



### **Susan Lanigan Selected to Chair New Advancement Board**



**Susan Lanigan  
(ABJ '84, JD '88)**

Susan Lanigan (ABJ '84, JD '88) is the first chair of UGA's newly created Graduate School Advancement Board, according to Maureen Grasso, the Graduate School dean. Terry Coffey will serve as the board's vice chair. The board held its inaugural meeting on September 30 in the Peabody Board Room of UGA's administration building.

"To support our vision of UGA's Graduate School as a benchmark for graduate education, we have established a distinguished national board of UGA alumni, experts and leaders to advance and promote Graduate School programs and initiatives," says Grasso. "Leaders like Susan Lanigan have the professional and intellectual resources to further that vision."

Lanigan is executive vice president and general counsel of Dollar General Corporation based in Goodlettsville, Tennessee. She previously worked with Zale Corporation as a senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary. Lanigan has also held legal positions with Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. and with Troutman Sanders Law Firm.

Members are appointed to three-year terms. Both the chair and vice chair serve two years in their respective leadership roles.

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**Front L-R:** Terry Coffey, Mary Erlanger, Gordhan Patel, Maureen Grasso, Susan Lanigan, Donna Leigh Jackins. **Back L-R:** Sheryl Sellaway, Michael Bunch, Beth Butler (Director of Development), Augustus Staub. **Not pictured:** Deborah Dietzler.

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## **UGA Nation**

News Report Determines UGA Good School and Good Value

The 2006 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges" guide has again named the University of Georgia one of the ranking public universities.

"This is the sixth year we've been earmarked as being among the best," says Dean Maureen Grasso of the Graduate School.

"We're recognized as nineteenth among all public universities – and we're a good value at that!"

Grasso's reference is to UGA placing sixth on the report's "Great Schools, Great Prices" listing, which evaluates reputation, class sizes, retention, graduation rates, alumni giving and other factors in compiling the report.

The rankings are available on line at: [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com).

*Editor's Note:*

*U.S. News & World Report's "2005 Best Graduate Schools" recently ranked the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Administration (SPIA) third in the nation. Other graduate programs at UGA also receiving top ranking include print making, education and business.*

*UGA joined Harvard, Princeton, Syracuse, Indiana (Bloomington) and California-Berkeley universities as leading institutions according to the publication's annual listing.*

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### **Dean Grasso attends the Peabody's**



Since 1940 the Peabody Awards have been synonymous with talent. First conceived of in the 1930s by an Atlanta radio station manager, it was adopted by the dean of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at UGA. The program's namesake is Georgia businessman and benefactor George Foster Peabody.

### **Grasso (L) with Dan Rather.**

Dean Maureen Grasso attended the awards program this year, where she chatted with Peabody honoree Dan

Rather.

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### **Graduate Students Volunteer in Wake of Katrina**

Graduate students Robby Luckett and Cassie Sheldon, both Mississippi natives, galvanized into action shortly after hurricane Katrina savaged the gulf. According to published reports, the students organized an on-campus collection for the relief of storm victims, placing collection bins in the history and journalism buildings.

Luckett, a doctoral student in history and Sheldon, who is studying journalism, collected water, food, blankets and essentials for the hurricane relief effort. Packing a Toyota truck with the goods, Luckett then made his way to Mississippi accompanied by friends.

They then delivered the donations personally, despite gasoline shortages and midst reported looting and vandalism in the disaster-hit areas.

The donated items were safely delivered to a Red Cross shelter in a Pascagoula, Mississippi church.

Afterwards, Lockett and two friends volunteered to help with clean up before returning to Athens and planning a return mission.

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### **Graduate School Reception Honors Stellar Students**



**Julie Askew**

More than 60 students gathered on a sunny afternoon August 31 at the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia in Athens for a reception hosted by the Graduate School. Among the attendees were those receiving Dean's Awards in the arts and humanities, social sciences and other fields. In addition, those awarded assistantships, dissertation completion awards and scholarships enjoyed the fraternity of other scholars during an afternoon of accolades and refreshments. Masters and doctoral students represented scholarly work ranging from theater and film to mathematics. Dean Grasso addressed the gathering, saying, "You make us so proud – you make the graduate school stronger and brighter."

The recipients of the J. William Fanning and Phelps-Stokes Graduate Fellowships were also among the invitees.

"I don't have to worry about giving my time to work not related to my dissertation," said Sohyun Park, whose research concerns low-income elderly and nutrition. Park is a recipient of a dissertation completion award. Julie Askew, a British student also slated to graduate in May, has researched issues in women's reproductive health. She echoed Park's comments, stressing the value of dissertation completion monies in her own scholarship.

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### **Dean's Award Supports Appalachian-Based Sociolinguistics Research**



**Becky Childs**

Becky Childs, a sociolinguist and recipient of the 2004 Graduate School Dean's Award, had an immediate and practical need for the proceeds from the award. Childs applied the monies to successfully conduct and complete pilot research in a remote Appalachian community in North Carolina.

Childs purchased recording equipment that she used to record the speech of a targeted population in Texana, North Carolina. She credits the pilot with determining the focus of her dissertation, which concerned social and acoustic issues in her field. "The pilot research that I was able to perform with the aid of the award helped to shape my

dissertation,” says Childs. As a direct result of the preliminary linguistics work, Childs also received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant.

“As a sociolinguist that studies phonetics, I need high quality equipment in order to perform my acoustic analysis. Through the award, I was able to purchase a high-quality CD recorder and microphone that I used for my recordings in the field.” She adds that by no longer being restricted to borrowing school equipment she was “free to do research whenever the opportunity arose, which is critical since I depend upon the availability of others for my data.”

The completed research led to several papers that Childs published. She also presented her research at three academic conferences.]

Since completing the collection of data, Childs advanced to candidacy and graduated in August. She has accepted a tenure-track sociolinguistics position in Newfoundland at Memorial University’s Linguistics department. “Without the aid of my award,” says Childs, “my research, dissertation, job talks and job possibilities would have been severely limited.”

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**(L-R) Letha Mosley, Hiliary Johnson, Anika Francis, Dean Grasso, Dana Jennings and Joy Harden**

### **Hotdogging**

Dean Grasso joined members of Graduate and Professional Scholars

(GAPS) selling concessions at a recent UGA Home football game. Proceeds benefit GAPS events and lectures.

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### Surgeon Honors Brother with UGA Gift



While in the Miami area last August, Dean Grasso caught up with Dr. Annella Brown, a retired surgeon. Dr. Brown recently honored her brother Alfred, a UGA alumnus, with a gift to the university, although she herself is not an alumna. Brown graduated from the Georgia State College for Women in 1938, and taught school in Cairo, Georgia before attending medical school in Augusta.

Dr. Brown's bequest honors Alfred Brown (BBA '55), a former football player, stockbroker and real estate agent.

### Dean Grasso and Dr. Annella Brown (R).

The funds will be used to establish a scholarship in his name, according to Dean Grasso. "I wanted to do something

to remember him," Brown explained. "Alfred played football. He had a stockbroker's license and a real estate license. He made lots of money and was very funny."

Dr. Brown met an assortment of celebrity clients through her "very successful brother." She chose instead to study medicine and was among the nation's first female surgeons.

"I always wanted to be a doctor. Alfred was sick, and they took him to the hospital. I went up there, and the nurses dressed me up in a nurse's cap, and I said, 'Oh, no, the doctors are in charge, I'm going to be a doctor!'"

"I couldn't afford the University of Georgia, so I went to the Georgia State College for women," recalls Brown. "I graduated from there in '38 – I had no money; so I taught school in Cairo, Georgia for two years while I tried to get together the \$200 for the fee to go to medical school." Brown excelled there, earning five A pluses and four A's. While riding on a bus with two other ladies, she showed them her grades. "And so I got a letter from one of them saying anybody who makes those grades shouldn't

have to work so hard, so they sent me a check for my third year, and my fourth year also,” the doctor recalls.

Scholarship has a very personal connection to Dr. Annella Brown’s own odyssey, explains Dean Grasso. “This gift is especially moving given the doctor’s own experience with the generosity of strangers.”

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### **Frank Gift to Further Significant Research**



Beverly Hirsh Frank (AB, '54) was a high-profile UGA student with an aptitude for leadership. Now she has made what Dean Maureen Grasso calls “an historic commitment” to the Graduate School for the benefit of women in the sciences.

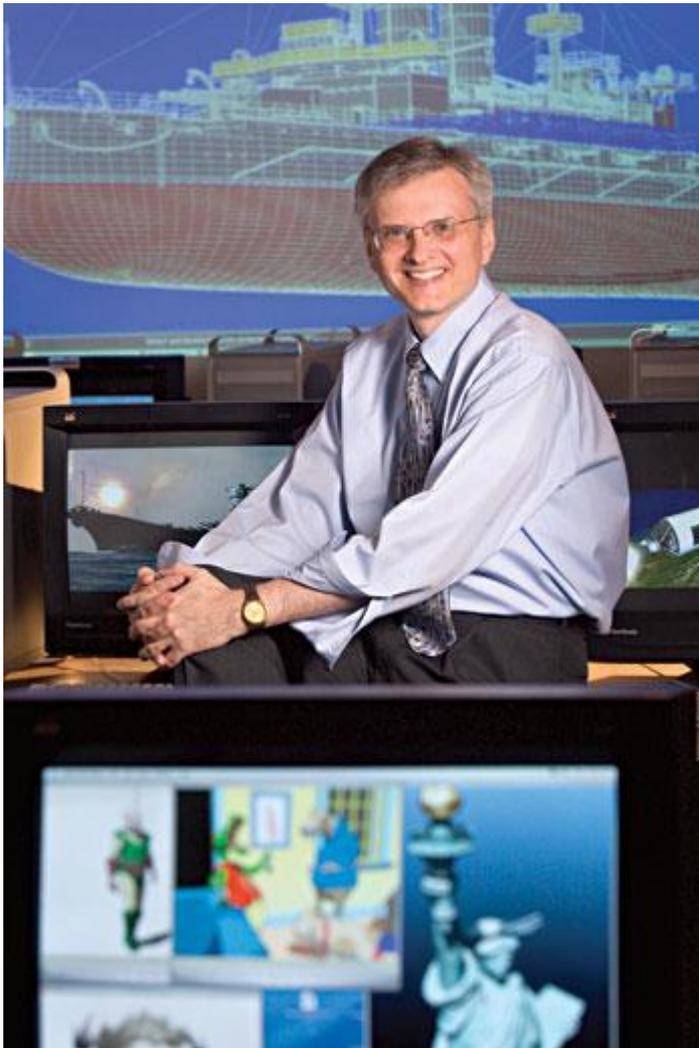
“The gift assures future scholastic achievement. It is a remarkable and significant contribution that will make it possible for us to fund important research,” adds the dean.

### **Dean Grasso is shown above with benefactor Beverly Hirsh Frank (R).**

While an undergraduate, Frank was an active member of Sigma Delta Tau, Hillel, treasurer of Pan Hellenic, and vice president of her Junior Class. Following graduation, she attended the Management Training Program at Radcliffe College in 1955.

Yet the native Georgian has never forgotten her alma mater. For the past 21 years, “Mrs. Frank has been a generous supporter of UGA,” says Elisabeth Butler, director of development for the Graduate School. It is all the more significant that she is, given that Frank has two children, but neither is a UGA graduate. Frank’s husband, Howard, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mike Hussey



**Mike Hussey, associate professor of drama and theatre, and the animation students of the Dramatic Media area partnered with Perpetual Motion Studios and Monte Markham to produce some awe-inspiring animations for an upcoming History Channel documentary.**

“Somehow,” Hussey qualifies, mopping his brow and ignoring a small lock of brown hair that he missed when scraping his hair back.

While the odds may seem to tilt away from the deadline-crunching group – critical funds have been next to impossible to obtain for the project – if Hussey were a racehorse, you would bet on him. He’s determined, even obsessed – and he will quire his students to the finish line not only because they are, as a group, trained and talented, but because he’s also working shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

**When Artificial Intelligence, Dumpster Diving and Real-Life Drama in Real Time and Prime-Time TV Collide:**

**Mike Hussey’s Excellent Adventure**

A very wired Mike Hussey has not slept much in the past 48 hours.

Hussey, associate professor of drama and theatre, strides back and forth within a tiny, galley-like space spiked with the laser-like energy of 12 pairs of student’s eyes trained onto computer screens. Their collective focus – fed by caffeine and an impossible deadline – wavers only for good-humored exchanges. In another tense 72 hours, they must hand over hundreds of hours of labor. If all goes to plan, the special effects they designed for a pending airdate on the prestigious History Channel will be completed.

Hussey, managing to grin and grimace simultaneously, says they will make it.

The former mechanical engineer is witnessing the professional merger of art and physics that he's long anticipated. Animation, artificial intelligence and special effects require the deftest fusion of art and science, Hussey says, in "re-creating virtual worlds."

"I think it is also about the fact that putting animation into a drama department to begin with was a viable idea. I mean, we took what we had, arranged a logical schedule layout and added this new medium, using theater design practice as the foundation."



**For the past six months, students have been working tirelessly to create animated segments that will be integrated in to a production about the life after death of ships, space capsules, landmarks, and more.**

drastically reduced, Hussey explains.

Just when all seemed lost – the students have actually gone “dumpster diving” Hussey explains, ferreting out needed computer equipment like spare monitors and computer parts – the Graduate

Hussey says that the students get real-life exposure through the department's partnership with Perpetual Motion Films (PMF) in Los Angeles. Adjunct UGA Professor Monte Markham (BFA, '57; MFA, '60) takes responsibility, “creatively and financially” for Perpetual Motion productions created to network specifications for The History Channel.

“They've (PMF) been exceptionally kind and helpful to the students and to UGA, and I want to make sure the credit goes to them. They're the powerhouse behind this.”

As Hussey comments, discordant images play on various PC screens: a missile fires off into a perfect sky...a ship arches then breaks apart, sinking in ballet-like motions...a film star's eyes shine moistly in a heart-breaking black and white close up...then a computer mouse is moved and each scene is scrutinized, altered and played again. The “tweak” to alter and correct a missile course or the descent rate of a sinking ship may necessitate hours of intense calculations and effort. But with newly purchased animation software, those hours are

School approved an Opportunity Fund Grant keeping the student project alive. Critical new software shaves hours off the deadline; archaic software loaded hours of labor onto the students' already tight deadlines.

The students' projects are diverse and complicated ones being readied for professional usage and the viewing public.

Hussey speaks in highly-caffeinated rapid fire about "repurposing a missile silo," and waves his hands as his graduate students keep their eyes trained onto the row of computer terminals that they are hunkered before, except to glance up occasionally and smile with equally tired eyes. And yes, indeed, their hands mirror Hussey's – like him everyone's seemingly in a state of controlled chaos and motion. The students click with a forefinger and occasionally ease a mouse into ever-so careful position while refining three-dimensional models of a re-created NASA silo, doomed battleships and even video clips of a historically significant African-American actor.



International student Lena Gieseke simulated the launch of a Titan II Missile and a credible silo simulation. Another student, Pete Gorneault, built a working model of a missile working with declassified government diagrams. Meanwhile, Kat Elliott works with CAD drawings of a ghost fleet ship, the US AFS General Hayt S. Vanderberg, which will be sunk to create an artificial reef. The images she creates demonstrate precisely how the ship's demolition will occur in shallow waters.

Each project demonstrates a different skill set, Hussey explains, and each project has a direct end use and application beyond serving as a tutorial. While each project is an exercise in skill and competencies, these projects will be publicly aired and used by a real life client – in some cases televised, shown in film festivals or analyzed for research purposes. And in each instance, the deadlines are nerve-shatteringly close due to the scarcity of available computer terminals and the soaring number of technical hours demanded by animation.

Even so, Hussey and the students seem to enjoy the pressure, the daring, the sheer adrenalin-fed (unstated) rush of how-on-earth-can-they-make-this-happen? Hussey's earnest, upbeat body language suggests that there's a certain magic in a great endeavor, paraphrasing the writer Goethe.



**The animation project for The History Channel’s documentary “BONEYARD,” first aired this summer. Producers at Perpetual Motion Films have requested further corroboration with UGA students on broadcast-quality work. PMF principals and former UGA students offer the animation students critical industry exposure says Hussey.**

opportunities that have unfolded in stunning sequence thanks to industry insiders, mentors and friends of the program and Dean Grasso. For without Dean Grasso’s approval of funds to buy new animation software and equipment, all would be lost, he says.

Silos, sinking battleships and an embattled actor – three riveting projects underway at once, and all in danger of being sunk themselves without the intercession of emergency funding from the Graduate School’s Opportunity Fund, Hussey stresses. All – (silos, ships and a documentary) – are inter-related in a remarkable way, due to Mike Hussey’s tutelage and assemblage of this unlikely band of artistically gifted and scholarly talents. Hussey, a former mechanical engineer who moved into drama (MFA, ’93) to satisfy his own artistic growth, grins delighted at the technical aspect of working with animation.

Hussey is almost giddy he’s so grateful. He’s grateful for everything: the project itself (more about that later), the

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**At 5:50 on Friday afternoon**, Hussey and students raced out of the Fine Arts building with DVDs filled with uncompressed images bound for the Athens Federal Express office. They had exactly 10 minutes make a trip that normally takes 25.

A system crash had cost Hussey’s students hours of work. They had struggled to repair their losses. “Re-renders” were done by the animators, but this time under less than optimal conditions. There was the deadline demanded by The History Channel and then there was also the Federal Express delivery deadline. If they missed the carrier’s deadline the data would not make it to Los Angeles.

The students labored to correct “weird little anomalies that occur during final renders,” Hussey explains.

“We’d never cut a delivery that close. Usually we’d end things at 25 minutes to 6 and hop in the car and make the run to Fed Ex. We found that with traffic, we could make it in the door with about a minute’s worth of time to spare before the doors closed. We’ve done this so many times now that it’s become routine. This last time, however, we had more data to render and burn than before.”

And worse yet – the students had discovered Friday morning they could not use the main lab, located outside the new Animation Production lab. The main lab was in use until 3 p.m. Their “contingency plan” was lost. “Our back up was gone,” says Hussey.

“Our deadline for delivery of all animation was Sunday night at 9 p.m. When we sent the discs, we sent all but two of the movies. Both involved water scenes. Water is one of those render-intensive items prone to go wrong at every turn. We delivered the final two animations Sunday evening by Internet on time...well... California time, but on time no less.” Hussey repeats: “If the Graduate School had not stepped in to help us with the equipment and software to build a professional level lab, we wouldn’t have been able to make the deadlines.”

With the animation safely en route to the editors who folded the students’ work into the documentary, Hussey plopped back to earth. In fact, he was admittedly a little depressed after the project ended.

“These students, in such a short time, went to such a high level of achievement. I mean, these guys only had three prior animation courses, Intro, Intermediate and Advanced. They pushed themselves hard.”

“Systems crashed unexpectedly, causing all sorts of chaos and damage control to recover data. Many things we’d like to have done were lost, and compromises were made to meet the deadline. Re-renders had to be made with lower anti-aliasing levels, lower light quality, that sort of thing. A big part of the time is spent correcting all the weird little anomalies that occur during final renders,” Hussey sighs.

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**The completed program, entitled “Boneyard,” aired primetime on The History Channel on June 19.** The air date had been moved up three months – effecting accelerated schedule pressures on PMF’s producers, directors and editors and the creative team assembled in Athens.

UGA received two on-air credits. According to producers, the program’s audience share was high, bolstering future advertising revenues for the network and moving it to request development of Boneyard as an on-going series for The History Channel. Hussey says Boneyard’s performance “is a strong validation of Perpetual Motion’s confidence in the professional quality of the UGA team’s work,” guaranteeing future projects.

Students, professors and producers were jubilant to hear the program would re-air.

“I’m very proud of the students,” Hussey praises. “They really delivered top-quality work. The show looked really great, and I was certainly elated. That show represents why I wanted to partner up with them (Monte Markham and PMF) so much. Quality at every level, something the university could be very proud of.”

But there was also a degree of regret – animation work left lying on the editing room floor.

“Unfortunately, everything is tempered by a great deal of sadness on my part because of this,” Hussey confides. “The work of four students didn’t make it to air.”

Before the initial airdate, Hussey learned from Jason Markham, CEO of PMF and Boneyard’s producer/director, that “due to the limits of the overall program length there was no room in the final edit for the student’s animations of the USS New York and the B-52.”

“The students and I always knew there was a chance of animation being cut for time. Keeping this in mind for the next production, we’re going to give each student assignments across many smaller projects, to ensure a greater chance every student will have a portion of their work aired.”

“They’ll have no problem securing projects as freelancers,” PMF editor Scott Juergens reassured Hussey. “They’re very talented and have proved they can handle the pressure of deadlines.”

Hussey repeats his gratitude to mentors and industry insiders like Chris Wells, “a pro that has come back to give several lectures and seminars here at UGA.” Wells was on the Emmy award-winning animation team creating the opening to the documentary, “Superstructures of the World.” He ran an internship the semester prior to their tackling Boneyard.

Creative types say one is only as good as one’s last work, and Hussey’s weary eyes sharpen at the prospect of the next. “We’re going to have a planning session with Jason soon for ‘Russian Navy’ (a two-hour special Monte Markham is now producing and directing on location throughout Russia) and go over ways to improve the collaborative process.”

For a graduate student documentary team effort that once survived by salvaging materials from dumpsters, the future looks Technicolor-bright.

“PMF is prepping Boneyard for international distribution now. It will soon begin to air around the world,” Hussey adds proudly. “DVDs are available online at [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com).”

Mary Frances Early



**Mary Frances Early has been the recipient of a number of awards and honors, including the STAR Teacher Award, Coan Middle School, 1972; Benjamin E. Mays Black Music Heritage Award, 1995; University of Georgia Outstanding Alumna Award, 2000; and the Foot Soldier for Equal Justice (University of Georgia) Award.**

She is no quitter. So she has reluctantly just announced her second retirement from her post as chair at the university. Retirement does not come easily when one's life has been embroidered with achievement.

Early's mother, a teacher, and her entrepreneurial father were progressive and nurturing. Early's father owned a restaurant on Auburn Avenue. "I lived in Summerhill – southeast Atlanta – until I was

**Mary Frances Early Speaks on a public education and the dynamics of change**

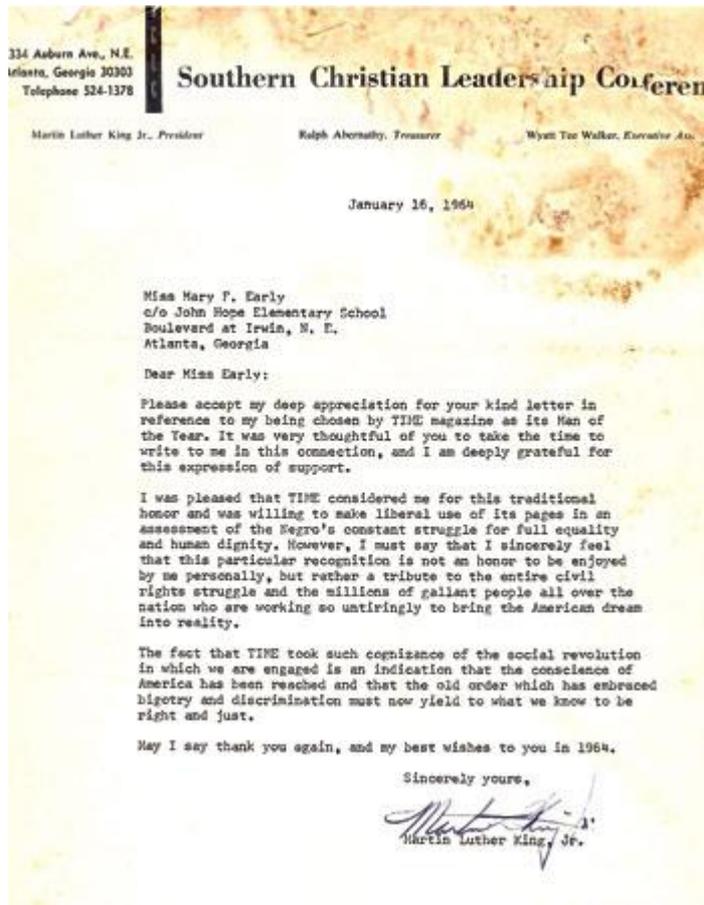
Mary Frances Early enters the door of Paschal's, a smartly urban restaurant convenient to her job as chair of the music department at Clark Atlanta University. Muzak tinkles, and waiters bustle. The educator, who gives pre-concert lectures for the Atlanta Symphony, inclines her ear towards the speaker and smiles. Despite her father's love of classical music, he could not attend the symphony because it was still segregated.

Restaurants and music have factored heavily into her life's narrative.

Early is small and slender, standing 5'4" tall. Yet every one of her 64 inches seems purposeful. Nothing betrays she recently celebrated her 69th birthday, or that her gentle presence could have once sparked such controversy. For it was Early who slipped past racist barricades to become UGA's first black graduate.

twelve years of age. We moved to northwest Atlanta when my father left the restaurant business and opened a small grocery store.”

The Early family restaurant was across the street from the Auburn Avenue Library – Atlanta’s sole “black” library at that time, and “an important section of the city for African Americans to this day,” Early notes. Early’s parents would frequently shoo her across the street to read. Her scholarship later made her a class valedictorian three times. She read hungrily, never guessing that one day her own name and photograph would make headlines throughout the South.



Music and academics shaped Early’s young life. She was also riveted by the rousing oratory of an Atlanta minister. Whenever possible, she drank in the words of a minister poised to become an American legend.

“Our restaurant was about three blocks south of Dr. Martin Luther King’s church – Ebenezer Baptist Church,” Early says, opening a menu.

Early butters a steaming square of cornbread, saying how much she likes the simple Southern fare that is famously Paschal’s. But she also appreciates its cachet, for it is known as much for its sizzling social connections as for its fried chicken. Governors, mayors and celebrities (including

celebrity attorney Johnnie Cochran) dined here, and Coretta Scott King celebrated her 75th birthday at Paschal’s Northside Drive address.

The first Paschal’s opened nearby on Hunter Street, now M.L. King Drive, in 1947 within the Castleberry Hill district, an area near the Georgia Dome and elbow-to-elbow with artists’ lofts and galleries. Paschal’s was then a sandwich shop; a segregated restaurant whose owners enjoyed saying that they never enforced segregation. Though the restaurant’s business license was designated as “for colored people only,” the convivial Paschal brothers pointedly “ignored the ordinance.”

By 1960, Paschal’s had evolved from an eatery into an unofficial gathering place for notable Civil

Rights activists, including King. As the diners gathered together downtown, they spoke openly about desegregating the South.

Early, who feared arrest yet rallied in support of fellow students during desegregation, smiles at mentions of King's name. She considers how her life intersected with King's as a "foot soldier" in an army of social action when she forfeited all but 10 of her 21 graduate credits from the University of Michigan to enroll as the first black graduate student at UGA.

Her decision followed a high profile campus riot in early 1961.

"Yes, there was a riot on January 11th – after a basketball game that UGA lost," recalls Early. Bottles and stones were thrown directly outside the dormitory where new undergraduate, Charlayne Hunter, was quartered. Two undergraduate black students, Hunter and Hamilton Holmes, were removed from campus and taken to Atlanta for their protection, only three days following a federal court order of desegregation.

"It was very nasty, and the Klan was involved," Early recalls. "I was so upset with the riot and the psychological effect that it had on those two young people that I just had to join in the battle for our rights."

Joining this particular battle was not, in Early's view, so much an act of courage as a mandate. Since graduating from Clark, Early had spent three summers studying under State aid at the University of Michigan. During the school year she taught public school near the church King co-pastored on Boulevard Drive. Whenever possible she heard the powerful oratory of Reverend King. "Countless times," Early estimates.

King, like her parents, never emphasized "hatred or retribution." She absorbed his powerful insights as the Civil Right's Movement gained momentum at segregated strongholds through the South.

King said that anyone could serve this movement, but there was one caveat: they must serve with love. "When evil men plot, good men plan," he said. "When evil men bomb and burn, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glory of love."

The UGA riot resolved the 24-year-old musician and educator's destiny. Early told her mother what she felt she must do. Rather than study that summer in Michigan, she would transfer into UGA's music education program.

Early was the ideal candidate to desegregate UGA's graduate school. The 1957 magna cum laude graduate of Atlanta's Clark College had already demonstrated her aptitude at the University of Michigan and was a proven professional.

Her mother had misgivings.

“My dad was deceased; he died when I was 12. My mom didn’t think that it was a good idea for me to go to UGA – particularly because of the riot. She grew up in Monroe, Georgia and heard of the terrible lynchings that took place there in the 40s. When, however, she realized just how determined I was to go, she supported my decision and supported my efforts to attend.”

“I did my part,” Early adds softly over Paschal’s Muzak. “I did it for the Movement, but I didn’t appreciate it was such a big deal. At the time, I didn’t think it was a big deal. I didn’t want to walk the picket line...I didn’t want to go to jail.”

But a big deal it was. Minorities walking picket lines were one thing. But walking onto one of the nation’s oldest and only recently desegregated campuses crossed another social line.

Three days after the 1961 riot, the schoolteacher at John Hope Elementary School applied for admission to UGA for the summer quarter. On a May morning, she sat for the GRE exam, and white UGA students got up and moved away, shocking her. She submitted the application and waited anxiously: area papers announced her application. The news triggered a chain of events.

On May 11, 1961, the UPI reported that officials at (still segregated) Georgia Tech had not yet ruled on the applications of 16 black students seeking fall admission. Many eyes were on the composed young music teacher who favored pearls and cat-eye glasses. Finally, Early received notification she had been admitted by UGA’s graduate school.

“I’ll do my best,” Early vowed to a reporter in the days before leaving her close-knit family, friends and colleagues, and the quiet remark made newspaper headlines. The Atlanta Inquirer chronicled her leave-taking. They published Early’s photo, showing a poised but earnest-looking young woman whom they noted departed with “the solid backing and good wishes of scores of her fellow teachers and other Atlantans.”



**Mary Frances Early readies for a trip home in her Center Myers dorm room at the University of Georgia in the summer of 1961.**

Early’s teacher-wardrobe filled a set of matching blue suitcases. She loaded them into a white Ford Falcon purchased with savings from her teaching salary for the hour and a half drive to Athens. Her heart thrummed as she made her way to the campus in June, 1961.

For not all Early’s observers were friendly ones. Since April, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation had busied themselves gathering documents about Early and her entire family. Early learned of the report in 2002 when an undergraduate student

unearthed the file from university archives. The GBI produced 11 pages of fine detail of Early's young life, beginning with the minute and hour of her birth: 9:46 pm on June 14, 1936, at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

UGA Registrar Walter N. Danner insisted upon a lengthy private interview session with Early. Early knew that two other minority students were rescinded by Georgia State University, reportedly "on moral grounds."

Early was an exemplary young woman of high achievement, included in "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges," and a member of Alpha Kappa Mu, a national honor society. She wrote a music column for the Atlanta Inquirer while teaching band, music and chorus at Hope Elementary.

The eleventh page of the GBI report concluded lamely. A search of the Fulton County Health Department, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Bureau of Vital Statistics records had all proven fruitless.

"They didn't find anything that gave them ammunition to kick me out," Early says evenly.

Early moved into the Center Myers dormitory, placed alone the first summer and later with Charlayne Hunter, in what amounted to isolation. Hunter was a journalism student five years her junior, who had attended Turner High where Early graduated. Their paths only crossed when they returned to their shared rooms. When Early took a seat in class for the first time, most of the white students rose and moved away.

"In 2005, you can hardly believe things happened the way they did," she adds. Early kept a diary of unfolding events.

The faculty seemed accepting of the minority students; some were particularly kind. An art student, May March, extended friendship. March accompanied Early to registration and later to a 25th birthday party organized by one of Early's professors. An unsigned proclamation had been circulated by "Students for Passive Resistance," an ironic term for students opposed to desegregation. They called for UGA students to disassociate with the minority students and shun those who did not.

There was further evidence that Early was unwelcome on campus. Sometimes students threw stones at her and moved away from her in the dining hall. Her Ford Falcon was spray painted with racial slurs. Her tires were slashed. She repainted her car and bought new tires, and immersed herself in her studies. Her grades soared; her spirits sagged. Newspapers reported Early's consistently high marks. "My first summer, though a lonely one, was quite successful."

One evening, some "football types" accosted Early verbally before physically barring the entrance to the library. Early marched ahead "like the Bulldog I was supposed to be." The bullies gave way.

Whenever possible, Early took refuge in King's message of peaceful resistance.

“How many times did I hear Dr. King speak? I don’t really know. I only know that I visited his church most weekends when I went back to Atlanta. His inspirational messages strengthened me in facing the week ahead.”

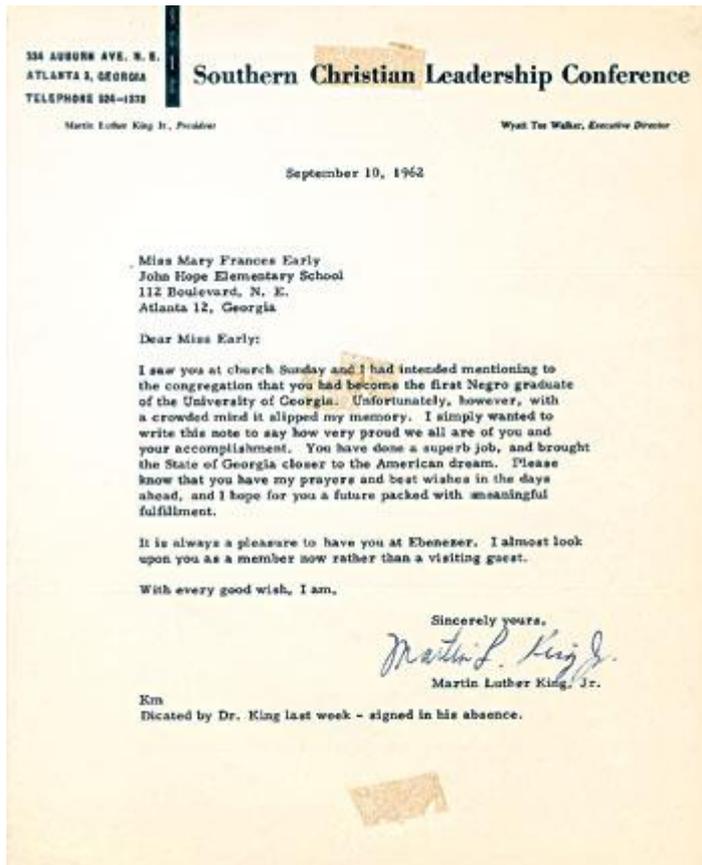
A blue car often trailed behind her Falcon whenever Early left campus. Hunter, her roommate, noticed the same. They were told the driver was a Georgia state officer, who followed them for their own protection, but once Early left Clarke county, she noticed the car always turned back. Why? She wondered.

“As my mother often said, there are more ways to lynch people than with a rope,” Early noted. “I didn’t let this bother me, or stop me,” she adds firmly

Early’s response to the pointless violence around her was dignified, quiet resolve. She endured a year and a half of struggle to receive a Masters in Music Education, graduating on Thursday, August 16, 1962.

A convoy of nearly 80 people traveled to Athens to see Mary Frances Early walk in a graduation ceremony held in the Fine Arts Building. After turning in her cap and gown she posed beneath the famous UGA Arch for photographer Bob Johnson. Early wore a tasteful dark top with a white skirt and pumps; her face was expressionless. She commented to a reporter later that she felt “very proud, but mostly a great relief.”

Early’s graduation from UGA was even covered in the September 26th edition of the Atlanta Journal. In another interview immediately after receiving her master’s degree Early was direct: “I hope that my commencement will be a beginning for others of my race who might wish to work toward advanced degrees at our state university.”



Back in Atlanta, a stream of jubilant letters arrived in Early's mail. The presidents of Morehouse and Clark Colleges wrote to Early. One congratulatory letter stood out among all the others: Martin Luther King himself sent word Early had "brought the State of Georgia closer to the American dream." He prophetically wished her a future "packed with meaningful fulfillment."

"I have white friends, black friends, Thai friends – people that I love and cherish because of who they are inside – not because of their skin color. I wish that I could live until the day when everyone could relate in this manner. That was Dr.

King's message to the world." Early explains.

But not all of the foot soldiers in the Civil Rights army had survived. Early recalls how on July 11, 1964, a United States Army Reserve uniformed officer named Lemuel Penn left Fort Benning and stopped off for gas at an Athens service station. Three Klansmen followed Penn to Madison County and blasted Penn with a shotgun. Early was chilled: she frequently stopped by the same station to refill her small Falcon. One of the Klansmen offered a full confession but Penn's killers were still acquitted.

Shortly after her graduation, Early resumed her teaching post at John Hope Elementary School. But she had already decided she would continue her graduate studies at UGA. Again, Early broke the news first to her mother.



**Dean Maureen Grasso and Mary Frances Early met this year to discuss Early's saga.**

who was rooming with me left the university. She didn't stay but a couple of weeks....I never knew why she left."

Early never faltered, finishing her specialist's degree in 1967. "It's not the fact that you're better than anyone else, or less than them...I learned this from my dad. You work hard, and it doesn't matter about other people. You're not in competition with everyone in the world; you're in competition with yourself."

Still driven, she completed all the coursework for a doctorate, "ABD – all but the dissertation" at Clark.

It would be many years before Early would return to Athens, but when she did, it was triumphant. In 2000, the alumna was honored by the Graduate and Professional Scholars organization known as GAPS. In 2004, Georgia Power funded the Mary Frances Early Teacher Education Professorship at UGA. In 2003, Early's cousin, Frankie Grooms, attended a luncheon honoring Early.

"It's cool that my cousin was the first African-American graduate," Grooms reported to the Athens Banner-Herald. "I'm going to be following in her footsteps..."

"She also understood when I told her that I was returning to work on the specialist in education degree. I guess that she was more comfortable by then."

Early's motivation was one part academic and one part activist. "I returned to UGA in the summer of 1964 and attended each summer through 1967. I went back because there still weren't enough blacks to make a dent in UGA's enrollment. I felt that the battle to integrate the university still wasn't over," Early recalls.

"I wanted to continue in the struggle for human rights at our state university. By this time, they had opened other dorms to blacks. I was assigned to Creswell Hall, a fairly new dorm at that time. The dorm is named after Mary Creswell, the first woman to receive a degree from UGA. The rooms were still not integrated. They placed the few blacks there with other blacks. I roomed alone after another black student

Mary Frances Early's first steps onto the UGA campus were lonely but sure. She would make a good school great by broadening it.

When fellow music students resisted sharing the same program with Early, she quietly held her own aloft. When the school resisted allowing her mother to attend a choral performance, Early quietly persisted. Walls fell away.

Music could not be contained by walls.

Like her father, Early's enduring love is music. The music of Gustav Mahler still moves her most, especially his Fifth Symphony. It is the same music chosen for President Kennedy's funeral. Early found "pools of serenity" there.

A music professor once prefaced this famous piece saying, "It is a mixture of beauty and pain... pervaded by a longing, and a yearning." One famous note had sometimes been played too strongly in Mahler's Fifth. But it was discovered it was far more powerful when played softly.

**Editor's Note:**

Mary Frances Early is writing her memoir. Mae Armster Kendall, Early's former Supervisor of Discipline Coordinators when Coordinator of Music in the Atlanta Public Schools, is currently writing a book about the Paschal brothers of Atlanta.

For further information and reading on Mary Early, Charlayne Hunter, Hamilton Holmes and the "foot soldier project" visit: [http://footsoldier.uga.edu/foot\\_soldiers/early.html](http://footsoldier.uga.edu/foot_soldiers/early.html).

erry Coffey



**“The university has the flexibility to structure faculty positions in a manner that encourages outstanding scientists to come to the university.”**

**–Terry Coffey**

largest pork producer and ranks among the nation’s largest turkey and beef producers and processors.

Now president of Production Operations East for Murphy-Brown, Coffey says he even met his journalist wife at UGA. Today, he makes his home in Wilmington, NC, returning to Athens for football games or tending to “start up business ventures in technology” and post-doctoral research his company sponsors within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

As one of the founders of research group Pro Linia, based in Athens, Coffey found UGA also offered a pro-business environment.

### **Time out with Terry Coffey**

Scientist and UGA alumnus M. Terry Coffey says a UGA degree is almost a family prerequisite. As a “triple dawg” with three UGA degrees (BSA, '75; MS, '78; PhD, '81) of his own, his wife, Elizabeth, is an alumna (ABJ, '79) and his brother, Donald, is a double alumnus (BA, '74; JD, '77.) Coffey is also parent of UGA senior Cameron Coffey (ABJ, '06) and comments that his teenaged son Graham has already papered his bedroom walls with UGA memorabilia – although the father admits he does not yet know if his son will choose to attend. The accomplished scientist extends his alliance to his alma mater in multiple ways, both personally and professionally.

Coffey is a former academician who grew up in Cartersville, Georgia and presently works in the private sector for Murphy-Brown LLC in Warsaw, NC. Murphy-Brown is the hog production group of Smithfield Foods. Smithfield is the world's

Coffey observes, "A lot of critical components are in place at the University of Georgia. The university has the flexibility to structure faculty positions in a manner that encourages outstanding scientists to come to the university in appointments that provide both a traditional academic role and the opportunity to develop intellectual property in a business structure. This is very progressive and enhances the university's ability to attract high-fliers."

Although Coffey works in eastern North Carolina, roughly six hours from Athens, he cultivates post-doctoral research opportunities and start-up operations at UGA in conjunction with Murphy-Brown's extensive interests. The benefits have included significant grants and enticements to lure renowned scientists to the UGA faculty. (Coffey is also among the nine members of the newly formed Graduate School Advancement Board.)

Among high-profile names in animal cloning was Steven Stice, whom Coffey helped recruit.

Elisabeth Butler, director of development for the Graduate School, credits Coffey "with huge contributions to the university."

"He was very instrumental in bringing Stice to UGA." In addition, she adds, Pro Linia "made a significant contribution on behalf of Stice's program." Another affiliate of Murphy-Brown, Smithfield Premium Genetics, initiated collaboration with the UGA's Animal Breeding and Genetics group led by Ignacy Misztal.

The distinguished alumnus is what Butler, who first approached Coffey about joining the board, describes as "generational alum," calling his interest and support of UGA multifaceted.

"I believe that people who are products of a public education have a special tie to their university. I think about the value, through generations and over time, of our system of public education. It is unique and I believe has contributed immensely to the quality of life of all Americans."

The Coffeys join others counting generations of UGA alumni within their families.

Coffey explains a combination of factors that led to his immersion in UGA education. His brother had entered the previous year as a journalism student. For the younger Coffey, UGA was the ideal place to pursue his early interest with veterinary medicine, where receptive and nurturing faculty urged the promising student onward. He shifted gears toward graduate school after taking an undergraduate course in animal science taught by Professor Emeritus Robert W. Seerly, as his brother studied law across campus.

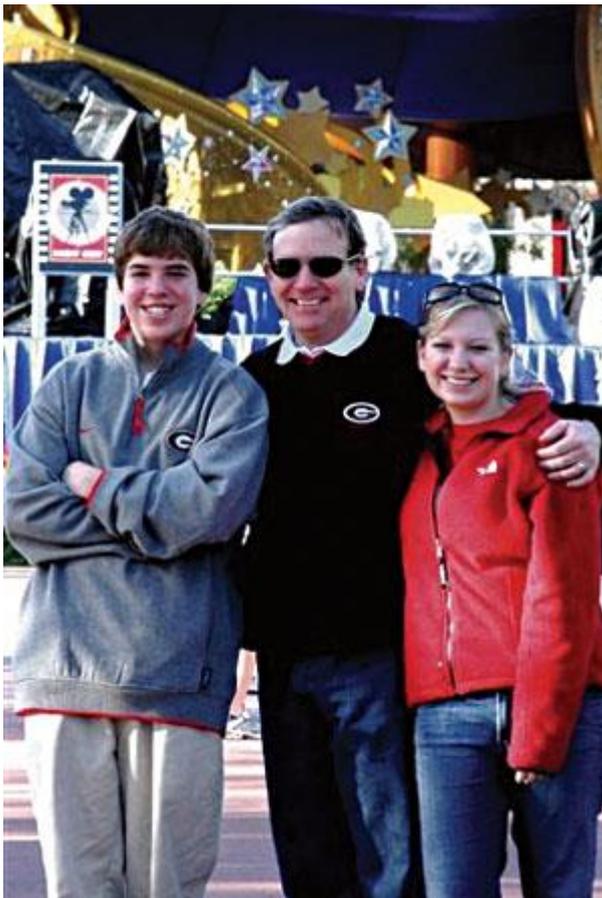
Although passionate about the sciences, Coffey says he did not begin his college career with plans to pursue a graduate degree. Nonetheless, Seerly persuaded Coffey to further his studies and enter graduate school immediately after earning his BSA. This decision, Coffey recalls, pleased his father.

Coffey speaks gratefully about the influence of Seerly and other UGA faculty, praising the value of his experiences as a student and scholar. “It is an experience that motivates you to want to help your university in anyway you can, perhaps in some way to pay back the benefit that your education has had on your life.”

The mentor and student remain in contact with one another, Coffey adds, saying the relationship they enjoy “speaks to the influence of faculty on students.” Coffey himself remains an adjunct faculty member at North Carolina State University and is a trustee at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, while maintaining research interests at UGA.

According to Coffey, Misztal’s UGA genetics team is “globally recognized in livestock genetic improvement for their cutting-edge research, graduate training and interaction within the beef, dairy and swine industries.”

“As a result of working with Dr. Misztal’s group, Smithfield Premium Genetics has also supported ractopamine research led by Dr. Mike Azain. The support has been primarily through animal contributions,” he adds. Coffey’s interactions with these and other post-doctoral efforts have kept him actively engaged with the campus.



**Triple dawg Terry Coffey’s own family**

**include generations of loyal dawgs, including his wife, Elizabeth, daughter, Cameron, and double alumnus brother, Donald. Pictured above at the Outback Bowl in Florida (L-R) are Graham, Terry's son; Coffey and Cameron, a UGA senior. Photo by Elizabeth Coffey.**

Coffey and his wife also return to Athens to tend to personal friendships nurtured since youth in a place he calls a "true college town."

"For many years, we have had good feelings and loyalty to the institution. And when our daughter was thinking about where to go to school, she narrowed her

choices down to UNC Chapel Hill and Georgia."

Ultimately, UGA won out. Cameron Coffey grew up "completely indoctrinated" Coffey laughs, attending games with the family and becoming a booster from early childhood. Coffey confesses that when his daughter was a tyke she owned a pint-sized Bulldogs cheerleading outfit.

Athens and the campus conjure up "good feelings" for the entire family, as synonymous with all that is best in public education, he explains. Although he enjoys the school's sports, Coffey is exceedingly proud of UGA's high academic ranking. Coffey says UGA's reputation has ensured his diplomas are assets of growing worth.

"The growth of the state in general and Atlanta in particular has attracted people from other parts of the country and even the world. Their children recognize the opportunity offered by UGA and are going to the University of Georgia. The combination of this, the Hope Scholarship and the attraction of high-quality students from other places has certainly enhanced the academic reputation over the last 20 years."

## Planting Seeds of Leadership and Growing Inspiration for Doctoral Students



**Letha J. Mosley, PhD, teaches courses relating to physical disabilities. Since receiving her doctorate, she accepted a post at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. Mosley intends to seek a leadership role thanks to insights she gained through the Graduate School's Leadership Program.**

administrator. With the workshop behind her, Mosley says she will seek both as she prepares to accept a new position at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas.

"Now I think I'm more attuned; I'll definitely run for office," Mosley admits.

It's exactly as Grasso hoped. "These workshop alums are going to look back and say the University of Georgia planted that seed with me, and that's going to be the legacy – the value of big-picture thinking. The graduates will pay it forward." She knows whereof she speaks. In the 1970s Grasso participated in just such a program under fellowship at the University of Tennessee.

The program opened her to "the possibility of working within higher education administration," inspiring her to eventually leave the classroom and seek a leadership role at UGA, a nationally-recognized university.

Last fall Letha Mosley gathered with a group of graduate students, fellow doctoral candidates and academics for a retreat in Forest Hills to consider their ideas about leadership. Each of the attendees had applied to attend; each had been encouraged. It was the first such meeting of its kind, sponsored by the Graduate School, whose purpose was "planting the seeds of leadership," says Dean Maureen Grasso.

At the inaugural Leadership Workshop, Mosley and 30 others had their resumes professionally analyzed, were coached on future career possibilities in academia, were presented with a "leadership book" and chatted across disciplines about possibilities for the future. For Mosley, 47, a non-traditional African-American student, it was eye-opening. Having left behind a successful career in occupational therapy at the Medical College of Georgia in 2000, she had already made an academic leap in order to pursue research.

Yet beyond netting the doctorate that was close at hand, Mosley had not considered seeking national office within professional organizations or becoming a university

Mosley was surprised to discover “past graduates and entrepreneurs who have actually become leaders right out of college. They also provided tidbits on leadership if you will. They provided us with a leadership book, actually.” The seminar’s agenda was filled with information, revelations and inter-disciplinary experiences, and Mosley met people she says she might never have met otherwise. Her roommate at the workshop, someone she had never met before the workshop, remains a close friend. But it was the human interaction and old-fashioned, informal straight talk that Mosley valued most.

“One of the most important things was to have a chat with the dean. She put herself out there, and said that we could ask her anything...A lot of our discussions centered around the politics of a campus, on issues of race and gender and how that ties into some of the challenges of being a leader.” Mosley adds how it surprised her to find a high-ranking administrator willing to be candid and self-disclosing.

“The fact that she is a dean and she’s putting herself at an approachable, accessible level, that was a big plus for us.”

“I really encourage people to apply and try to attend,” Mosley urges fellow students.

“The connections will be usable, and the resources one you can tap into. As a black woman coming to the university, I had heard a lot of negative things about racism, and I think through programs like this, they are trying to break down those barriers.

“This will give them (graduate students) an edge up if they are looking to be leaders in their respective fields. It will provide them with the tools to move in that direction and be successful.”

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#### Doctoral Student Stephan Singleton Pays Mentoring Support Forward



**“YOU DID WHAT WITH TWO DOG BISCUITS, A RUBBER DUCKY AND A FRISBEE???”** Doctoral

**student Stephan Singleton credits a beloved family dog with inspiring her love of veterinary medicine.**

Veterinary doctoral student Stephan Singleton suspends a knife over a juicy rib eye. Just before plunging the knife, she

muses that a veterinarian somewhere has helped guarantee the entrée is safe.

“Even as I’m about to eat a steak,” Singleton finds herself thinking of veterinary science – the work she gleefully professes “to love.” She grins widely and chews. Thoughtfully, Singleton dissects another bite.

“A veterinarian has to be sure the meat is safe, from the farm to the table.” She checks out the plate across from her, as she elaborates on the various roles of veterinary science, from private to public sector. The discipline safeguards human interests as well as animals’.

As she swallows her meal on one of the rare nights she doesn’t have to return to duties back at the school, Singleton discusses various governmental entities (the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control) and how veterinarians work within those entities in overseeing the nation’s food supply. As a former biology major, she declares, “It is the most fascinating thing.”

Singleton is exhausted (currently on rotations from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. three days weekly) but excited by what she learns in the on-the-job exposure overseen by the teaching faculty. The work transcends “all expectations,” she says.

Much of her study would give the average pet owner much to ponder. For example, Singleton says that there are over 1,000 known human pathogens. Of those, 60 percent are zoonotic, “meaning they can be transferred from animals to human. Veterinarians are the bridge that makes sure that isn’t happening.”

Singleton eats contentedly.

“It makes me stay in love with the profession even now.” Even now, she stresses, despite 12+ hour days when the doctoral student is on rounds, and when her veterinary studies are all consuming. (She has not been home in five weeks.) Singleton seems contentedly consumed; bouncy and energetic even when bone-tired.

Yet an enthusiasm for pathology is not how Singleton became a student of veterinary medicine, nor even how she happened to arrive on the UGA campus. Her story began as did so many veterinary students, due to the love of a specific animal.

Since childhood in Summerton, SC, animals were Stephan Singleton’s best friends.

Growing up in a rural area as the child of a single mother, the young girl often buried her face in her favorite dog’s fur, confiding her dreams and worries. When her pet died, the child vowed she would one day learn how to save others. She had never met a real veterinarian, and so she just assumed that someone who helped pets would be a zoologist.

Singleton then met Dr. Ann Hurst, who set her straight, Singleton smiles.

While in high school, she “shadowed” veterinarian Hurst, eagerly learning. She asked Hurst if she thought she could also become a veterinarian, and Hurst encouraged her. Today, Singleton is making good on her childhood vow, due in part to the influence of Hurst and other mentors, and will march next year with her colleagues as a new doctor of veterinary medicine. Singleton recently phoned Hurst to say “thank you.”

“I never forget those people who have helped me...Be it a kind word, or just motivating me,” she affirms.

Chief among motivating influences, she adds, is a Graduate School program known as SURP, an acronym for the Summer Undergraduate Research Program. It supports recruitment and retention of minority students.

“When I came to SURP they allowed me to be a member although I had already been accepted into the College of Veterinary Medicine. It helped me transition as a minority student in a class of about 86. I knew there would be two other African-American students and six minority students.”

Singleton became a SURP participant in the summer of 2002. Her mentor was Dr. Susan Little, in the Department of Infectious Diseases.

“I admire her,” Singleton adds, describing Little’s influence, “and she is more than a mentor; she is my friend.”

Singleton knows first-hand that SURP’s mentoring works. She appreciated the program’s support in transitioning from a black high school and traditionally black college to UGA. Through SURP, she worked in the parasitological department and traveled to South America three summers ago. Singleton traveled to Brazil, Chile and Uruguay looking at the impact of foot and mouth disease there. UGA and the U.S. Department of Defense sponsored the trip, her first abroad. Dr. Corrie C. Brown, a pathologist, coordinated the work and study experience and mentored Singleton as a SURP participant.

Curtis Byrd, director of recruitment and retention, is proud of Singleton’s successes and of SURP.

“SURP’s a great recruiting tool. If they say, ‘I’m interested in UGA,’ I say, ‘Why don’t you come spend a summer with us?’ Then we bring them in for a three-day visit.” Byrd says that the opportunity to have students visit people in their respective departments and to have applications scrutinized before applying is a “seamless” Graduate School process that works.

“If they get into SURP, and into graduate school, there’s another program called Summer Bridge.”

The associate dean of the veterinary college introduced Byrd to Singleton and asked if Singleton could participate in the summer program. Byrd consented and quickly learned that Singleton was a “go-getter.”

“Within the first year she was here, Stephan was active in the group. She was 22, so older than her peers.” Byrd says that she has successfully helped the veterinary college recruit other minority students.

Singleton later served as a SURP student coordinator, contributing to a program she credits as vital to her own academic success and adaptation. “I can think of a lot of things SURP helped me with...but the students were spectacular and I was being pulled along.” She laughs that she finds herself drawn to leadership roles, even when she resists.

“I came to Georgia and said ‘I’m going to sit back and just relax and not get involved with leadership things.’ Then I said, ‘I can get involved with SCAVMA (a student veterinary organization).’ The chair needed more and more help, and I had to step up. From then on, after that, the president-elect was going to step up, and I was asked to become the president-elect.”

Since Singleton signed on as president-elect, she has received a SCAVMA scholarship as an outstanding student. She has received two scholarships from Hill’s, a high-profile pet food company. The USDA also selected her for an externship.

It feels as though her destiny is unfolding, Singleton explains, even though at one time it seemed “all the cards were stacked against me.”

“So many people in the veterinarian college took chances on me and encouraged me along the way. God has ordered my steps in everything.

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#### Fulbright Scholar Lindsay Stallcup First to Conduct Work at Costa Rican Field Station



**(L–R) Annie Kirk, Lindsey Stallcup and Leslie Atwood in Costa Rica**

Lindsay Stallcup, a PhD student in UGA’s Institute of Ecology, won a Fulbright Scholarship for the 2005-2006 school year. Stallcup was among 19 applicants for the grants designated for study outside the United States. The scholarship award will further Stallcup’s investigations into how organic matter breaks down in Costa Rican mountain streams.

Stallcup is the first UGA graduate student to undertake research work at UGA’s field station, the Ecolodge San Luis, in Costa Rica. According to a university press

release, Stallcup will examine the environmental impact of nearby coffee processing in San Luis de

Monteverde.

Cathy Pringle, a professor with the Institute of Ecology, calls Stallcup's research "exciting and necessary. Lindsay is highly capable and has already done an excellent job of running several field experiments in the area."