Hunter-Gault brings past to present at namesake lecture

Charlayne Hunter-Gault passed the proverbial baton to the next generation during the annual Holmes-Hunter Lecture held Feb. 15 at the UGA Chapel.

“It’s truly time for every citizen, no matter your age, to get woke,” she said. “And that means helping keep our democracy safe, and it means doing the hard work of digging for good information with a variety of sources.”

The lecture is named for Hunter-Gault and her classmate, Hamilton Holmes, who were the first African-American students to attend UGA. They arrived on campus in 1961 after civil rights leaders in Atlanta successfully challenged the segregation policy at the state’s universities. In 2001, the academic building where Hunter-Gault and Holmes registered was renamed the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building in their honor, marking the 40th anniversary of the desegregation of the university.

Hunter-Gault recognized others who “helped pave the way for the diversity and inclusion we see in today’s Bulldogs.” Two people in attendance at the lecture that Hunter-Gault specifically called attention to were Carolyn Long, who helped form the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights that led the Atlanta Student Movement in 1960, and Connie Curry, who was involved in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Freedom Movement.

Hunter-Gault challenged the students in attendance to imagine themselves going through the same experiences as Long and Curry at their age and said that those history lessons are still relevant today. “You are in a position to determine whether or not we keep the values of our moral universe—a universe where people are respected by the content of their character,” she said.

Hunter-Gault graduated from the University’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1963. She and her husband, Ronald Gault, recently established a new endowment, Giving Voice to the Voiceless, to provide grants to UGA students promoting social justice and global understanding.
UGA expands support for rural students

University of Georgia President Jere W. Morehead delivered his annual State of the University address in January, highlighting major accomplishments from the past year and unveiling several new initiatives to advance the institution’s strategic priorities.

To support students from rural areas who must overcome unique challenges to earn their degrees, Morehead shared plans to implement the ALL Georgia Program, a cohort-based initiative for students from rural areas of the state.

The university will allocate $300,000 in private funds over the next five years to launch the program, which will combine financial and academic resources with mentorship and leadership opportunities to support this population of students.

“Your might not realize that many of our in-state students are from rural Georgia,” Morehead said. “Some of them come from low-income backgrounds and are the first in their families to attend college. They face unique challenges on campus, and they can benefit from targeted support.”

The idea came from the President’s Task Force on Student Learning and Success. The task force—initiated by Morehead last February—spent most of last year developing ideas to strengthen the educational experiences of UGA students both inside and outside the classroom.

Morehead also announced a pilot program to support seniors nearing graduation who struggle to stay in school because of financial hardship. The program, supported by $250,000 in private funds, will award up to $2,000 in completion grants to help keep these students on the path to graduation.

“Low-income students who withdraw in these circumstances are at a high risk of never returning to graduate, of never realizing the full promise of higher education,” Morehead said. “Unfortunately, this is a national problem, but at the University of Georgia, we intend to do something about it.”

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New diversity and inclusion programs set to launch

Twenty-one proposals have been funded through the New Approaches to Promote Diversity and Inclusion grants program, which was announced by President Jere W. Morehead.

A total of $300,000 was awarded. The $10,000 to $25,000 grants will be used for the development or adoption of new projects that support the recruitment, retention and success of underrepresented, underserved and first-generation students at UGA.

“The range of activities reflected in the New Approaches proposals is truly exciting. These projects will enable us to address a range of challenges confronting our underserved, underrepresented and first-generation students. They allow us to support students and communities across the state of Georgia in new ways,” said Michelle Garfield Cook, vice provost for diversity and inclusion and strategic university initiatives. “The investment of our faculty and staff in this grant opportunity reflects our institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion. It also sends a clear message that the University of Georgia values our students and that we seek to ensure that they are successful in their academic endeavors.”

The program received 39 proposals from units across campus that were reviewed by a six-member committee chaired by Cook and Arthur “Trip” Jr., assistant to the president.

Winning proposals include: “Creating Inclusive Environments in STEM and STEM Education,” “Advising and Mentoring Minority Students for Success (AMMSS) Program” and “Developing Diverse Talent for the Global Workplace.”

Believe ticket elected to top posts in SGA

University of Georgia students elected the Believe ticket to the executive branch of the Student Government Association for the 2018-2019 academic year. The ticket consists of President Ammissahaddai Grand-Jean, Vice President Charlene Marsh and Treasurer Destin Mizelle.

This year, 8,006 students voted in the election, representing the largest number of votes in SGA’s history and more than 21 percent of the total student body. The Believe ticket claimed 50.21 percent of the votes cast with the One UGA ticket pulling 42.6 percent.

Grand-Jean is a third-year student from Jonesboro majoring in political science and economics. Marsh is a third-year international affairs and sociology major from Norcross and Mizelle is a third-year psychology major from Riverdale.

The Believe ticket’s campaign platform centered around three key issues: improving efficiency to make SGA simpler and more connected to students; cultivating transparency and discussion on issues like diversity, sexual assault and mental health; and fostering a spirit of cooperation to encourage connections among student organizations.

I chose to attend UGA because…

… of the unparalleled opportunities and experiences it has to offer. As a Bernard Ramsey Honors Scholar, I’ve been fortunate to be a member of a tight-knit community of peers and faculty advisors who are some of my closest friends and mentors today. I never thought I would be able to do some of the things I’ve done during my undergraduate years.

AMAZING STUDENTS: Manasa Kadiyala

Ramsey Scholar Manasa Kadiyala, a junior majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology, is passionate about helping people achieve their goals as they strive to be the best version of themselves. She has already done that through interning in a health care clinic in Tanzania and starting an education program in a local jail.

AMAZING STUDENTS: Ammissahaddai Grand-Jean

Ammissahaddai Grand-Jean, a junior working toward degrees in political science and economics, is committed to serving his fellow students. After graduation he plans to pursue that passion by improving the lives of people in a positive way and “help give everyone a chance to live an enjoyable life.”

My favorite professor is…

There are so many great and influential professors at UGA. They are humble, kind, driven, caring and special. They push you toward new heights and empower you in many different ways. Teaching and graduate assistants also play a key role in teaching the material and being supportive, even if it’s been three hours and you’re still lost.
Above: Members of the African Student Union celebrate Africa Week in Tate Plaza.
Below: Members of the Vietnamese Student Association perform at the annual Night in Saigon show.

Above: Members of the African Student Union celebrate Africa Week in Tate Plaza.
Above: Members of the Turkish Student Association pose in front of the Arch with the flag of Turkey.

Above: Members of the Filipino Student Association educate students at Tate Student Center about the Philippines.
Right: The Pamoja Dance Company hosts its annual semester showcase.

Above: Students in the Destination Dawgs program pose with Hairy Dawg.
Right: A LGBT Resource Center Ambassador shows her pride.

Above: Members of the Chinese Student Association perform at their annual Spring Festival Gala.
Right: The Thai Student Association celebrates Loy Krathong, a Siamese festival, by making paper lanterns.

Above: Students participate in the annual Parade of Flags as part of International Education Week.

Above: Members of the Brazilian Student Association sell brigadeiros and beijinhos, Brazilian sweets, for Valentine’s Day.

Above: Members of the Indian Cultural Exchange host the annual UGA India Night.

Right: A member of the Vietnamese Student Association performs at the annual Night in Saigon show.

Above: Dawgs for Israel at UGA host International Coffee Hour, a weekly event where student organizations share and learn about other cultures.

Right: Members of the Brazilian Student Association sell brigadeiros and beijinhos, Brazilian sweets, for Valentines Day.
Reaching Back
Helping others is a priority for Gregory Roseboro, the School of Law’s executive director of admissions and diversity programs. Roseboro — who earned his undergraduate degree and Juris Doctor from UGA — has made "reaching back" and helping people a priority in both the UGA and Athens communities. In January, Roseboro was the staff recipient of the President’s Fulfilling the Dream Award at the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast.
After graduating from law school in 1987, Roseboro worked for six years as a settlement negotiator with State Farm and the United Services Automobile Insurance Association in Washington, D.C., before returning to Athens to join a private law practice.
In 1994, Roseboro joined the law school at UGA as the assistant director of admissions, student affairs and legal career services. As the executive director of law admissions and diversity programs, he also advises the Davenport-Benham Black Law Students Association, the Asian Law Students Association, the Hispanic Law Students Association and the OUTLaws student organization.
"Our society is made up of different people and different cultures," he said. "If the University of Georgia is going to continue to produce individuals who will be equipped to be leaders in a global society, then we need to have students who reflect that global society.
In addition to his work at UGA, Roseboro was the pastor of Piney Grove Baptist Church in Comer from 2001 to 2016, fulfilling a calling toward Christian ministry he had since his senior year of college.
"It was a very gratifying experience, because at the end of the day it was all about the service," he said. Although he’s no longer in the pulpit, Roseboro continues to minister to those in need. He currently volunteers with the Feed My Sheep Ministries, which assists the residents of east Athens and those living in the Nellie B. Apartments.
Roseboro said receiving the President’s Fulfilling the Dream Award was a humbling experience. "I felt blessed to be able to receive the award," he said. "There are a lot of people who are just as—if not more—worthy of the recognition from the university."
Giving to the Office of Institutional Diversity

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

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

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

To donate online, go to diversity.uga.edu/index.php/about/giving.

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

UGA Office of Institutional Diversity
C/o Business Manager
210 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building
Athens, GA 30602–6119