

Career Connections

A UNG Career Services Publication



A New Year at UNG!

Happy New Year from Career Services!

2023 was a year of change and innovation at UNG and in Career Services. As an institution we welcomed our 21st president, Dr. Michael Shannon, and in Career Services we created new events and programs to better serve our students. Overall, 2023 was filled with excitement!

The grand opening of Nigel's Career Closet was a dream come true. Students can use the closet to obtain professional clothing for interviews, career fairs, and networking events at no cost! The career closet is a great resource to help Nighthawks look and feel confident on their career journey.

We also hosted the first-ever Career Signing Day- an event to recognize graduates who have secured a job or acceptance into graduate school. We will hold another Career Signing Day near the end of the spring semester. We love celebrating our Nighthawks!

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Support Nigel's Career Closet

A ribbon cutting ceremony for Nigel's Career Closet was held on December 6th in Dahlonega. Thanks to a generous donation from Associated Credit Union, Nigel's Career Closet will provide UNG students with easy access to professional attire for career fairs, interviews, and other career related events. Items selected by students are theirs to keep. With locations on the Dahlonega campus and Gainesville campus, students have easy access to career clothing. Students can schedule a time to come and shop the closet by making an appointment through UNG Connect.



To make a donation -

We accept all new and gently used professional and business casual attire. We ask that all items are washed or dry-cleaned before being donated. If you would like to support Nigel's Career Closet, please email Career Services at careerservices-dah@ung.edu or careerservices-gvl@ung.edu.



UNG Career Signing Day



In December we celebrated our December graduates by hosting the first-ever "Career Signing Day"! This event was held on both the Dahlonega and Gainesville campuses and recognized graduates who had secured a job or acceptance to graduate school.

All graduates who participated were entered for a drawing for fabulous prizes, including a brand new iPad!

Our next Career Signing Day will be held near the end of the Spring semester. Please encourage your graduating students to celebrate with us!

Diversity Career Mixer

Twenty-nine UNG Students had an insightful time building relationships with employers who offered internships and job opportunities for our UNG students. While students were delighted to receive a free lunch, students learned how to feel comfortable with talking with employers in a professional manner. Students also learned what skills and experiences employers find valuable. Lastly, the most beneficial lesson students learned is that making connections with employers before they graduate is a top priority.



Celebrating UNG Interns!

Reagan Smith- History Major, Art History Minor

How did you hear about your internship?

The faculty in the Art History Department told me about the internship with **The Arts Council** in Gainesville. It was posted on Handshake, which made the application process very easy. I started interning at The Arts Council during the summer and will continue into the spring. I'm very thankful for UNG and the opportunity to intern with The Arts Council.

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

I really appreciate the mentorship that was given to me during this experience. My supervisor helped me discover strategies to build additional experience and establish future goals. During my internship I realized that I love collections management. It's been great to have a job focused on researching and cataloging art pieces. I've also been able to help with events and be involved with the community. It's wonderful to be part of something bigger than myself.

How will this help you in the future?

By researching and cataloging art collections, I was able to build experience, learn to ask good questions, gain more experience with Excel, and develop strong time management skills. I also learned how a non-profit works. It has been a great opportunity to connect my classroom learning with the work I hope to pursue.



Hope Braselton, Art Marketing

How did you hear about your internship?

I followed a girl on Instagram who worked at **Purple House Gallery**. I reached out asking if they would be interested in having an intern and they said yes! It never hurts to ask. The worst thing anyone can say is no!

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

I have enjoyed being around art every day. Whether I'm photographing it, entering it into the computer, or viewing it; I'm inspired. As someone who is passionate about marketing and creativity, this internship was a perfect blend of the two! I love getting to meet full-time artists and asking them about their experiences, as well as speaking and learning about the people who buy art in the Gainesville community.

How will this help you in the future?

I gained valuable perspective on business interactions between galleries and the artists. I also was able to learn skills relative to gallery operations and marketing, which will benefit me in a variety of ways. Posting on social media, updating website inventory, and photographing product is not limited to the art world. I am excited to see what opportunities come my way because of my internship experience!



Celebrating UNG Interns!

Maria Otero – Communication with Public Relations Concentration

How did you hear about your internship?

I came upon an internship opportunity with **Boy with a Ball** on Handshake for their communication broadcast team. Instantly, I was intrigued and after further research, I fell in love with their mission and goals as a nonprofit organization. Boy with a Ball's mission is to better cities by reaching at-risk youth and equipping them to turn and transform their own communities.



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

Perhaps one of the most valuable parts of my experience is being able to take part in events such as Camp Overcomers and Read, Write, to Lead. These events have given me the opportunity to witness firsthand their love and devotion to the youth in the community. Being a part of their program, Love Your City, has also allowed me to meet not only the children in the community where they serve but also the families. It was very beautiful to hear their stories and the impact that Boy with a Ball has made in their lives.

How will this help you in the future?

Boy with a Ball is very purposeful with the content and message they wish to portray so taking on this opportunity allowed me to challenge myself as a writer and content creator. This opportunity has allowed me to understand how a nonprofit operates and how each department functions as a team. They have also allowed me to explore PR strategies which is something I look forward to seeing come to fruition.

Aliou Aboubakar M. – Computer Science

How did you hear about your internship?

I discovered my internship with **Associated Credit Union** through the UNG Gainesville Career Center.

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

The most valuable part of my internship has been the hands-on learning and practical skills I've gained. It's incredibly rewarding to apply the knowledge I've acquired in the classroom to real-world situations. Additionally, working with a supportive and experienced team has given me invaluable insights into the industry and has been a source of constant inspiration. This experience has not only enhanced my academic knowledge but has also provided a deeper understanding of the day-to-day workings of my chosen field, making it an unforgettable and enriching journey.

How will this help you in the future?

This experience will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping my future. The practical skills and industry insights I gained during my internship will serve as a strong foundation for my career. It has not only bolstered my resume but has also expanded my professional network, opening doors to potential opportunities. Furthermore, the challenges I've faced and overcome during this internship have enhanced my problem-solving abilities and boosted my confidence in tackling real-world issues. All these aspects will contribute significantly to my success in future endeavors and provide a solid platform for my professional growth.



Spring Career Fairs

This spring we have several Career Fairs taking place on both the Gainesville and Dahlonaga campuses. We welcome you to stop by the fair to encourage your students and meet some of our employer partners!

1/30	Teacher Recruitment Fair	4 pm - 6 pm	Hugh Mills Center, GVL
2/6	Nursing Career Fair	1 pm - 4 pm	Student Lounge, Health Sciences Building, GVL
2/22	All Majors Career Fair	11 am - 2 pm	Convocation Center, DAH
3/6	All Majors Career Fair	11 am - 1 pm	Robinson Ballroom, GVL

Upcoming Career Chats

*Encourage your students to join us for a virtual career chat.
Please Register on Handshake or UNG Connect.*

Wednesday 1/17	Finding your Why	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 1/24	Experience Matters: Finding your Internship	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 1/31	Writing your Resume	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 2/7	Ace the Interview	4 pm (zoom)
Tuesday 2/13	Breaking Barriers: Natural Hair in the Workplace	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 2/28	Negotiating Salary & Understanding Benefits	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 3/27	LinkedIn: Making Meaningful Connections	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 4/3	Graduation Bootcamp Series: Navigating Life after College	4 pm (zoom)
Tuesday 4/9	Alumni Career Chat	12 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 4/10	Graduation Bootcamp: Relocating for a Job	4 pm (zoom)
Wednesday 4/17	Graduation Bootcamp: Your 401K and Salary Negotiation	4 pm (zoom)