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B4 **NOTE CHANGE**
Women revamping music theory degree

B7 **GREAT SOUTHLAND STAMPEDE**

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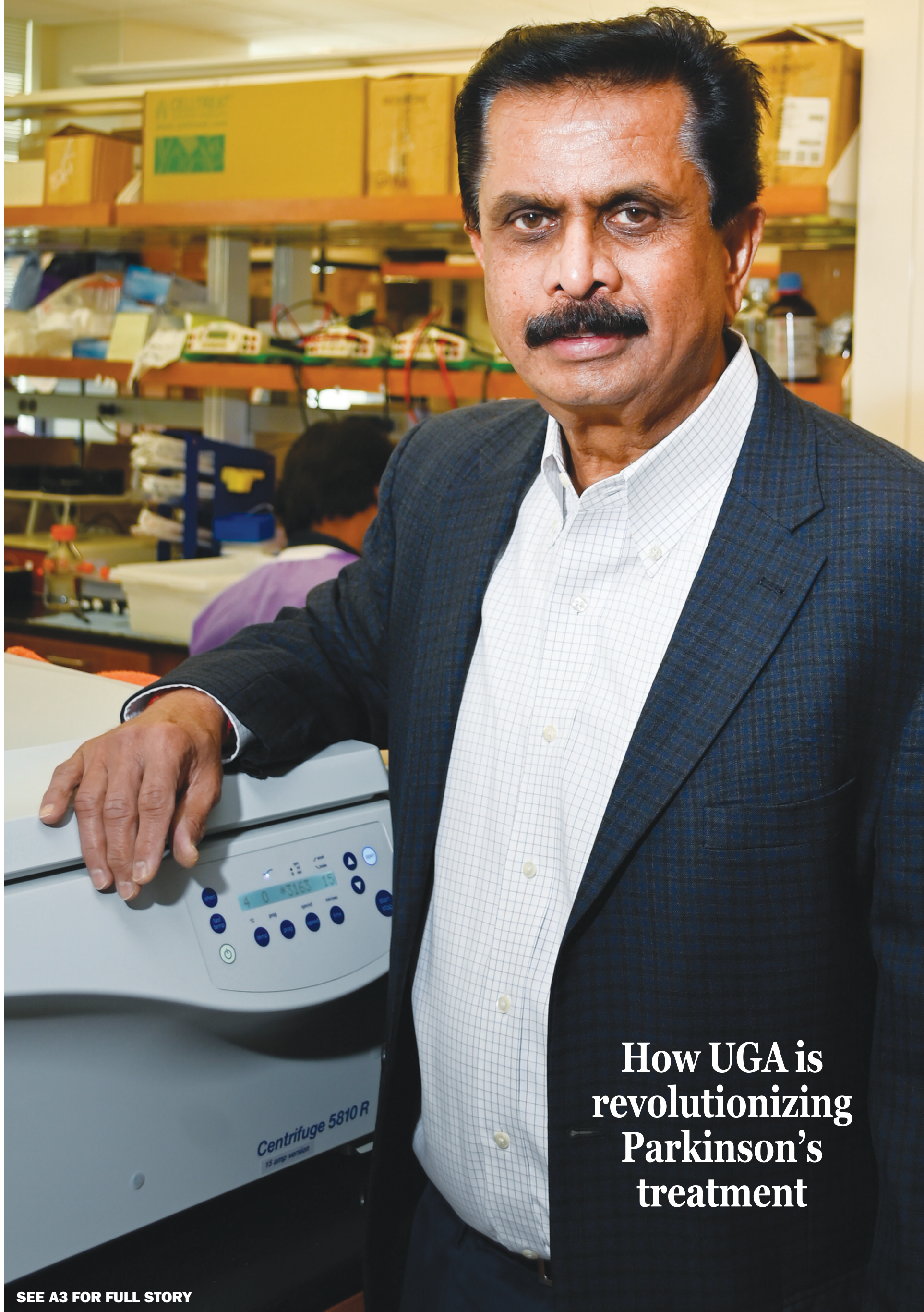
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VOL. **132** | No. **15** | Athens, Georgia

FROM MICROBES TO MEDICINE



How UGA is
revolutionizing
Parkinson's
treatment

SEE A3 FOR FULL STORY

Anumantha Kanthasamy poses for a portrait in his lab at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, on Thursday, March 13, 2025. PHOTO/MERRIELLE GATLIN



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Erica Whitney Priest poses for a portrait in front of Mary Lyndon Hall at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, on Friday, March 14, 2025. Priest is a lecturer in UGA's department of history and has done extensive research on women's history in academia. PHOTO/VALOR LEKAS

Creating a legacy

The women who shaped coeducation at UGA

Savannah Hayes

The history of coeducation at the University of Georgia spans more than a century, starting just before 1914, when Mary Lyndon, the first woman to get a degree from the university, got her master's degree. UGA's first 12 female undergraduate students started school just a few years later, in 1918.

Lyndon was the first woman to ever graduate from UGA. She did so four years before women could officially be admitted.

"How did she do that?" Libby Morris, a professor in the women's and gender studies department, said. "She took courses in the summer, which women were allowed to do, and when she accumulated enough credits, she petitioned to graduate. That, of course, was quite clever, and I do not believe enthusiastically endorsed by the administration."

The U.S.'s entry into World War I provided a reason for the Board of Trustees to allow coeducation for the first time at the university, due to a need for more workers in critical industries, such as nutrition and secondary school education. With the creation of the Division of Home Economics, which later became the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, UGA's first dozen female undergraduates were able to enroll in a two-year program in home economics.

"There was a belief, prior to going co-ed, that most universities had, that women had a finite amount of energy, a finite amount of brain power," Erica Whitney Priest, a lecturer for the department of history, said. "So, if they used their brain to go to school, they would waste away. You would not be able to do anything else."

Lyndon went on to become the first associate professor of education and dean of women in 1919, once women were officially admitted to the university. The first 12 women were Ora

Hart Avery, Evelyn Bullard, Jessie Burton, Susie Burton, Etta Colclough, Edith Creswell, Lois Dowdle, Sibyl Hampton, Eldona Oliver, Mattie Rampley, Edith Robertson and Lois Walker.

The home economics program was part of the College of Agriculture, and Creswell was named director of the new division in 1918.

Priest said many rules governed women for the first 50 years they were on campus. This included things such as how they were required to live in the same dorm, how long they had to get between classes and if and when they could leave campus. The concept of women having these rules while men did not – known as locus parentis – went on for most of the 20th century.

Creswell was the first woman to receive a baccalaureate degree at UGA in 1919 for home economics. She went on to become the first dean of the College of Family and Consumer Sciences when it was created from the Division of Home Economics in 1933. Creswell was dean until 1945 and remained a professor until 1949. In 1963, Creswell Hall, named in her honor, was originally built as an all-female dorm.

As dean of women, Lyndon established many communities at the university. These included the Thalian Dramatic Club, the women's basketball team, the Pioneer Club and Phi Mu, the first sorority on campus.

Lyndon was memorialized with an all-female resident hall, which was named after her in 1936. Now, Mary Lyndon Hall is home to the French and Spanish language communities. Former UGA President O.C. Aderhold paid tribute to Lyndon with Mary Lyndon Day on May 21, 1964.

"In 100 years, women have far exceeded expectations that the people who would let in the first 12 would have thought," Priest said.

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Anumantha Kanthasamy poses for a portrait in his lab at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, on Thursday, March 13, 2025. Kanthasamy is the director of the Isakson Center for Neurological Disease Research, the John H. “Johnny” Isakson Chair for Parkinson’s Research, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and a UGA professor. He researches the role of environmental neurotoxins in the development of Parkinson’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. PHOTO/MERIELLE GATLIN

Microbes to the rescue

UGA researchers use bugs to battle Parkinson’s

Ellis Goud

From family members, to friends, to beloved members of society, Parkinson’s disease impacts more than 10 million people around the world, following just behind Alzheimer’s as the most common neurodegenerative disorder in the U.S. Anumantha Kanthasamy, a neurotoxicologist and PD researcher at the University of Georgia’s Isakson Center for Neurological Disease Research, uses a unique approach in finding a therapeutic medicine for Parkinson’s disease: bugs.

What is Parkinson’s disease?

First described as “shaking palsy,” PD is a progressive brain disease characterized by uncontrollable movements and difficulty with balance and coordination. While there is no cure, researchers at UGA are working to find new treatments.

In 2022, UGA created the Isakson Center to lead the charge for identifying disease mechanisms, developing early diagnostic biomarkers and creating treatment options for PD and other neurodegenerative diseases.

Directed by Kanthasamy, the center uses translational neuroscience – turning research findings into clinical treatments – for neurodegenerative diseases like PD.

“It’s been discovered more than 200 years,” Kanthasamy said. “Still, we don’t know the cause. What causes the disease, and how do we effectively treat the disease?”

The center is named in honor of former U.S. Sen. John Hardy “Johnny” Isakson, a UGA alumnus who was diagnosed with PD in 2015 and died in 2021 at 76 years old.

Isakson was the final contributor to UGA’s campaign goal of \$4.5 million to create the John H. “Johnny” Isakson Chair for Parkinson’s Research and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar position, which Kanthasamy now holds.

Having a neuroscience center at UGA, Kanthasamy said, was long overdue.

The Isakson Center is now a facility for neurological disease research at UGA, inviting collaboration and innovation across a variety of labs and departments within the university and beyond.

Bugs as drugs

Kanthasamy’s lab focuses on the impact of environmental toxins on the development of neurodegenerative disorders like PD. The lab looks at signals that cause cell death, problems such as brain inflammation or protein misfolding, change in gene function resulting from neurotoxic stress early detection and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

A treatment project in Kanthasamy’s lab uses “bugs” to find therapeutic medicine.

Bugs is a term that Piyush Padhi, a postdoctoral researcher in translational neuroscience, uses to describe the microscopic organisms living in our gut. The lab found bugs can produce a drug called Levodopa that can relieve PD symptoms like tremors and muscle stiffness.

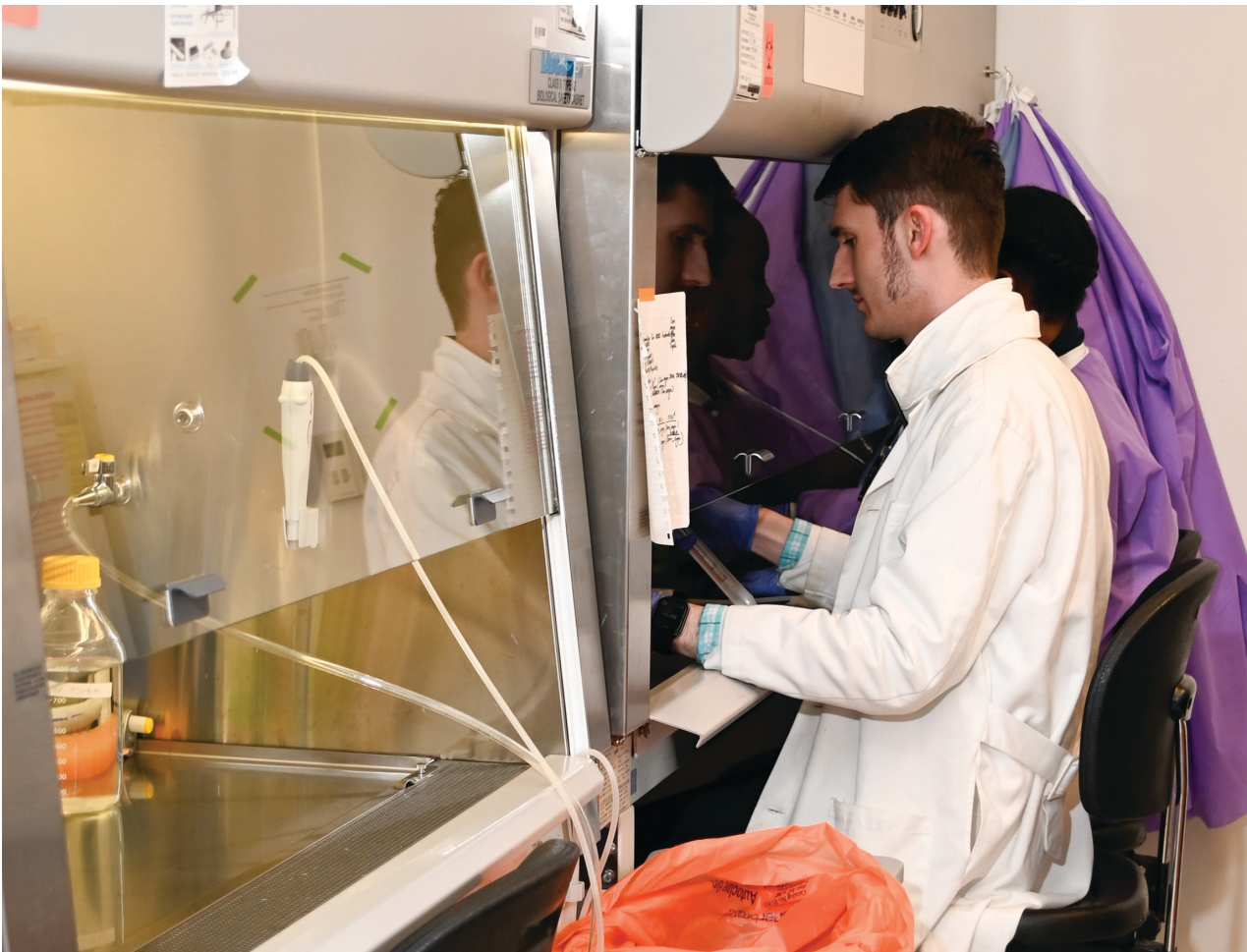
“Food is medicine, they say, but sometimes food can’t tackle the specific problems. So why not use the microbiome?”

PIYUSH PADHI | POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Levodopa is currently the standard drug for treating PD symptoms, but there are some drawbacks to its use. In addition to causing nausea and vomiting, the treatment fluctuates in its effectiveness and wears off quickly.

“The drug disappears every two, three hours from the body,” Kanthasamy said. “We have to provide the drug multiple times to get the effect. But over time, that causes dyskinesia.”

After a few years of Levodopa treatment, the body may begin to experience dyskinesia, involuntary and erratic movements, which can be painful and interfere with daily activities. By engineering the production of Levodopa in the body, the patient can get a sustained drug level over



PhD students Drake Cameron Miller, left, and Amanda George work in Anumantha Kanthasamy’s lab at the College of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Georgia, on Thursday, March 13, 2025. PHOTO/MERIELLE GATLIN

time and avoid developing dyskinesia.

Work like this was one of the main reasons Padhi was drawn to work with Kanthasamy, the principal investigator (PI) of this research. Before coming to UGA, Kanthasamy worked at Iowa State University, researching a way to diagnose PD early through skin samples.

“He’s been probably one of the most out-of-the-box approach PIs that I’ve ever met,” Padhi said. “He doesn’t usually try to stick within the normal scientific explorations. He tries to go beyond.”

Typically, PD is diagnosed based on clinical signs and can be confirmed only with an autopsy. Kanthasamy’s study found that alpha-synuclein, a brain protein linked to PD, can also be detected in skin tissues, using a test for skin samples creates the opportunity for an early and accurate diagnosis of PD.

Early detection and bioengineered treatments are just two of the results of Kanthasamy’s work over the past few years. Through Kanthasamy’s lab and the Isakson Center, which has recruited around 60 people, UGA researchers hope to continue innovating and producing treatments for PD and other neurodegenerative diseases.

“There’s a lot of people affected by this disease, and it’s increasing over time, so we want to be able to give better treatments to them,” Padhi said. “That’s the goal.”

Bridging the gap

For the Kanthasamy lab and the Isakson Center, working across disciplines is everything.

In his recruitment for the center, Kanthasamy finds faculty affiliated with not only neuroscience, but other areas like pharmacology, biomedical sciences, infectious diseases, cellular biology and animal and dairy sciences. These affiliates collaborate within and between departments through weekly meetings, where they present their work and interact with each other. Together, researchers also look at top papers that come out.

“There is a lot of intellectual exchange that’s happening collectively, as a team,” Kanthasamy said. “That’s how we build a program.”

Although much of his lab is comprised of graduate and post-graduate students, Kanthasamy wants to provide more neuroscience opportunities for undergraduates. With a new undergraduate neuroscience major under review

at UGA, he hopes to see more of these students getting experience through his lab and the Isakson Center.

“One thing that I found out here after moving from Iowa State to UGA, the quality of undergraduate students doing research is quite amazing,” Kanthasamy said. “I’m incredibly impressed with the quality of students we get.”

The reach of the Isakson Center doesn’t just stop at people. As a research center under the College of Veterinary Medicine at UGA, animals play a crucial role in understanding and researching neuroscience.

“There is no real dividing line between human and animal medicine,” Dr. Lisa K. Nolan, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, said in a statement. “A disease that affects humans often affects animals and vice versa.”

Animal models help researchers study the human nervous system and assess how therapeutic medicine can be used to treat neurodegenerative disorders. At Kanthasamy’s lab, rodents are used to understand symptoms and treatments of PD.

“You can’t always work in a petri dish and assume that’s going to be a biological phenomenon that’s happening in the whole human body,” Padhi said.

In people with PD, dopamine neurons are lost through aging, as well as genetic and environmental factors. Almost all mammals, Padhi said, have dopamine, just like humans do. Processes related to dopamine neuron loss can be researched in animals to provide insights about people, making these models critical, according to Kanthasamy.

Extending to animal subjects reduces the need for human clinical trials, something Padhi says is very expensive and time consuming. With the right animal model, a lab can see how a treatment would impact a human subject.

“Many important insights into human disease, such as those by the Isakson team, are the result of comparative medical research, which relies on interactions between human and veterinary medicine,” Nolan said in the statement.

The interactions between both humans and non-humans is something Kanthasamy hopes to continue building on. By recruiting more faculty, training more students and doing more translational work, Kanthasamy wants to keep the momentum as a center of excellence going after creating a strong foundation in a short period of time.

“It doesn’t happen overnight,” Kanthasamy said. “It takes time. We will keep at it.”

Southern belles and bows

How do we view femininity in the South?

Gabrielle Gruszynski

I remember watching “Gone With the Wind” for the first time on my parents’ back porch, the cicadas and katydids weaving a soft symphony around me. I had my computer at full volume, yet the hum still drowned out the speakers. It’s one of the clearest moments I’ve ever felt rooted in the South — and I absolutely hate it.

I remember wondering how high the film’s costume budget must have been — all the flouncy ruffles and taffeta in Scarlett O’Hara’s gowns couldn’t have come cheap. Funny enough, attending an SEC school and being involved in Greek life, I see modernized versions of that antebellum opulence all the time, with a contemporary twist.

It’s unsettling how that celebration of wealth and privilege continues to echo in today’s world, where inequality remains pervasive. And it’s not just monetary inequality. Gender inequality in the South is something I’ve been acutely aware of from a young age.

The gender pay gap is a global issue, but I firmly believe women in the American South face particularly challenging circumstances. A report from the Institute of Women’s Policy Research found that “working women in the South suffer some of the harshest inequalities in the U.S., not only in terms of how much they are paid, but how they are treated in the workforce.”

To compare the statistics of women across the U.S., the report graded each state based on six categories: political participation, employment and earnings, work and family, poverty and opportunity, reproductive rights and health and well-being. Not a single state in the South earned a grade above a C-.

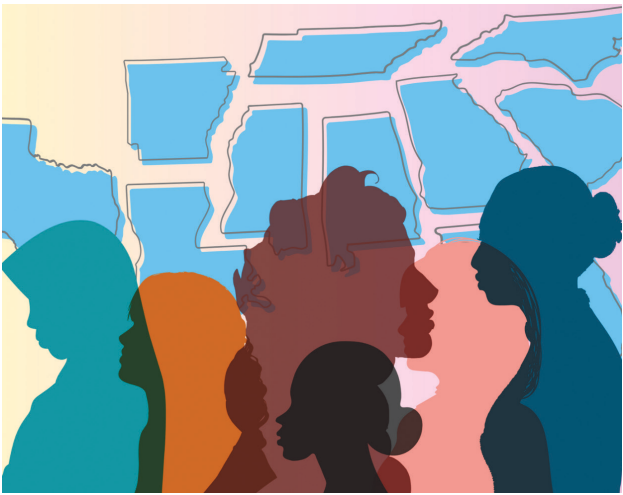
These findings reveal the deep-rooted cultural forces that shape women’s experiences in the South. Beyond statistics, inequalities are woven into the fabric of Southern femininity — how women are expected to behave, look and carry themselves.

Southern femininity is portrayed as delicate, poised and self-sacrificing, with an emphasis on traditional gender roles. This idealized version of womanhood is not just a cultural norm, but a pressure that continues to influence the way Southern women navigate the world.

I’m often confronted with these expectations as a resident of the South, even when it feels at odds with my identity. The contrast between the ideals of Southern femininity and the harsh realities many women face is jarring, and it’s something I’ve struggled to reconcile. The cultural celebration of prototypical “Southern belles,” with sweet manners and dainty appearances, can obscure the complexity of real women’s lives, leaving little room for those who don’t fit that narrow mold.

I’m not sure if you’ve ever been called a “little lady” before, but I consider this to be the epitome of Southern patriarchal stereotypes. It’s a subtle yet pervasive practice where women, particularly in the South, are infantilized with condescending phrases like “Bless your heart” or “Aren’t you sweet?”

This behavior reflects a broader cultural expectation that women must embody a specific, submissive role — one



GRAPHIC/RYLEE TOOLE

that aligns with outdated notions of femininity, simultaneously limiting opportunities for empowerment. This subtle form of control is ingrained in Southern traditions, contributing to the persistent gender inequality that women in the South face today.

Intersectionality plays a large role in how gender and race are viewed in the South. In the simplest terms, “intersectionality is the concept that all oppression is linked,” according to Womankind Worldwide, and includes categories such as racial identity, sexuality, gender, nationality and disability. So what does intersectionality have to do with women’s rights and Southern femininity?

Intersectionality shapes how women experience gender in the South, including who is and is not represented in feminine ideals. The expectations of Southern womanhood are often constructed with a certain model in mind, white, straight and traditionally feminine, and has historically marginalized women whose experiences don’t align with the Southern belle stereotype, such as women of color, working-class women and LGBTQ+ women.

Southern Black women, for example, have long been excluded from this mold. They have instead been subjected to many dehumanizing stereotypes that deny them the same protections afforded to their white counterparts.

Women of a lower socioeconomic class may also find themselves at odds with the South’s beauty standards and social hierarchy, where wealth often dictates who is considered “proper” or “ladylike.” LGBTQ+ women, too, face unique challenges. Traditional Southern gender roles leave little room for expressions of femininity that don’t fit within a rigid, heterosexual framework.

I find myself wondering, where do we go from here? If the South is to move forward, it must reckon with its ingrained ideals that limit women’s autonomy, opportunities and identities. Challenging these outdated notions of femininity isn’t about rejecting the Southern belle stereotype – it’s about creating a space for all women to define and express themselves on their terms. That means supporting policies and legislation that address gender inequality – and recognizing that Southern womanhood is not a monolith.

Tradition should not come at the expense of progress.

Gabrielle Gruszynski is a junior journalism and English major at the University of Georgia.

STUDENT VOICES

Dream concert

What musician do you want to perform in Athens?

Courtney Craft

Music is the heartbeat of Athens. With bands such as The B-52s and R.E.M. getting their start here, the city has become a staple of music culture. Artists such as Megan Moroney and Riley Green continue to add Athens to their tour routes for a reason, performing at iconic venues like the Georgia Theatre, 40 Watt Club and, the newest addition, Akins Ford Arena.

But, there are still artists who have yet to perform in the Classic City. The Red & Black asked students at the University of Georgia who they want to see perform in Athens.



Ria Lisso

SOPHOMORE PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE MAJOR

“I would like Giveon to come because I feel like he’s not as popular as other mainstream artists, but he still makes good music. And I feel like he has a chill voice that maybe everyone would appreciate,” said Lisso. “He has meaningful songs.”



Jin Lin

FRESHMAN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND FILM MAJOR

“My favorite artist is probably Tyler the Creator. I’ve been following him since ‘Igor.’ I really like his latest album, so I think that’ll be my pick,” said Lin.



Sebastian Adams

SOPHOMORE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR

“I’m going with Glaive. He’s a younger artist from North Carolina,” said Adams. “He’s got a lot of energy, and I feel like if he came to Athens, it would be a really good experience, especially with the crowd from UGA, I feel like he’d fit in.”



Kaya Palukaitis

SOPHOMORE MICROBIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR

“A band I would want to come here to Athens is probably Polyphia, just because they’re my favorite band. And they’re kind of different from the norm,” said Palukaitis.

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CORRECTIONS

In the February print edition, a story on A3 misstated the relationship between Linda E. Davis and Karl Scott. This has since been corrected 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.



A protest was held in solidarity with immigrants and the Athens Latino community on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. Approximately 200 people were in attendance. PHOTO/LILY KATE AKINS
Protesta en solidaridad con los inmigrantes y la comunidad latina de Athens el jueves 6 de febrero de 2025 en Athens, Georgia. Asistieron aproximadamente 200 personas. FOTO/LILY KATE AKINS

What you need to know about immigration policy in Athens

Katie Guenthner

With changes to immigration policies following President Donald Trump's inauguration, many Athenians want to know how local immigration policy has been affected. Recent years have seen changes to immigration policies that impact Georgia, including the Laken Riley Act, passed in January, and the Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024, both of which changed how law enforcement is required to treat immigrants whose documentation status is unknown or unclear. Clarke County Sheriff John Williams and Athens-Clarke County Police Chief Jerry Saulters explained on Feb. 11 that the Georgia Criminal Alien Track and Report Act of 2024, or Georgia House Bill 1105, requires local and state

law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration officials more than in the past. Now, local law enforcement must verify an individual's immigration status if they are accused of certain misdemeanors, such as traffic law violations, before releasing the individual with a citation. Saulters said law enforcement has to establish whether an individual stopped for a finger-printable offense is a citizen. If the individual does not have a driver's license or other ID, law enforcement must do an Illegal Alien Query (IAQ) and detain the individual for 20 minutes while they wait for federal immigration officials to respond to the query. After 20 minutes, if ACCPD has not received a response, they can release the individual on citation, Saulters said. Both Williams and Saulters recommended community members do research to know their rights and the rights of immigrants. "When you do your research, and you talk to the people you know and you're honest with facts, that helps," Williams said. "There's going to be some fear-mongering. There's going to be some things that are out there that are both true and not true, and we just need to be able to parse through that information."

The Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights also advises immigrants to know their rights. They have distributed an estimated 100,000 flyers and engaged in community efforts to inform Georgia's Latino community about their legal rights. Any federal law enforcement agent needs a warrant signed by a judge to enter a private residence, according to Dalia Perez, communications associate for GLAHR. This is different from an ICE administrative warrant, which does not give a federal agent the ability to enter a private residence without the resident's permission. "We're pushing people to use their rights, to use their right to remain silent, to use the right to not open the door if a federal agent comes to their door," Perez said. Perez explained that all people in the U.S. have the right to due process and legal counsel, regardless of citizenship status. Organizations such as GLAHR and the Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition can provide "know your rights" resources to immigrants, as well as general advice for dealing with law enforcement. "We're not telling people to not go about their lives, because that is unrealistic," Perez said. "What we're telling people to do is just to be really careful, to be super vigilant."

Lo que necesitas saber sobre la política de inmigración en Athens

Katie Guenthner, Traducido por Isa Sucre Pardo

Con los cambios en las políticas de inmigración tras la inauguración del presidente Donald Trump, muchos atenienses quieren saber cómo ha sido afectada la política de inmigración local. En los últimos años se han visto cambios en las políticas de inmigración que afectan a Georgia, incluyendo la Ley Laken Riley aprobada en enero y la Ley de Seguimiento e Informe de Extranjeros Criminales de Georgia de 2024, que cambiaron la forma en que la policía debe tratar a los inmigrantes cuyo estado de documentación es desconocido o poco claro. El 11 de febrero, docenas de miembros de la comunidad de Athens se reunieron para escuchar al sheriff del condado de Clarke, John Williams, y al jefe de policía del condado de Athens-Clarke, Jerry Saulters, explicar actualizaciones sobre la política de inmigración local. El sheriff del condado de Clarke John Williams y el jefe de policía del condado de Athens-Clarke, Jerry Saulters expli-

caron el 11 de febrero que la Ley de Seguimiento e Informe de Extranjeros Criminales de Georgia de 2024, o Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes de Georgia 1105, requiere que la policía local y estatal cooperen con los funcionarios federales de inmigración más que en el pasado. Ahora, las fuerzas de seguridad locales deben verificar el estatus migratorio de una persona si se la acusa de ciertos delitos menores, como infracciones de las leyes de tránsito, antes de liberar a la persona con una citación. Saulters dijo que la policía tiene que determinar si una persona detenida por un delito que requiere huellas dactilares es un ciudadano. Si la persona no tiene licencia de conducir u otra identificación, la policía debe realizar una Consulta de Extranjero Ilegal (IAQ) y detener a la persona durante 20 minutos mientras esperan que los funcionarios federales de inmigración respondan a la consulta. Después de 20 minutos, si el ACCPD no ha recibido una respuesta, pueden liberar a la persona mediante una citación, dijo Saulters. Tanto Williams como Saulters recomendaron que los miembros de la comunidad investiguen para conocer sus derechos y los derechos de los inmigrantes. "Cuando uno investiga y habla con la gente que conoce y es honesto con los hechos, eso ayuda," dijo Williams. "Va a haber algo de alarmismo. Habrá algunas cosas que serán ciertas y otras que no, y simplemente necesitamos poder analizar esa información."

La Alianza Latina de Georgia por los Derechos Hu-

manos (GLAHR) también aconseja a los inmigrantes que conozcan sus derechos. Han distribuido aproximadamente 100.000 folletos y han participado en iniciativas comunitarias para informar a la comunidad latina de Georgia sobre sus derechos legales. Según Dalia Pérez, asociada de comunicaciones de GLAHR, cualquier agente de las fuerzas de seguridad federales necesita una orden judicial firmada por un juez para entrar en una residencia privada. Esto es diferente de una orden administrativa de ICE, que no le da a un agente federal la capacidad de entrar en una residencia privada sin el permiso del residente. "Estamos presionando a las personas para que ejerzan sus derechos, para que ejerzan su derecho a permanecer en silencio, para que ejerzan su derecho a no abrir la puerta si un agente federal llega a su puerta," dijo Pérez. Pérez explicó que todas las personas en los EE.UU. tienen derecho al debido proceso y a la asesoría legal, independientemente de su estatus de ciudadanía. Organizaciones como GLAHR y la Coalición de Derechos de los Inmigrantes de Athens pueden ofrecer recursos para que conozca sus derechos a los inmigrantes, así como asesoramiento general para lidiar con las fuerzas de seguridad. "No les estamos diciendo a las personas que no sigan con sus vidas, porque eso no es realista," dijo Pérez. "Lo que les estamos diciendo a las personas que hagan es simplemente tener mucho cuidado, estar súper alertas."



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12					13					14		
15				16						17		
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56				57					58			
59				60					61			

ACROSS

1. Buzzkill

5. Buggy for Brits

9. Furby's, once

12. Dog tag info

13. Pro ____

14. Pitching star

15. Chowhounds have big ones

17. Virtual citizen of PC gaming

18. It's tapped

19. Better or best

21. Bakery supply

24. Marathon

26. Dominate, in sports lingo

27. Printer's amount

29. Unrespected writer

33. "The best is ____ to come!"

34. Campaign creators

36. Freight weight

37. Metallurgist's materials

39. Jets or Sharks, e.g.

40. Be outstanding?

41. Is worthwhile

43. Enough, and then some

45. Bridges in Hollywood

48. Itinerary part

49. Cause of inflation?

50. Covetously

56. Ozone hazard, for short

57. Jack and Jill's burden

58. Stead

59. Congressional vote

60. Pound the keys

61. Check

DOWN

1. Chain letters?

2. Sound at the door

3. Hi-fi component

4. Nerdy types

5. Goody two-shoes

6. Snitch

7. Did lunch, say

8. Stone worker

9. Allegro, in music

10. Battery fluid

11. Showroom model

16. Aquarium beauty

20. "That's disgusting!"

21. It has its ups and downs

22. Still-life piece

23. Add to the pot

24. Buddhist priests

25. A comet, to the superstitious

28. Wired

30. Straddling, maybe

31. Hooded garment

32. Baby bouncer?

35. Dame Marsh of mystery

38. Cloak-and-dagger sort

42. Masterful

44. Stake drivers

45. Delicate, in a way

46. Board game or magazine

47. Bicolor sea predator

48. Beneath contempt

51. Dissenter's word

52. Big shot

53. Canine command

54. "Malcolm X" director

55. Music to the cook's ears

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Don Smith poses for a portrait at Oconee Hill Cemetery in Athens, Georgia, on Monday, March 17, 2025. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Welcome to Bulldog Haven

A forever home for the best of the Bulldogs

Zach Pascuzzi

Tucked into the lush expanses of Oconee Hill Cemetery, in the shadow of Sanford Stadium, is a special place for those who dedicated their blood, sweat and tears to Georgia football.

Bulldog Haven, established within Oconee Hill Cemetery in 2008, is the resting place of more than 100 former Georgia football players, coaches, athletic directors and their family members. The site is operated by the University of Georgia Football Letterman's Club, which acquired the land for free and, in exchange, helps raise money for cemetery maintenance and preservation of the historic area.

"The people who really mattered to Athens are buried in Oconee Hill," Don Smith, the cemetery's general manager, said.

The idea for a special resting place for Georgia players came from former Athletic Director Damon Evans. While on a business trip with Nike in Europe, Evans observed a tradition of big soccer clubs burying past legends in areas near their stadiums, while incorporating homages to their history.

"We've got a replica of the Chapel Bell," Mack Guest III, current president of the Letterman's Club, said. "And we spot welded it so Georgia Tech

couldn't steal it."

Preparing the site, which is also a popular tailgating spot for lettermen on football weekends, took a team effort. Former Coach and Athletic Director Vince Dooley and some of his former players collaborated with then-coach Mark Richt and his team.

"I think coach Dooley was in his early 70s, and he out-worked everybody," Guest said. "Coach Richt's players couldn't believe it. He never took a break."

Randy Sharpe, who played for one year before becoming a trainer in the 1970s, was Bulldog Haven's first resident. Other famous football figures buried at the cemetery include former 1980s Bulldog standouts Lars Tate and Charles Junior, as well as coach Wally Butts — who won four SEC titles and a National Championship in 1942.

Dooley died in October 2022 and was interred at Bulldog Haven. Dooley won six SEC championships, and the National Championship in 1980, over a 25-year coaching tenure that ended in 1988. His gravesite recently received a makeover and is now an elegant memorial to a legendary figure in Georgia football history.

Bulldog Haven is no stranger to tragedy. Former player Quentin Moses died a hero's death in 2017 after venturing

into a house fire trying to rescue his best friend's wife and daughter.

"If he was a friend to you, he was a true friend," Preston Moses told FOX 5 Atlanta in 2022 after his brother's death.

It is usually Smith who helps lettermen and their families pick out gravesites from open plots at Bulldog Haven. His method is letting them discover and appreciate the beauty of the spot themselves rather than bragging about or promoting Oconee Hill.

"When you're selling a diamond, the more you talk about the diamond, its value goes down," Smith said.

One day, Smith himself will be among the permanent residents of Bulldog Haven. He and his wife have already picked out their plots.

Smith said helping to give people closure "is the most rewarding job I've ever had."

One of the unique features of the cemetery is how many people come to visit and tailgate at Bulldog Haven, which Smith says is designed to function as a park.

Guest is a frequent tailgater, although his time as president of the Letterman's Club will be over soon. Like many lettermen that came before him, and who will come after, he will be laid to rest at Bulldog Haven.



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Georgia's Dasha Vidmanova plays against Auburn University on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. Georgia beat Auburn 5-2. PHOTO/LILY KATE AKINS



Georgia's Mell Reasco plays against Auburn University on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. Georgia beat Auburn 5-2. PHOTO/LILY KATE AKINS

Full steam ahead

A mid-season recap of Georgia women's tennis

Samantha Lichter

Coming off an ITA National Team Indoor Championship, No. 1 Georgia women's tennis continues to prove its dominance on the court. Drake Bernstein, in his second year as head coach, is leading a mix of veterans and new additions to a potential NCAA National Championship.

The Bulldogs have faced numerous tough opponents this year, including four current top-10 teams. Georgia's season thus far has shown why the team is a true contender for the NCAA tournament in May.

Starting strong

No. 1 Dasha Vidmanova concluded the Bulldogs' fall season with an impressive 6-3, 6-3 win over Auburn's DJ Bennett to secure the NCAA singles championship. Vidmanova has stayed steady this season with a 20-3 record. The senior has played for Georgia since 2021 and has been a key part of the team's success.

The singles championship is one of Vidmanova's many accolades acquired in the past year. Last season, she clinched the NCAA doubles championship with partner Aysegul Mert — becoming the first college women's tennis player to win all three major titles since Stanford's Nicole Gibbs in 2013.

"Dasha has come a long way. We've been talking a lot about making sure that this seventh semester, her last semester, is the best one yet," Bernstein said. "The cool thing about her is, it's just getting better. It's fun to see her get out here on the match court, and the work shows."

A close loss

Soon after beginning spring play, the Bulldogs faced No. 8 North Carolina, Georgia's first ranked matchup of the season. The Tar Heels won the match 4-3, giving the Bulldogs

their only loss of the season so far.

Despite North Carolina securing the doubles point and two singles matches in a row, Mert, Anastasiia Lopata and Guillermina Grant tied the score after three hard-fought singles matches. However, No. 1 Vidmanova could not complete the comeback against Brantmeier.

"This was our first big test of the year where we were really pushed competitively," Bernstein said. "This is why we test ourselves early in the season to get ready for what's ahead."

Bouncing back

Less than a week after the North Carolina loss, Georgia traveled to Evanston, Illinois, to compete in the ITA National Team Indoors tournament. The team completed two sweeps and defeated three top-10 opponents, including then No. 2 Texas A&M. The Bulldogs previously lost to the Aggies in the NCAA Tournament national championship match last season, but redeemed themselves to win the Indoor Championship this spring.

Against Northwestern, Vidmanova and Mell Reasco struck first in doubles against Britany Lau and Mika Dagan Fruchtmann 6-3. The duo went undefeated in doubles throughout the tournament and into SEC play. Vidmanova also bounced back in singles, defeating Dagan Fruchtmann 6-0, 6-0.

In the quarterfinals, Georgia faced No. 10 Auburn, where Mert and Hayden Mulberry clinched the doubles point against Neena Feldman and Kiley Rabjohns 7-5. The sophomore-freshman pair remains undefeated this season with a 9-0 record. The Bulldogs advanced to the semifinals after a 4-1 win.

Georgia completed its second sweep of the tournament in the semifinals against No. 5 Virginia. Rojas continued her momentum with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Blanca Pico Navarro.

Grant then defeated Collard 6-0, 6-3, with Mert closing out the match with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Genis Salas.

In the finals, Vidmanova took down Mary Stoiana 6-1, 7-6(5) on court one to close out the match. Vidmanova previously overtook Stoiana as No. 1 in the ITA rankings to begin spring play.

The win made Bernstein the fastest Georgia women's tennis head coach to win a national title and provided the team with a boost of confidence heading into SEC play.

Continued strength

There are currently 15 ranked SEC teams, with the Bulldogs facing repeat opponents such as Auburn and Texas A&M. However, Georgia has already blown past five SEC opponents.

After the Indoor Championship, Georgia defeated South Carolina 6-1, and Rojas marked her seventh singles victory in a row against Helena Buchwald, with Grant clinching the match.

"Really excited about that, but it's SEC season," Grant said. "Everything starts over. Everything is going to be competitive. We got to do what we do every day, compete hard, because everyone is going to bring it."

After a 5-2 win over Auburn, the Bulldogs completed three-straight sweeps against Florida, No. 58 Kentucky and No. 6 Tennessee.

Looking forward

The Bulldogs have a busy two months ahead, continuing regular season SEC play until the postseason conference tournament at the end of April. At the beginning of May, Georgia will play in the NCAA Regionals.

After proving themselves with a national title and conquering tough SEC opponents, the Bulldogs have the potential to bring home another national title.

Making a splash

Highlights from the 2025 SEC Swim and Dive Championship



Georgia swimmer Olivia Della Torre swims breaststroke during the 2025 Southeastern Conference Swim and Dive Championship in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES



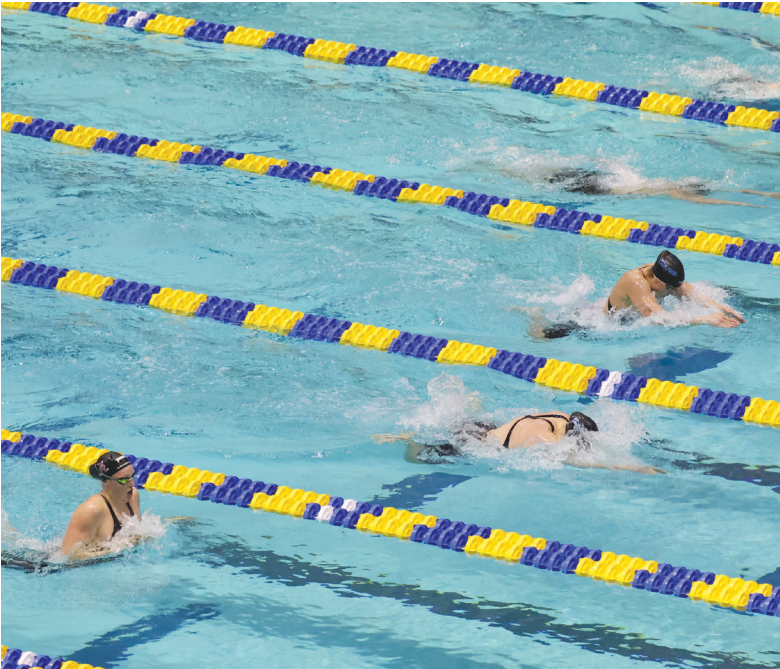
Georgia cheers during the 2025 Southeastern Conference Swim and Dive Championship in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES



Fans show support during the 2025 Southeastern Conference Swim and Dive Championship at the University of Georgia's Gabrielsen Natatorium on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES



Georgia swimmer Tomas Koski dives during the Men's 100 freestyle during the 2025 Southeastern Conference Swim and Dive Championship at the University of Georgia's Gabrielsen Natatorium on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES



Swimmers swim breaststroke during the 2025 Southeastern Conference Swim and Dive Championship in Athens, Georgia, on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES



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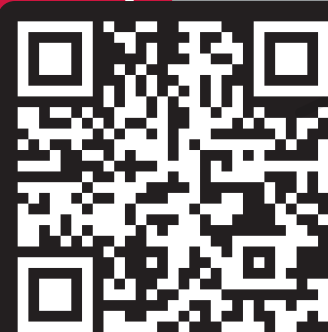
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CAMERON FEARON'S LEGACY

How Jam for Cam is spreading
melanoma awareness in new ways



SEE B3 FOR FULL STORY

Jam for Cam President Briggs Settlemyer, left, and Executive Director Dimitri Nakis, right, pose for a portrait in downtown Athens, Georgia on March 13, 2025. PHOTO/LANEYMARTIN



Food sits on a table at Bar Bruno in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/LAUREN HASTINGS

FOOD

Taste of Italy

Bar Bruno’s new menu items

Bar Bruno, located in Five Points at 1664 S. Lumpkin St., introduced multiple new tapas-style dishes to its menu. Excited to taste the new options, a friend and I headed there to try them out.

As we walked inside, it felt like we were transported to Europe. The vibrant restaurant is modeled after enotecas commonly seen in Southern Italy, and similarly pairs thoughtfully selected food plates with corresponding wines.

Bar Bruno’s new dishes are included in its “Misto Siciliana” lunch specials, which include the two latest items and one that has been on the menu for a while, an Italian risotto croquette called arancini.

Its latest additions include cazzilli, which are delicious mashed potato croquettes and a common Italian street food, and a Sicilian salad that combines fennel, oranges, pistachios, various seasonings and lemon vinaigrette.

As I dug into the Sicilian salad, I experienced a burst of flavors. The fresh fruit brought a tartness that complemented the nuttiness of the pistachios and the crunch from the fennel.

The cazzilli had a crispy and flavorful exterior with smooth and fluffy mashed potatoes inside. I found it to be a unique and delicious combination, and spritzing the potato croquettes with lemon truly elevated the dish.

Although it was a bit pricey, Bar Bruno’s cazzilli and Sicilian salad are a delightful addition to the menu.

— Lauren Hastings

★★★★☆



The outside of Duke's and Dottie's in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/PRIDE HAGGERTY

DANCE

Boot scootin’

Line dancing at Duke’s and Dottie’s

Since its opening on Feb. 21, Athens’ new country bar and line dancing spot, Duke’s and Dottie’s, has received so much attention that I had to visit.

The venue has a spacious layout and an authentic country atmosphere.

Line dance lessons begin at 9 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and are a follow-along style, with professional instructors leading from an elevated stage. The music during the lesson was an upbeat pop selection, keeping energy levels high.

During my time at Duke’s and Dottie’s, I did the “Merry-Go-Round” routine, consisting of the traditional grapevine and more challenging moves, such as turns and kick ball changes. Even as a first-timer, I found myself getting the hang of it super quickly, thanks to the clear instructions.

When I retreated to the ample seating provided for those needing a break or preferring to observe from a distance, watching the talented line dancers do their routines was an entertaining experience in itself.

After the dance lesson portion concluded, the rest of the night was filled with a freestyle dance party, giving everyone a chance to practice at their own pace.

The venue’s authentic country feel and dance floor packed with cowboy boots, pop music and energetic lights is a nice addition to Athens, and I will be making my way back here.

— Pride Haggerty

★★★★★



A strawberry creamsicle boba at BobaMania in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/ARIANNA FLYNN

FOOD

‘Delightfully fruity’

BobaMania’s strawberry creamsicle boba

Recently, I visited Athens’ newest boba tea shop, BobaMania, located in Five Points at 1557 S. Lumpkin St. It might escape first notice when you pass by, but the little tea shop has a bright, warm and intimate atmosphere perfect for studying or hanging out with friends.

While BobaMania offers a wide variety of beverages, including a “classic” brown sugar milk tea, pink rose milk tea, taro milk tea and more, I opted for a house special and ordered the strawberry creamsicle boba.

The drink was delightfully fruity, with a prominent strawberry flavor distinguished by the sweet yet slightly tart flavor profile. I found the texture of the strawberry creamsicle boba to be more akin to a strawberry smoothie than an average boba tea, but the strawberry poppers in the drink added a fun, whimsical touch to the experience.

I appreciated that the drink came with a lid reminiscent of a coffee cup, as opposed to a paper top that is more prone to letting tea escape when I insert the straw.

I would have liked the drink to be less creamy and smoothie-like, and feature a little more strawberry puree. Overall, though, I found it to be the perfect cold treat on a warm and sunny Athens afternoon.

—Arianna Flynn

★★★★★



Paul Butchart shows a photo during the Athens music history tour. PHOTO/ELLA KROLL

MUSIC

Deep roots

The Athens Music History Tour

On March 11, I embarked on Historic Athens’ music history tour, led by Athens music historian Paul Butchart. As a former member of rock band The Side Effects, which debuted in Athens on the same night as R.E.M. in 1980, Butchart is the perfect tour guide for all things Athens music history.

The tour lasts roughly two hours and begins at the Historic Athens Welcome Center, weaving through downtown, with stops at Nuçi’s Space and the famous railroad trestle seen on the back cover of R.E.M.’s “Murmur” LP. Guests are transported around in Historic Athens’ brightly-painted shuttle, with a few stops to walk around while listening to Butchart tell fun facts about local artists and venues.

As he spoke about each stop, Butchart referenced photos, rare posters and article clips he carries with him. I was amazed at his dedication and thoroughness, including at one point playing me an old song he had accessed through the Library of Congress.

Through the tour, Butchart opens a world of knowledge for newcomers to the local music scene. I left feeling immersed in a different side of Athens that I will remember as I see the tour’s stops in my daily life.

I highly recommend this tour to everyone, especially if you think you know all there is to know about music in Athens – I guarantee you Butchart will change your mind.

—Ella Kroll

★★★★★

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Jam for Cam President Briggs Settlemier, left, and Executive Director Dimitri Nakis, right, pose for a portrait in downtown Athens, Georgia, on March 13, 2025. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

‘Community, Awareness, Music’

Jam for Cam to take over downtown Athens for inaugural Jam in the Streets

Ella Kroll

Former University of Georgia student Cameron Fearon’s memory has lived on through nonprofit organization Jam for Cam since his death from metastatic melanoma in 2018. The organization was established with the three-pronged mission of honoring Fearon, raising awareness for melanoma and bringing together the Athens and UGA communities to celebrate life through its annual music festival.

Since its inception in 2018, Jam for Cam has raised \$1 million for melanoma research. This year, the organization looks to reach new heights.

Jam for Cam will take to downtown Athens with Jam in the Streets on Saturday, March 29, featuring performances from Milky Chance, Penelope Road, Congress the Band and The Gringos.

Remembering Cameron Fearon

“Steady,” “joyful,” “confident” and “a huge light” are words used to describe Fearon by his friends and Jam for Cam founding board members Colin Beecham, Carson Seramur and Bennett Porson. They echoed that Fearon “was well-liked” and “knew everyone on campus.”

Fearon studied international business at UGA, played basketball and took on leadership roles in his fraternity. He was especially passionate about live music, highly involved in the local music scene and loved going to concerts.

“He was a ring leader for getting people together,” Seramur said.

Fearon was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma when he was in eighth grade, and despite having a wide web of friends and acquaintances, most people did not know he was sick, Beecham said. Fearon refrained from talking about his condition, wanting everybody to “take him for who he was,” according to Porson.

“The one thing that he said was, ‘I’m gonna live my life as if literally none of the diagnoses, the treatments, none of that is going to get in the way of me living my life to the fullest,’” Porson said.

In the spirit of his affinity for live music, Fearon always wanted to put on a battle of the bands party, an idea he had begun to plan with Beecham in the months before his death. When Fearon died in August 2018, Beecham, Porson,

Seramur and their friends were motivated to fulfill that vision and organize the event in his honor.

Thus, Jam for Cam was born.

“There’s a lot of different ways you handle grief, and I think a lot of us didn’t really know what to do with ourselves,” Seramur said. “Our way of handling grief was to try and honor Cameron and remember him and do something that reflected the kind of person he was in life.”

The inaugural Jam for Cam event was held on Nov. 9, 2018. Put together in the span of eight weeks, it drew a crowd of 7,000 people and raised \$74,000.

Jam for Cam was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2019, between its first and second events.

“In a time that really brought a ton of sadness, it just allowed us to flip that around and say, ‘Cam does not want us to sit here mourning,’” Porson said. “We’re gonna do something here in Cameron’s honor, and it’s gonna be his idea.”

Spreading awareness

Jam for Cam has one primary objective for its attendees and supporters: get their skin checked.

According to the National Cancer Institute, melanoma of the skin is the fifth most common cancer in the U.S. While the risk of melanoma increases as people age, it is still one of the most common cancers in young adults, according to the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Eileen Kennedy, Director of the UGA Cancer Center, said melanoma is highly treatable when caught early on, with a survival rate between 95% and 99% in stage one. However, if left untreated, the cancer becomes aggressive, more likely to metastasize and spread laterally on the skin, going into the bloodstream and developing secondary tumors in areas like the lungs and the brain. In stage four, or metastatic, the survival rate drops as low as about 15%, according to Kennedy.

“Even though it’s rare, it’s one of the most common forms of cancer for people in their 20s,” Kennedy said. “It’s so critical to keep an eye on your skin and get it checked.”

Kennedy recommends young people take steps to limit sun exposure and skin damage by wearing SPF 30 or higher, avoiding tanning beds and visiting the dermatologist at least once a year for a skin check.

“Small, little stuff can have a significant impact on your

life; of changing you from early stage cancer to a late stage cancer diagnosis,” Kennedy said.

Beecham said while Jam for Cam is a celebration of life, community and music, it is a front for generating awareness above all.

Jam in the Streets is presented by title sponsor Georgia Skin Cancer & Aesthetic Dermatology, which will offer free skin cancer screenings at the festival. CeraVe will hand out sunscreen, and the Melanoma Research Foundation will also have a tent onsite.

“Our way of handling grief was to try and honor Cameron and remember him and do something that reflected the kind of person he was in life.”

CARSON SERAMUR | JAM FOR CAM FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

“We can play a part in preventing someone else who needs to have a concert named after them because they’ve died prematurely from skin cancer,” Clay Kirkland, Chief Operating Officer of Georgia Skin Cancer, said. “We can’t wait to partner with [Jam for Cam] and to help them with the education piece.”

Jam in the Streets

From 2019 to 2023, the Jam for Cam festival was held each fall at Southern Brewing Company. Throughout these years, Beecham said he and the team maintained a vision to one day bring it to the streets of downtown Athens.

With Southern Brewing’s sudden, indefinite closure in August 2024 came a period of uncertainty for the event’s next steps. However, Jam for Cam Executive Director Dimitri Nakis and President Briggs Settlemier felt if there was any year to take the chance on holding the event in the heart of Athens, “it’s this year,” Nakis said.

Nakis and Settlemier, both senior real estate and finance double majors at UGA, got involved with Jam for Cam through volunteering with the organization their freshman year. Now, the pair are at the helm of coordinating the event’s massive logistical shift.

“We got involved thinking we could do what we’d been involved in for a couple of years better, and then that fell through and we realized we had an opportunity to do something not just good, but great,” Settlemier said.

Jam in the Streets got final approval from the city this January. Since then, Settlemier said it has been “foot on the gas, no brakes” to get the event ready for the end of March.

Jam for Cam is a “student-founded, student-run” organization that is entirely volunteer-based. Its leadership team and supporting volunteers, sourced from different organizations and niches across campus, work to plan, organize and execute everything from corporate sponsorships and fundraising to marketing and media.

“We’ve got an incredible team this year, and it’s been so great to work with these people,” Settlemier said. “We’re getting close to it now and the hardship is starting and the pressure is on, and everyone’s totally ready for it.”

Jam in the Streets will bring live music to stages at the intersections of College Avenue with Clayton and Washington Streets on March 29. These streets will shut down at noon, and music will begin at 2:30 p.m. Among the festival’s features are three street bars plus evening bars within the festival zone, food trucks, sponsor tents and more.

With the pieces coming together for the inaugural Jam in the Streets, Jam for Cam team members remain steadfast in their three-pronged mission: celebrate life and community through music, honor Fearon’s memory and educate their audience about the risks of melanoma.

“If one person leaves this event and gets checked for melanoma and survives, it’s all completely worth it,” Nakis said. “All the money, all the effort, everything is worth it.”



Ethan Suda, left, Cameron Fearon, center, and Colin Beecham, right, in July 2018, about a month before Fearon died from metastatic melanoma. Suda and Beecham are now on the board of directors of Jam for Cam. COURTESY/COLIN BEECHAM

Changing key

The women reshaping UGA's music theory major

Laari Ruby

Music theory is one of the smallest degree programs at the University of Georgia. It is an extremely competitive field, and there is often only one route to go after graduation — back into academia.

Maddi Finn, a junior music theory major, said she does not necessarily feel oppressed by her male counterparts, but does recognize the necessity for women to be present in the field. Finn said stifling women's voices equally represses the interpretive capabilities of many pieces.

"It doesn't really matter if you're a man or a woman if you're deciding what type of chord this is, but it does if you're trying to get into the emotional nuance and the historical, social underpinnings of a piece," Finn said.

According to Finn, music theory is more based on an academic study of music and its historical significance, and understanding its compositional techniques, over the actual performance.

UGA's music theory curriculum focuses on giving students a strong foundation in the academic study of music theory, music history, performance and composition. The theory-specific courses focus on form, analysis, compositional techniques and opportunities for research. These courses are meant to prepare students for graduate level study in research-oriented music degrees, and students spend most of their time producing research.

"What really happens in music theory is we're taking analytical techniques, either applying them to performance practices [or] putting them in historical context," Finn said.

Particularly in research-based fields that rely on multiple interpretations, like music theory, diversity can be crucial to developing a holistic understanding. However, music theory, which Finn calls "the STEM of the arts," has long been male-dominated.

According to Adrian Childs, associate professor in Hugh Hodgson School of Music specializing in music composition and theory, the repertoire music theorists work with is largely built on the work of white men analyzing the work of other white men.

"A lot of the older scholarship that builds the methodologies that are a part of the field are already drawn in very narrow lenses," Childs said. "There's a feedback process there in which, on some level, the work tends to replicate itself, and that has demographic implications."

For decades, women in music have been fighting for the value of their research to be recognized. Stephanie Tingle, professor emeritus at Hugh Hodgson School of Music, is one of many women who fought this battle, particularly in the early days of her research on women composers, which she said was not "well received."

"A lot of people said, 'That's not promotable. We won't be able to include that in your dossier,'" Tingle said. "It didn't matter. I did it anyway."



GRAPHIC/RYLEE TOOLE

In more recent years, women have become more accepted in spaces of higher education, in part thanks to the work of women like Tingle, who spent their careers publishing studies on the rarely-heard works of women.

Now, women like Emily Koh, associate professor of music composition at Hugh Hodgson School of Music, can find success.

"I feel like I am the result of other women who have come before me and have blown the doors open for women after them, and I hope to do the same for the women and people of color after me," Koh said.

This progress in higher education is a step forward in diversifying the field of music theory. However, women still make up only about 33% of professional music theorists, according to the Society for Music Theory. There are a number of scholars and organizations that recognize engaging minority students in a field as small as music theory is only one piece of the puzzle of the work that needs to be done in areas like repertoire and methodologies, according to Childs.

Finn, who is a member of Society for Music Theory, said she sees being part of a minority in her field as a strength.

"If anything, people, I think, actually really get a charge out of seeing me being my authentically feminine self," Finn said.

Following the efforts of women to break barriers in the world of music theory, students like Finn have now been able to have their work celebrated early on. Finn's current research is about the works of German composer Clara Schumann, and she is a teaching assistant for Emily Gertsch, a senior lecturer of music theory and recipient of the Inaugural Hugh Hodgson School of Music Excellence in Teaching Award.

Childs said Hugh Hodgson has made strides in diversifying the faculty, such as making female hires in positions of leadership, showing their students anyone can be successful in the world of music.

"I think it's really critically important ... that we are modeling for our students that music theorists look like everyone and composers look like everyone," Childs said.



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Lees Miner poses for a portrait with the Fairfield Inn & Suites bulldog statue in Athens, Georgia, on Friday, March 14, 2025. Miner has painted 20 bulldogs and is about to start work on her 21st. PHOTO/FOREST X. DYNES

Painting the town

The story behind Athens’ iconic bulldog statues

Laila Carter

Vibrant colors swirl on fiberglass material to create one of Athens’ most recognizable art installations: a series of bulldog statues scattered around the city’s most prominent, and sometimes unexpected, locations. Often sporting the University of Georgia’s classic red and black colors, dozens of statues representing the city’s signature mascot can be seen across Athens.

The “We Let The Dawgs Out” exhibit, headed by Julie Walters, was first installed by the Athens-Oconee Junior Women’s Club in 2003. Standing at a height of 4 feet each, there are 39 bulldog statues currently in Athens, serving as a symbol of the city’s collective “creative energy, artistic flair and UGA Bulldog loyalty,” according to Visit Athens GA’s website.

There were 36 original bulldogs in the project, which were painted by prominent local artists such as Stan Mullins, Peter Loose and Chris Wyrick. The exhibit encourages residents and visitors to capture photos each time they discover a new statue.

The statues come in a variety of styles, ranging from the Elvis inspired “Ain’t Nothing But A Hound Dawg” that stands at Southern Surplus Inc. to “Archie,” who was painted by members of the UGA Arch Society and stands outside the Georgia Federal Credit Union.

The Athens Area Humane Society recently acquired a statue of its own. Kelsey Fredriksen, the marketing communications manager at the AAHS, describes the statues as “larger than life.”

“We have the bulldog as one of our symbols of our great city, and to have it all over the city is fun, whimsical and reminds people that there’s a long history of public art,” Fredriksen said. “I think the art really solidifies all the different personalities, people, places in Athens and represents that big mix.”

AAHS’s bulldog was painted by local artist Lees Miner, who has painted 20 of the exhibit-it’s sculptures so far, one of which was for a private residence. Miner says that the exhibit does “a lot” for the city.

“It’s like a point of pride,” Miner said. “I think it’s a lot of fun and promotes UGA pride, I really do.”

The process of bringing a new bulldog to life takes approximately six to eight weeks. Miner starts by focusing on the goals and traits of the statue’s buyer. Researching images online for inspiration, she creates ideas to showcase the uniqueness of each business and location the dogs’ represent. She aims to think about what the business may want and to incorporate the colors of their business.

The exhibition has made a personal impact on Miner, a mother to three children who became Georgia Bulldogs.

“I feel so honored to be part of it,” Miner said. “Everytime I get a dog, I get nervous and I get excited ... what a privilege to be able to do this. I’m surprised every time I get one that I get to do it again.”

According to Miner, new statues are created when businesses have an interest in buying and placing them. Some companies opt to place the statues in their lobby, but most place them outside.

The official project ended in 2010 when the Athens-Oconee Women’s Junior Women’s Club auctioned off the statues in order to raise funds for AIDS Athens, generating \$25,000.

Fredriksen views the statues as a connecting force.

“It’s a representation of Athens and its quirky, amazing art scene,” Fredriksen said, “The bulldog connects it to our beloved UGA, so I think that gives a nice bridge between students and residents who are not students in town.”



One of Athens’ most distinct landmarks is the collection of bulldog statues that can be seen throughout the community. PHOTO CREDIT: LILY PERELLA (1, 3) ANSLEY KELLY (2, 4)



Event attendees walk past booths during the International Street Festival on Saturday, April 1, 2023, in downtown Athens, Georgia. In 2023, the International Street Festival returned to College Avenue for the first time since 2019 to showcase campus and other local cultural organizations with the Athens community with various booths and performances. FILE/PHOTO

Upcoming Events

1. Battle of the Bands

WHAT: Set to return for its third year, Ari's Battle of the Bands is a fundraiser featuring performances by local bands in honor of Ariana Zarse, a University of Georgia student and Pi Beta Phi sorority member who was killed in a hit-and-run accident in downtown Athens in 2021. All proceeds from the event will go to the UGA Sunshine Fund, which provides financial assistance to students seeking mental health services or coping with challenging life circumstances.

WHERE: Paloma Park

WHEN: Saturday, March 22 from 1 to 6 p.m.

PRICE: \$20 for regular tickets; donations of all amounts welcome

4. Hauntfest

WHAT: The immersive, horror-themed HauntFest will return to Athens the week-end of April 4, celebrating the horror arts through art vendors, live music, themed entertainment and activities like pumpkin painting, animal encounters, trivia, "trails of terror" and more. Founded by recent UGA graduate Roseann Harpold through the UGA Entrepreneurship Program, this will be the festival's third annual event.

WHERE: Terrapin Beer Co.

WHEN: Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6; doors open at 3 p.m.

PRICE: \$20+

2. Dawg Fest

WHAT: Athens' Classic Center Pavilion will host the biannual Dawg Fest, an outdoor vintage market featuring numerous vendors selling clothing, shoes, jewelry and more. Items date from the 1970s through the early 2000s, and prices can range from \$5 to more than \$100 depending on the item's condition and market value.

WHERE: 440 Foundry St.

WHEN: Sunday, March 23 from noon to 5 p.m.

PRICE: Free

5. International Street Festival

WHAT: The annual International Street Festival will bring together live music and performances, activities and food from around the world to downtown Athens. The event, put on by UGA Student Affairs' International Student Life, is open to all ages and will give attendees a "passport" for the day, which can be used to collect stamps for receiving prizes or raffle tickets.

WHERE: College Avenue

WHEN: Saturday, April 5 from noon to 5 p.m.

PRICE: Free

3. Jam in the Streets

WHAT: The nonprofit Jam for Cam will hold its first "Jam in the Streets" in downtown Athens near the intersection of College Avenue and Clayton Street. The live music event is in honor of Cameron Fearon, a UGA student who died from metastatic melanoma in 2018. Attendees must purchase festival bands to carry open containers and buy drinks at the event's street bars and bars within the festival zone. Outside alcohol is not allowed.

WHERE: Downtown Athens

WHEN: Saturday, March 29

PRICE: Free to enter, festival bands permitting open containers \$25+

6. The Great Gatsby ballet

WHAT: The World Ballet Company will bring its production of its latest ballet, "The Great Gatsby," to Athens as part of its world premiere tour. The show will adapt the F. Scott Fitzgerald classic and take audiences back to the Roaring '20s with a multinational cast of 40 professional ballet dancers, and original lively jazz score, video projection, glamorous costumes, detailed sets and more. The show is for ages 8 and above, and clear bags are required for this event.

WHERE: The Classic Center Theatre

WHEN: Sunday, April 6 at 6 p.m.

PRICE: \$33+

— Navya Shukla

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Highlights from the 50th Great Southland Stampede Rodeo



Lauren and Jake Willcox stand with their Ankole-Watusi cow, Hank, at the 50th Great Southland Stampede Rodeo on Friday, March 14, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. The GSSR is organized by the University of Georgia's Block and Bridle organization and is the largest student-run rodeo in the country. PHOTO/JESSE WOOD



A trailer door stands open during the 50th Great Southland Stampede on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the University of Georgia Livestock Instructional Arena in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/JESSE WOOD



Lauren Willcox rides with the American flag during the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo on Saturday, March 15, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. This, along with the national anthem, is one of the many events introducing the showcase. PHOTO/LILY PERELLA



Cows at the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo stand in a livestock pen before the rodeo begins on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo. PHOTO/AMELIA DURDEN



A group of friends chat with each other while waiting for the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo to start Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. This year marks 50 years since the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo was created. PHOTO/AMELIA DURDEN



Two members of the University of Georgia's Block and Bridle Club wrangle in a horse after an event at the Great Southland Stampede Rodeo on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/AMELIA DURDEN



A man stands with his horse during the 50th Great Southland Stampede Rodeo on Friday, March 14, 2025, near the University of Georgia Livestock Instructional Arena in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/JESSE WOOD

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