

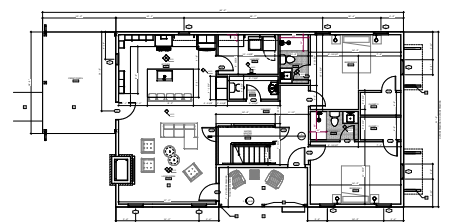
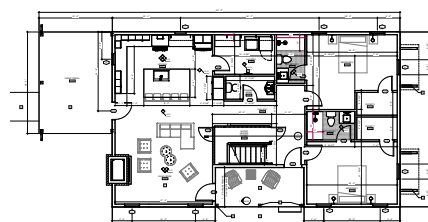
Thursday, May 8, 2025



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/FOREST X. DYNES AND JESSE WOOD



A stylized illustration of a two-story building with a grey facade and a brown roof. It features a chimney on the left, a balcony on the second floor, and several windows. The building is part of a row, with another similar building visible to the right.



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PHOTO COURTESY/PAIGE CARMICHAEL

Words of wisdom

UGA’s 2025 Spring Undergraduate Commencement speakers

Kira Fleischer

The University of Georgia has announced the commencement speakers for the undergraduate and graduate classes of Spring 2025.

Kate Hall was chosen by a UGA Student Government Association committee to be the undergraduate commencement student speaker, Jarryd Wallace will deliver the undergraduate commencement address and Dr. Paige Carmichael will give the graduate address, according to a press release from UGA.

Undergraduate commencement

Hall, a senior public relations major from Cumming, Georgia, said she is honored to appear in front of her classmates and their guests.

“I have always loved the power of words and the idea of using words to pour out good into my community or into the world,” Hall said. “I’ve had the most wonderful four years here at UGA, and I thought that being the speaker would be the perfect way to get to encapsulate my experience in a way that hopefully would mean something to a lot of people.”

During her freshman year, Hall was one of 24 freshmen accepted into the Dean William Tate Honors Society, the highest honor for UGA freshmen. The society recognizes students’ leadership, scholarship and commitment to service.

Also during her freshman year, Hall was selected for the Student Government Association’s First Year Forum Program.

“Leadership and taking an active role in my community was something that I wanted to have in my freshman [year] and throughout college experience,” Hall said. “Forum seemed like the perfect fit.”

Hall continued involvement in her sophomore year as a peer leader, junior year as co-director of Forum and senior year as a senator for the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“Getting to become a servant leader in my community and give back, and try to build a legacy that would outlast my time and all of our time here – it was just so important and empowering,” Hall said.

Hall’s involvement is not limited to the university. For the past two years, she has served as the communications intern for the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Post-graduation, Hall plans to stay in Athens over the summer to continue her work at the Botanical Gardens and to travel to Europe. In August, she will move to Washington, D.C., where she is excited to begin a career in public affairs communications.

Fellow undergraduate commencement speaker Wallace competed in the Paralympics four times and won two bronze medals. He has also earned three gold medals in the World Para Athletics Championships.

Wallace, an Athens native, attended UGA through a track scholarship. During his junior year, Wallace began experiencing pain in his shin, leading to 10 surgeries in the span of two years and, ultimately, the amputation of his right leg from the knee down.

The amputation provided Wallace with a new beginning. He was given the first alternate spot as the “coach’s choice” for the 2012 U.S. Paralympic team, and, just over a year post-operation, he made history by beating the world record for the 100-meter sprint at the Parapan American Games.

Wallace decided to shift his focus from sprinting to the long jump, leading to a bronze medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

Wallace serves as the founder and CEO of the RIVL Foundation, which works to empower amputees through research, education and community outreach. At 20 years old, Wallace’s life changed, but, despite this, he continued to thrive as an athlete.

Wallace’s address and Hall’s speech will be given at the undergraduate commencement on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. in Sanford Stadium.

Graduate commencement

Carmichael is a professor of veterinary pathology in the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor and is renowned for her research on inherited neurological diseases in dogs.

Carmichael’s research sparked the emergence of various tests and therapeutics to treat sick animals. In fact, her team was the first to describe FeLV-associated myelopathy in cats, a spinal cord disease that impacts cats with feline leukemia virus.

After graduating from Tuskegee University with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1987, Carmichael became a temporary instructor at UGA. She then received her Ph.D. from UGA in 1993 and officially became a pathologist in 1995.

Carmichael has been honored with various awards from UGA, including the Meigs Professorship, Lilly Teaching Fellowship, Carl Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award and Fulfilling the Dream Award. She also co-founded the Teaching Academy Fellows Program at UGA to assist new faculty with their teaching skills. Additionally, she has served as a board member for the UGA Athletic Association and the Georgia Museum of Art.

The graduate ceremonies will take place on Thursday, May 8, in Stegeman Coliseum. The master’s and specialist ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and the doctoral ceremony follows at 2:30 p.m.

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The class of 2025 forms a “Super G” during Freshman Welcome on Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021. PHOTO/FILE STAFF

Graduation at a glance

A breakdown of the graduates of 2025

Alex Music

As the spring 2025 semester comes to an end, thousands of students at the University of Georgia are preparing to step into life after graduation and join a community of more than 355,000 living alumni.

A total of 260 doctoral students and 1,597 master's and specialist students will be earning their degrees on Thursday, May 8, bringing the total number of degree-earning graduate students to nearly 2,000.

In addition, as of May 2, 5,971 students — including 152 First Honor Graduates — are set to graduate with their bachelor's degrees on the evening of Friday, May 9, at Sanford Stadium. UGA also expects 953 summer graduates.

For many undergraduates in the class of 2025, their journey at UGA began in fall 2021, a year marked by the continued height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, applicants for fall 2021 were not required to submit test scores, and the university began using the Common App for applications. According to a March 2021 blog post from UGA undergraduate admissions director David Graves, more than 40% of admitted students chose to not include test scores on their application that year.

Making test scores optional did not mean admission standards were loosened. In fact, the acceptance rate of 39% was a record low at the time. Graves told The Red & Black in 2021 that this low figure was likely due to a large volume of applications, increasing by about 40% from the year prior and making it, at that time, the largest applicant pool in UGA history.

In 2021, 15,350 freshmen were admitted, representing all 50 states, 149 Georgia counties and 54 different countries. Admits came from more than 3,290 different high schools, 520 of which were Georgia high schools. About 37% of admits were minorities, which was an increase from the previous year, and 26% were offered scholarships.

Fall 2021 admits were highly academically competitive. Students averaged a high school GPA of 4.12 and took an average of 10 AP, IB or dual enrollment courses. For students who chose to have test scores considered, the mid-range for SAT scores was 1350 to 1480, while mid-range ACT scores spanned from 31 to 34.

Though these statistics represent many of the undergraduate students walking across the stage this semester, factors such as early graduation, late graduation and transfer students are also at play.

According to UGA Media Relations, the number one home state for undergraduate students in the official graduating class of 2025 is Georgia. Behind that, in order of most students, are Texas, North Carolina, New York and Florida, demonstrating a strong presence from the wider Southeast in this class.

7,828

Number of degrees conferred in UGA May ceremonies. There will be 260 doctoral students, 1,597 master's and specialist students and 5,971 undergraduate students receiving degrees this spring.

The most popular bachelor's degree to be conferred this May is psychology, with more than 400 students set to receive this degree. The other top majors, ordered by popularity, are finance, biology, management information systems and marketing. These top five majors are all housed within the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences or the Terry College of Business.

Though the 7,828 students set to graduate have had a spectrum of experiences at the university, each will be bound by the shared experience of having a degree from UGA. Now, they prepare to embark on the next phases of their lives.



GRAPHIC/KAIJA ATCHISON AND JESSE WOOD

Tassel guide

Understanding the graduation tassel colors

As you celebrate the University of Georgia's most recent graduates, here is your guide to understanding what each tassel color represents.

The color of the tassel worn on a graduate's cap is indicative of their academic subject area. Some graduates will have one, others will have two or more. The tassels are worn on the right side of the cap prior to their degree being conferred and moved to the left side after.

Top row, left to right: Maize: Agriculture | White: Arts, Letters, Humanities | Drab: Business and Accountancy| Light Blue: Education | Orange: Engineering | Brown: Fine Arts and Landscape Architecture | Russet: Forestry and Natural Resources | Maroon: Family and Consumer Sciences | Crimson: Journalism and Mass Communication

Bottom row, left to right: Purple: Law | Pink: Music| Olive Green: Pharmacy | Peacock Blue: Public Administration | Golden Yellow: Science | Citron: Social Work | Gray: Veterinary Science

Final farewell

A goodbye from newsroom leadership

Jesse Wood, Allison Mawn, Ellis Goud

Jesse Wood, Managing Editor

My college experience, to put it simply, changed my life. Some things stuck out more than others, like my first heartbreak or sharing a bathroom with 15 other girls in a sorority house or contracting Creswell cough. But the most pivotal moment in my four years at the University of Georgia was my decision to join The Red & Black. When I began the process to join the newsroom and started writing, I did not grasp how much it would change my life until now. I've always loved writing and storytelling. For me to find my niche in Athens where I could pursue these passions, but also make an impact on my community, grow professionally and meet some of my best friends, was the best decision I have ever made.

I quickly found my groove at The Red & Black and joined the staff. Working alongside such driven, passionate students encouraged me to dream big. I jumped at every opportunity I could. Looking back, I can attribute so much of my success to things I learned at The Red & Black, whether it is my knowledge of AP style or approaching journalism compassionately or how to lead a team.

The Red & Black helped me achieve goals I did not think were possible. I look back on my time in this newsroom so fondly, and I will carry everything I learned from the people and the work I did with me in every next phase of my life. I am so proud to be a part of its legacy, and I am so excited to see where all of my favorite people end up.

If you're debating joining, take this as your sign. Do it. Live, laugh, love Red & Black.

Allison Mawn, Editor in Chief

I've known since I was 12 that I want to be a journalist. That made picking a major pretty easy, so the question became where I'd actually end up going to college. I grew up a Georgia Tech fan and at one point even considered going to Alabama. But I think some part of me always knew I'd end up at Georgia. Honestly, one of the biggest draws for me was The Red & Black.

Freshman year was rough, and I ended up not joining The Red & Black right away. But I finally got it together and joined during my sophomore year - thanks in no small part to my dear friend Martina, who was my desk editor when I was a contributor. The next semester, as EIC, she took a chance on me to hire me as the breaking news reporter - a position I hadn't initially applied for, but ended up thriving in.

My two and a half years at The Red & Black have been unlike anything I imagined and beyond what I could have hoped. I've tackled all kinds of stories, had great days and terrible days, learned things I'd never thought about before and had conversations I never expected to have. Freshman Allison would be shocked at how much I've come out of my shell and the experiences I've had thanks to this newsroom.

I am so proud of the team this semester and the work we have done. We've had challenges, but handled them with

SENIOR VOICES

It's the little things

Favorite memories at UGA

Rafik Astwani

As the end of the semester approaches, with graduation just around the corner, many soon-to-be-alumni are reflecting on their college years.

To capture some of these thoughts, The Red & Black asked seniors at the University of Georgia their favorite memories from their time as undergraduates.



Anvika Menon

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HISTORY AND RELIGION MAJOR

"I studied abroad in Oxford, so that was the best three months of my life," Menon said. "The times I spent traveling with my friends while studying abroad at Oxford were some of the best times not only of my college career, but of my life."



Frema Owusu-Ansah

BIOLOGY AND APPLIED BIOTECHNOLOGY MAJOR

"My favorite memory is performing with Pamoja dance company," Owusu-Ansah said. "It was one of the first organizations that I joined and has given me a community with new people and I've got to lead Pamoja [the] last three years, currently as president. I think having that close-knit community and being able to do what I love, dancing, has been a really great memory at UGA."



Ellis Goud, left, Jesse Wood, center, and Allison Mawn, right, pose for a portrait at The Red & Black's Spring Banquet on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/KALEB TATUM

grace. We've made mistakes, but we've learned and grown from them. We've done the work and served our community with great free, independent journalism. I'm coming to the end of my term knowing that the future of journalism is in good hands with the people I've surrounded myself with here.

It's a little weird to be graduating, but also knowing I'll be right back here next year for grad school. My time here - both at UGA and The Red & Black - isn't done yet, but it isn't going to look the same. Nonetheless, I'm excited to embrace what comes next.

Ellis Goud, Deputy Editor of Standards and Practices

When I started my sophomore year of college as a transfer student at UGA, I was worried I wouldn't make friends. But I had one goal in mind: I wanted to be a journalist. I joined The Red & Black as soon as I could and found a home for myself in this newsroom - and the friends I was looking for.

Over my two and a half years with the R&B, I've been able to explore journalism in ways that I could never have imagined at my previous college. I've made connections I never thought I'd make, written stories I never thought I'd write and been places I never thought I'd go. I've worked across opinion, culture, news and leadership, trying out new types of stories across different mediums and challenging myself every step of the way. I've also made lifelong friends who I am excited to grow up with as we navigate the next chapters of our lives.

My experience with this newsroom has been nothing short of incredible. From working on my first magazine, to becoming the first openly transgender editor-in-chief, to creating a place for DEI, science and even a book club in the newsroom, I have left a little piece of myself behind in every position. I'm so proud to have been able to call The Red & Black my home for these past few years, and I can't wait to represent R&B alumni as I move into my professional career.

I hope I've left behind a legacy for the future queer and trans journalists in the organization, and for people who are passionate about science and environmental storytelling. There is space for you in journalism, even if you have to create it yourself.

I believe that the student journalists of today are going to make an impact on the world, as long as we continue to support the work that they do. I can't wait to see what the next generation of journalists and leaders at The Red & Black do. You've got this.



Wali Mian

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR

"My favorite memory would be getting my very first co-op," Mian said. "This was a company that I really wanted to work at, and it was at GulfStream Aerospace in Savannah, Georgia." Mian said. "Actually being able to work in Savannah because it was a really cool time. [I] got to meet a lot of people outside of UGA and network."



Shravan Patel

BIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

"I would kind of classify this as a group of memories, but it's more just the sense of community here is really insane," Patel said. "You'll be at football games and you might not even know the person next to you, but you guys are all cheering for the same cause. The sense of community and just how we're able to foster connection with people we don't even know, the sense of pride. We're all like a cohesive network."

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CORRECTIONS

In the April print edition, on A4, Gunner Stockton's career start was mistakenly written as the 2024 SEC Championship game, and, on B7, a photo caption had the wrong month listed. We regret these errors and have since corrected them online. As a student-run news organization with the mission of training journalists, we know that mistakes happen and we do our best to correct them as quickly as possible. If you spot a factual error, please let us know by sending a correction to editor@randb.com. Corrections to items in print editions are published in the next possible print issue. Corrections for online-only articles are posted at redandblack.com/corrections.

Best of the best

Highlights of the last four years of Georgia athletics

Bo Underwood

The graduating class of 2025 has been around for quite a few of Georgia Athletics' proudest moments. Here is a look at some of the greatest moments from Georgia Bulldogs sports over the past four years.

Football finally gets it done, twice

Football has always reigned supreme at Georgia, and so the cries over Georgia's 41-year-long championship drought only grew louder as it got further from 1980. Finally, the Bulldogs won the national championship after Kelee Ringo's pick six sealed the deal over Alabama in Georgia's 33-18 win to cap off the 2021 College Football Playoff. Kirby Smart had officially brought a national title home to his alma mater. The cathartic win only got sweeter the following season after Georgia returned to the mountaintop and demolished TCU 65-7 in 2022's title game. For a town like Athens where football is king, back-to-back football championships are about as good as it gets.

Simone Biles in the Classic City

Simone Biles, one of the greatest athletes of all time, made an appearance in Athens in 2025 at Georgia's Jan. 17 home-opening gymnastics meet against Boise State. Co-head coach Cécile Canqueteau-Landi is a longtime coach of Biles, and the 11-time Olympic medalist came to support her coach in her first home meet for the Bulldogs. Georgia defeated Boise State 196.825-193.600 with Biles in attendance.

Tennis picks up some hardware

Georgia's tennis program has long been one of the school's most decorated. In May 2023, Georgia tennis player Ethan Quinn won the NCAA singles championship. He became just the third Bulldog in history to bring home the individual title and turned pro shortly after. Georgia's women's tennis team was also busy in the last four years, winning its seventh national championship at the ITA National Team Indoor Championship final in February 2025. The team is aiming to cap off its season with an NCAA championship in mid-May.

Basketball goes dancing

A day some Georgia fans never thought would come happened this past March when the Georgia men's basketball team qualified for its first NCAA tournament berth since 2015. Now, the game itself didn't exactly go swimmingly for Georgia, as the team was swiftly crushed by Gonzaga 89-68 after a disastrous start to the game left them trailing 30-5. Nevertheless, it was a critical step forward for a program that has seen numerous rebuild attempts in recent years. Georgia's 12-1 start to the season in 2024-25 was its best since 1930. Also, in 2022, Georgia's women's basketball team advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament before losing to the Caitlin Clark-led Iowa Hawkeyes.

Baseball advances to Super Regional

Georgia baseball had one of its best years in program history in 2024, finishing 43-17 in head coach Wes Johnson's first year leading the team. Charlie Condon won the Dick Howser Trophy, awarded to the best player in college baseball, after hitting .410 and mashing 62 home runs in the



Georgia fans storm the court after a men's NCAA basketball game against Florida at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Georgia, on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025. Georgia won 88-83. PHOTO/MADY MERTENS



UGA junior Anastasiia Lopata returns a serve during the UGA vs. OU tennis meet in Athens on Sunday, March 23, 2025. The UGA women's tennis team won 4-0. PHOTO/JAKE WESTING

season. Corey Collins was also an All-American. The team advanced to the Athens Super Regional for the first time since 2008 after losing the last five regionals that it played in. The Bulldogs nearly reached their first College World Series since 2008, but were eliminated by NC State. Though Condon and Collins have since moved on to the pros, Georgia reloaded with talent and is in pursuit of a deeper run this season.



UGA defeated Texas Christian University 65-7 in the College Football National Championship in Los Angeles on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. PHOTO/JESSICA GRATIGNY



Senior Henry Hunter celebrates during a baseball game between Arkansas and UGA at Foley Field, on April 13, 2025. PHOTO/MADY MERTENS

Equestrian brings another title to Athens

Football wasn't Georgia's only national champion. The equestrian team won the 2025 national title, the program's first since 2021 and eighth overall. Kennedy Buchanan and Catalina Peralta both received dual discipline selections, headlining the 11 Bulldogs receiving honors after the victory. The win came on the heels of head coach Meghan Boenig's induction into the National Collegiate Equestrian Association Hall of Fame.



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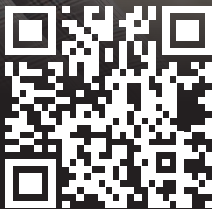
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53						54				55		

ACROSS

- Menu word
- Cavities
- Full house, e.g.
- Well-put
- Rephrase
- Call from the bridge
- Anonymous name
- "Anything ____?"
- Be judgmental
- Capacitate
- Book's last word
- Closing document
- Castle dwellers
- Pipe type
- Clearly embarrassed
- Kind of hour
- Wasn't straight
- Palindromic turkey
- Feature of some lions
- Part of T.G.I.F.
- Japanese bread?
- Game played standing
- Gas, to a Brit

- Mention
- Shade
- Tied up
- Bad driver's shout
- Mah-jongg piece
- Time to look ahead
- Bump from office
- Abu Dhabi leader
- Fall from grace
- Pluck
- To-do
- Snaky

DOWN

- Chinese gemstone
- Aware of
- Least shaky
- Pie baker's utensil
- Went nowhere
- Poetic contraction
- Took the tiller
- Tough
- "That's it!"
- "____ so fast!"

- Anil or woad
- Bit of sweat
- Doze
- It may be heightened
- Advanced
- Understands
- Radar screen image
- Liturgy
- Seek a seat
- Strikes out
- Better half
- "____ rang?"
- Sidetrack
- Butler at Tara
- Cuban singer Cruz
- Like some grins
- Disavow
- Flight delayer, perhaps
- Jointly owned, maybe
- Industrial injury
- Babysitter's handful



University of Georgia fans ring the chapel bell during the post game celebration after the College Football Playoff National Championship on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/KATIE TUCKER



The Spike Squad cheers during the Georgia vs. Tennessee Tech game at Sanford Stadium in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

One-of-a-kind moments

UGA traditions that bring thousands together

By Audrey Hamm

From iconic spots around campus to gameday rituals, the University of Georgia is home to a range of traditions that celebrate its unique culture.

The Arch

The Arch serves as the official symbol for UGA and is the gateway from downtown Athens to North Campus. Its three pillars represent the virtues of wisdom, justice and moderation, and students are often warned to avoid walking through the Arch until they graduate. Legend says if you walk under the Arch during your time as an undergraduate, you will not graduate on time.

John Neely, newly elected Student Government Association president and junior finance and management information systems double major, said his favorite tradition at UGA is the Arch. When some of Neely’s family attended UGA, he said his father ingrained it in him to always walk around the Arch versus through, and Neely cannot wait for the moment he finally gets to walk under.

“I know the day I graduate and walk over there and walk through the Arch, that’s going to be just a surreal experience,” Neely said.

‘Glory, Glory’

UGA’s gameday fight song, “Glory, Glory,” has been in place since the early 1900s. Traditionally, the song is played when the Bulldogs take the field at football games in Sanford Stadium, and after scores and turnovers.

Dawson Jordan, a senior biological science major and former Redcoat Marching Band member, said playing the first notes of “Glory, Glory” at games was an impactful and

remarkable experience – especially since he came to UGA already familiar with the music.

“It was kind of neat to be on that side of things and know all those traditions, even well before some of my classmates that weren’t in the band,” Jordan said.

Ring the Chapel Bell

Outside of traditions at athletic games, Jordan’s favorite tradition is ringing the Chapel Bell.

Athenians and students alike are invited to ring the Chapel Bell to celebrate victories of all kinds, from doing well on exams to accomplishing big goals. Jordan said he loves the concept of celebrating “whatever you want to, whenever you can.”

“It’s nice to kind of have that to celebrate yourself and celebrate your friends too,” Jordan said. “I love walking around campus and hearing that sound because you know that something good is happening in someone’s life.”

Spike Squad

Spike Squad, a student-led organization designed to lead the student section at various sports events and keep the crowd’s energy high, is a staple of UGA’s culture.

Elizabeth Clark, a senior dance major from Warner Robins, Georgia, has been a member of the Spike Squad for the past two years and said she has enjoyed being around people on Spike Squad who care as deeply about sports and Georgia athletic teams as she does.

Regardless of if she is attending a sporting event as a member of Spike Squad or just as a student, Clark said she appreciates being surrounded by other Georgia fans.

“I feel like you can really tell that the people who want to be there are there,” Clark said.

Lighting up Sanford

Clark said she is a “big fan” of lighting up Sanford, a tradition where the Redcoat Marching Band plays “Krypton Fanfare” and fans wave their flashlights at the beginning of the fourth quarter of a home Georgia football game. Starting as a result of social media conversation, this tradition now makes an appearance at every nighttime home game.

“It’s really cool to see everyone come together and do that and feel like you’re a part of that,” Clark said.

Neely said he was at the UGA versus Notre Dame game in 2019 when Sanford Stadium debuted the red stadium lights with “Krypton Fanfare” for the first time.

“I just get chills every time you see the lights go up and ‘Krypton Fanfare’ comes on,” Neely said. “It’s just great and so iconic.”

Traditions create lasting memories

With classes complete for the semester and university commencement ceremonies approaching on May 8 and 9, many students will be wrapping up their time at UGA.

“The UGA community is so united and strong, and I just think the traditions are part of the things [that] holds it together and just contributes to such a strong culture here in Athens,” Neely said.

Jordan said traditions give students a chance to be celebrated, and echoed Neely’s sentiment about them being a binding factor.

“You’ve got a student section filled with who knows how many people from different backgrounds, different high schools, different states and different countries, and then we’re all coming together and kind of screaming the same unison cheer, ‘Go Dawgs!’” Jordan said.



Congratulations on behalf of The Red & Black

CLASS OF 2025



LAURYN ROSALIE BROWN

With great pride and joyful hearts, we announce the graduation of Laurny Rosalie Brown. Laurny is graduating cum laude with a degree in Psychology and a concentration in Neuroscience. Adding to the celebration, Laurny is recently engaged to Harrison Seibel Bonds, who is graduating summa cum laude from Terry College of Business, with a degree in Finance. The couple, who are high school sweethearts from Buford, Georgia, will be united in marriage in April 2026.



KAYLYN CONTREAS-CARRERA

Congratulations Kaylyn! We love you so much and are so proud of you! Si se pudo!

Love, Mami, Papi, Eric, Esteban, and Mami Chuy



AARON DANIEL A. DINO

Congratulations on your brilliant success and achievement. We know you've worked incredibly hard and we're so excited to see you achieve your dreams. We are so proud of you and love you so much! Again, congratulations!!

Love, Papa, Mama, Aerika



FOREST DYNES

The last four years flew by. I've grown a lot, found a career I love and I'm excited for where it takes me. Thanks to everyone who supported my journey.



ELLIS GOUD

Ellis, we are so very proud of everything you have accomplished over the past four years. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Grant, and Kate



JESSE SKYE HARRELL

Congratulations Jesse! We are proud of you!

Love Dad, Mom, Briar, Axel



LIBBY HOBBS

Libby we are so proud of you! Not only for all you accomplished during your four years of college, but also for the young woman you are.

Love, Mom, Dad, and Eli



MARY RYAN HOWARTH

Mary Ryan, your hardwork, dedication, and passion for storytelling have truly paid off, and we can't wait to see where life takes you next!

Love, Dorsey, Nina, Mom, and Dad



SAMANTHA HURLEY

I'm beyond grateful for how I've been able to grow these four years with UGA, the Journalism school and most importantly, The Red & Black!



MARISA IACOVAZZI

We're so proud of you! May your future shine bright & all your dreams come true. Cheers to YOU and to new beginnings! Major: Biomedical Physiology; Minors: Business & Biology.



ANNA KOBBE

Anna, So insanely proud of the amazing young woman you're becoming. You're incredibly smart, talented, beautiful, and sweet, and we can't wait to see how high you fly!

Love you, Mom, Dad, and Ashley



ALANA KRAMER

Congrats, Alana, you've worked hard, traveled wide, woofed loud, and honed skills at UGA that will take you through life. We couldn't be prouder of the first Grady Kramer or more excited for you!! xoxo



ELLA KROLL

It's been a privilege to witness you make the most of your time at UGA. We know your future is bright indeed, and as always, we're very proud of you.

Love, Mom, Dad, Sam, and Ruby



ISABELLA MARLER

So proud of Izzy Marler for graduating from UGA's Destination Dawgs! Next up: CEO of Three Dogs and a Girl Coffee Shop, opening Fall 2025 in Winterville, GA! We love you!



ALLISON MAWN

To say that we are proud of you is an incredible understatement. You have paved your own way and excelled as few have. Now, go change the world.

Love, Mom and Dad



BRITTNEY MILIAN

Brittney, we are endlessly proud of you and love you more than words could ever express. Your hard work has never gone unnoticed as your resilience will take you so far.

Love, Mom, Dad, and Efrain



RYAN ELIZABETH NORFLEET

We are so proud of you, Ryan, for your hard work and dedication! May God continue to bless your journey after graduation! You've got this!



TILLMAN MATTHEW NORSWORTHY

Tillman, being your sister is one of my most cherished roles. I am so proud of you and love you so much. Go forth and do great things!

Love, Charlotte



CLARE PETKASH

Your strength, grace, and heart are inspiring! We are so excited to see what the future brings!

Love, Mom, Dad, Jack, Joe, and Henry



JOSEPH ADAM QUINN

Joey, Congratulations! We are all so proud of you. You found your bark, and the future is bright. Go Dawgs (Sic 'em!)

The Guerreros, Bryans, Quinns, and Knights



BO UNDERWOOD

Thank you to The Red & Black for so many opportunities and lessons that I will never forget! This is such a special place.



JAMES T. WATSON JR.

Congratulations on your graduation. This is such an amazing accomplishment, and we're incredibly excited for you and your future. You've worked hard & we are so proud!

Love, Mom and Dad



JESSE WOOD

Jesse, we are so proud of all your hard work and accomplishments. The future holds amazing opportunities - the best is yet to come. We love you endlessly.

Love, Lori, Julie, Jaden



GAVIN SCOTT WOODMAN

Congratulations Gavin Scott! We are so proud of you and all of your amazing accomplishments at UGA! Graduating with a double major and Magna Cum Laude in pre-med is truly remarkable! May God continue to guide your path and always know we are eternally proud of you!! Go Dawgs! We love you with all our hearts,

Love, Mom, Dad, and Katie

*Tassels turned
And lessons learned;*



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The Red & Black



PLANS ON HOLD

Federal funds cut, future opportunities unclear

SEE B3 FOR FULL STORY



Senior marketing major Brittney Milian poses for a portrait in front of Terry College of Business on Thursday, May 2, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES
Brittney Milian, estudiante de último año de marketing, posa para un retrato frente a la Escuela de Negocios Terry el jueves 2 de mayo de 2025 en Athens, Georgia. FOTO/FOREST X. DYNES

‘A lot of pride, a lot of uncertainty’ Navigating college as a first-gen student

Savannah Hayes

Sneha Sony, a freshman computer systems engineering major at the University of Georgia, is “charting a path that no one else in [her] immediate family has walked before” — college.

Recently, four-year graduation rates for first-generation students at UGA have increased from 68% to 72%. A first-generation student is a person who self-reports that neither of their parents completed a four-year degree, and 25% of incoming freshmen in the class of 2028 were considered first-generation students.

“Being a first-generation student is really rewarding but also incredibly challenging,” Sony said in an email. “There’s a lot of pride, but also a lot of uncertainty. You’re learning how to navigate college while also sometimes teaching your family about it along the way.”

Being a first-generation student can come with additional challenges that other students might not consider.

“A lot of my friends whose parents went to college already know things like how to apply for financial aid, how to talk to professors or even how to pick classes,” Sony said. “I had to figure a lot of that out on my own, often by trial and error.”

Additionally, navigating college as a first-generation student can present challenges for post-graduation plans. Senior marketing major Brittney Milian said she had to put in extra effort to make connections in the professional space.

“Reaching out to people and making connections was the one thing that I struggled with the most, because I feel like a lot of people I was in class with, their parents own big

companies, or they knew other people,” Milian said. “My parents, they just couldn’t make those connections for me. I had to go and find them myself.”

At UGA, there are various organizations geared towards helping first-generation students, including the Office for Student Success and Achievement, TRIO and Tri-Alpha, a first-generation honor society. These organizations can provide resources, as well as a sense of community.

“Connecting with other first-gen students has also been huge — it helps to know you’re not alone,” Sony said.

Milian said sometimes she and some of her friends, who are also first-generation students, struggle with being the only Latinas or people of color in attendance at some events. At first she was surprised by this, but now says she realizes she is actively breaking barriers.

“One of the things that really helped me when I first got to school was joining the Hispanic clubs here and meeting my friends, and now they’re actually my roommates,” Milian said.

Sony said her enrollment at the University of Georgia is not just important for her, but for her family as well.

“There’s a lot of pressure, too,” Sony said. “It feels like you’re carrying not just your own dreams, but your family’s hopes, too.”

Editor’s note: Brittney Milian works in the ad department of The Red & Black, which is separate from the newsroom, as an account executive intern.

‘Mucho orgullo, mucha incertidumbre’ Navegando la universidad como estudiante de primera generación

Savannah Hayes, Traducido por Isa Sucre Pardo

Sneha Sony, estudiante de primer año de ingeniería de sistemas informáticos en la Universidad de Georgia, está “trazando un camino que más nadie en [su] familia inmediata ha recorrido antes”- la universidad.

Recientemente, las tasas de graduación de cuatro años para estudiantes de primera generación en la Universidad de Georgia aumentaron del 68% al 72%. Un estudiante de primera generación es alguien que declara que ninguno de sus padres completó una carrera de cuatro años, y el 25 % de los estudiantes de primer año de la generación de 2028 se consideraron estudiantes de primera generación.

“Ser estudiante de primera generación es muy gratificante, pero también increíblemente difícil,” dijo Sneha Sony, estudiante de primer año de ingeniería en sistemas informáticos, en un correo electrónico. “Hay mucho orgullo, pero también mucha incertidumbre. Estás aprendiendo a navegar la universidad y, a veces, lo haces mientras también le enseñas a tu familia sobre el tema en el camino.”

Ser un estudiante de primera generación puede traer dificultades adicionales que otros estudiantes universitarios tal vez no consideren.

“Muchos de mis amigos cuyos padres fueron a la universidad ya saben cómo solicitar ayuda financiera, cómo hablar con los profesores o incluso cómo elegir clases,” dijo Sony. “Yo tuve que aprender mucho por mi cuenta, a menudo a base de prueba y error.”

Además, afrontar la universidad como estudiante de primera generación puede presentar dificultades para los planes de posgrado. Brittney Milian, estudiante de último año de marketing, comentó que tuvo que esforzarse más para desarrollar conexiones en el mundo corporativo.

“Conocer a la gente y desarrollar conexiones fue lo que más me costó, porque siento que muchos de mis compañeros de clase tenían padres dueños de grandes empresas o conocían a otras personas,” dijo Milian. “Mis padres simplemente no pudieron hacer esas conexiones por mí. Tuve que buscarlos yo misma.”

En UGA, hay varias organizaciones dedicadas a ayudar a los estudiantes de primera generación, como la Oficina para el Éxito y el Logro Estudiantil, TRIO y Tri-Alpha, una sociedad de honor para estudiantes de primera generación. Estas organizaciones pueden proveer recursos, así como un sentido de comunidad.

“Conectarme con otros estudiantes de primera generación también ha sido muy importante- ayuda saber que no estás solo,” dijo Sony.

Milian comentó que a veces a ella y sus amigas, quienes también son estudiantes de primera generación, se les hace difícil ser las únicas latinas o personas de color presentes en algunos eventos. Al principio esto le sorprendió, pero ahora dice que se da cuenta de que está rompiendo barreras activamente.

“Una de las cosas que realmente me ayudó cuando llegué a la escuela fue unirme a los clubes hispanos aquí y conocer a mis amigos, y ahora ellos son mis compañeros de cuarto,” dijo Milian.

Sony dijo que su inscripción en la Universidad de Georgia no solo es importante para ella, sino también para su familia.

“También hay mucha presión,” dijo Sony. “Se siente como si cargaras no solo tus propios sueños, sino también las esperanzas de tu familia.”

Nota del editor: Brittney Milian trabaja en el departamento de publicidad de The Red & Black, que es distinto de la sala de redacción, como pasante ejecutiva de cuentas.



Dave Hoisington greets colleagues in Senegal in October 2024. Among the colleagues includes Modou Mbaye, a physicist working with drones to assess current crop performance and with AI to predict crop performance throughout the season. PHOTO COURTESY/ALLISON FLOYD

‘Not exactly knowing what’s coming’

UGA students, professors struggle with uncertainty amid federal funding cuts

Sophia Eppley and Ellis Goud

When an email came in notifying him that he would need to stop international peanut research with more than 40 years of work behind it, Dave Hoisington became one of many individuals across the University of Georgia impacted by federal funding cuts.

The peanut lab was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, a foreign aid agency providing assistance to countries experiencing disaster recovery, poverty and democratic reforms. On Feb. 23, all non-essential USAID personnel were placed on administrative leave as a result of President Donald Trump’s efforts to pause U.S. foreign development assistance.

Hoisington, a senior research professor in UGA’s Crop and Soil Science Department, was the director of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut for more than 10 years. The lab was one of 17 Innovation Labs — projects to improve food security and reduce poverty in other countries — created under the Global Food Security Act of 2016.

“They were all part of our family because we were all working together. And so, to let them know that unfortunately we weren’t able to continue the project is not something you ever want to have to do.”

DAVE HOISINGTON | UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA CROP AND SOIL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT SENIOR RESEARCH PROFESSOR

“We were notified at the end of February that we were terminated, as were all of the other Innovation Labs that USAID was funding,” Hoisington said. “Since then, we’ve been basically figuring out how to close down all those projects and all those activities.”

Fearing for the future

The effects of these federal funding cuts don’t stop at labs or research faculty — students in UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs are increasingly facing potential long-term impacts.

Nandita S., a sophomore international affairs and German major, has spent the majority of her professional career with one end goal in mind: working for the government in German-American relations. As U.S.-Europe relations continue to weaken under the current administration, Nandita worries for the future of her career.

“The U.S.’s role in the world is starting to change,” Nandita said. “It’s this whole factor of not exactly knowing what’s coming because U.S. foreign policy has changed so drastically with this administration.”

Trump’s federal funding cuts have further interrupted her plans. As an alumna of the Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship, Nandita was offered a spot in CLS Refresh this year, which gives scholars the opportunity to continue their language studies. However, the program ended halfway through due to the DOS cutting funds for virtual initiatives.

Nandita became a finalist to study abroad in Kyrgyzstan with CLS, but turned the position down because the words “pending funding” appeared one too many times on her acceptance email. The uncertainty was too big a risk.

“When you do CLS, you get something called non-competitive eligibility with the government ... it kind of helps you get a job within the government,” Nandita said. “Turning that down was pretty difficult for me.”

Nandita knows several people within SPIA who have lost scholarships and internships that they had been working toward for years.

“They got their offer and were getting ready to go, and then it all stopped,” Nandita said. “It’s really affecting peo-

ple especially because a lot of these internships typically serve as pipelines into government jobs.”

Affiliates of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Peanut are facing a similar kind of uncertainty: job security.

According to Hoisington, there were about 250 people around the world linked to the program, which focused on working with farmers who own small plots of land, known as smallholder farmers, in Sub-Saharan Africa to improve peanut production practices.

“The whole goal is to basically improve agriculture in developing countries in particular, because that’s one of the best ways to move people out of poverty and solve a lot of other social problems,” Hoisington said.

But when he received a stop work order in late January, he knew he would have to let all of his affiliates know the program couldn’t continue.

“They were all part of our family because we were all working together,” Hoisington said. “And so, to let them know that unfortunately we weren’t able to continue the project, is not something you ever want to have to do.”

While the CLS program Nandita applied to has since resumed funding, the Innovation Lab has not.

With federal funding cuts, programs funded by USAID are uneasy. Out of 17 USAID-funded Feed the Future Innovation Labs, only one was able to resume its work — despite UGA’s peanut lab receiving a \$15 million grant from USAID in 2023 to extend the program for another five years.

Although funding may return in the future, students who are entering the job market in the near future under the Trump administration may face new obstacles. If a student were to get an interview for a government job or program — particularly in the CIA, FBI or DOJ — they would have to complete an intense job screening process to prove their loyalty to the administration, according to senior international affairs major Ruth W.

“That also poses a unique situation where ... I might not be able to get a job because if I answer honestly, they’ll say no,” Ruth said.

Ruth is staying at UGA another two years to get her master’s degree in international policy and plans to work for the government with a primary interest in human rights, particularly femicide — the murder of women — and abuse against women. She worries that the defunding or termination of human rights programs could impact her research and future job security because she works with women and that is “against the policies of the administration.”

“Human rights and trafficking is such a big part of what SPIA is and we’re losing out on valuable research and training that people like me could have,” Ruth said. “Even if funding does come back, we won’t be able to get hired be-

cause that foundational study wasn’t there.”

Looking onward

Despite the loss of jobs and opportunities from federal funding cuts, there is still room for hope.

When Ruth finishes graduate school and begins job hunting, she’s not sure if her field will still exist the way it does now. To play it safe, she’s shifted her concentration from human security to national security, hoping it will give her better job prospects down the line, or even the possibility of moving to Europe, where human security study has more stable funding.

“I [might] have to leave America because what I want to do isn’t here, even though I love my country,” Ruth said.

Ruth wants to participate in protests and speak out against the attacks on her field, but she’s worried her participation in the movement will make her a target later on when she’s applying for jobs.

“It’s so difficult to want to use your own power, but that fear of retaliation is just too strong to make it a worthwhile risk,” Ruth said. “People are easier to control when they’re afraid.”

For now, after graduate school, Ruth plans to spend a couple of years on Capitol Hill getting experience, building connections and ultimately waiting to see if things calm down enough for her to return to her field of work — assuming it still exists.

“It’s best right now to kind of have a philosophy of self-preservation,” Ruth said. “Just because you’re afraid and can’t speak out right now, doesn’t make you less of a person.”

Hoisington still plans to continue working in the global area of peanut research despite the Innovation Lab shutting down. He hopes there will still be a way to make a change, even though he says it will look different.

“We’re now trying to figure out, what is the potential or what is the real challenge that we could be solving by looking at global work that aids the U.S. peanut industry?” Hoisington said.

But looking back on his work, Hoisington wants to remain positive. He feels that he was able to accomplish the primary purpose of the project: to build up the capacity of others to make a change.

“We all need money to keep going, but in reality, all of them have been able to at least keep things moving forward as they had been planning to do,” Hoisington said. “That’s always nice to see and to know that at least you left things better off than when you started.”

Editor’s note: The Red & Black granted partial anonymity to sources in this story due to concerns for their safety and future job security.



An overview of campus taken from the Tate Student Center, overlooking students during class transition on the first week of classes on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024. PHOTO/SAMANTHA HURLEY



The Sunset Strappers perform at Dawgstock music festival at The Foundry in Athens, Georgia on Sunday, April 27 2025. PHOTO/JAKE WESTING



Sunday Driver performs at Dawgstock at The Foundry in Athens, Georgia, on Sunday, April 27, 2025. PHOTO/JOELLE ERWIN

‘Eight hours of peace and music’

Annual MBUS festival returns as Dawgstock

Caroline Newbern

It’s not every day your final grade in a class hinges on the organization and execution of a music festival in Athens.

One after another, from classic rock to DJ sets, 25 musical acts from various genres performed from 1-8 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, during Dawgstock, the 2025 edition of the University of Georgia Music Business Certificate’s 14th annual music festival.

Spread across The Foundry’s main and outdoor stages, and featuring MBUS students and alumni, each performance was a 15-minute set followed by a 15-minute transition to the next, with the exception of the headline acts Florence Cardigan and Elijah Johnston.

The UGA Music Business Certificate program, better known as MBUS, is designed to help interested students break into the music industry. David Barbe, the MBUS program director, came to UGA 15 years ago, wanting to make the program “extremely hands-on.”

Hence came a spring semester festival fully produced and run by the MBUS 5100 capstone class, “Emerging Issues in Music Business.” Although an annual tradition, the festival’s location, lineup and branding change each year.

“The festival was born out of two ideas. One is, there’s so many people that want to work at music festivals. Let’s learn how to do it by doing it,” Barbe said. “And the other thing was, as part of the overall culture and community of MBUS, let’s have an end of the year celebration of doing this.”

To plan the festival, MBUS 5100 students are able to take on any music business role they want, as long as it is approved by Barbe. This year’s team was comprised of 11 students.

Will Varga, a marketing major and MBUS student, served as the student production manager of Dawgstock, handling artist communication and also working as a stagehand. When deciding roles, Varga, a member of local band Sunday Driver, considered his experience with live performance, backline and sound control.

“While I don’t intend to pursue it as a career, I do love everything that goes into touring and live music, so it’s been a real treat,” Varga said.

Varga also took a break from behind-the-scenes work and played with his band during their set. Sunday Driver also played at The Bulldog Boogie, last year’s MBUS festival, at Southern Brewing Company.

Barbe said he was impressed by the diversity of music at this year’s event, along with students’ preparedness and professionalism.

“They work hard, and they really, really want to do this,” Barbe said. “For those people, it always works out. They always seem to find a career in music.”

Corey Fields, one of the two house sound technicians for The Foundry, worked the main stage at Dawgstock, assisting with the tight schedule. Fields was impressed by student talent, noting the ever-changing yet ever-present music scene in Athens.

“This has always been a place that seems to foster some sort of creative power and bring creative people together,” Fields said.

Ashlyn Kaczowski, a UGA December 2024 graduate and MBUS alumna, represented part of this talent and creativity, playing sets with her two bands, Fossils for Brunch and all-girl group Sepia Dream.

A year ago, after realizing, “all [she] could tell people was

that [she] liked hanging out with [her] cats,” Kaczowski decided to learn how to play an instrument.

“I tried to pick up guitar so many times over the past few years, and I just couldn’t do it alone,” Kaczowski said.

Kaczowski now plays the electric and acoustic guitars, and dabbles in drumming.

The MBUS program is not fulfilling just for students, but also for their parents. Despite bad traffic, Tracie Murphy drove from south of Atlanta to watch her daughter and MBUS student, Chloe Cox, perform her set at Dawgstock.

“I’m so proud of where she came from to where she is now,” Murphy said. “You would not believe the strides she’s made.”

Such strides are encouraged by Barbe, who is considered a “miracle worker” by Murphy.

Barbe started his music career as a teenager in the ‘70s, playing and recording music in his parents’ basement. Since then, he has started Chase Park Transduction recording studio, produced and engineered approximately 400 albums, and keeps pictures of his former students hung on his office walls.

“In everything you do, if you are authentic and you focus on doing quality work and being a quality person all the time, it’s amazing how far you can go in life,” Barbe said.

On a campus of more than 40,000 students, MBUS students across majors come together to form their own tight-knit community, connected to alumni and faculty, all united by a common goal: creating music. Dawgstock marks this achievement.

“Let’s not just be relieved that school’s over and go our separate ways; this has been a great year together,” Barbe said. “We’ve all been part of something.”

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Cozy Bar and Cozy Yum Yum

A look inside the ‘most Athens-curated’ bar and restaurant

Ella Kroll

Tucked away on a basement level with a covert entrance on North Jackson Street, Cozy Bar is a hidden pocket of late night entertainment and connection. Just a few doors down sits its new counterpart Cozy Yum Yum, which serves Asian cuisine classics and American comfort food.

The bar and restaurant’s eponym, 57-year-old Miss Cozy, moved from her home in Bangkok, Thailand, to Athens in 2000. The spelling of her real name, which she does not share for privacy reasons in her culture, resembles the English word “cozy” and is the inspiration for her joint establishments.

Miss Cozy began her local business journey in 2005 with a shop that sold imported gifts from Bangkok. After the gift shop “did not work out,” she opened a Thai restaurant in 2007: the original Cozy Yum Yum, housed in Cozy Bar’s current location at 179 N. Jackson St.

The restaurant transitioned to Cozy Bar after Miss Cozy struggled to find employees who could cook Thai food, and the bar has maintained its presence ever since. Since 2007, sake bombs and karaoke have been its specialties, setting the bar apart from the sea of establishments surrounding it in downtown.

“I think it’s part [of] my idea that I’m Asian; I don’t know American bars or culture,” Miss Cozy said. “People say, ‘What’s sake bomb?’ I say, ‘You spend \$2 to know about it.’”

With her preference being to sing and dance rather than stand and talk, Miss Cozy’s vision for Cozy Bar stems from her culture, her idea of fun and the desire to make people happy. Manager Kingsley Ugo said they “don’t say no to music,” and play a range of genres so everyone hears something they like.

Miss Cozy and Ugo agreed the bar’s small atmosphere allows them to get to know the people who come in. They have built close relationships with regular customers and decorated the walls of the bar with photos of these customers over the years.

“I feel like they’re my own kids. I become like [a] grandmother for them,” Miss Cozy said. “Young people, I love to see them happy.”

Originally serving select food items at the bar, Cozy Yum Yum was established as a separate location down the street when it took over the former Pita Pit space in March of this year. In addition to its full menu, the restaurant offers a \$6 menu with options including egg rolls, chicken dumplings and macaroni and cheese.

“I try to focus on students, young people that don’t have a lot of money to buy \$20, \$30 meals,” Miss Cozy said. “I want, even [with] their small money, they still can have a choice of food.”

Miss Cozy makes the Asian food items on the menu herself, while other menu items she learns from YouTube tutorials based on what her customers like. She plans to have Cozy Yum Yum’s new space fully open and operational next month, and also plans to add Asian desserts, bubble tea and ice cream to the menu for summer.

Lexi Alexander, a senior public relations major at the



A group of people walks in front of Cozy Bar in Athens, Georgia, on Monday, April 28, 2025 PHOTO/AMELIA DURDEN

University of Georgia, said her favorite part about Cozy Bar and Cozy Yum Yum is how “chaotic” the sites can be, with all the options to sing karaoke, dance, drink or get food.

“I think people get the most community, town, local dive bar experience you can think of,” Alexander said. “If you were to walk into an average dive bar in Athens, I would say Cozy [Bar] would be the most Athens-curated one, the one that matches the aesthetic of Athens.”

Miss Cozy works late nights at the bar every night it is open, and said after she pays the bills, she donates the rest of her earnings to various charitable causes. She has donated blood every eight weeks for more than 30 years, and keeps tabs from beer cans purchased at Cozy Bar to

donate to a factory back home in Thailand that makes prosthetics.

“I don’t care about how many hours I work or what time I work,” Miss Cozy said. “I hope people come to Cozy Bar or Cozy Yum Yum [and] they’re proud that part of their money [they] spend, they’re helping other people.”

Now full circle back to roots placed in 2007, Cozy Bar and Cozy Yum Yum have solidified their place in downtown Athens, providing an experience that offers food, fun and a chance to find community.

“I believe what I do now is a good opportunity and good choice for everyone,” Miss Cozy said. “I plan to [keep] what I have here and make people happy and coming [back].”



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Georgia Ike Cousins head baseball coach Wes Johnson walks to the dugout before the first game of the NCAA Athens Regional between Army and Georgia at Foley Field in Athens, Georgia, on Friday, May 31, 2024. Georgia won 8-7. PHOTO/MADY MERTENS

Pitch perfect

Wes Johnson turning Georgia baseball around

Owen McDaniel

Early in his college career at Dallas Baptist University, future Houston Astros pitcher Cy Sneed was throwing with just the catcher and pitching coach, Wes Johnson, when Johnson ordered Sneed to throw a fastball as hard as possible without worrying about the location of the pitch.

Sneed reared back and threw a heater — clocking in at 88 mph on the radar gun. Johnson, noticing a slight imperfection in his motion, had Sneed do some drills to help correct his hips.

Once Johnson was satisfied with Sneed’s adjustment, he told him to throw a fastball on the outside corner. Less than five minutes after the first pitch, the radar gun now read 92 mph. Sneed said he saw Johnson work that same magic on several players at Dallas Baptist.

For the better part of the last three decades, Johnson has been transforming raw arms like Sneed’s into major league talent. From his first days as a college baseball coach at Central Arkansas in 2008, to his current role as Georgia’s head coach, more than 60 pitchers that have been under Johnson’s tutelage have been drafted to the MLB.

“Wes Johnson was huge for me,” Sneed said. “He is one of just a few people I can point to and say, ‘I wouldn’t have done the things I was able to do without him.’”

Though Johnson never played baseball professionally, he has the complex realm of pitching down to a science. He is a huge advocate for using state-of-the-art technology, such as TrackMan and Hawk-Eye, to help analyze his pitchers and gauge their progress.

“It’s everything we do,” Johnson said. “I’ve been on record saying I’m 98% objective and 2% subjective when it comes to filling out a lineup. There’s nothing we do that doesn’t involve analytics or data.”

These systems provide advanced metrics like spin rate and horizontal movement, which show Johnson highly specific areas where his pitchers need to improve. During the recent

offseason renovation of Foley Field, a pitching lab was installed and equipped with this technology. These tools, combined with a player-specific coaching and communication style, sets Johnson apart.

“Wes Johnson is a master communicator,” Sneed said. “I’ve seen and experienced him say the same thing dozens of different ways until it clicks for a guy. He also knows what a guy needs to hear, some need to be calmed down, and others chewed out, while some might need a joke. I’ve seen him get in a guy’s face and a few innings later go out there and give a different guy a verbal hug. He knows what his guys need and he provides it.”

Johnson brought success to a Georgia baseball program that was treading water in the SEC when he was hired as head coach after the 2023 season. It starts on the recruiting trail, where Johnson’s record with pitcher development has attracted players from around the nation to Athens.

He brought in several highly sought-after recruits, including Brian Curley, who transferred from Virginia Commonwealth University after posting a 2.87 ERA and 8.9 K/9 across 78.1 innings in 2024. Curley was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 2024 MLB Draft, but chose to play for Johnson instead because he believed Georgia was the best place for him to elevate his game.

“If you look at [Georgia’s] track record, like from fall to the spring, where our guys are now, I don’t think you’re gonna see better development and better progress of pitchers anywhere in the country,” Curley said.

Georgia’s pitching has improved drastically in just about every statistical category from 2023 to this season, which has translated to on-field achievement, including the team’s first appearance in the Super Regional since 2008 last season, after having lost the last five regionals the Bulldogs played in. Georgia is off to another promising start this year, currently sitting at 36-11 and tied for fifth in the SEC with the conference tournament right around the corner.

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Thursday Crossword - Answer Online FRIDAY May 9

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ACROSS

1. Little jerks

5. Head downtown?

10. Help in a holdup

14. Balm for target

15. Beyond partner

16. Screenplay direction

17. T-bone region

18. Medical research goals

19. Every family has one

20. Illuminated

23. Holiday follower?

24. Skier's challenge

25. Unlike a litterbug

27. Palindromic windmill part

30. End of two state names

33. Scratch, say

36. Better copy?

38. Bahrain bread

39. Passed with ease

41. Genetic info carrier

42. Arboreal abode

43. Things to rattle

45. Fishtail, e.g.

47. Daydreamer's limit?

48. Fit to be fare

50. Killed, as a dragon

53. Tux accessory

54. Prepare for hanging

57. Wrestling area

59. Serving as a diplomat

64. Beer selections

66. Hindu grouping

67. Tat-tat intro

68. Folk facts

69. Pagoda roofing

70. Black cat, some think

71. It may come before "we forget"

72. Failed as a sentry

73. Bird's perch, perhaps

DOWN

1. Chaucer bit

2. They may be clicked on

3. Flu symptom

4. Grad-to-be

5. Bushwhacker's tool

6. Go to the edge of

7. The good olde days

8. Cooking place

9. Transmit anew

10. Back on a battleship

11. Crooners, often

12. Creation location

13. "High School Musical" extra

21. Main mail drop (abbr.)

22. Disconnected, as a phone line

26. Like siblings

28. Chances in Vegas

29. Roller Derby milieus

31. Checklist item

32. Pretentiously stylish

33. Attack deterrent

34. Military sch.

35. Enrolls

37. Barbary ape's lack

40. The red

44. Inner city concern

46. Most absurd

49. Official orders

51. Emotion of the miffed

52. Long and thin

55. Sight from Biscayne Bay

56. Gourmand

57. Shoppers' site

58. Ubiquitous lily relative

60. Place for some polish

61. "Cast Away" setting

62. Manual component

63. A driver may change one

65. Firm or fixed

© Lovatts Puzzles

Moments from Athens Twilight Criterium 2025



The 45th Athens Twilight Criterium was held on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. The Athens Twilight Criterium included live music, bike races, running races and food trucks. PHOTO CREDIT: FOREST X. DYNES (1, 3, 7) ETHAN GREENE (2, 6) LANEY MARTIN (4, 5)



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