

# DIVERSITY

at UGA.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Volume 18 • No. 2 • Spring 2019



## A message from Michelle Garfield Cook

*Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion  
and Strategic University Initiatives*

It is spring in Athens, Georgia. This is an exciting time to be at the University of Georgia. Walking across our campus, the one word that comes to mind is VIBRANT. This institution is a vibrant place as we officially enter spring. Vibrant is defined by Merriam-Webster as “pulsating with life, vigor or activity.” We definitely experience that here, as students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors move through the campus engaged in a variety of activities ranging from academic exploration to community service and simply having fun with friends.

So much of the vibrancy that we experience at UGA is manifest in the many opportunities that we have to enjoy our community. A community that is diverse, broad and incredibly engaged. Events highlighted in this newsletter, as well as kudos received and contributions recognized, are a testament to that vibrancy.

Campus events such as the Holmes-Hunter Lecture and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast provide us an opportunity to hear from prominent speakers who challenge us, even as they affirm our

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Monica Kaufman Pearson delivers the 2019 Holmes-Hunter Lecture, held Feb. 7 in the Chapel.

## Monica Kaufman Pearson roots out history in Holmes-Hunter Lecture

How does the root of racism grow, and what feeds it? Veteran television journalist and broadcaster Monica Kaufman Pearson, the first African American to anchor an Atlanta-area evening newscast, posed those questions during the 2019 Holmes-Hunter Lecture this spring.

The lecture, named in honor of Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes, the first African-American students to attend the University of Georgia, has been held annually since 1985 and focuses on race relations, civil rights and education.

“It’s finally time for us—and you young people are going to be the ones to do it—to get to that root of racism, yank it out of our culture and destroy it,” she said.

According to Pearson, the roots continue to grow when those messages are passed down from generation to generation, when people don’t admit their biases, when people embrace the stereotypes they see in movies and television and when people aren’t sensitive to the feelings of others.

Getting to know each other on a personal level—eating, working, studying and playing together—is a way Pearson suggests to overcome those issues.

“Being a teammate doesn’t always mean you’re really part of the team,” she said. “How you see yourself may not be how your teammates see you, and that can be a problem and cause misunderstandings.”

An open and honest dialogue is key to preventing those misunderstandings, she said, and that means explaining why something was hurtful and not allowing stereotypes to filter into conversations.

“Be aware, and understand the consequences of racism,” she said. “Ask yourself if it’s fair to judge an entire race—an entire community—based on the actions of one person.”

To read the full story, visit [t.uga.edu/4Ki](http://t.uga.edu/4Ki)

# UGA hosts annual Freedom Breakfast

Tiffany Cochran Edwards had three simple pieces of advice to those who attended the 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast: cultivate optimism in all that you do, be of service to your community and those around you and fulfill your own unique destiny.

“We are here today because the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. laid a solid foundation for what is right and just for this country—a social consciousness that really permeates in every area of our life—and it should still drive us today,” she said.

Edwards served as a news anchor for 17 years, 10 of them in Atlanta. She currently is the national brand manager and public relations director for The Cochran Firm, the national law firm founded by her father, the late attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. Since her father’s death from a brain tumor 13 years ago, she also has focused on raising money for the Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Brain Tumor Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The theme for this year’s breakfast was “The Power of the Dream: Building the Beloved Community,” something King regularly called for in his speeches. This community could only be formed, he said, by love and understanding.

Today, our country is very divided, Edwards said, and some messages are loud and cruel. But there’s hope of building King’s community yet.

“We are truly at a crossroads today,” she said. “But I’m here this morning to speak about the other side, the world Dr. King envisioned for his four children and the world I envision for my daughter and all of your children, grandchildren and the young people you come into contact with right here on this campus. My favorite quote from Dr. King is ‘Without love, there is no reason to know anyone, for love will, in the end, connect us to our neighbors, our children and our hearts.’ It’s such a simple quote, but it shows us a world filled with love is a world worth working for no matter how difficult it is.”

Creating this world means loving one another despite and because of our differences, Edwards said. It’s a tough task, but one worth achieving.



Tiffany Cochran Edwards gave the keynote address at UGA’s 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast.

Read more at [t.uga.edu/4Kj](http://t.uga.edu/4Kj)

# Students give back for MLK Day of Service

To honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day—the only federal holiday designated a national day of service—nearly 300 University of Georgia students volunteered across 22 sites in Athens-Clarke County.

Part of the Division of Student Affairs’ Center for Leadership and Service, ServeUGA students, called service ambassadors, participated in a weekend retreat that concluded with the MLK Day of Service.

“We talked at our retreat this weekend about becoming more of a conscientious and active citizen rather than just being a volunteer,” said Delaney Burke, a first-year international affairs and criminal justice student.

During the MLK Day of Service, 28 service ambassadors along with other community volunteers planted 47 oak trees at Winterville Elementary School.

The MLK Day of Service is just one of the volunteering opportunities in which ServeUGA, which has more than 40 member organizations, participates.

“It’s a great way for college students to get involved with the local community, especially now that we are

members of the local community,” said Tommy Bui, a third-year psychology and biology major. “It’s good to get out there and learn about what’s going on in the community and the problems that are facing it.”



UGA students work with other volunteers from the Athens-Clarke County community to plant oak trees at Winterville Elementary School during the 2019 MLK Day of Service.

Read more at [t.uga.edu/4Kk](http://t.uga.edu/4Kk)

# World Leaders welcome international students to campus

UGA’s World Leaders are bridging the gap for international students with a warm welcome and a helping hand as soon as they step foot on campus.

The World Leaders program in the Division of Student Affairs aims to smooth the transition to a new school and country for international students. World Leaders, who are current UGA students, have the unique opportunity to positively impact newly admitted international students while also developing leadership, communication and teamwork skills.

One of the main responsibilities of the World Leaders is to attend the week-long international student orientation and serve as orientation leaders. They provide the first official welcome to all new international students and help them prepare for a successful beginning on campus.

“The International Student Orientation program’s success is connected to the dedication and empathy that each World Leader gives to our new international students each year,” said Justin Jeffery, the director of International Student Life. “While the orientation program is a week long, the relationships formed between World Leaders and international students often last a lifetime.”



International Student Life’s 2019 World Leaders

## AMAZING STUDENTS: Natalie Morean

*Natalie Morean, a fourth-year student majoring in human development and family science, has been involved in several philanthropic and multicultural organizations through which she actively engages in the community. Her passion for helping others took her on a service-learning study abroad to Ghana, where she studied nutrition and public health.*

**My favorite things to do on campus are...**

...I love to attend programs! UGA is so diverse when it comes to the types of organizations students engage in and the campus departments accessible to our students. I especially love programs that focus more on diversity and inclusion, as well as on service in the community, so I try to attend as many of those programs as possible.

Read more at [news.uga.edu/natalie-morean/](http://news.uga.edu/natalie-morean/)

## AMAZING STUDENTS: Gilbert Oladeinbo

*Gilbert Oladeinbo, a juris doctor student from Nigeria, decided to become a lawyer in order to uphold the law and enforce it with fairness and equity. He is an active member of numerous national and international civil societies dedicated to advocating for equal opportunities between the sexes, among minority groups and across class divisions.*

**The one UGA experience I will always remember will be...**

...the community of students studying in the Law Library. Every day I walk into the library, I see students from diverse backgrounds working as a team to demystify core legal concepts for their mutual benefits. There is so much in that selflessness and togetherness that I wish could be transmuted into the real world.

Read more at [news.uga.edu/gilbert-oladeinbo/](http://news.uga.edu/gilbert-oladeinbo/)



# CAMPUS SCENES



Above: Members of the Hispanic Student Association gather for a social event.

Right: A student shows pride during the LGBT Resource Center's annual Pride Day celebration.



Right: Members of the Asian American Student Association perform at the sixth annual Lunar New Year celebration.

Below: Students from the Sikh Student Association pose with Hairy Dawg during the Involvement Fair.



Above: A student from the Caribbean Student Association delivers candy grams on Valentine's Day at a local hospital.



Above: Rachel Byers, left, is the recently elected president of the UGA Student Government Association, with Melissa Hevener, center, serving as vice president and Nav Singh, right, as treasurer.

Right: Students from the Indian Cultural Exchange attend a chai tea-themed social called Dostea.



Above: Destination Dawgs members and mentors pose in a classroom to kick off the new semester.

Left: The Black Theatrical Ensemble at UGA performs a two-night show titled "Dear Black People" in the UGA Chapel.



Above: The Black Educational Support Team (BEST) traveled to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights to honor Black History Month.

Right: A member of Latinos/as Invested in the Students of Tomorrow (LISTo) participates in the celebration of El Día de los Muertos.

Below: The Vietnamese Student Association welcomed new board members.



Above: The Pakistani Student Association hosts a winter potluck to kick off the new semester.

Right: Members of the Turkish Student Association host an international coffee hour.



## DIVERSITY RESOURCES

### Students

Office of Institutional Diversity  
diversity.uga.edu

Multicultural Services and Programs  
msp.uga.edu

International Student Life  
isl.uga.edu

Disability Resource Center  
drc.uga.edu

LGBT Resource Center  
lgbtcenter.uga.edu

Connections: Student Academic Support Program  
diversity.uga.edu/index.php/programs/article/connections

Student Veterans Resource Center  
svrc.uga.edu

### Faculty

Equal Opportunity Office  
eoo.uga.edu

Black Faculty and Staff Organization  
facebook.com/BFSOUGA

Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion  
diversity.uga.edu/index.php/programs/article/diversity-and-inclusion

Human Resources  
hr.uga.edu

UGA GLOBES  
ugaglobes.wordpress.com

# Daring to Dream

For Paige Carmichael, the division between teaching and mentoring is nonexistent. “Teaching and mentoring overlap,” said Carmichael, a professor of pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. “They’re both about forming bonds.”

As an undergraduate, Carmichael wanted to be a clinician. She went into veterinary medicine because the profession has more than 20 animal specialties that translate to their human counterparts. She wanted to study disease to understand what caused it. But her career goals changed, which is what inspired her to become a mentor.

“If I had known then what I know now, the journey would have been easier,” she said. “I want to help people who want to go down a similar pathway with their own goals.”

Carmichael received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University’s School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987. She became a temporary instructor at UGA’s Tifton campus. There, her co-workers convinced her she was capable of earning her doctorate, and she entered a combined pathology residency/Ph.D. program. She earned the doctorate from UGA in 1993 and became a board certified pathologist in 1995.

“I knew I could make a living and enjoy doing it, since I was following a passion,” she said.

Teaching, Carmichael said, satisfies more than research or receiving tenure.

“It’s rewarding when they’re learning because they want to, and when they come to class with something new that I haven’t talked about because they want to learn on their own,” she said.

Carmichael’s outreach takes her out into the Athens community. She has visited different schools to attract underrepresented students to the university.

“We want to make UGA an inviting place for them,” said Carmichael, who was awarded the 2019 President’s Fulfilling the Dream Award. “We want to get students into the pipeline of rural veterinary medicine and send them back out into underserved areas so they can inspire others to go to school.”



Paige Carmichael, recipient of the 2019 Dream Award

Read more at [t.uga.edu/4Lv](http://t.uga.edu/4Lv)

## FOCUS ON FACULTY



**Maria Len-Rios**

*Maria Len-Rios, associate professor and associate dean in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, helps students learn how to strategically plan public relations campaigns and understand inequalities in media representations and in health communication.*

### What are some highlights of your career at UGA?

This year, I’m part of the Women’s Leadership Fellows Program and am getting to know and learn from an accomplished group of leaders who care about higher education and its future. It’s an unmatched opportunity I know I will treasure.

Read more at [news.uga.edu/maria-len-rios/](http://news.uga.edu/maria-len-rios/)



**David Okech**

*David Okech, associate professor in the School of Social Work, hopes his students leave his courses informed and inspired to make the world a better place for individuals, families, groups, communities and nations.*

### Community/civic involvement includes...

I provide a lot of informal mentoring to young people in the community here in Athens as well as through social media to many others in Africa. I am also a pro bono consultant with various non-governmental organizations in Kenya and Ghana. I also help in fundraising for local nonprofits as well as community-based initiatives in both Ghana and Kenya.

Read more at [news.uga.edu/david-okech/](http://news.uga.edu/david-okech/)

# Infusing Diversity into UGA’s Campus

Alexandra Travis had no idea that finding a flyer on campus would turn her into the journalist she is today.

After a seemingly simple advertisement led her to an inquiry meeting for InfUSion Magazine, Travis, a journalism major and fashion merchandising minor, has never looked back.

InfUSion Magazine is a student-run organization and publication that aims to give a voice to multicultural and underrepresented groups on campus. Founded in 1989, InfUSion Magazine is part of the Division of Student Affairs’ Office of Multicultural Services and Programs, which is dedicated to creating an inclusive campus environment for all students.

“A lot of what draws readers in is our coverage of issues that are not as commonly found in other publications,” said Travis, who serves as InfUSion Magazine’s managing editor. “Including the voices of underrepresented people and also covering underrepresented communities allows us to create a unique publication.”

InfUSion Magazine serves as a home to a diverse group of students looking to contribute to the diverse messages circulating on the UGA campus.

Editor-in-chief and fourth-year journalism major Courtney Thompson said the magazine plays a role in breaking down barriers.

“Diversity is huge in InfUSion. We have people of different socioeconomic backgrounds, racial backgrounds, sexual orientations,” Thompson said. “I like being in this environment because we get to have a lot of important conversations that often force me to re-examine the way I look at certain issues.”

InfUSion Magazine is published biannually, and online articles are published more frequently, with editors aiming to push boundaries to feature relevant and meaningful stories about diversity. In addition, the organization gives students the opportunity to explore writing, editing, interviewing and other key journalistic skills.

“Working with InfUSion Magazine has prepared me in more ways than I could have imagined for my future,” Travis said. “It provided me with some of my earliest journalistic experiences and taught me that my interests as a minority on campus matter. I truly believe that I would not feel as prepared entering the workforce as a journalist without my experiences with InfUSion Magazine.”

To learn more about InfUSion Magazine, visit [infusionmagazine.com](http://infusionmagazine.com)



InfUSion Magazine editors and contributors celebrate their latest issue.

### COOK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sense of responsibility to be positive contributors to our community. These events also provide a literal and physical space for individuals to gather, visit and enjoy a shared experience of inspiration and hope.

In addition, you can rest assured that regardless of the season, University of Georgia students are going to be fully engaged in service. It is a hallmark of who we are and evident in all that we do. Therefore, it is not surprising that 300 students volunteered for the MLK Day of Service throughout Athens-Clarke County, making it truly a day on and not a day off. On campus, the UGA World Leaders are helping international students transition to their new environment during orientation and throughout the year. Student organizations are planning events, working in the community, supporting other students and generally adding to the richness of the UGA experience for everyone on campus.

The vibrancy and success of our community is built on the foundation of incredible faculty members. These are individuals, who, in and out of the classroom, are devoting their energy, passion, expertise and time to helping students excel and achieve their goals. The vibrancy that we see among our faculty includes the intellectual energy that comes from their cutting-edge research, as well as their dedication to students and the motto of our institution, “to teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things.”

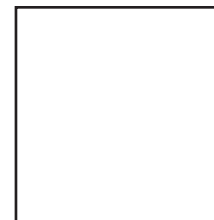
I am certain that we are not alone. Other colleges and universities are surely vibrant spaces as well. However, I would suggest that we are unique in the ways in which our diversity is a key component of our vibrancy. We continue to strive to ensure that the many different identities on this campus are engaged and celebrated. We continue to strive to ensure that the University of Georgia is accessible and welcoming. We continue to strive to ensure that our messaging and media imaging affirm our diverse community. And, while we have work to do, we strive to build a campus environment that is positive and respectful. We will not allow our differences to divide us; rather, they make us stronger and more vibrant as a community.

The campus is truly alive!

# DIVERSITY

at UGA®

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## Giving to the Office of Institutional Diversity

A contribution to the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID) will help support a variety of initiatives that foster diversity at UGA.

OID provides and supports programming, such as recruitment and retention efforts, diversity scholarship funding, pre-collegiate learning opportunities, and faculty and student mentoring events.

Please contact us at (706) 583-8195 or at [diverse@uga.edu](mailto:diverse@uga.edu) to discuss ways to give and we will work to ensure your charitable giving needs are met.

To donate online, go to [diversity.uga.edu/index.php/about/giving](https://diversity.uga.edu/index.php/about/giving).

Checks should be made payable to the UGA Foundation and designated for OID on the memo line.

**Please mail checks to:**  
UGA Office of Institutional Diversity  
c/o Business Manager  
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Athens, GA 30602-6119