internship?

I first learned about the **Governor's Internship Program** while working on the 2022 campaign trail as the North Georgia Field Representative for Governor Kemp's reelection bid. During a campaign event, I had a brief conversation with Georgia's First Lady, who personally recommended that I apply for the program. After submitting my application and completing an in-person interview, I was selected and placed in the Senior Staff Office.

What has been the most valuable (or favorite) part of the experience?

The most valuable part of my internship has been the opportunity to build relationships in the workplace. My office is a hub of constant activity, where I interact daily with Senators, Agency Directors, Judges, and Lobbyists from across the state. This fast-paced environment allows me to engage with experienced professionals, gain insight into various industries, and learn directly from experts and elected officials shaping the future of Georgia.

How will this help you in the future?

As I approach the final semesters of my academic career, I believe this internship is one of the best opportunities I could have pursued. I wanted an internship that would enhance my resume and give me a competitive edge after graduation, and the Governor's Office was the perfect fit. Every industry in our state interacts with the executive branch in some capacity, and this experience has given me a well-rounded understanding of state government. With this foundation, I will be well-equipped for my professional career after graduating in 2025.



Celebrating UNG Interns!

Genevieve Lima, Film & Digital Media w/ Production Concentration

How did you hear about your internship?

I heard about the internship at **Rainbow Productions** through a professor/internship advisor, Michael Lucker, in the Film and Digital Media department. He emailed me when this position became available and recommended that I apply because I had ample experience as an editor. I attended the Q&A hosted by Professor Lucker with the companies offering internships and met Jodi, one of my current supervisors. After meeting her, I submitted my resume and got an interview; the rest is history.



What has been the most valuable (or favorite) part of the experience?

My favorite part about this experience has been the hands-on experience as a television editor and working with footage from two well-known reality TV shows. Television editing and film editing are very different processes, but having the opportunity to become familiar with television editing was beneficial and fun! The guidance and advice from professionals within the industry was also very useful and beneficial to me, providing me with the skills to communicate with future employers.

How will this help you in the future?

My internship prepared me for many different aspects of my future as an editor in the film industry like how to develop television shows, collaborate with other editors/producers, new techniques for editing, and packaging a project to sell. I was also introduced to industry-standard software. Additionally, my supervisors have connected me with other professionals in the industry to find a steady job.

Morgan Reimann, Environmental and Spatial Analysis



How did you hear about your internship?

I heard about my internship with **Forsyth County School System** through my IESA advisor, Dr. Sun. I graduated from the Forsyth County School System, so it was a familiar opportunity for me.

What has been the most valuable (or favorite) part of the experience?

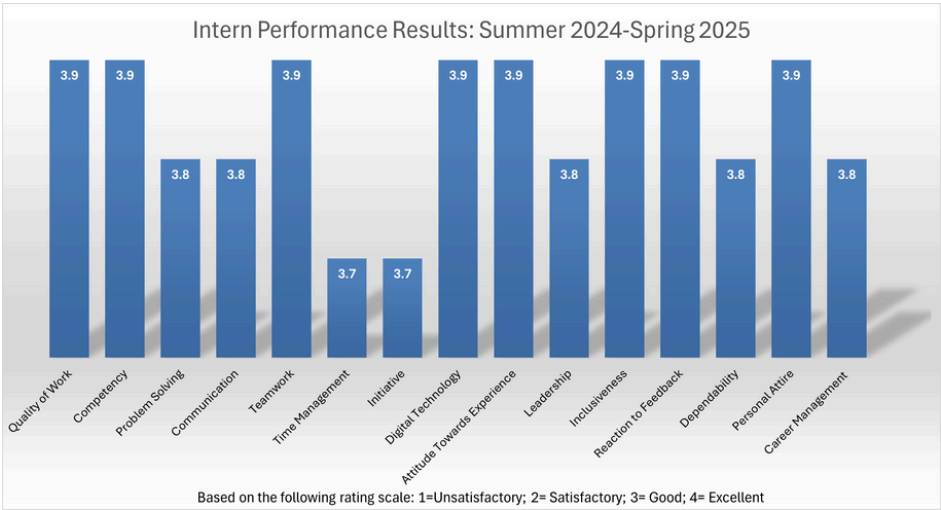
The most valuable part of my experience has been using ArcGIS in a real-world application such as school safety. School/child safety is important to me, so participating in this has been valuable. Learning the ins and outs of this type of work has been extremely helpful.

How will this help you in the future?

I hope to pursue urban planning and development, so learning the software in real-world situations and applications has helped prepare me for future opportunities. I learned valuable information about the type of work I can do in this field in the future.

Intern Performance Feedback from Employers

Near the end of each semester, Internship Site Supervisors are sent a Performance Evaluation form to complete on each intern. The evaluation was created using the 8 Career Readiness Competency areas identified by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Below is a break down of the data for Summer 2024 - Spring 2025, along with some supervisor comments.



English major- Dahlonge campus

“Intern is motivated, attentive, and thoroughly enjoys learning more about the court system. Throughout his internship with our office, he has opened cases, watched numerous court proceedings, helped maintain evidence, etc. All of the work that he has helped with has been great, and if he is unsure of something then he will ask questions-which is important. He was a great addition to our office for the summer, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors!”

Psychology major - Dahlonge campus

“We have hosted interns over the past ten years as a part of our leadership track program. We have had some that have done well, but this student is one of the best!!! She was very motivated, a quick learner, a self-starter. Always willing to help and came every day with a positive attitude! So thankful to have her this summer!”

Environmental Spatial Analysis major- Gainesville campus

“Intern has excelled in her role by acclimating quickly to the responsibilities of data validation in a complex system. She has also shown interest in doing more tasks than what is required in her internship by helping other team members complete GIS-related needs. Her communication skills have been excellent for when she needs help or when she needs an adjustment in her schedule.

Communications major- Gainesville campus

“Student has been a delight to work with this summer! She always has a positive, “can-do” attitude and has happily accepted any task that we've asked of her. She arrives on time, is a self starter, and consistently offers her help and support to me and everyone else in our office. Her cheerful demeanor and sunny personality is reflected in her phone skills, and she's been a wonderful person to make phone calls and express appreciation to our donor base. We are very grateful for her time and talent.”

Summer Career Chats

Students can Register on [Handshake](#) or [UNG Connect](#).

6/3	Finding Your Why Chat	4 PM- 5PM Zoom
6/12	Writing Your Resume Chat	4 PM- 5PM Zoom
6/25	Ace the Interview Chat	4 PM- 5PM Zoom
7/8	LinkedIn: Making Meaningful Connections	4 PM- 5PM Zoom
7/15	Salary Negotiation	4 PM- 5PM Zoom

