

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

Fall/Winter 2022

## MAGAZINE

# 150

YEARS

Scholarship | Leadership | Service



**Steady soaring:  
Nighthawks Nation  
excels**

**General excellence:  
UNG produces top  
Army leaders**





# Transforming Business

*Photo by Blake Poppell*

## COTTRELL CENTER FOR BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

The Cottrell Center for Business, Technology & Innovation opened in August on the Dahlonega Campus as the new home for the Mike Cottrell College of Business. It offers specialized, state-of-the-art labs to prepare students for high-demand careers.

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Four longtime successful coaches are cornerstones of the rich athletic tradition of UNG, from NAIA to NCAA Division II.

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A chronicle of some of the defining moments in UNG's history— from North Georgia Agricultural College to a leading public regional university.

### 30 **General excellence: UNG produces top Army leaders**

Often referred to as a "living leadership laboratory", learn how UNG helped prepare these military officers.

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#### EDITORIAL STAFF

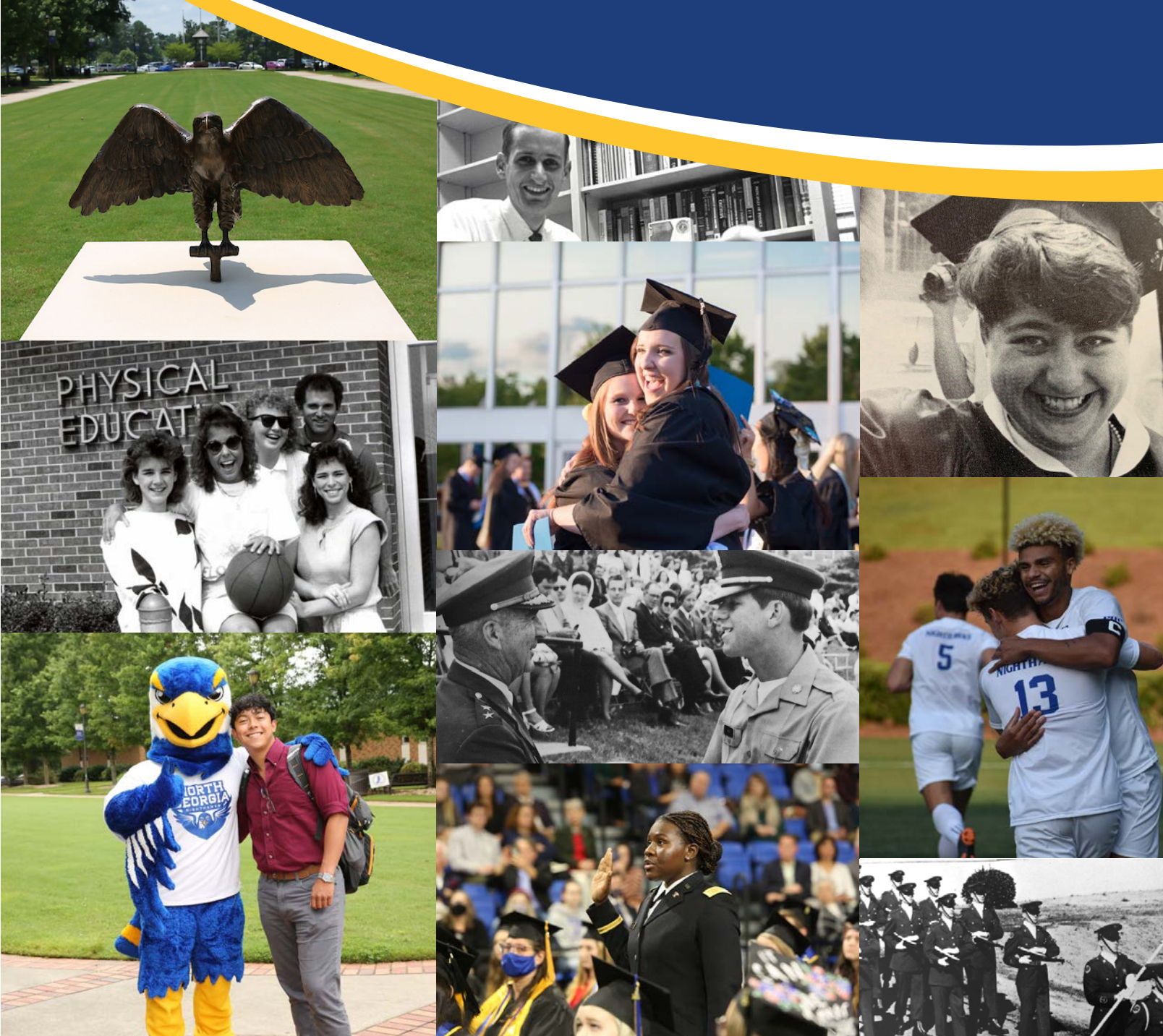
Sylvia Carson, APR, editor  
Agnes Hina, writer  
Denise Ray '11, '14, writer  
Clark Leonard, writer  
David Folds, graphic designer  
Alyssa Annis, '15, photographer  
Blake Poppell, photographer

#### CONTACT

Division of University Relations  
82 College Circle  
Dahlonega, GA 30597  
706-864-1950  
universityrelations@ung.edu

If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes (e.g. Braille, large print, audio, etc.), please contact the Strategic Communications & Marketing at [communications@ung.edu](mailto:communications@ung.edu) or 706-864-1950

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**“I am excited about the momentum UNG continues to build as a leading regional university.”**

## **Building Momentum for the Future**

In August, we officially kicked-off our yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration for our 150th anniversary. Very few universities have reached this milestone, which gives us a special opportunity to reflect on our heritage, celebrate our achievements and look toward our future. Our fall semester has been incredibly active, and I am grateful to share a few highlights with you that show how we continue to build on our legacy of scholarship, leadership and service.

- We consistently rank among *U.S. News and World Report*'s best public Regional Universities in the South, and UNG is the No. 1 university in Georgia on the Best Value Colleges and Least Debt lists this year, and we are the top-ranked Georgia school on the list of Best Colleges for Veterans. In addition, UNG was one of only six public universities in Georgia included in this fall's *Forbes* "America's Top Colleges" list.
- We honored this year's Distinguished Military Students—16 in all—and hosted the annual Senior Military Colleges Conference in partnership with the Association of Military Colleges & Schools of the United States.
- At the Dahlonega Campus, we opened the new state-of-the-art Cottrell Center for Business, Technology and Innovation, home to the Mike Cottrell College of Business.
- We broke ground on an expansion of our Blue Ridge Campus, which has expanded from 20 students when it opened at a temporary site in 2015 to about 215 this academic year. We know that higher levels of educational attainment can provide life-changing opportunities that help students and communities prosper.
- We also broke ground for an addition to our Cumming Campus, which has grown 175% since opening in 2012 and currently serves nearly 1,400 students. The new space will allow for the addition of bachelor's degrees in Cumming and provide a capacity for future enrollment of 2,200 students, particularly in in high-demand healthcare and technology-centric programs.
- Our annual Regional Education and Economic Development (REED) Summit showcased the transformation of healthcare in our region. The only event of its kind, the REED Summit brings together high school and college students, educators, industry professionals, and economic developers to explore in-demand career opportunities and the educational pathways that prepare students to meet those needs.
- UNG's Athletics Hall of Fame inducted five new members who have earned outstanding athletic achievements or made substantial contributions to the university (see p. 15 to learn more about them).

I am excited about the momentum UNG continues to build as a leading regional university, and I know this progress will continue well into the future thanks to our dedicated alumni and supporters like you.

Sincerely,

Bonita C. Jacobs, Ph.D.  
President

**LOWEST  
STUDENT  
DEBT**  
IN GEORGIA  
U.S. NEWS &  
WORLD REPORT  
2023

## U.S. News ranks UNG among Best Universities in South

UNG received high marks for quality and value in the 2023 *U.S. News and World Report* Best Colleges rankings released in September.

In addition to being ranked in the top 20 public Regional Universities in the South, UNG is the No. 1 university in Georgia on the Best Value Colleges and Least Debt lists and the top-ranked Georgia school on the list of Best Colleges for Veterans.

UNG tied for sixth among public universities in Georgia on the Best Undergraduate Business Programs list and tied for sixth among public universities in Georgia on the Undergraduate Computer Science Programs ranking.

## Forbes and Fortune give UNG high marks

*Forbes* magazine ranked UNG on its annual list of “America’s Top Colleges” in August. UNG was one of only six public universities in Georgia to make the list, which included 500 colleges and universities, considers academic quality, affordability and earnings after graduation.

“This ranking marks a recognition of the quality education and affordability we provide our students,” UNG President Bonita C. Jacobs said. “We prepare them to excel in the workforce as soon as they graduate.”

*Forbes* listed the median salary for UNG graduates with 10 years of work experience as \$97,200.

Additionally, *Fortune* magazine has ranked the UNG’s Cottrell Master of Business Administration (MBA) 70th in the nation and fifth-best in Georgia in its inaugural list of top part-time MBA programs. The magazine reviewed 150 programs to compile the list.

“We prepare them (students) to excel in the workforce as soon as they graduate.”

“These top part-time MBA degree programs not only offer top-notch curriculums and access to world-class business school professors, but they also have a track record of seeing their alumni climb to the tops of the Fortune 500 world,” according to the magazine in the announcement of the 2021-22 ranking.

Dr. Mary Gowan, dean of UNG’s Mike Cottrell College of Business, said the ranking validates the strong work of UNG’s students, faculty, and staff.



UNG was founded in 1873. Throughout this magazine, we'll share info on a few other things that happened that year.

**What else happened in 1873?** Ulysses S. Grant was serving as the 18th president of the United States.

## Five recent grads receive Fulbright awards



**Anna Caitlyn Anderson**



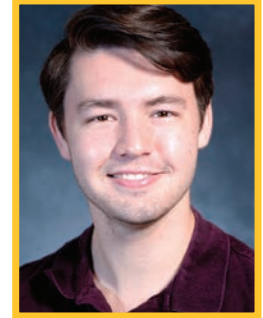
**Ashlynn Nash**



**Kirsten Pickelsimer**



**Roderick Selman**



**Colin Tredway**

Five alumni were selected as finalists for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program for the 2022-23 academic year. The highly competitive and prestigious program enables graduates to pursue research activities, teach English abroad, or enroll in graduate school.

“UNG’s capacity for supporting students as they hone their global leadership skills keeps opening doors for these great opportunities,” Dr. Anastasia Lin, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs and director of the Nationally Competitive Scholarships office, said.

UNG has been a national top-producer of Fulbright student awards for five consecutive years.

Anna Caitlyn Anderson, a spring 2022 graduate with a degree in political science with a concentration in pre-law, is teaching English in Spain.

Ashlynn Nash, a spring 2020 graduate with a degree in music education, is teaching English in Taiwan.

Kirsten Pickelsimer, a spring 2022 graduate with a degree in modern languages with a concentration in Russian language and literature, is teaching English in Moldova.

Roderick Selman, a spring 2021 graduate with a degree in modern languages with a concentration in Arabic language and literature, is teaching English in Israel.

Colin Tredway, a summer 2020 graduate with a degree in history, is teaching English in Germany.



**What else happened in 1873?** Georgia Secretary of State Nathan Crawford Barnett signed a \$10,000 bond binding himself to the Reconstruction Governor of Georgia, James M. Smith. The bond bound Barnett to be faithful in the execution of the office of Georgia Secretary of State, lest he forfeit \$10,000. Barnett is most noted for being Georgia’s Confederate Secretary of State and for secreting the state seal during the Carpebag Regime under Union occupation of Georgia in 1864.



## Seven selected for Gilman Scholarships

Seven students were selected this spring for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

Providing up to \$8,000, the nationally competitive scholarship enables Pell grant eligible U.S. undergraduate students to study or intern abroad and gain skills critical to national security and economic competitiveness.

UNG's spring Gilman Scholarship recipients were Melena Appling, Kimberly Burns, Phillip Ly, Vianca Murillo, Lindsey Ward, Justin Wlosko, and Victoria Zappi Colombine.

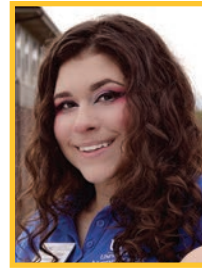
"We are excited for each student who has been selected," Dr. Kathryn Quinto, fellowships advisor for UNG's Nationally Competitive Scholarships office, said. "We are also grateful for the opportunity to continue our collaboration with the Center for Global Engagement as we all work to support UNG students' success."



**Melena Appling**



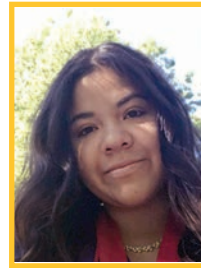
**Kimberly Burns**



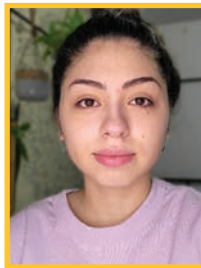
**Victoria Zappi Colombine**



**Phillip Ly**



**Vianca Murillo**



**Lindsey Ward**



**Justin Wlosko**



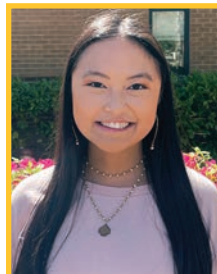
### ***What else happened in 1873?***

In California, the first regular cable car service began on Clay Street in San Francisco and dentist John Beers of San Francisco patented the gold crown.

## Three receive study abroad grants

Students Melena Appling, Edleen Henriquez and Susana Olivo Sandoval earned grants from the Council on International Education Exchange to fund study abroad experiences. Appling received a \$6,000 Global Cities Grant, allowing her to participate in the Open Campus program in London and Rome during this fall.

Henriquez and Olivo Sandoval each will receive \$1,500 to use for study abroad.



**Melena Appling**



**Edleen Henriquez**



**Susana Olivo Sandoval**

## Five students win Boren scholarships



**Thorin  
Beard**



**Jessica  
Woods**



**Zoe  
Rumbaugh**



**Caleb  
Petersen**



**Danielle  
Kent**

Five students earned Boren Scholarship and Fellowship awards to support language and cultural learning opportunities.

The Boren award provides up to \$25,000 for students to intensively study language and culture abroad. In exchange for the awards, students agree to work for the U.S. federal government for at least a year and receive coaching and mentoring upon their return to facilitate this objective.

- Thorin Beard, a senior pursuing a degree in East Asian studies, is spending the 2022-23 academic year in Taiwan.
- Jessica Woods, a senior pursuing a degree in East Asian studies and a minor in Russian, is studying Korean at Sogang University in the fall and Yonsei University in spring 2023.
- Zoe Rumbaugh, a senior pursuing degrees in East Asian and modern languages with a Chinese for global professionals concentration, is participating in the Chinese Flagship Domestic Immersion Capstone in Monterey, California.
- Caleb Petersen, a junior Honors Program student pursuing a degree in cybersecurity, took part in UNG's Japanese Summer Language Institute.
- Danielle Kent, a senior from Gray, Georgia, pursuing a degree in international affairs, is studying at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, for the 2022-23 academic year.

## NSF funds undergrad research experiences

Twelve students took a major step in their academic journey this summer thanks to Research Experiences for Undergraduates funded by the National Science Foundation. Another participated in an opportunity through the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience at Emory University.

UNG encourages undergraduate research to help students prepare for graduate school opportunities, as well as to provide hands-on learning experiences alongside faculty mentors.

The students who gained this valuable research experience were:

- Chloe Allen, biology, California Academy of Sciences
- Chloe Bishop, mathematics, Auburn University

- Sarah Clark, chemistry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Anna Cronan, biology, University of Michigan
- Destiney Dempsey, psychology, West Virginia University
- Ramiro Ferreyra, physics, Notre Dame University
- Annaleena Hansen & James Pearce, chemistry, Mississippi State University
- Fernando Linares, biology, Emory University
- Haley Menees, biology, University of Minnesota
- Kate Monheim & Andy Sunshine, chemistry, Georgia State University
- Kyala Shabani, chemistry, Georgia Southern University

## Students advance cyber research

Four UNG students pursuing degrees in cybersecurity had their research accepted for the inaugural Cybersecurity Research in Undergraduate Programs (CyRUP) Conference held in April at Norwich University, and one of them won an award.

CyRUP, a collaborative effort between the nation's six senior military colleges, strives to advance cybersecurity research and develop research opportunities for undergraduate students.

Logan Kern, Benjamin Bradley, and Chris Brown presented their research, while Dr. Tamirat Abegaz, associate professor, shared student Vanessa Welch's research at the conference.

Kern won the best poster research award for his work investigating how to set up a Wi-Fi network with a drone to maliciously steal people's information.



## Cyber students excel in spring competitions

UNG cybersecurity students made strong showings in a pair of high-level events during the spring semester. They placed fifth out of 25 teams in the national Hack the Port cyber-physical systems hacking competition. Students also finished in second in the Southeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

The regional finish gave the team wildcard status to compete for a spot at the national Cyber Defense Competition. UNG cyber students advanced from a regional qualifier with 27 teams to become one of eight that competed in the regional event.

## Payne coaches U.S. Cyber Team

Faculty member Dr. Bryson Payne helped coach the U.S. Cyber Team to a third-place finish in the inaugural International Cybersecurity Challenge held in June in Athens, Greece. Payne, a professor of computer science and coordinator of student cyber programs at UNG, served as one of multiple coaches for the U.S.

The U.S. team tallied 7,765 points, finishing behind first-place Europe and second-place Asia and ahead of teams from Oceania, Canada, Latin America, and Africa.

“It was a tough competition among the top cyber athletes from countries around the world, and it was an amazing experience to see our team compete at that level,” Payne said.



## Blue Ridge Campus expansion begins



The groundbreaking ceremony in September for the expansion of the UNG Blue Ridge Campus celebrated the new space that will support additional classes and community outreach programs in this fast-growing region of the state.

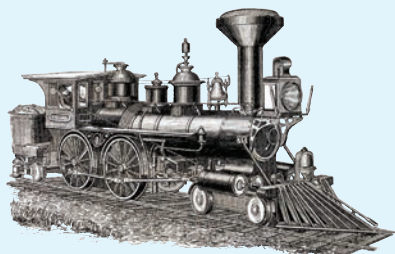
UNG broke ground Sept. 21 on a facility expansion at its Blue Ridge Campus, with University System of Georgia Chancellor Sonny Perdue, state legislators, community members, and university representatives joining President Bonita C. Jacobs to mark the occasion.

The university received \$13 million in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the construction of a new 25,000-square-foot building and additional parking at that campus in May. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2023 and be completed by fall 2024. Gov. Brian Kemp signed the state budget on May 12 at the Blue Ridge Campus.

The funds are in addition to the \$2 million included in the state's Amended Year 2022 budget for the Blue Ridge Campus expansion, which is a \$15 million project. The campus first opened in a temporary site in Blue Ridge in 2015, and moved to its standalone location off Ga. 515 in 2020.

The new addition will allow for a wider array of academic programs, including specialized spaces for UNG's College of Education to allow it to offer a blended cohort of students who will complete their degrees in Blue Ridge. It will also enable the College of Health Sciences & Professions to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to existing students in the area who may have started through the Technical College System of Georgia or other programs.

The design includes a multipurpose event room to accommodate up to 300 guests for community outreach programs. It will host programs for Professional and Continuing Education and the Institute for Healthy Aging, as well as community meetings, student activities and conferences.



***What else happened in 1873?*** A problem with a European stock market found its way to the shores of the United States. Investors began selling off investments in American projects, including railroads. Soon, there were more bonds for sale than anyone wanted, leaving railroad companies without investors, and ultimately many went bankrupt. Panic spread to banks in Georgia, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and the Midwest. Nationwide, at least 100 banks failed.

## Crowe named Cumming Campus director

Dr. Ken Crowe is the new executive director of UNG's Cumming Campus.

Crowe previously served at UNG as assistant vice president for Facilities since 2017. As the chief administrator for the Cumming Campus, Crowe works with Dr. Steven Smith, UNG's vice president for regional campuses, as well as colleagues across the university to advance educational opportunities and community partnerships.



Prior to joining UNG in 2015 as director of capital planning and project management, Crowe served the University System of Georgia as director of management and operations, the University of Georgia as director of energy services and other facilities management roles, and Georgia Power Company as a key account manager.

## First-gen siblings become Dell Scholars



The Upward Bound program at UNG is helping three siblings attain the goal of a college education while also receiving major scholarship assistance.

Siblings Jerson Lopez, Melissa Lopez and Mileidi Martinez-Garcia, of East Ellijay in Gilmer County, are each Dell Scholarship recipients, each earning funds of up to \$20,000.

"This is an excellent example of the amazing and life-changing accomplishments that are happening in our Pre-College Access Grant Programs," Sandy Ott, Blue Ridge Campus executive director and UNG's principal investigator for Upward Bound, said.

Jerson Lopez currently attends the University of Georgia, pursuing degrees in management information systems and international business. Melissa Lopez is pursuing a degree in management at UNG, and Martinez-Garcia is pursuing a degree in management at UNG.

Upward Bound helps underrepresented and underserved students prepare for, enroll and graduate from institutions of higher learning; at UNG, the program serves students from Gilmer High School in Ellijay and Johnson High School in Gainesville.

## Four students earn Freeman-ASIA awards

Four students were selected for the Freeman Awards for Study in Asia program, which grants awards of up to \$5,000 for students who demonstrate financial need to fulfill their plans of study abroad in Asia.

The recipients were:

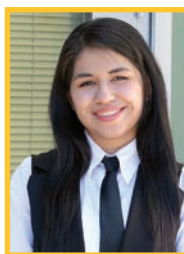
- Hannah Barker, a senior pursuing a degree in East Asian studies, visiting South Korea;
- Emily Ragon, a senior pursuing a degree in biology, experiencing Taiwan;
- Susana Olivo Sandoval, a junior headed to Japan to further her modern languages and East Asian studies;
- Kimberly Burns, a senior pursuing a degree in East Asian studies, heading to Taiwan.



Hannah Barker



Emily Ragon



Susana Olivo Sandoval



Kimberly Burns

## Cadets excel at Advanced Camp

This summer, 93 UNG cadets completed the Army's Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Students excelled in the five-week camp where U.S. Army Cadet Command tested their military and leadership skills. This allowed Cadet Command to assess their proficiency as future officers. Advanced Camp is required for all cadets who seek a military officer commission.

Seventeen UNG cadets earned Recondo badges that are awarded to cadets who display superior skills by exceeding the standards in all camp activities.

Cadets on the commissioning track complete a Leadership Development Program throughout their junior year in preparation for Advanced Camp.



Cadets from UNG made a strong showing at Advanced Camp during the summer.

## Cadets gain overseas experience in summer

UNG cadets and leaders traveled abroad this summer for a wide range of professional development opportunities and events. This included multiple visits to international military academy partners, as well as conferences and leadership courses.

Cadets who gained experience abroad this summer included:

- Jacob Lyons, Ryan McGlaun, Andrew Moreshead, Hyunbean Park, and Colin McBride Parker, who took part in a variety of activities in the Republic of Georgia. They taught English while interning at the National Defense Academy. They also took a leadership course in Poland.
- Steven Bullock and Yakir Mufson completed internships at the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary.
- William Buettner and Adam Sisson traveled to Andermatt, Switzerland, and completed a nine-day course on skills in ridge climbing, ice climbing and glacier movement, multi-pitch climbing, sport climbing, and alpine climbing. They also practiced with complex high-line rescue and pulley systems.
- Mia Libosada and Thomas Samples attended a conference at Nicolae Bălcescu Land Forces Academy in Sibiu, Romania, with other cadets from around Europe.
- Ayomide Adekola, Charlie Fendius and Komlan Sogah visited Brussels, Belgium, for an intelligence conference.
- Luis Lopez Montes, Tremaine Reid and Spencer Schwock traveled to Tallinn, Estonia, for the NATO Cyber Center of Excellence Conference.

Some of the cadet travel was paid for by the U.S. Department of Defense funding for UNG's Institute for Cyber Operations, while the Olmsted Foundation funded the Switzerland trip. The Olmsted Foundation gave a \$26,000 grant to UNG for 2022 and has provided more than \$140,500 in six years for international experiences for cadets from UNG, Georgia State University and historically black colleges and universities in Atlanta.



## Cadet wins AFCEA scholarship

Cadet Jaden Davidson was awarded an Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) merit scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. Davidson, 18, is a sophomore pursuing a degree in cybersecurity.

The scholarship requires applicants to have a minimum 2.8 GPA, have completed at least one semester, attend a metro Atlanta or north Georgia area college, and be a U.S. citizen.

Davidson currently serves as the AFCEA UNG chapter secretary, and recently completed a cadet exchange program in Taiwan.

## 16 cadets are Distinguished Military Students

Boar's Head Weekend, organized by the North Georgia Corps of Cadets Association, was held Sept. 23-25 and offered cadets mentoring and networking opportunities with corps alumni.

During the Distinguished Military Student (DMS) banquet, UNG cadets were recognized for the 2022-23 academic year.



To be selected as a DMS, a cadet must be in the upper half of the academic class, the upper third of the ROTC class, and the upper third of UNG's Order of Merit List, established by the professor of military science. Additionally, cadets are chosen based upon interest and aptitude for military service, outstanding qualities of leadership, and high moral character as demonstrated by participation and achievement in campus, civic and military activities.

This year's DMS honorees are Brian Aguilar Jimenez, William Allen, Jordan Armstrong, Andrew Flournoy, Jacob Hughes, Noah Isley, Devin Krass, Anthony Linatoc, Phillip Ly, Harrison Markham, William Morgan, Jordan Ryan, Nathan Sawyer, Joseph Stover, David Vinci, and Warren Walker.



**What else happened in 1873?** U.S. Congress passed the Coinage Act of 1873, abolishing bimetallism and placing the country on the gold standard.

## Nighthawks top Make-A-Wish fundraising for 13th year

The Department of Athletics once again earned the Peach Belt Conference's LeeAnn Noble Make-A-Wish Award for most funds raised in 2021-22, marking the 13th consecutive award for the university.

In 2021-22, UNG contributed \$13,851 for the Make-A-Wish program and also hosted a Make-A-Wish reveal in October 2021, the 20th wish the institution has granted.

UNG has finished in the top five NCAA Division II donors for 10 consecutive years, and it has been named top donor on seven different occasions. Since 2010, UNG has raised more than \$200,000 for Make-A-Wish with an average of \$10,000 given every year.



UNG granted a wish to student Walker Grant in October 2021 to receive assistance with his tuition.



## Baseball players named All-Americans

Baseball player Crews Taylor became UNG's second consensus All-American, earning second-team honors from American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings and third-team recognition from both the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and the D2 Conference Commissioners Association.

ABCA/Rawlings also tabbed Taylor as an All-Region performer and the Position Player of the Year in the Southeast Region.

The senior outfielder from Lawrenceville, Georgia, led the PBC in home runs, doubles, runs scored, slugging percentage, and total hits and was in the league's top 10 in batting average and RBI.

Additionally, UNG baseball player Nik Levensteins was named a College Sports Information Directors of America third-team Academic All-American.



## Five inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

Director of Athletics Mary Rob Plunkett and the Athletics Hall of Fame committee inducted the members of the 12th induction class into the North Georgia Athletics Hall of Fame in September.

The UNG Athletics Hall of Fame honors individuals who have earned outstanding athletic achievements or made substantial contributions to the university. A nine-member Board of Directors is responsible for operations of the Athletics Hall of Fame and serves as selectors for all honorees, based upon nominations.

The class consists of Jaymee (Carnes) Acton (women's basketball), Matt Elliott (men's golf), Vaughn Grizzle (employee, board member of Nighthawks Athletic Club), Anders Oster (baseball), and Courtney Poole (softball).



## 3 named tennis All-Americans

Three tennis players earned All-American honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) in 2022. Men's tennis player Joaquin Benoit was an All-American in singles, while the women's duo of Vaishali Jorge and Johanna Lippert received All-American recognition in doubles.

Head coach Kent Norsworthy was named the Wilson ITA Women's Coach of the Year for the Southeast Region after leading the Nighthawks to a 15-win season and a fifth consecutive NCAA appearance. The UNG women's tennis team also tied for the regular-season Peach Belt Conference championship.



**Joaquin Benoit**



**Vaishali Jorge**



**Johanna Lippert**

## Malasek earns PBC Scholar-Athlete of the Year award



The Peach Belt Conference (PBC) named women's soccer player Taylor Malasek as its Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2021-22. The award is the highest individual honor the PBC gives to student-athletes.

"Taylor truly encompasses all of the ideals we have at North Georgia, and we could not be more proud of her being

honored with this award," UNG Athletics Director Mary Rob Plunkett said. "This award is a testament to all Taylor has accomplished and is a perfect addition to her already illustrious career."

Malasek graduated in fall 2021 with a 3.96 GPA, a degree in biology, and a minor in honors research and innovation. She played five seasons for the Nighthawks, taking advantage of the extra year of eligibility the NCAA gave student-athletes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



UNG's softball team celebrates winning the 2015 NCAA Division II national championship.

*Photo courtesy of UNG Athletics*

# STEADY SOARING:

The Nighthawk Nation excels

BY CLARK LEONARD



Photo by Blake Poppell

Baseball head coach Tom Cantrell, women's basketball head coach Buffie Burson, men's and women's tennis head coach Kent Norsworthy, and softball head coach Mike Davenport have each served in their current roles at UNG for at least 17 years.

UNG's Department of Athletics is a model of stability and excellence. From championships in competition to success in the classroom and building future leaders, the Nighthawks have a winning formula.

The softball team's 2015 NCAA Division II national title and alumna Journey Gurley's 2021 Division II pole vault national title serve as high-water marks, but they are part of a broader narrative of sustained success.

Four of the cornerstones of that foundation are women's basketball head coach Buffie Burson, baseball head coach Tom Cantrell, softball head coach Mike Davenport, and men's and women's tennis head coach Kent Norsworthy, '01. The quartet has combined for 90 years of head coaching experience and 2,730 total victories at UNG. Plus, Norsworthy was a tennis student-athlete at UNG.

## Building on a strong foundation



Mary Rob Plunkett

Athletics Director Mary Rob Plunkett said the hard work of previous decades of North Georgia coaches and administrators paved the way for what is now widely considered one of the elite Division II athletics departments in the nation.

That includes people like Randy Dunn, '80, who served as athletics director after a 14-year stint as men's basketball head coach. Dunn oversaw UNG's transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II. All of those professional roles came after Dunn was a basketball student-athlete.

Photos courtesy of UNG Athletics



**Student Journey Gurley won the NCAA Division II pole vault national championship in May 2021.**

“There’s such a respect for the tradition and what has been,” Plunkett said. “At the same time we’re all striving as a unit to be better and to continue to chase excellence and championships that are expected here.”

Dunn served as assistant coach for men’s basketball under head coach Bill Ensley, who was also UNG’s longtime athletics director, when the program reached the 1982-83 and 1983-84 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Nationals. It also previously reached that level of postseason in 1995-96 when Dunn was coach. Dunn also helped hire all four of UNG’s longest-tenured coaches, and he takes pride in what they have accomplished as people and coaches.

“Everybody there wants to win national championships,” Dunn said. “And they want to win the right way.”

Lindsay Reeves oversaw a successful run of UNG Athletics for about a decade as athletics director before Plunkett took the lead of the department.

Burson, who began her UNG tenure ahead of the 1994-95 season, has seen facilities change and the student body grow. Yet she said the essence of the university’s appeal remains the same.

“The location of this university could not be better, not just for how pretty it is and the academic side of things. Being able to recruit this area within an hour or two of campus, it’s never changed,” Burson said. “We’ve been able to attract that kind of very high-caliber student-athlete and win at a high level.”

Davenport echoed that sentiment.

“We’re a state school, so we utilize the state system and resources and the HOPE Scholarship and our facilities and the beautiful mountains of north Georgia,” Davenport said. “There’s a lot to sell to get student-athletes up here, and it keeps getting better and better every year.”

## Results are undeniable

UNG has been wildly successful both at the NCAA and the NAIA levels.

Davenport has 975 victories and seven appearances in the eight-team NCAA championship round in his 22 years leading the softball program. His teams have made the national postseason in all but one of the years they were eligible, including 14 NCAA tournaments and four NAIA tournaments.

Burson has 596 wins and reached the 2022 NCAA Division II women’s basketball Final Four and the 2019 Elite Eight. Her program has earned five straight NCAA tournament berths and has totaled 10 regular-season conference titles and eight conference tournament championships during her tenure. Half of her 28 seasons have included an appearance in the NCAA or NAIA postseason. Her tenure began less than a decade after UNG’s 1986-87 team finished as NAIA national runner-up under head coach Lynne Jarrett. That previous success was part of what Burson aimed to replicate.

Cantrell has 793 victories in his 23 years at UNG, and he led the Nighthawks to the 2017 eight-team NCAA Championship. He has tallied nine national postseason appearances, six in NAIA and three in NCAA, and five regular-season conference titles.

Norsworthy has 366 wins between his two tennis teams and a total of 13 NCAA tournament appearances. His women's tennis team reached the NCAA Division II Elite Eight for the first time in program history in 2019.

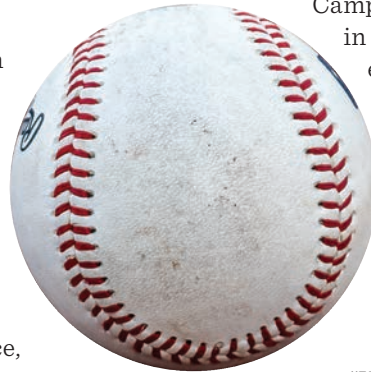
"We have seasoned veterans of coaches with hundreds of victories. They have thousands of hours in the gym, on the court, on the field, on the diamond. They continue to evolve with the student of today," Plunkett said. "One of the greatest things is they continue to excel and win. It's not the ebbs and the flows, the highs and the lows, but rather, it's sustained excellence."

Cantrell said the success is a product of people who believed in UNG's programs and invested financially, helping the coaches and teams have what they need. He and the other coaches pointed to the support of Dr. Bonita Jacobs and previous UNG presidents, along with Dr. Mac McConnell, senior vice president for business and finance, as vital to their results.

"I feel very blessed and thank God I came here with a dream and a vision 24 years ago," Cantrell said. "People called me crazy and said we'd never make it. Now we're a top-25 program in the country every year."

Norsworthy appreciates the balance among UNG's teams.

"Lot of universities focus on one or two or a handful of sports," Norsworthy said. "North Georgia has done a great job of trying to help everyone be successful. Everybody has opportunities, and we are taking advantage. We have buy-in and great administration."



## Facilities set UNG apart

The facilities at UNG continue to evolve and remain among the best in NCAA Division II.

Bob Stein Stadium, the baseball team's home, and Haines and Carolyn Hill Stadium, home to the softball team, have won multiple awards for their excellence.

The basketball teams began playing in the Convocation Center in 2018, and the soccer teams recently had upgrades to their facility.

A common thread among the baseball, basketball, softball and soccer fields is the recent donations from Lynn Cottrell providing for digital videoboards in their facilities.

UNG's cross country course on the Gainesville Campus served as host for the NCAA Southeast Regional in 2018, and the university won a bid to host the same event again in 2023. In total, UNG has hosted 35 NCAA regional championships on campus. Additionally, UNG hosted the 2022 NCAA women's golf championship in Gainesville and is scheduled to co-host four upcoming NCAA national championships, one in rowing in Gainesville and three in softball in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Cantrell said it all adds up to a unique experience.

"We have just as much to offer as any Division I school," Cantrell said. "We're an elite Division II university academically and athletically."

## Lakers also leave legacy of excellence

Gainesville Junior College (GJC), which later became UNG's Gainesville Campus, also had a strong athletic tradition in the brief time it fielded teams.

The GJC Lakers won women's basketball national championships in 1977 and 1978, and the GJC men's basketball team won the state championship in 1984.



**What else happened in 1873?** Levi Strauss, a California businessman and Jacob Davis, a tailor from Nevada, received a patent to create work pants reinforced with metal rivets. Blue jeans have since become a staple in everyone's wardrobe.

# Where I Lead:

## Working as part of a team

# Q

### What is your leadership style?

I would describe my leadership style as transformational. I am a firm believer in understanding what is expected from you and exceeding those expectations with hard work, research and contributing to change.

### What is your approach to taking on a new role?

There is no such thing as being overly prepared or ready to embark on a new journey. You're always going to encounter something new. Just be willing to learn. My approach to taking on a new role is being optimistic and having fun exploring what you enjoy and where your interests lie. I recently accepted the role of commissioned senator for multicultural students for the Student Government Association, and on my application process and interview I described what changes and developments I can contribute. It is always important to be determined and show integrity when approaching new opportunities.

### What have you learned at UNG about leadership?

Leadership isn't a narrow road. Do not feel pressured to figure everything out. It takes a lot more patience, team effort and hard work to navigate how to approach tasks. I've been equipped with knowledge, skills and ethics that have changed and shaped me. Be open to always learn and improve. Be the change you want to see happen.

### How have your groups helped others grow?

I enjoyed seeing people engaged and curious about other cultural backgrounds. It is important for people to step out of their comfort zone and be willing to ask questions. The Black Student Union executive board has expanded the outreach and advocacy of diversity and inclusion. We have collaborated with other multicultural groups and clubs to organize events such as "The Cookout – cultural celebration" with the International Student Association to represent diverse African countries and culture through different cuisines and presentation, as well as "Interact and Paint" with the Art Club, which highlighted the influence of Black artists and creatives.

### What's your plan for after graduation?

After graduating with my B.B.A. in management, I plan to enter the career fields of business or information technology. I have a passion for entrepreneurial development through business and tech. I plan to start up a creative agency dedicated to young adults who strive to create and develop innovative ideas through management and marketing.



Scan to learn more about  
Deborah Kakou.

# GEORGIA

## BIO

Deborah Kakou is scheduled to graduate in May 2023 with a degree in management. The Lawrenceville, Georgia, resident served as president of the Black Student Union at UNG's Gainesville Campus in 2021-22 and won the Outstanding Commitment to Diversity Award in 2022.

# UNG THROUGH THE YEARS

North Georgia Agricultural College opens its doors in January, as a result of the Morrill Act, which provided each state with 30,000 acres of land for each senator and representative. Proceeds from the sale of the land would be used to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges. David W. Lewis named first president of the college.

**1873**

When the first students enrolled in North Georgia Agricultural College in 1873, they were from a handful of communities in northeast Georgia. In the 2022-23 academic year, nearly 19,000 students enrolled at UNG, coming from 140 of the 159 counties in Georgia, 45 states and 85 countries. In its 150 years, UNG has celebrated numerous milestones, mined from the leadership of presidents, faculty, staff and students.

North Georgia Agricultural College becomes North Georgia College; reduced to a junior college until 1947 due to enrollment declines associated with the Great Depression and WWII.

Classes begin with 177 students—98 men and 79 women, providing UNG the distinction of being the first co-educational college in Georgia.

**1875**

Duel between students D. J. Underwood and V. R. Butts. Neither was hurt but there has been a cadet regulation on campus against dueling since.

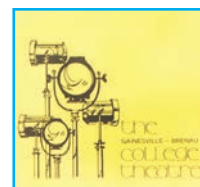
Gainesville Junior College is established. Hugh Mills is named first president.

First woman enrolls as a cadet at NGC.



The college receives military equipment and an instructor. The band program began representing the Corps of Cadets, with multiple names through the years including the NGAC Band, the NGC Band, and the Boar's Head Brigade Band. It was not until 1972 that the ceremonial band got its own original title of the Golden Eagle Band.

GJC and Brenau College collaborate to form Gainesville Theatre Alliance.



The Superior Court of Lumpkin County granted the school power to grant bachelor's, master's, and honorary degrees to men and women.

**1876**

**1878**

Willie Lewis, daughter of President Lewis, is the first woman to graduate. There was hesitancy to confer the degree to a woman, but the chancellor justified his decision based on the fact that a degree had been awarded to an older, married man, and, if a married man could be called a bachelor, so could a young woman.

NGC begins offering courses on campus of GJC campus.

NGC offers a BA Business Administration at Gainesville College

Benjamin Palmer Gaillard joined the faculty as a professor of Latin, mathematics and served for 60 years as a professor of science. A men's dormitory was built in his honor in the 1950s.

**1882**



**1916** 382 graduates, including 13 farmers, 1 mine superintendent, 3 mining engineers. Congress established the Reserve Officers Training Program, and the NGAC Corps of Cadets became a part of it.

**1929**

**1946** North Georgia College named Senior Military College.

**1964**

**1967** The first Black student enrolls at NGC.

**1973**

**1977** GJC Women's Basketball team wins national championship.



**1979**

**1983** GJC Men's basketball takes state championship.



**1884**

**1987** GJC becomes Gainesville College.

**1989**

**1990** GTA performs The Scarlet Pimpernel at the JFK Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC. Summer Scholars Institute begins.



NGC becomes North Georgia College & State University, reflecting its growth in academic programs and enrollment. Gainesville College serves as official parking site for 1996 Olympics Canoe/Kayak venue, parking more than 52,000 vehicles.

**1996**

**1999** Gainesville College becomes the first two-year college to establish an Eminent Scholar Chair.

**2001** Gainesville College offers classes at a temporary Athens location. Lewis F. Rogers Institute for Environmental and Spatial Analysis established at Gainesville College.

**2003**

Oconeel Campus established and the non-residential campus serves Gainesville College students in Athens and Watkinsville. Gainesville College becomes one of the first tobacco-free campuses in the nation.

**2005** Gainesville College becomes Gainesville State College

**2007**



GSC adopts Fighting Geese as its new mascot, Laker T. Goose becomes an icon within the college's culture.

**2008** NGCSU no longer requires resident male students to belong to the Corps of Cadets. GSC awards four-year degrees to 25 students in its first baccalaureate graduating class.

University System of Georgia's Board of Regents announces consolidation plans for GSC and NGCSU.

**2012**

Cumming Campus is opens as the result of a collaboration between NGCSU and GSC.

**2013** First year of serving students as the University of North Georgia.

Blue Ridge Campus opens.

**2015**

**2021** UNG offers first Ph.D. program.

UNG celebrates 150 years of serving the region, state and nation.

**2022**

# 150 YEARS

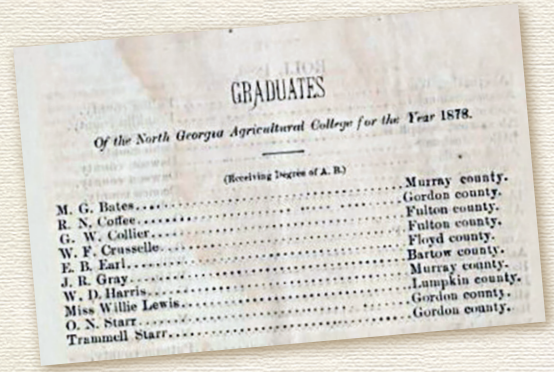
Scholarship | Leadership | Service

Over the past 150 years, items of significance to the histories of North Georgia Agricultural College, North Georgia College, Gainesville Junior College, Gainesville State College, and North Georgia College & State University have been donated to UNG for posterity. The artifacts are historical and of cultural interest as we learn about the rich history of UNG.

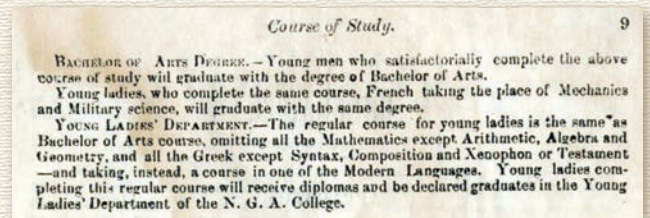
*The images are courtesy of the UNG Library Special Collections & Archives, provided by Allison Galloup, associate professor, Special Collections & Digital Initiatives Librarian.*



Known as the “Blue Book,” the regulations for members of the Boar’s Head Brigade at the University of North Georgia have changed physically, but the premise of honor, integrity and tradition continues. The cover of the original “Blue Book” was actually green.



A listing of the North Georgia Agricultural College class of 1878 shows 10 graduates, including the first woman student, Miss Willie Lewis, making the college the state’s first co-educational institution. At the time, students were predominantly Georgia natives. Today University of North Georgia students come from five of the seven continents.



Students at North Georgia Agricultural College were offered a limited course of study. The University of North Georgia offers students 140+ programs of study throughout five campuses and online.



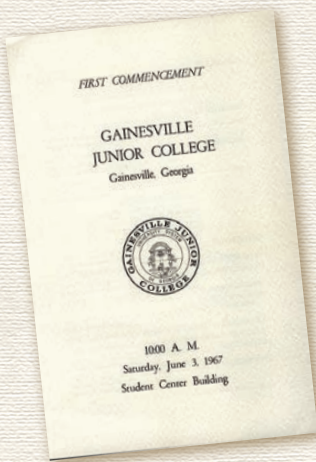
The landscape of the University of North Georgia’s Dahlonega Campus has changed over the past 150 years.



The steeple atop Price Memorial Hall was gilded in 1973 in honor of North Georgia College's centennial celebration, and a second time in 1999. Most recently it was gilded in 2019.



Cadets wore the Battle Dress Uniform from the early 1980s to mid-2000s. It was superseded by the Army Combat Uniform in 2004.



Gainesville Junior College held its first commencement June 3, 1967. It was originally founded in March 1964.



Survey equipment of student J. C. Barnes dating back to 1911 included a handmade pick axe. Mining engineering was a course of study offered at North Georgia Agricultural College.



The North Georgia Agricultural College band consisted of 15 members. The University of North Georgia Golden Eagle Band, including percussion, low brass and woodwinds, is the oldest college marching band in the state of Georgia and is one of the oldest in the United States.

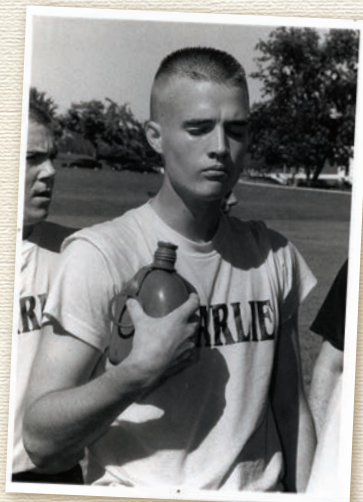


This NGAC mortarboard and Cyclops yearbook highlight time-honored collegiate traditions.

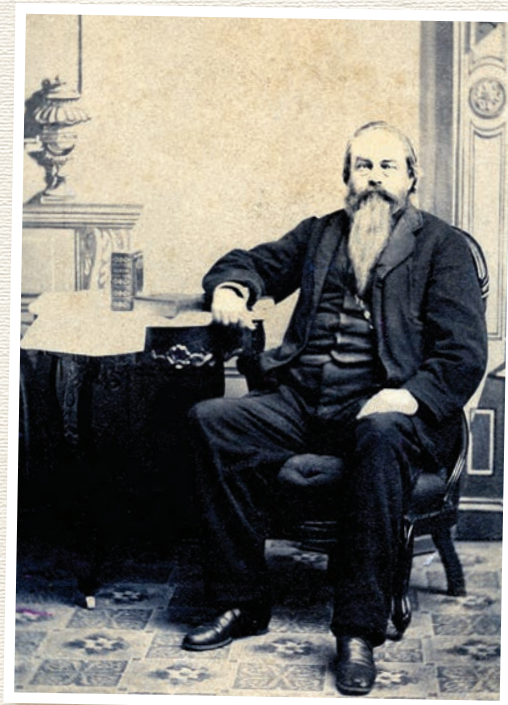


Gainesville State College graduates its first class with its new name, which took effect in 2005.

Freshmen Recruiting Orientation Group (FROG) Week provides an opportunity for freshmen to experience cadet life at the University of North Georgia. At that time, they are assigned a company within the corps and create lifelong friendships.



David W. Lewis, the first president of the North Georgia Agricultural College, donated his personal library to the school upon taking office. Lewis was also one of two professors at the school teaching Greek and English literature. Offerings included law, Latin, mathematics, science, history, and philosophy.





The Presidential Medallion is the badge of office for the presidency. The Latin words “Officium Edotrina Eruditio” on the NGC presidential medallion, shown here with book of minutes of the Board of Trustees, translate to “Duty, Teaching, Learning.”



The Gainesville Theatre Alliance has played a key role for students and the community. Whether acting in a production, working on sets or creating playbills, participants have crafted skills supporting life and career success.



NGCSU President Dr. John Owen reviews the Boar's Head Brigade circa 1970. He became president of North Georgia College in 1970 and is credited with developing an alumni association for NGC.

# *Where I Lead:* Helping others grow.

## BIO

**Wayne Baird '89**, serves as executive director of operations and management for two Chick-fil-A restaurants in Nashville, Tennessee. He is president of UNG's Alumni Association and serves as one of three honorary co-chairs for UNG's Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee and on the Board of Advisors for the Mike Cottrell College of Business.



## What do you enjoy most about your role with Chick-fil-A?

Chick-fil-A attracts excellent employees. Some come to us looking for career opportunities. Others are only looking for some type of short-term employment, which means they are either in school or just looking to supplement their income. It is crucial for us, as leaders, to identify what success looks like for each person and help them reach their goals. For me, I have leaders who range in age from their 20s to their 60s and all of them are in different phases of life, so each one will have different life goals, and how they determine success is very different. It is critical for me to facilitate their growth in the company and achieve their work and life goals. Being a small part of their success is what drives me. If they are successful, I am successful.

### **How did UNG and the Corps of Cadets prepare you for success?**

When I walked on this beautiful campus, I was put in a squad with other freshman cadets. This is where I began to see what it looked like to be a follower. It doesn't matter if you have a great leader or not, this is where leaders are born. To be a great leader first, you must learn to be a follower. Then, starting in my sophomore year I began leading people while also having to answer to an upperclassman. I learned how to lead and how to follow. Wherever you are in your career, it's likely you'll be filling both roles at the same time. The power of influence looks the same each way.

### **How do you view your role with the Alumni Association?**

My job is to help the Alumni Association meet its goals and objectives while adhering to the overall mission of the university. When my term as president is up, it is essential for me to leave it better than I found it.

### **What does it mean to you to be able to help celebrate UNG's Sesquicentennial?**

There are so many things to be proud of. This university is 150 years old. The Corps of Cadets is also 150 years old. We were the first institution in Georgia to admit a woman into higher education. Time and time again the University of North Georgia continues to solidify its place as a high-level leadership factory. We have something to celebrate, and I'm very fortunate to be a small part.

### **How do you help others become more successful?**

I do one thing. I help others take ownership and become stakeholders in their roles. I execute that by assisting them in solving problems, making decisions and replicating that process.

# GENERAL EXCELLENCE: UNG produces top Army leaders

BY CLARK LEONARD

*Photos courtesy of U.S. Army*



**Brig. Gen. Charles  
"Rob" Parker, '93**

Brig. Gen. Charles "Rob" Parker, '93, always appreciates when someone notices his class ring and mistakes it for being from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. It's a chance to talk about what the University of North Georgia's Corps of Cadets meant to him in the early days of his

leadership experience and even to this day. Parker now serves as commanding general of the U.S. Army 7th Signal Command (Theater) and deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command.

"It's an opportunity to educate and share what makes North Georgia different," Parker said. "With the University of North Georgia experience in a liberal arts environment, you have the opportunity to interact with a lot of students and faculty who are not involved in the military."

"Each year, the Boar's Head Brigade provides hands-on leadership experience for the next generation of Army officers. I am proud to continue the tradition of teaching and mentoring leaders of strong moral character for our nation."

— Retired Col. Joseph Matthews, commandant of cadets

Indeed, UNG has been different from the start. Founded in 1873, UNG is one of six federally designated senior military colleges in the United States. It has produced 60 flag officers across the nation's military branches in the past 150 years. Digging deeper, UNG alumni are serving in command roles at every level of the Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

"The traditions of academic excellence, military discipline and caring leadership ring true throughout the generations of officers from Dahlonge," retired Col. Joseph Matthews, '94, UNG's commandant of cadets, said. "Each year, the Boar's Head Brigade provides hands-on leadership experience for the next generation of Army officers. I am proud to continue the tradition of teaching and mentoring leaders of strong moral character for our nation."

## Well-rounded model

Lt. Gen. James "Jamie" Jarrard, '88, became the latest UNG alumnus to reach three-star general when he took the role of deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific



**Lt. Gen. James  
"Jamie" Jarrard, '88**



in July 2022. He is part of the class of 1988 that produced five generals:

The other four are Lt. Gen. Paul Calvert, Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard, retired Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, and retired Brig. Gen. Michael Scholes.

Jarrard, who is stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, also pointed to the interactions with civilians as an element that sets UNG's educational model apart from other military colleges. "UNG taught me more about leadership," Jarrard said. "It's more representative of the Army because it's not all black and white, and there are numerous factors that come into your decision-making."

Col. Greta Railsback, '99, commander of the Soldier Recovery Brigade for the National Capital Region at Walter Reed, is the highest-ranking female graduate of



**Col. Greta Railsback, '99**

the Corps of Cadets. She particularly appreciated the trial-and-error nature of leadership training at UNG.

"It not only allows you to fail. It makes you fail," Railsback said. "It's good to make those mistakes early instead of when it could cost a life."

## Prepared from the start

The Corps of Cadets is a leadership laboratory that allows cadets to hone their skills. The Army benefits once those cadets graduate and become second lieutenants.

"You can evolve and adapt as a leader through four years in the Corps of Cadets," retired Lt. Gen. James Terry, '78, said. "You hit the street running when you graduate and go into a professional world, whether it be business or whether it be the military. That leadership experience will be with you the rest of your life."

Terry is one of three UNG alumni to serve as commander of Operation Inherent Resolve, the multi-national coalition combatting ISIL. The other two graduates are retired Gen. Stephen Townsend, '82, and Calvert.



**Lt. Gen. James Terry, '78**

Railsback said one of the main ingredients is the quality of cadets UNG attracts.

"They're recruiting people with character," Railsback said. "They're not assuming they can build character."

Once those cadets gain exposure to the Corps of Cadets, they are set up to succeed.

"North Georgia does what it does well. That builds leaders," Railsback said. "It sets the foundation and gets it right at the tactical level."

Parker, who previously served at the Pentagon and is now stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, marvels at the way his UNG education remains timely decades later.

"When I reflect on my time at UNG, it's the skills, attributes and insights learned during those four-plus years that never go out of style," Parker said. "They taught me to lead with character, competence, compassion and commitment."

## Providing National Guard officers

One of the major missions of UNG's Corps of Cadets is producing officers from the Georgia Army National Guard.

Each year, the state offers the UNG Military Scholarship to 42 Georgia high school seniors who attend UNG, serve in the Georgia Army National Guard while in the corps, and commission as second lieutenants in the Georgia Army National Guard after graduating with bachelor's degrees.

Brig. Gen. Richard "Dwayne" Wilson, '93, serves as commanding general of the Georgia Army National Guard. He sees firsthand the fruits

of leadership training at UNG, receiving about 40 second lieutenants from the university each year.

"They're very disciplined. They're competent. They're committed. They're fit. They're enthusiastic about serving and leading," Wilson said. "We are certainly a huge benefactor of the program. I feel very blessed with the partnership we have with the school. We see great leaders across the board."



**Brig. Gen. Richard "Dwayne" Wilson, '93**

## Flag Officers from UNG

RANKING	NAME	YEAR ATTENDED/GRADUATED	BRANCH
Gen.	Courtney H. Hodges	1903	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Hughes L. Ash	1932	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Fred W. Collins	1935	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	George M. Johnson Jr.	1938	U.S. AIR FORCE
Maj. Gen.	Edward M. Nichols	1939	U.S. AIR FORCE
Vice Admiral	Robert H. Scarborough Jr.	1941	U.S. COAST GUARD
Rear Admiral	Robert Parker Hilton	1945	U.S. NAVY
Brig. Gen.	Thomas N. Saffold	1947	U.S. AIR FORCE
Brig. Gen.	Alton H. Craig	1948	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Ben L. Upchurch Sr.	1948	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Emory C. Parrish	1950	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Ben L. Patterson Jr.	1950	U.S. AIR FORCE
Brig. Gen.	James (Jimmy) M. Cook	1951	U.S. ARMY
Gen.	William J. Livsey	1952	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Houston Parks Houser	1952-1953	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Thurman E. Anderson	1953	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Grail L. Brookshire	1953	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Josiah Blasingame Jr.	1954	U.S. ARMY
Rear Admiral	Bobby C. Lee	1954-1956	U.S. NAVY
Brig. Gen.	John E. Rogers	1955	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	Burton D. Patrick	1957	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	William V. Wigley	1957	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Jere H. Akin	1959	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Joseph Breedlove	1959	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	William K. McDaniel	1959	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	James A. Guest	1960	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Edison E. Scholes	1961	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Jack C. Wheeler	1961	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	James E. Livingston	1961 (NGC 1957)	U.S. MARINE CORPS, MEDAL OF HONOR

Wilson knows from his own experience in the corps and the new officers UNG sends him annually that the model of escalating leadership responsibility throughout cadets' time at UNG pays dividends.

"UNG's model prepares our young lieutenants very well to serve at the tactical level," Wilson said. "It prepares leaders better than most other commissioning sources."

## Focus remains serving others

No matter how high UNG alumni rise in the ranks of the Army or other military branches, the constant remains the ideal of service to others and humble teamwork.

"In the Army, we're lucky to have these people from different walks of life who have committed their lives to protecting our nation," Parker said. "They deserve the best leadership, the best equipment, and the best systems. That's a high bar. That's my goal to wake up each day and deliver that."

Likewise, Lt. Gen. James Jarrard is less concerned with what his new role means for him and more focused on how he can remove obstacles for others.

"I really enjoy using my position for good to help those who are trying to do something good," Jarrard said. "It's rewarding to be able to help others in their career."

RANKING	NAME	YEAR ATTENDED/GRADUATED	BRANCH
Maj. Gen.	Robert K. Guest	1963	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Thomas W. Dalton	1963	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Marvin E. Mitchiner	1964	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Robert W. Roper	1965	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	James J. Cravens	1966	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	Henry T. Glisson	1966	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Henry E. Tinley	1966	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Edward H. (Rusty) Hightower	1966	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Steven E. Blanton	1970	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	David L. Grange	1970	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Phillip M. Mattox	1970	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Alan W. Thrasher	1972	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	William H. Johnson	1972	U.S. ARMY RESERVE
Brig. Gen.	Robert L. Decker	1973	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	Randaulph (Randy) Mixon	1975	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Timothy D. Livsey	1978	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	James L. Terry	1978	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	William B. Garrett	1981	U.S. ARMY
Gen.	Stephen J. Townsend	1982	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	Stephen G. Fogarty	1983	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Timothy B. Britt	1983	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Allan Elliott	1984	U.S. ARMY RESERVE
Brig. Gen.	Ronald Stephens	1986	U.S. ARMY
Maj. Gen.	Joseph F. Jarrard	1988	U.S. ARMY*
Maj. Gen.	William K. Gayler	1988	U.S. ARMY
Lt. Gen.	Paul T. Calvert	1988	U.S. ARMY*
Lt. Gen.	James B. Jarrard	1988	U.S. ARMY*
Brig. Gen.	Michael L. Scholes	1988	U.S. ARMY
Brig. Gen.	Richard (Dwayne) Wilson	1993	U.S. ARMY*
Brig. Gen.	Charles R. (Rob) Parker	1993	U.S. ARMY*
Brig. Gen.	Kevin J. Lambert	1993	U.S. ARMY*

\*indicates officer still on active duty



*Courtesy of the UNG Library Special Collections & Archives*

The first graduating class of North Georgia Agricultural College, the class of 1878, assembled outside what is now Price Memorial Hall — which also housed their classrooms. Standing, left to right: Trammell Starr, Elias (E. B.) Earle, George W. Collier, William D. (W. D.) Harris, Oliver N. Starr. Seated, left to right: George Coffee, W. Frank Crusselle, Miss Willie Lewis, James R. Gray, Millius (M. G.) Bates.

# The First Graduates

## What we know

BY DENISE RAY

Long before UNG students became Fulbright scholars, division-winning athletes, and generals in the U.S. Army, the first group of graduates of North Georgia Agriculture College earned degrees in 1878.

UNG formally began enrolling students in January 1873 as North Georgia Agricultural College (NGAC). In its first year, the school enrolled 98 males and 79 females, making it the first college in the state to offer co-educational enrollment. Shortly thereafter in 1878, it became the first co-ed college in the state to graduate a female student. The school was an agriculture college in name only. In 1902 it established its first — and only — agricultural chair.

Willie Lewis (December 1862-December 1903), daughter of NGAC President David W. Lewis and the first woman to graduate from a Georgia public college with a bachelor's degree, became a teacher. She later married James H. Littlefield in 1884 and had moved to Harrison, Texas, in 1900. They had two sons.

Classmate Trammell Starr (October 1857-October 1896) taught school at Fort Mountain in Murray County, Georgia. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1879. For 10 years he lived in Spring Place, practicing law, and for a while was owner and editor of the Murray Times. He married Onie Kelly in 1884 and the couple moved to Dalton in 1890. They had three children. Starr was elected state senator in 1894. He joined the Masons, and was a Worshipful Master for years. He was buried with Masonic honors from the First Methodist Church in Dalton.

Starr's younger brother, retired Col. Oliver N. Starr (July 1854-January 1922) was a teacher in Gordon County, Georgia, after graduation. He married Ella Harlan. Following a military career, Starr was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1879. He became president of the Calhoun National Bank in 1907. Starr served in both the Senate and House of the Georgia General Assembly, representing Gordon County.

James R. Gray (September 1859-June 1917), like the Starr brothers, was an attorney, practicing law in Bartow County, Georgia. He later became editor for The Atlanta Journal. Gray married May Inman in 1882. They had five children and the family is buried alongside one another in Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia.

Like his classmate Gray, W. Frank Crusselle (August 1861-June 1928) entered the field of journalism, becoming the editor of the Atlanta Constitution. He had previously been an adjunct professor of Greek and English and assistant instructor of military tactics at NGAC. Crusselle married the former Mary Lewis, younger daughter of President Lewis, in 1886, and they had three children. He died at 67.

George W. Collier (November 1848-July 1923) married the former Annie Mays on Jan. 6, 1880. They built a home on what is now Ansley Park, near Atlanta. The house exterior was remodeled, but still stands today. Collier operated a grocery store in Five Points, which would serve as Atlanta's first post office in 1846, when Collier became the first postmaster of Marthasville, Georgia.

Millius Gather Bates (June 1854-October 1920) also became adjunct professor of Latin and assistant instructor of military tactics at NGAC, and principal of Boys Primary Department. He married the former Luci Bettis on Dec. 25, 1879, and they had six children. Bates moved his family to Fort Worth, Texas, where he became superintendent of schools. The State of Texas created the county board of education in 1911 and Bates became the first superintendent for Cass County. Bates was from Murray County, Georgia.

Elias (E. B.) Earl (July 1853-June 1893) of Floyd County, Georgia, also became a teacher. Earl married Agnes Z. McCollum in Alpharetta, Georgia, Dec. 17, 1879. The couple lived in Bartow County. Earl was appointed U. S. Postmaster of Adairsville in September 1885. He died in 1893 in Greenville, South Carolina.

William Dawson Harris (February 1852-February 1916), a Dahlonega native, married the former Mary Rush "Mollie" Temple in Murray County, Georgia, in 1879. They had five children. In 1910, the family moved to Fort Worth, Texas. Harris pursued a career in law and later became a circuit judge in Fort Worth.

George Coffee (May 1852-July 1927), also a native of the Peach State, Coffee grew up in Calhoun, Georgia, and pursued career in law. In 1881, he married Dora Coffee and they had seven children.



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# CLASSNOTES

## 2000s



**Linda Bearden, '02**, is the new principal at Robinson Elementary School in Dawsonville, Georgia. She earned a Master of Education degree with a major in early childhood education at UNG.

**Renea Green, '05**, was promoted by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) to assistant special agent in charge of the GBI's Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit. She will be responsible for the supervision of the staff assigned to this statewide unit that conducts investigations involving child exploitation including child pornography, child sex trafficking, and the forensic examination of electronic devices.

## Lt. Gen. James Jarrard earns third star



**Lt. Gen. James "Jamie" Jarrard, '88**, has earned his third star and now serves as deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific in Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

He is part of UNG's class of 1988, which has produced five generals. The other four are **Lt. Gen. Paul Calvert**, **Maj. Gen. Joe Jarrard**, retired **Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler**, and retired **Brig. Gen. Michael Scholes**.

Jarrard served in the National Guard while at UNG, then commissioned and entered active duty in May 1988.

He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from UNG and a Master of Science in military operational art and science from the Air University.



**Kelly Fuchs, '06, '08, '12**, joined Coal Mountain Elementary in Cumming, Georgia, this academic year as the new principal. Fuchs holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and special education, as well as a master's and Education Specialist degrees in school leadership from UNG.

## 2010s

**Danny Wright, '13**, has been named the new Roane State Community College police chief in Harriman, Tennessee. He previously served as the college's interim police chief. Wright earned his Master of Science degree in criminal justice from UNG.

**Alexander Popp, '16**, has joined Appen Media Group's staff as a reporter. Popp covers local government and public safety in Forsyth County and the City of Alpharetta. He graduated from UNG with a degree in communication.

**Jeff Adams, '16**, is the new director of Habersham County Emergency Services. Adams, who earned an associate degree in biology from UNG, was previously the business services and training chief for the department. He's also a paramedic and certified trauma and fire instructor who has worked in emergency services for 24 years.





**Monica Phelps-Pineda, '17**, won the National Board of Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Award, which included a \$20,000 prize. The award will help the Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling graduate with her goal of securing a faculty position in a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program.

**Will Anglin, '18**, has been named the Dawson County High School women's basketball head coach. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education mathematics and has twice been named Best Teacher in the Best of Dawson awards.

**Haley Wolf, '18**, has been promoted to marketing and public relations manager at M3, where she has worked since 2018. She led the company to win five hospitality awards in the past year.

## 2020s



**Leah Pennell, '22**, has earned an \$8,500 Phi Kappa Phi fellowship and will use it to fund research at Georgia Institute of Technology, where she is pursuing a doctoral degree in molecular and cellular biology. Pennell earned her bachelor's degree in biology from UNG.

## Brig. Gen. Rob Parker takes new command



**Brig. Gen. Charles "Rob" Parker, '93** has taken on a new role as commanding general of the U.S. Army 7th Signal Command and deputy commanding general for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command.

The alumnus commands a nationwide workforce of more than 6,000 soldiers and civilians across the continental United States conducting Department of Defense Information Network Operations to enable all warfighting functions for the Army and Joint Force.

Parker earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from UNG.

To submit a class note or update your contact information email the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@ung.edu](mailto:alumni@ung.edu).



**What else happened in 1873?** In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a group of men designed the Sholes & Glidden 'Type Writer.' It was the first commercially successful device that rapidly printed alphanumeric characters on paper in any order. The model used a lever-action key mechanism, inked ribbon, and cylindrical, shifting platen. It also incorporated the 'QWERTY' keyboard layout, which minimized sticking keys. The 'Type Writer' created a demand for typists that enabled women to enter the business world in unprecedented numbers.

# In Memoriam

## ALUMNI

**Mr. Charles Edwin Adkins '55**  
June 19, 2022

**Dr. Thomas McCall Allen '58**  
September 10, 2022

**Mrs. Sarah Anne Armstrong '03**  
April 16, 2022

**Mr. Eldon Lyle Arndt '88**  
April 23, 2022

**Mr. Gilbert W. Bell '69**  
July 12, 2022

**Mr. Jimmy Lee Berrong '82**  
April 15, 2022

**Mr. Bobby Blackwell '43**  
March 9, 2022

**Mr. Jerry Wayne Brady '85**  
May 7, 2022

**Mr. Victor A. Brown '64**  
May 18, 2022

**Mr. Warren Garlon Cagle '49**  
April 5, 2022

**COL (Ret.) Lewis Lovelace Carter '60**  
July 6, 2022

**Mr. Blyth M. Chester '13**  
June 30, 2022

**BG (Ret.) Alton Harold Craig '48**  
July 13, 2022

**Mrs. Carol Ann Crawford '59**  
June 11, 2022

**Mrs. Flora Geneva Crawford '43**  
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**Mr. Tyler Lee Dillard '10**  
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August 7, 2022

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July 6, 2022

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June 23, 2022

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March 18, 2022

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March 26, 2022

**Mr. Arnold Edward Gurley '62**  
June 8, 2022

**Mr. Roy Timothy Hammond '69**  
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**Mr. Brad Fielder Hardman '12**  
March 31, 2022

**Mr. Thomas Wayne Hunnicutt '69**  
June 16, 2022

**Mr. William Reynolds Jennings '22**  
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**Mr. Jim Burson Mallory '75**  
April 17, 2022

**Mr. Patrick Allan McCarthy '69**  
June 27, 2022

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June 24, 2022

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May 20, 2022

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April 1, 2022

**Mr. Frederick William Mingledorff '43**  
July 29, 2022

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September 28, 2022

**Mr. Leon Terry Odom '75**  
September 1, 2022

**Dr. Herbert Devone Outlaw '78**  
July 2, 2022

**Mr. Harold Gilmer Palmer '80**  
June 26, 2022

**Mr. Rajesh Vinodbhai Patel '85**  
April 17, 2022

**Mr. Matthew Douglas Peebles '94**  
June 30, 2022

**Mrs. Geraldine Perrin '54**  
June 17, 2022

**Mrs. Catherine M. Phillips '13**  
June 15, 2022

**Mr. Richard Kenneth Phillips '62**  
July 16, 2022

**Mr. Matthew Al Pirkle '04**  
July 28, 2022

**Mrs. Jane J. Richards '78**  
May 6, 2022

**Mr. Joseph H. Roof '70**  
September 7, 2022

**Mr. Charles Thomas Schell '92**  
July 14, 2022

**Mrs. Kelli Taylor Schell '93**  
July 14, 2022

**Mrs. Jessica Jean Sheppard '43**  
September 24, 2022

**Mr. Gladstone Ferle Snell '52**  
July 3, 2022

**Mrs. Kristen Lynn Stowers '07**  
September 23, 2022

**Mrs. Sabrina Maree Tatum '78**  
June 5, 2022

**Mr. Marvin Lee Taylor '52**  
July 13, 2022

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September 17, 2022

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April 24, 2022

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April 21, 2022

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June 8, 2022

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August 18, 2022

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September 17, 2022

## FACULTY/STAFF/FRIENDS

**Mrs. Mary Carmichael**  
August 11, 2022

**Rev. Frank Colladay**  
October 15, 2022

# Upcoming Events

## DECEMBER

### December 1

13th Annual Women's Holiday Scholarship Luncheon  
Chattahoochee Country Club

### December 15-16

Corps of Cadets  
Fall 2022 Commissioning  
Dahlonoga Campus

### December 17

Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremonies  
Dahlonoga Campus

## JANUARY

### January 8

Corps of Cadets  
FROG Graduation  
Dahlonoga Campus

### January 9

Classes begin for Spring Semester

### January 31

Golden Brass Series: Guest Artist Peter Steiner, trombone  
Dahlonoga Campus

## FEBRUARY

### February 6

A Little Night(hawk)  
Music Concert Series:  
Dr. Phil Snyder, cello & guitar  
Gainesville Campus

### February 18

Kappa Delta 50th Anniversary  
Legacy Lodge Hotel & Restaurant

### February 25

Nighthawk Preview  
Dahlonoga Campus

### February 25-26

Homecoming Weekend  
Dahlonoga Campus

### February 25

Rex Fraternity Reunion  
Cottrell Center for Business, Technology & Innovation  
Dahlonoga Campus

## MARCH

### March 2

Sinfonietta Concert  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 4

Nighthawk Preview  
Oconee Campus

### March 4

Phi Mu 50th Anniversary  
Chattahoochee Country Club

### March 5

7th Annual Women's Leadership Recognition Luncheon  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 5

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert Series: Faculty Jazz Concert  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 6

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert Series: Faculty Jazz Concert  
Gainesville Campus

### March 13-17

Spring Break

### March 21

Golden Brass Series: Spring Euphoria: Dr. Adam Frey, euphonium & Miya Suen, piano  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 23

Nighthawk Preview  
Blue Ridge Campus

### March 24

28th Annual Research Conference  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 25

Nighthawk Preview  
Cumming Campus

### March 27

Corps of Cadets Military Ball  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 30

Corps of Cadets Military Awards Ceremony  
Dahlonoga Campus

### March 31-April 2

Corps of Cadets National Leadership Challenge  
Dahlonoga Campus

## APRIL

### April 1

Nighthawk Preview  
Gainesville Campus

### April 3

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert Series: Dr. Esther Morgan-Ellis & Friends  
Gainesville Campus

### April 4

Student Honors and Awards Day  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 4

A Little Night(hawk) Music Concert Series: Dr. Esther Morgan-Ellis & Friends  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 5

Student Honors and Awards Day  
Gainesville Campus

### April 6

Student Honors and Awards Day  
Oconee Campus

### April 11

Patriot Choir concert  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 14

2023 Parent-Alumni Weekend  
Corps of Cadets Memorial Retreat & Review  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 14

Class of '73 50th Reunion  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 14-16

Corps of Cadets Memorial Retreat & Review  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 15

UNG Bands Concert  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 15

Sigma Nu Fraternity 50th Anniversary  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 20

UNG Chorale Spring Concert  
Gainesville Campus

### April 21

Class of '63 60th Reunion  
Dahlonoga Campus

### April 26

UNG Remembers Day  
All Campuses

### April 27

Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert  
Gainesville Campus

## MAY

### May 3-5

Corps of Cadets Spring 2023 Commissioning  
Dahlonoga Campus

### May 5-6

Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremonies

Visit [calendar.ung.edu](https://calendar.ung.edu) for times and other details, as well as additional event opportunities. Visit [ungalumni.org](https://ungalumni.org) for updates related to alumni events.

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