A message from Cheryl D. Dozier

As we begin this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new students to the University of Georgia. As you will see in this newsletter, the new first-year class has set records for academic quality and diversity.

Additionally, the Graduate School expects graduate enrollment for fall 2008 to be the highest ever for the institution. The record numbers are reflected across the board in the graduate student population, particularly among historically underrepresented populations. Enrollment of African-American students is showing a 5.6 percent gain over last year, and Hispanic graduate student numbers have increased by 9.6 percent for the same period.

The Graduate School continues to be committed to future diverse enrollment as evidenced by the annual Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) in July, which brought 41 undergraduates from historically underrepresented backgrounds to Athens from around the country. This program gives students a taste of rigorous, graduate-level research, as well as the opportunity to work with faculty mentors in a number of disciplines at UGA.

On Sept. 26, I was honored to accept an award from Minority Access Inc., a non-profit organization in the Washington, D.C. area, which recognizes universities for their biomedical research and support of diverse students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields. UGA was recognized as an institution committed to diversity and inclusion.

OID sponsors second annual Diversity Days celebration

To make an impact on individuals across campus and the world, diversity must be embraced, said several speakers during the second annual Diversity Days kickoff celebration sponsored by the Office of Institutional Diversity in September.

Speakers included Dawn Bennett-Alexander, associate professor in the Terry College of Business; Deborah Gonzalez, assistant director of international public service and outreach; and Cortez Wright, an undergraduate student and member of the Lambda Alliance.

The Office of Institutional Diversity presented Embracing Diversity Awards to the following for their efforts to promote diversity and inclusion:

- Rose Chepyator-Thomson, professor of kinesiology, for her work in the Focus on Diversity program in the College of Education, her role in diversifying the physical education teacher education program for pre-service teachers, and development of the Educational Forum for Culture, Research and Training.
- Procurement officer Annette Evans for her efforts in helping to coordinate UGA’s first Minority and Small Business Vendor Expo, which brought more than 200 vendors to campus.
- Georgia Daze, a student group that brings high school seniors from historically underrepresented populations to campus for a look at collegiate life.
- The microbiology department for its efforts to recruit students from underrepresented groups to consider microbiology and related disciplines as units of study and as careers.

Student scholarships also were given out at the event. See page 2 for details.

OID symposium addresses institutional diversity

The Office of Institutional Diversity is hosting an Oct. 21 symposium on “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion through Institutional Change.” The daylong event at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education is supported by a gift from Georgia Power. Session topics focus on policies and practices that demonstrate an institutional commitment to diversity; creating and implementing an institutional diversity plan; creating an inclusive workplace culture; and attracting a more diverse faculty.

Invited speakers include Steve Michael, vice provost and chief diversity officer at Kent State University; Susan Herbst, executive vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia; Flora Devine, special assistant to the president for legal affairs and diversity at Kennesaw State University; Karen Holt, director of UGA’s Fanning Institute; Kecia Thomas, senior advisor to the dean for inclusion and diversity leaders in UGA’s Franklin College of Arts and Sciences; and Yves-Rose SaintDic, director of institutional equity and diversity at Georgia College and State University.
UGA groups present scholarships to current students at fall campus events

Several UGA students were recognized for their diversity efforts, academic achievements and leadership during two campus events in September. They received scholarships to help defray their educational costs while attending UGA. During the second annual Diversity Days kickoff celebration that was sponsored by UGA’s Office of Institutional Diversity, two awards were presented to UGA undergraduates for their commitment to diversity efforts—the Black Alumni Scholarship and the Diversity Scholarship.

Deborah Dietzler, executive director of UGA’s Alumni Association, and Ken Dious, UGA alumnus and local attorney, presented the Black Alumni Scholarship to Wendell Scott, a broadcast journalism major from Stone Mountain, and Monique Campbell, a political science major from Stone Mountain.

The $1,500 renewable endowed scholarships, administered by UGA’s Alumni Association, recognize first-year students who exhibit dedication to racial equality through previous experience, initiatives and creativity in improving race relations in their community. Scholarship recipients will receive special invitations to alumni affairs and multicultural events throughout the academic year.

UGA athletic director Damon Evans presented the Diversity Scholarship to Johana Elangwe, a biology major from Milledgeville, and Dwayne Haynes, a pre-med/biology major from Dallas, Ga. The $1,500 need-based scholarships, sponsored by UGA’s Athletic Association, honor freshmen who have demonstrated leadership through community service, extracurricular or other activities. This was the first time the scholarship was awarded.

The Office of Institutional Diversity oversaw the screening process for both scholarships and campus-wide committees reviewed applications.

In conjunction with the Diversity Days event, UGA’s Black Faculty and Staff Organization awarded $500 Founders Scholarships to two UGA graduate students, and for the first time, three undergraduates during their sixth annual awards luncheon. The scholarships are funded through ticket sales to the event.

Undergraduates honored for their outstanding leadership and scholarship were Carey Charlese Cobb, a sophomore accounting major from Albany; Marcus Hines, a sophomore biology major from Albany; and Olubusola Oluyemi, a third-year student in the College of Pharmacy, who is originally from Nigeria.

Graduate winners were Bryan Davis, from Augusta, who is enrolled in the bachelor’s/master’s accounting program in UGA’s Terry College of Business; and Donna Wilcox, from Orlando, Fla., who is studying public relations in UGA’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Randy Groomes, director of diversity relations and recruitment in UGA’s Terry College of Business, presented the undergraduate scholarships. Kimberly Thomas, assistant director of UGA’s Physical Plant and BFSO’s vice president for staff, presented the graduate scholarships.

For more than 25 years, the Black Faculty and Staff Organization has played a vital role in developing, advocating and assisting in the implementation of programs and services focused on equity and diversity at UGA.
Students given window into inner workings of Washington, D.C.

Against the backdrop of the presidential election this fall, UGA junior Lucas Puente is serving as an intern in the office of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama through UGA’s Washington Semester Program, launched a year ago under the auspices of the Office of the Vice President for Instruction.

Puente, an international affairs and finance major who previously interned with the State Department in Nicaragua, is one of 11 students participating in the program this semester.

“I am really lucky to be in D.C. during this historic time period,” he says. “Ultimately, I see myself working on Capitol Hill or possibly for a think tank to help frame our country’s public policy.”

Among his activities at UGA, Puente co-founded Men of Honor, a group promoting Latin brotherhood.

Sharon McCoy, a third-year international affairs and Spanish double major, is pursuing her interest in U.S.-Latin American relations as an intern for the Center for American Progress. “I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how the U.S. responds to events in Latin America,” she says. Next semester McCoy plans to travel to Chile as an exchange student.

As an intern for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Alexis Ruiz has translated surveys into Spanish for a study on why young Latina girls are dropping out of high school. She’s also researched issues to debunk misinformation about immigration and Latinos. “The research to debunk stereotypes has been especially appealing because I am many times put on the spot about my opinion on immigration since I am a first-generation Chicana,” says Ruiz, a junior international affairs major.

Shuyuan Hu’s daily activities as an intern in the office of U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) have included answering constituent calls, attending hearings and researching legislative issues. “The program provides a great opportunity for students who are interested in politics to explore that interest and stay on course for graduation at the same time,” says Hu, a senior international affairs major.

UGA students selected as 2008 Coca-Cola Scholars

Twelve UGA freshmen have been awarded Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. This scholarship, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, supports academically outstanding students who are the first in their families to attend college.

“We are excited to welcome our second class of Coca-Cola First Generation Scholars to UGA,” said UGA Vice President for Instruction Jere Morehead. “These outstanding students will be mentored by a dedicated group of emeriti faculty and members of the first class of Coca-Cola Scholars, as well as having guidance from a select group of academic advisors.”

The award provides $5,000 per year to recipients who demonstrate financial need in addition to the HOPE Scholarship and is renewable for an additional three years of undergraduate study if certain academic standards are maintained.

The 2008 Coca-Cola Scholars are Juliette Collins, Tiffany Reed, Megan Shirley, Bree Hill, Seul-Ki Kim, Sarita Gandhi, Michael Vallejos, Nui Jiang, Daniel Boswell, Astin Shrader, Trent Hart and Kay-Leigh Crook.

Grad wins Merage fellowship to follow his “American Dream”

Edmond Fomunung, who earned his cellular biology degree in May, has been awarded a Merage American Dream Fellowship that is supporting his current educational pursuits—an M.D. and MPH at The John Hopkins University.

He is the third UGA recipient of the two-year $20,000 scholarship for academically outstanding undergraduates who are immigrants to the United States.

Fomunung, who was born and raised in Cameroon, completed public health-related research projects while at UGA, including his first two years in the Honors Program’s Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities apprentice program. He then mentored the next group of apprentices as a teaching assistant. He also served on the Honors Program Student Council and the Student Health Advisory Committee.

Asian sorority celebrates decade

Delta Phi Lambda, a sorority founded by UGA student Anh Ngoc Nguyen in 1998 as a way to connect with other Asian students on campus, has grown to become the second-largest Asian sorority in the nation, with 10 chapters in five states.

To commemorate the organization’s 10th anniversary, more than 100 sisters and alumna visited UGA in August, holding team-building workshops, cookouts and other events, including a showcase of art and traditions.

As a commitment to dispel stereotypes about Asian women and educate the public about the various cultures that the members represent, the sorority has sponsored several programs such as a forum focused on the portrayal of Asian women in television and cinema.

The members also participate in community causes, including the sorority’s national philanthropy of raising awareness about osteoporosis, a disease that Asian women have a higher risk of developing.
Faculty & Staff News

Undergraduate admissions adds to staff diversity

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has made several recent changes to its staff. Milly Legra was promoted to associate director of admissions and director of new student orientation last spring. Legra had served as interim director in addition to her role as senior assistant director of admissions-outreach, a joint position with the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach. Jonathan Duncan has taken over the latter responsibilities, working with middle schools and Hispanic recruitment.

A 2002 UGA grad, Legra was an orientation leader during her student days and has worked in undergraduate admissions since 2004, serving for three years as assistant director of orientation, a position now occupied by Tino Johnson.

“In planning orientation sessions, I always will take into account the needs of the university and changing student populations while striving to maintain the successful legacy that the UGA orientation program carries,” she says.

Descatur Potier joins the admissions staff as associate director for diversity recruitment. He directs recruitment efforts specifically targeted to underrepresented populations at UGA.

“We are very pleased to have Des join us in undergraduate admissions at a time in which we have so much momentum in increasing the diversity of the undergraduate population,” says senior associate director Patrick Winter. “Des has tremendous experience developing strategies and programming for diverse college-bound students.”

Potier comes to UGA from the Upward Bound program at the University of Massachusetts and was a member of the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Organization that supports TRIO programs in the state.

“I look forward to the collaborative nature of this position, working with various departments and schools within the university in an effort to increase the number of underrepresented students on campus,” Potier says. “I am excited to serve as a connection to the admissions office regarding diversity and outreach on campus.”

In addition to the above changes, the admissions office has welcomed several new counselors to the staff. For more information, see the “Meet the Staff” section of the admissions web site: www.admissions.uga.edu.

Diversity directors appointed

Terry College of Business

Randy Groomes, who graduated from UGA’s Terry College, has been named Terry’s director of diversity relations and recruitment. Groomes previously served as director of multicultural programs for UGA’s Alumni Association. He succeeds accounting professor Mark Dawkins, who served as the founding director of Terry’s diversity relations initiative before being appointed associate dean for academic programs. Among his duties, Groomes coordinates and assists efforts to recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff and students and works to establish and maintain contacts with industry organizations to secure funding for internships, scholarships and work experiences. He also coordinates Terry’s diversity programs with UGA’s Department of Intercultural Affairs, the Office of Institutional Diversity, admissions and the Career Center.

School of Law

Gregory Roseboro, who holds both a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a law degree from UGA, was recently appointed director of diversity programs at UGA’s School of Law. He also will retain his position as the associate director of law school admissions, a post he has held since 2000. With this expanded role, Roseboro focuses on the various diversity issues facing the law school as well as legal education in general. He is responsible for helping to increase the diversity of students, faculty and staff as well as developing new initiatives and coordinating efforts with UGA’s Office of Institutional Diversity. Roseboro also serves as advisor to the Davenport-Benhan Black Law Students Association.

New counselors Jonathan Duncan (left) and Joseph Carlos are among recent additions.
OID launches mentoring program to connect faculty campus-wide

The Office of Institutional Diversity is launching a new diverse faculty mentoring program to connect incoming faculty with senior faculty mentors outside of their departments and schools and colleges.

This program is intended to help new faculty members, who are in their first three years at UGA, adjust to campus and the surrounding community. The program’s overall goal is not only to promote professional success, but also to retain faculty from historically underrepresented groups and grow diversity at UGA. Former deans Louis Castenell, now a professor of educational psychology and instructional technology in UGA’s College of Education, and Sharon Nickols, now a professor of housing and consumer economics in UGA’s College of Family and Consumer Sciences, are serving as co-chairs for the program.

Applications and additional information can be obtained by contacting Mimi Sodhi, assistant provost for institutional diversity at 706/583-8195 or msodhi@uga.edu.

Fall reception welcomes new multicultural faculty and staff to campus

UGA Alumni Association co-workers (from left) Chardina Choate and Wanda Darden mingle with Sarah Bilbrey Park from the Office of International Education.

Mimi Sodhi, assistant provost for institutional diversity (right), chats with Michelle Carter, a career consultant and assistant director of employer relations in the UGA Career Center.

Cheryl Dozier, associate provost for institutional diversity (left), shares a laugh with Cynthia Polk-Johnson, director of multicultural services and programs, who came to UGA in August.

Staff attendees included (from left) Imella Sanchez, African Studies Institute; Kathy McCarty, Administrative Services; Jacqueline Montgomery, Central Duplicating; and Gail Lopes, Human Resources.

Miracle directs LGBT Center

In August, Jennifer Miracle started her new job as director of UGA’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center, a unit of Intercultural Affairs that creates a safe and inclusive environment for the LGBT community through education, advocacy, and support services. She also serves as faculty advisor for Lambda Alliance. Miracle previously worked as assistant director for membership service and customer relations in University Recreation at Central Michigan.

Minnis joins Peach State LSAMP

Tia Minnis, a native of the Bahamas, has been named assistant director and program coordinator for the Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. UGA is the lead institution for this alliance of five colleges and universities in Georgia that aims to significantly increase the number of underrepresented minority students who complete undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. More than 180 students are currently participating in the program.

Prof named education policy fellow

Jerome Morris, an associate professor in UGA’s College of Education, was one of three UGA employees recently selected for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education’s inaugural class of Education Policy Fellows. Morris will learn about the education policy process and attend expert-led colloquiums over the next nine months along with the other fellows, including Shannon Wilder and Welch Suggs from UGA.
UGA alum writes, directs and stars in new BET series

Hadjii Hand (ABJ ’98), who now goes by his first name only, was on location in Athens over the summer to shoot the first 10 episodes of a new originally scripted series for BET. Somebodies, which premiered Sept. 9, is based on Hadjii’s film of the same name that was screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006. In addition to writing and directing, Hadjii plays the central role of Scottie, an undergraduate at a large university trying to figure out his place in the world. Somebodies (www.bet.com/OnTV/BETShows/somebodies) airs on Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

Imada wins first PGA Tour event

Former UGA golfer Ryuji Imada earned his first PGA Tour win at the 2008 AT&T Classic in May, after placing second at the event last year. With the victory, Imada earns a coveted invitation to the Masters—his first—in 2009.

Before turning pro in 1999, Imada—a native of Japan—led the UGA golf team to its first national championship. He also was selected as a member of the All-American First-team and All-SEC First-team and finished as the 1999 individual NCAA runner-up.

Imada first played on the Nationwide Tour from 2000 to 2004, winning two events. A third-place finish on the 2004 money list earned him a position on the PGA Tour.

Athletes win Olympic medals

Former UGA track and field standout Hyleas Fountain was one of three UGA athletes to earn medals at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Fountain (left hugging current Georgia assistant coach Don Babbitt after her win at the Olympic Trials) won the silver medal in the heptathlon after compiling 6,619 points for the seven-event competition. Former UGA swimmer Kara Lynn Joyce earned silver medals in both the 4x100 meter freestyle relay and the 4x100 medley relay. Freshman Allison Schmitt won a bronze medal as a member of the women’s 4x200 meter freestyle relay.

Wade-Berg leads diversity efforts

Jennifer Wade-Berg (MPA ’95, DPA ’00) was named Kennesaw State University’s first chief diversity officer in July, overseeing efforts to foster an environment that values diversity on campus. She also holds a faculty appointment in political science and international affairs with a focus on nonprofit management, public management and diversity. Wade-Berg previously helped develop diversity and inclusion programs and policies at the University of Colorado-Denver.

Blanchard is chief academic officer

Loren Blanchard (PhD ’91) recently became senior vice president for academic affairs at Xavier University of Louisiana. Prior to his appointment, he served as associate vice chancellor for academic and multicultural affairs at Louisiana State University’s Health Science Center in New Orleans. He is also a sought-after national expert in accreditation and planning with research interests that include national accreditation preparation for HBCU teacher education programs.

Jones gives BFSO keynote address

Steven Jones (BBA ’78, JD ’87), superior court judge for the Western Judicial Circuit for Oconee and Clarke counties, encouraged attendees at UGA’s Black Faculty and Staff Organization annual luncheon to guide students to reach their potential. An Athens native, he currently serves as chair of OneAthens, a community collaboration to combat poverty. A profile appears in the spring 2008 issue of UGA’s Terry College of Business alumni magazine (www.terry.uga.edu/alumni/magazine).
UGA freshmen again set records for academic quality, diversity

Just over 4,800 students make up UGA's freshman class that entered this fall and they have set new records for academic quality and diversity. According to data released by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the start of the academic year, the entering class has a strong grade point average of 3.8 and an SAT average of 1253. For those students who took the ACT, the mean score was 27.

Breaking all previous records for ethnic and racial diversity, 21 percent of the students in the new class self-identified as other than Caucasian. The admissions office reported the number of African-American freshmen at 381, a 16 percent increase from the previous year and the largest number since 1995, plus a record 153 Hispanic students, a 47 percent increase over last year and the largest number of entering Hispanic freshmen in UGA history.

The class is diverse in other factors: 173 of the incoming freshmen represent 48 different countries and more than five percent come from homes where English is not the native language. The students come from more than 400 Georgia high schools in 145 counties. Just over 15 percent of the new class is from out of state.

“I am grateful for the hard work of so many UGA faculty, staff and students who assisted the admissions office throughout the recruitment cycle,” said Nancy McDuff, associate vice president of admissions and enrollment management.

Graduate School gets top 20 ranking from Diverse magazine

In its July edition, Diverse Issues in Higher Education ranked UGA 18th in the nation for doctoral degrees conferred upon African Americans—up from 21st in last year’s rankings—reflecting continued efforts by the Graduate School not only to recruit students, but also to retain and graduate them. Since 1999, when the Graduate School began formalized inclusiveness programming, enrollment among African-American graduate students has consistently grown and now represents roughly 10 percent of the total enrollment of graduate students. This fall, African American enrollment in the Graduate School is showing a 5.6 percent increase over last year and Hispanic graduate student numbers have increased by 9.6 percent.

For more information on graduate programs and initiatives, see www.grad.uga.edu.

DREAMERS ON CAMPUS—UGA hosted the “I Have A Dream” Foundation’s national conference in July, where philanthropist Eugene Lang (center) joined 84 middle and high school students from across the country. Lang created the foundation more than 25 years ago to ensure that youth in low-income communities have a chance to go to college. The local Greensboro chapter is sponsored in part by UGA.
The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.