An Interview with
UNG Provost Tom Ormond

Phillip M. Guerty

Tom Ormond began serving as provost and senior advisor for academic affairs at the University of North Georgia in July 2016. Holding a PhD in health and physical education, Ormond has served as a professor and administrator at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Sonoma State University, Ithaca College, and, most recently, Darton State College and Georgia College & State University.

Phillip Guerty: Your life seems filled with a wide range of experiences—from teaching K-12 school in New Zealand where you grew up to attending graduate school in the Midwest and working throughout the United States. How do you think these experiences will help you succeed as the Provost of UNG?

Tom Ormond: My experiences working successfully with people in varying environments and capacities over my career will hopefully help as I work with faculty, staff, students, administrators and the community to advance this institution. UNG, is a special place with traditions dating back to 1873 on the Dahlonega Campus and 1964, the Gainesville Campus. However, moving into the future, we will look to the unique aspects of the five campuses to develop new traditions and understandings. It is here that I hope my experiences working with people across divisions will come to play as we collectively try to make UNG a truly distinctive institution.
PG: What challenges do you see UNG facing in the years ahead and how do you think the university, as a community, can overcome these challenges?

TO: I believe UNG’s greatest challenge for the next two years is to address all issues articulated in the Strategic Plan, 2014-2019 to bring them to fruition. UNG is clearly the most prominent institution in Northeast Georgia, an area that is witnessing significant growth and expansion. To this end, UNG must be the academic catalyst for regional development in its many fronts, which will necessitate the institution thinking proactively to be at the forefront of change. Meeting the guidelines identified in the Strategic Plan, 2014-2019, is the first step in this quest.

PG: What has surprised you most about UNG since you arrived here?

TO: Prior to my arrival, I thought I was quite knowledgeable about UNG, its structure and function. However, I was not aware of the level of respect that the institution has amongst its sister schools in the USG. In my travels around the USG since June 1, 2016 I have been repeatedly told by system colleagues how “together” our institution is, be it financial practices, number of low-producing undergraduate programs, UNG’s student success structures and the list goes on. Furthermore, since my arrival I have been asked by three USG provosts if each could visit campus to learn what we’re doing. Quite clearly, colleagues outside of UNG think we are doing something right, and I’m glad to be a part of this.

PG: Shared governance has been a theme that the faculty senate has come back to many times since consolidation, how do you conceptualize shared governance and how do you see it functioning at UNG?

TO: Shared governance involves the interplay and open sharing of ideas and views from a range of parties so that the best reasoning possible is factored into recommendations made to the President. This requires that the Faculty Senate and Office of Academic Affairs can work within an environment that values honesty, trust and transparency. Since my arrival at UNG, I have been attempting to do just that, and I am encouraged by the level of communication and collaboration we have.

PG: As a multi-campus institution, UNG has a unique challenge in making sure that the voices and perspectives of all campuses are heard. What role do you see yourself playing in the efforts to create an inclusive university environment where all faculty, staff, and students feel valued?
TO: Without question, ensuring constant communication among UNG’s multi-campus structure is a challenge. I knew this from the first day I arrived and it remains a top priority for me today. To combat this, first and foremost I need to set aside time in my monthly schedule to visit each campus to engage in purposeful conversations as needed. Second, I must stay connected with the Faculty Senate Executive Board to obtain their collective wisdom and direction on issues of concern to both parties. Third, I need to regularly attend Faculty Senate meetings to ensure that I am hearing and subsequently attending to faculty concerns. Fourth, I need to attend SGA meetings on a regular basis and when invited to gain insights into students’ thinking on pertinent issues. Finally, I must maintain my connection with staff through existing Academic Affairs reporting structures and ongoing efforts to seek input from the Staff Council when the need arises.
The following list was submitted by faculty members to the Faculty Voice.

Syed R. Ahmed, Assistant Professor of Computer Science (Retired), had his memoir, *The Lottery*, published by Outskirtpress.

Brent Allison, Associate Professor of Education, won the CURCA Excellence in Undergraduate Research Faculty Award for 2016.

Denise W. Bandini, UNG Italian Instructor, is pursuing a Masters in the Art of Teaching and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi for outstanding grades with 4.0 average. She was also awarded the Marion Couch Scholarship last year.


T. Jameson Brewer, Assistant Professor of Education, received both the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award (2016), from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Distinguished Alumni Award (2016), from Valdosta State University. Brewer also published:


Amy R. Williams Buchanan, Associate Professor of Early Childhood/Special Education, published:

Warren Caputo was awarded the UNG Teaching Excellence Award in 2014/2015 and, as a result, in fall 2016 is being recognized as a candidate for the CASE U.S. Professor of the Year.

Leora Chitwood, a faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, completed her PhD in September, 2016. Chitwood’s dissertation is “The Effects of Leisure-Time Walking and Nutritional Behaviors on Quality of Life and Independent Living in Older Adults.”

Sanghee Choi, Associate Professor of Science Education, was awarded the 2016-17 Fieldale Scholar award. Choi also published:


Choi also received the following grants:

Spraker, M., Nelms, A., & Choi, S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program Track 1: Capacity Building Grant (Co-PI), Funded by the National Science Foundation.

Nelms, A., Spraker, M., & Choi, S. Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant (Co-PI), Funded by the Georgia Department of Education.

Nelms, A., Spraker, M., & Choi, S. Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant (Co-PI), Funded by the Georgia Department of Education.

Choi, S. Presidential Professional Engagement Awards (PI),

Childers, G, Grant, C., Choi, S., Hitz, M., Governor, D., & Vesquez-Dominguez, M. Presidential Summer Innovation Awards (Co-PI).

Josh Cuevas, Associate Professor of Education, published:


George Danns, Professor of Sociology, published:


Geran F. Dodson, faculty member in the Mike Cottrell College of Business and the College of Arts & Letters, published The Impact of Reason on Faith, Ethics and Belief. Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, 2016.

Terry Easton, Associate Professor of English, published Raising Our Voices, Breaking the Chain: The Imperial Hotel Occupation as Prophetic Politics. Open Door Community Press, 2016. Easton was also elected as President-Elect of the Working Class Studies Association.
Shane A. Emplaincourt, a faculty member in the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, published:


Ahmad Ghafarian, Professor of Computer Science, engaged in doing research in computer forensics and in particular in web browser forensics as past a recipient of the 2015 Presidential Semester Scholar award. Ghafarian also received a MCCB, IIE (Impact, Innovation and Engagement) research grant and published:


Danielle (Forest) Hartsfield, Assistant Professor of Education, published:


2016-2017 Meetings

Locations:
Library 382 (DC)
Nesbitt 5105 (GC)
SRC 564 (OC)
Room 262 (CC)

Meeting dates: Time:
12:00-1:05pm
August 16, 2016
September 19, 2016
October 3, 2016
October 17, 2016
November 7, 2016
December 5, 2016
January 23, 2017
February 6, 2017
February 20, 2017
March 6, 2017
March 20, 2017
April 3, 2017
April 17, 2017

Faculty Senate minutes: https://my.ung.edu/committees/faculty-senate/Pages/FacultySenateMinutes.aspx

Yunjuan He, Assistant Professor of Chinese, published:


N.L. Hyslop, Associate Professor of Biology, received a 2016 UNG Teaching Excellence Award, Tenure-Track Faculty. Hyslop also published:


Ary Malaver, Assistant Professor of Spanish, was granted a Presidential Innovation Award which made possible the organization of two public lectures (Gainesville and Dahlonega) and a workshop (Dahlonega) by performer writer Josefina Báez. Malaver also published: Malaver, Ary. “Microrrelato y nanofilología. Dos enfoques nano(tecno)filológicos para entender las configuraciones de la escritura mínima(lizada).” Minificción y nanofilología: Latitudes de la hiperbrevedad. Ed. Ana Rueda. Madrid/Frankfurt. Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2017, forthcoming.

Timothy May, Associate Dean of Arts & Letters and Professor of Central Eurasian History, published:


Jeanelle M. Morgan, an Associate Professor and Associate Department Head of Biology, received the Emerging Leader award this past year.

Alison Ossip-Drahos, Assistant Professor of Biology, published:


Zechariah Pierce, Assistant Professor of Theatre, played the role of a Pastor on episodes four and six of the History Channel’s military drama series SIX.

Linda Purvis, Biology and Poultry Science Lecturer, received the Teaching Excellence award for non-tenure track faculty on the Gainesville campus in October 2016. Purvis also was awarded a CURCA Grant entitled “Sample analysis of a survey of wild birds in Georgia for avian diseases.”

Rebecca Rose, Head Librarian on the Cumming campus and Associate Professor, was a Georgia Library Association Team Award Recipient for her efforts on behalf of the Georgia State Media Festival. Rose also published:


2016-17 Faculty Senators

Jacobs, Bonita  President (Ex-Officio)
Ormond, Tom  Provost (Ex-Officio)

Dahlonega Campus

Broad, David  Sociology & Human Services
Devitt, Steve  Military Science
Gabriel, TJ  Management and Marketing
Galloup, Allison  Libraries
He, Yunjuan  Modern & Classical Languages
Hislope, Kristi  At Large Dahlonega
Hurley, Susan  Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Kokkala, Irene  At Large Dahlonega
Kraft, Alexandra  Visual Arts
Mantry, Sonny  Physics
McFaden, Kelly  At Large Dahlonega (Chair)
McGill, Dorothy  Nursing
Meier, Ryan  Chemistry/Biochemistry
Morgan-Ellis, Esther  Music
Murck, Becky  Nursing
Oppenheimer, Pete  Economics & Finance
Payne, Bryson  At Large Dahlonega
Powers, Robert  Physical Therapy
Smith, Margaret  Biology
Wagner, Patty  Mathematics
Washnell, Christina  Education
Wrisley, George  History, Anthropology & Philosophy
Yan, Mingyuan  Computer Science and Information Systems

Senate Officers Elected for 2017-18

The Faculty Senate elected the following officers for 2017-18:

Kelly McFaden (Chair)
Diana Edelman (Vice Chair)
Mariana Stone (Secretary)
John O’Sullivan (Parliamentarian)
Gainesville Campus

Choo, Tae                     Criminal Justice
Cowart, Macklin              English
Danns, George                At Large Gainesville (Past Senate Chair)
Doyle-Portillo, Susann       Psychological Sciences
Edelman-Young, Diana         English
Guerty, Phil                 At Large Gainesville
Hebda, Piotr                 Mathematics
Jordan, Adam                 Education
Kauffeldt, Jonas             History, Anthropology & Philosophy
Luthman, Johanna             At Large Gainesville
Miller, Clarke               At Large Gainesville (Vice Chair)
Morris, Merrill              Communication/Media Studies/Journalism
Nolibos, Paula               Chemistry/Biochemistry
O'Sullivan, John             IESA (Parliamentarian)
Parker, Mitchum              Health & Physical Education
Pierce, Zechariah            Theater
Stone, Mariana               Spanish
Teem, Clayton                Psychological Sciences
Weaver, Malynde              Biology
Wilson, Dwight               Political Science & International Affairs
Woodward, Kathleen           Political Science & International Affairs

Oconee Campus

Cooper, Jeremy               At Large Oconee
Lyman, Penny                 Accounting & Law
Meek, Rosaria                Spanish
Ng, Laura                    At Large Oconee
Smith, Steve                 At Large Oconee
Williamson, Margaret         At Large Oconee (Secretary)

If you need this document in any other format, please email Phillip Guerty at pguerty@ung.edu or call 678-717-3462.