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TURNING THE TASSEL

Hats off to fall 2024 graduates



PHOTO/FELIX SCHEYER



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Scenes from the University of Georgia fall 2023 graduation during the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony at Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Georgia on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Guide to fall 2024 graduation

Everything you need to know about commencement

Guinevere Grant

Commencement is one of the busiest days on the University of Georgia's campus with students, friends and families celebrating a major accomplishment.

The Red & Black has compiled information on locations, parking, times and more.

The undergraduate commencement ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 at Stegeman Coliseum. The graduate ceremony will be held later that afternoon at 2:30 p.m., also in Stegeman Coliseum.

For those who can't attend in person, the undergraduate commencement ceremony will be broadcasted live on the commencement homepage beginning at 9:55 a.m. and the graduate commencement will be broadcasted at 2:25 p.m.

When should I be there?

Gates will open at 8 a.m. for the undergraduate commencement and at 1 p.m. for the graduate commencement.

According to the UGA commencement page, undergraduate students should arrive before 9:15 a.m. and proceed directly to the floor of Stegeman Coliseum.

Graduate students should report to the practice gym on the second floor of Stegeman Coliseum Training Facility by 1 p.m. They should enter through the doors closest to the Carlton Street Parking Deck on Smith Street.

Do I need a ticket?

Tickets are required for undergraduate commencement, and registration has already closed.

Undergraduates were eligible to register for up to four

guest tickets and one additional ticket for themselves. These tickets are digital and were sent on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

Tickets are not required for the graduate commencement.

Where should I park?

For both commencements, parking is free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Suggested parking includes South Campus Deck (S11), Carlton Street Deck (S15) and Foley Field Lot (S14). The McPhaul Lot (S10) and the Coverdell Lot (S16) are reserved by permit only for designated participants.

Parking for guests with disabilities will be available in the Hoke Smith Annex Lot (S12) adjacent to Stegeman Coliseum. The main entrances to Stegeman Coliseum along Sanford Drive and Carlton Street are wheelchair-accessible.

Who are the speakers?

The undergraduate commencement ceremony speaker will be Judge Lisa Godbey Wood, a 1985 First Honor Graduate of UGA and a 1990 summa cum laude graduate of the UGA School of Law.

John Anthony Maltese, associate dean of the School of Public and International Affairs and the Albert B. Saye Professor of American Government and Constitutional Law in the Department of Political Science, will be the graduate commencement ceremony speaker.

Where should I sit?

Undergraduates will be seated by their school or college, and graduates will be seated by their degree. Seating charts for graduate students will be available one week prior to commencement. The seating chart for undergraduate students is available online.

For guests with wheelchairs, seating is very limited. Disability and companion seating is located along the top row of the lower level of Stegeman Coliseum. Disability seating allows access for one person in a wheelchair and one companion. Additional family members will have to sit separately in the general seating area.

What am I allowed to bring?

There is a clear bag policy for both commencement ceremonies. This means guests and students should not bring bookbags. Items that are permitted include bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"; one gallon clear plastic freezer bags; small clutch bags that do not exceed 4.5" x 6.5"; or bags that contain necessary medical items.

Food and beverage items must fit inside the permitted sized bags.

Guests are allowed to bring in umbrellas and cameras, but camera bags must adhere to the clear bag policy.

Strollers may be stored in designated areas in the concourse but aren't allowed in the seating areas.

Guests are not permitted to bring wrapped gifts or packages where the contents aren't visible; large items such as balloons, banners, posters or amplification equipment; alcohol; tobacco or glass and aluminum containers.

Helpful tips

According to the commencement page, on-site wheelchairs will not be available. Guests who may need one are encouraged to bring their own.

Students should leave purses, coats and other belongings with family members, and should pick a place to meet family and friends once the ceremony is complete.

Once graduates have found their seat, they should remain seated in them and not stand in the aisles.



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Fall 2023 graduates listen to speakers during the University of Georgia fall graduation ceremony on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN

Fall 2024 commencement speakers

U.S. District Judge and Associate Dean of SPIA to speak at fall commencements

Zach Leggio

Lisa Godbey Wood will be the speaker for the University of Georgia fall undergraduate commencement ceremony on Dec. 13, 2024. John Anthony Maltese will be the commencement speaker for the graduate graduation ceremony.

Wood graduated from UGA as a First Honor Graduate with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1985. She then attended the UGA School of Law, which she graduated from in 1990.

During her time in law school, Wood served as managing editor of the Georgia Law Review, was Chief Justice of the Honor Court and received the Isaac Meinhard Award for maintaining the highest academic average throughout all three years of law school.

After law school, Wood worked as judicial law clerk for the Southern District of Georgia before working at a Brunswick-based law firm, where she was made a partner in 1995. While working in private practice, she was appointed to the Georgia Public Safety Board, the U.S. District Court Advisory Committee, the State Bar of Georgia Judicial Evaluation Committee and the State Bar of Georgia Disciplinary Review Panel.

"You can become exactly what you want to be," Wood said at the UGA School of Law commencement ceremony in 2022. "No matter what path you took here, you can walk out of here and become what you want to be."

In 2004, Wood was unanimously confirmed to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia. In 2007, she was unanimously confirmed to become the district court judge of that same district. She was appointed to serve on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review in 2023.

Her position as judge of the Southern District of Georgia most recently put her in the national spotlight as she made decisions in the Ahmaud Arbery murder case, sentencing

two men to life in prison for the south Georgia killing that made national news in 2020.

Wood is still an active participant in UGA affairs as an emeritus member of the UGA Athletic Association's Board of Directors and serving on the UGA Law School Board of Visitors. Wood also received UGA's 2023 Blue Key Service Award and the Distinguished Service Scroll Award from the UGA School of Law in 2024.

Outside of her academic and professional career and accolades, Wood enjoys outdoor sports, including mountain climbing and golfing, and has reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, in both 2003 and 2019. She is married to Richard V. Wood, a retired FBI Special Agent. They reside on St. Simons Island and have twin 22-year-old children — one of whom will graduate from UGA in December 2024.

Maltese has been the associate dean of the School of Public and International Affairs since 2016, is the Albert B. Saye Professor of American Government and Constitutional Law in the Department of Political Science and has been a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor since 2004. He was also named a University Professor in 2023 for making a significant impact on the university beyond his normal academic responsibilities.

"I hope students gain a passion for the subject matter that inspires intellectual curiosity beyond the classroom," Maltese said in a press release. "I also hope that they learn that answers to most big questions are seldom black and white but rather some shade of gray — and that critical thinking demands attention to nuance and small details."

Maltese earned his bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1982 and his Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University in 1989. He joined UGA as an assistant professor in January 1989 immediately following his graduate studies.

He directed a major conference at UGA, "The Carter

Presidency: Lessons for the 21st Century," in January 2007, on the 30th anniversary of the inauguration of former President Jimmy Carter, bringing historians and political scientists and members of the media to campus.

"I love what I do," Maltese said in a professor profile interview. "So a lot of the simple highlights revolve around my day-to-day routine: teaching, writing, serving as department head and interacting with students, colleagues and staff."

Maltese also writes about music in his freetime, which won him a Grammy Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1996. NPR and PBS have invited him onto their shows because of his music knowledge.

"To me, the ideal student takes full advantage of a liberal arts education: feasting from a smorgasbord of diverse classes across disciplines and exploring the wide array of lectures, colloquia, exhibits, concerts, theater, dance, debate, films and extracurricular activities that a flagship university has to offer," Maltese said in a press release.

Before becoming associate dean of SPIA, Maltese was the department head of political science from 2008-2016. As department head, he helped create the Applied Politics Program and facilitated six major conferences in eight years.

Maltese founded the SPIA at Oxford Study Abroad program in 2003, for which he was named Study Abroad Director of the Year by UGA's Office of International Education, now called the Office of Global Engagement.

Maltese was also named U.S. Professor of the Year for the state of Georgia by the Carnegie Foundation and CASE in 2004. He was a contributing editor to "The Cook Political Report" in 2015-2016 and has published editorials in The Washington Post.

The commencement ceremonies will take place at Stegeman Coliseum, with the undergraduate ceremony featuring Wood's speech beginning at 10 a.m. and the graduate ceremony featuring Maltese's speech beginning at 2:30 p.m.

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OPINION

Glory Glory to old Georgia

Love letters to Grady College, The Red & Black and UGA

Avni Trivedi

In 24 hours, I'll officially be a graduate of the University of Georgia.

If you told freshman Avni, who started out as an English major at Mercer University, that she would be graduating as a journalism major from UGA, she would have been shocked.

And if you told her that she would become the managing editor at The Red & Black, cover the Paralympics for the Associated Press and cover collegiate athletics, including photographing the SEC Championship, she would have looked at you like you had five heads — because that Avni could barely work a camera and had never picked up a newspaper in her life.

Changing my major and transferring to UGA completely changed my life and the trajectory of my future.

I've been telling stories since I was a child. Whether it was the plot line of the new TV show I was watching, the drama in my friend group or why my favorite sports team was losing all its games, I was always sharing something.

My mom told me to write my thoughts down in a journal. I tried and realized that, even though I had a lot to say, writing it down for myself wasn't as fulfilling as telling someone. I wanted people to care about it.

The urge to tell stories never goes away. Which, lucky for me, is something I get to do every day. The world was so much bigger than what I thought it was because Grady College, The Red & Black and UGA opened it up for me.

Dear Grady College

Thank you for fueling my passion for journalism. From my first journalism class at UGA to when I started my sports media journey to tackling the ever daunting 36 faces in my photojournalism class — each professor and classmate made me into the journalist I am today.

I'm deeply appreciative of the support Grady has provided and the invaluable experiences I've gained through the college.

Dear Red & Black

I still think back to my time going through recruitment the summer before I transferred to UGA. I wrote a story about a local band in Athens. I put so much effort into it, and seeing it published was so fulfilling. That's when I knew this is what I wanted to do with my life.

The community The Red & Black has given me is like no

STUDENT VOICES

Looking back

Graduating seniors share their favorite UGA memories

Alexia Rule

As the end of the semester approaches, fall semester graduates prepare to wrap up their time as students at the University of Georgia. Graduation brings a time of reflection for students who are stepping out of perhaps the four most formative years of their lives.

The Red & Black asked a few graduating seniors about their favorite memory of their college career.



Lillian Wilcox

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAJOR

"The first game that I went to ... the night game, I think it was against UAB," Wilcox said. "I've grown up in a good amount of sports culture, but experiencing that atmosphere at Sanford was honestly unlike anything I've ever experienced in sports in general."

Wilcox explained that the camaraderie among students around a shared interest and stake in the football team was both a "shock" and "confirmation" that she made the right choice in coming to UGA because she had "never felt such a big sense of community with people that were complete strangers."



Joshua Dixon

MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR

Dixon, who started at UGA in 2020, didn't have a typical freshman welcome. His sophomore year he was asked by a friend to join their group when UGA held a makeup welcome ceremony.

"We just became super close. They welcomed me into different group, and it was also a time where I was kind of struggling to find my people. And yeah, so now they're, lifelong friends, and we still talk every single day now."



Avni Trivedi poses for her senior photos on Oct. 27, 2024 in front of the University of Georgia Chapel in Athens, Georgia.

COURTESY/ELISA FONTANILLAS

other. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to accomplish half of the things I've done. Having a hand in reporting on the most important news for this community has been such an important part of my life. I care so much about this community and the people in it, and I'm thankful I get to be part of an organization that cares just as much as I do.

Dear University of Georgia

As I look back on my journey here, I'm sad at the thought of leaving it all behind, but I'm also satisfied with what I've accomplished. I'm leaving Athens a better version of myself. UGA has molded me into who I am today. I'm grateful for the friendships I've made, the community I've built and the memories that I get to reminisce about.

I'll never forget screaming my head off at Georgia football games, running around the MLC trying to find a study room, trekking up Baxter hill or ringing the Chapel Bell for the first time.

Walking through the Arch tomorrow won't signify the end of my journey but rather another opportunity to continue telling stories, and I'm excited for what's yet to come.



Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hammock

ANIMAL BIOSCIENCE MAJOR

"I would say that one of my favorite memories would have to be when I was on the club Ultimate Frisbee team," Hammock said. "I tried out for the team, and I ended up learning how to play ultimate frisbee, and I loved it."

Hammock said she didn't really have an athletic outlet for her stress during her freshman year, which caused her to struggle mentally. So, when she was approached at Tate by a girl who was tabling for the frisbee team, it ended up opening a door for something new that she hadn't tried before at UGA.



Sarah Coyne

JOURNALISM MAJOR

"My favorite memory is when I ran the AthHalf, and I convinced my roommate to do it a couple months before, and then I never trained for it," Coyne said. "My feet are still recovering."

Despite her lack of training, Coyne's goal to run Athens' half marathon before graduating came true when she ran it in under three hours.

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Grad and grub

Where to eat for December graduation

Ella Kroll, Jesse Wood

Porterhouse Grill

459 E Broad St.
\$\$\$

Porterhouse Grill, located at 459 E. Broad St., is a casual fine dining American steakhouse in downtown Athens. The menu is complete with a refined selection of starters, main courses and premium steaks, along with a variety of a la carte sides. Its rich flavors and upscale ambiance make for the perfect place to celebrate a recent college graduate.

The Grill

171 College Ave.
\$

The oldest restaurant in downtown Athens is a '50s style diner known as The Grill. The restaurant is located conveniently in College Square and serves up hamburgers, fresh-cut fries and hand-spun milkshakes. This restaurant is the perfect place to stop in and grab a bite to eat if you are short on time, on a budget or both. The diner operates with late-night hours, and the interior of the eatery is a fun, retro-inspired environment.

South Kitchen + Bar

247 E Washington St. Suite 101
\$\$

South Kitchen + Bar, located in downtown Athens, serves Southern cuisine with a creative twist. The menu is complete with traditional staples such as fried green tomatoes, grits and collard greens, and the main courses range from shrimp and grits to braised pork barbecue, with handcrafted cocktails, wine and local craft beers to wash it all down.

The Place

229 E Broad St.
\$\$

Take it back to your roots at The Place, a Southern comfort food eatery in downtown Athens. The menu is based on family recipes that have been passed down generations but revamped with a modern twist. The intimate dining experience inside will warrant nostalgia as college graduates celebrate a milestone.

Trappeze Pub

269 N Hull St.
\$\$

Located in downtown Athens, Trappeze Pub is an Athens staple for pub food and beer. Belgian fries, turkey and swiss sandwiches, grilled North Carolina trout and more are offered, and the 80-foot bar serves cocktails, wines, beer and one of the largest selections of whiskey in town. Any graduate is sure to find the perfect celebratory dish after their big day.

Ted's Most Best

254 W Washington St.
\$

If you're in the mood for a pizza after graduation, Ted's Most Best in downtown Athens is where you'll want to go. Ted's Most Best offers a fast-paced service style where patrons can order at the register and seat themselves afterward. Here, you can enjoy house specialty pizzas, loaded salads, build your own calzones and more — there are options for every member of your party.

Five & Ten

1037 S Milledge Ave.
\$\$\$

Five & Ten has been a staple of Athens' dining scene for the past 25 years, with a menu designed to showcase the South's unique flavors. Sitting on Milledge Avenue, the eatery serves refined appetizers and entrees such as crisp duck confit and scallop risotto com-



A meal from The Grill is displayed on Jan. 24, 2024, in Athens, Georgia. PHOTO/SIDNEY CHANSAMONE

plemented by luxurious cocktails and wines. The intimate, cozy atmosphere and the rich foods are a unique experience for any patron.

Osteria Olio

355 Oneta St. Building C2 Suite 200
\$

One of Athens' newest restaurants, Osteria Olio, is a great spot for a graduation celebration. The eatery serves modern Italian cuisine with cocktails and wines. Many of the menu items feature locally sourced ingredients from places such as Independent Baking Co., Bold Springs Farm, Diamond Hill Farm and more. The interior of Osteria Olio is an elevated, luxurious dining experience that is sure to make any graduate feel special.

Slater's Steakhouse

1635 S Lumpkin St.
\$\$\$

Located in Five Points, Slater's Steakhouse is an escape from the bustle of downtown Athens with its high-end steaks, rich side dishes and elevated ambiance. The steakhouse offers a variety of cuts of steak, including New York strip, chef's cut, filet mignon and ribeye. The menu also boasts a variety of other dishes if steak is not your forte, such as chicken schnitzel, pasta and trout.

Puma Yu's

355 Oneta St. Suite D 400 A
\$

If your graduate is looking for a unique, modern dining experience after graduation, Puma Yu's is the place to go. Puma Yu's is a wine and cocktail-forward bar serving small-plate Thai food. The interior is a funky blend of color and trendy decor, offering up a fun atmosphere to enjoy anything from blue crab tostadas to cumin lamb noodles.

Thursday Crossword - Answer Online FRIDAY, Dec. 13

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
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49					50	51	52			53	54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

1. Gulf war missile

5. Like an enthusiastic fan

9. Boxing maneuver

12. Cut down to size

13. Antler's point

14. Flamenco shout

15. Divorce alternative

17. Outfield surface

18. Business orgs.

19. Smooths

21. Fizzle, with "out"

24. House adjunct

26. Poetic paean

27. Card game start

29. Small amounts

33. Grazing ground

34. Gratifies

36. Break

37. Nothing but

39. Doctor's directive

40. Age of Aquarius, for one

41. Needs treatment

43. European viper

45. Extinguishes

48. Kind of flour

49. Half and half

50. Highflying industry

56. Dawn discovery

57. During

58. Australian export

59. Mouse catcher

60. Die

61. Duration of office

DOWN

1. Aromatherapy site

2. Is up to the task

3. Coffee holder

4. Two-spots

5. Bill producers

6. C'est la ____

7. Hostel

8. Block or dissuade

9. Incense stick

10. Soothing plant

11. Flower plots

16. Christmas song leapers

20. Elaborate

21. Equestrian contest

22. Heaven on earth

23. Pond swimmer

24. "Bullitt" director

25. Pub pints

28. British noble

30. Became mellow

31. Plain

32. Practice in the ring

35. Doesn't go

38. Bark

42. Biblical patriarch

44. Stop

45. Extinction exemplar

46. Again, in different form

47. Whimper

48. Was a passenger

51. Flightless bird

52. Barbecue offering

53. Make like

54. Game show giveaway

55. Glade shade

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A number of colorful hats are displayed alongside handmade jewelry on the "Necklace Charm Bar" at Beautiful Mess in downtown Athens, Georgia on Thursday, April 4, 2023. PHOTO/FELIX SCHEYER

Grad gift guide

What to get the new college graduate you know

Jesse Wood

Graduating from college is a huge milestone in someone's life, and it only feels appropriate to get the new college graduate in your life something to celebrate all of their hard work. The Red & Black has compiled a list of places to shop in Athens to make gift-giving a little easier this year.

Beautiful Mess

Beautiful Mess offers a variety of unique jewelry, as well as permanent jewelry and hat customization services that could make for a unique graduate gift. The shop also offers high-end jewelry ranging from bracelets and necklaces to earrings and rings.

The Red Zone

The Red Zone is an Athens staple for University of Georgia merchandise, boasting everything from framed photographs of Sanford Stadium to embroidered sweatshirts. The locally owned mom-and-pop fan store located in the heart of downtown Athens is sure to have something that any UGA graduate will love, whether they are entering the job market and want to wear a UGA quarter zip on their first day, or they love wearing hats on a bad hair day. College graduates can never have too much memorabilia of their alma mater.

Archer Paper Goods

With college graduates entering a new phase of their lives, consider setting them up with high-end notebooks, stickers, pencils and greeting cards. Archer Paper Goods is home to "The Pencil Shop," with a variety of quirky pencils that would serve any graduate well.

Additionally, Archer also sells notebooks with purposes such as storing passwords, writing down miscellaneous thoughts, daily planning and more, all complete with visually appealing covers.

High Country Outfitters

High Country Outfitters is located in the heart of downtown Athens and is home to a variety of goods that are great for any lover of the outdoors. The storefront sells men's and women's clothing and accessories, as well as shoes, electronics, camping gear and more. This store is the perfect assortment of knick knacks, and you are sure to find something that any graduate will appreciate.

Christopher Mobley

Christopher Mobley, situated on Baxter Street, is home to a variety of men's clothing and accessories that are perfect for any occasion. If your grad is entering the workforce, this store has a wide selection of high-end tops, bottoms, shoes and accessories that fit the dress code of any work environment. Christopher Mobley also has a gameday line with merchandise for Georgia, Alabama, Ole Miss, Texas and Kentucky.

Jittery Joe's

Jittery Joe's is an Athens staple, and a UGA graduate may appreciate an ode to UGA in the form of a mug or in the brew of their morning cup of coffee. Jittery Joe's has several brews dedicated to the Georgia Bulldogs and Athens itself, such as the "National Champions 2022," "Drive-By Truckers Trucker Speed," "Mama's Boy" or "Attack the Day." The cans serve as a great addition to your countertop space, and the taste of the coffee will bring anyone right back to Athens.





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Highlights from this fall 2024 semester



Georgia celebrates winning the 2024 SEC Championship NCAA football game against Texas at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024. PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN



Stephen Amolegbe Jr. and Maggie Epps are crowned as homecoming king and queen during halftime at Georgia's homecoming game in Athens, Georgia on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 PHOTO/LANEY MARTIN



Georgia guard Somoto Cyril (6) scores during a men's NCAA basketball game against the University of Central Florida in Athens, Georgia on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024. PHOTO/ETHAN GREENE



Members from the UGA Panhellenic sororities cheer during the UGA Sigma Delta Tau Greek Grind at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia on Wednesday, Oct 16, 2024. PHOTO/FELIX SCHEYER



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Heyward Allen Toyota extends our warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2024! Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have brought you to this momentous occasion, and we couldn't be prouder.

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