The University of Georgia

Annual Report of Institutional Progress
2008-2009

This report and previous reports were prepared for the Office of Academic Planning by Sharron Hannon (shannon@uga.edu), Director of Public Relations for Academic Affairs.
Annual Report of Institutional Progress, 2008-09

This annual report is intended to provide an overall summary of institutional accomplishments and initiatives during the 2008-09 academic and fiscal year.

Section 1 – Summary of Major Institutional Accomplishments

Student and Faculty Honors
In spring 2009, UGA students garnered several prestigious national scholarships: Muktha Natraj on was named a Goldwater Scholar; Mark Milby and Ashley Dronenburg won Udall Scholarships; and Christina Faust received a Mitchell Postgraduate Scholarship. Faust received Truman and Udall Scholarships the previous spring. Tulsi Patel received the Merage American Dream Fellowship for academically outstanding students who are immigrants to the United States, marking the fourth consecutive year a UGA student has won this award. Patel came to the United States at age 14 from India.

Opeoluwa Fawole, a sophomore microbiology major, became the first UGA student to be selected to participate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Exceptional Research Opportunities Program, created in 2003 to encourage and support outstanding undergraduates who want to pursue a career in scientific research. Tyler Kelly, Jessica Van Parys and Seychelle Vos were awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. Van Parys also won a Javits Fellowship.

Faculty honors included the election of five researchers as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Stephen Kowalewski, Russell Malmberg and Michelle Momany from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and Andrew Paterson and Michael Strand from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Chemistry professor Charles Atwood was one of two University System of Georgia faculty members to receive the Regents Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for his work on using emerging technologies to enhance learning in freshman chemistry courses. Monique Leclerc, a professor of crop and soil science, was named a Regents Professor for her internationally recognized studies on atmospheric biogeosciences and climate change, while Jerome Morris, Welch Suggs and Shannon Wilder were named to the inaugural class of Education Policy Fellows of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. Numerous other faculty received national or international recognition within their academic disciplines.

On the athletics front, the UGA gymnastics team won its fifth straight and 10th overall national championship, while senior Courtney Kupets set a record for most individual titles (four) at the event and went on to win the Honda-Broderick Cup, designating her as the 2009 Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year. The equestrian team won its second consecutive overall national title and junior Haylie Jayne captured her first national individual championship. Three UGA athletes won medals in the 2008 Olympics held in Beijing in August. Former track and field standout Hyleas Fountain won the silver medal in the heptathlon, while former swimmer Kara Lynn Joyce earned two silver medals in relay events and freshman Allison Schmitt won a bronze medal in another swimming relay. UGA head swim coach Jack Bauerle served as head coach of the U.S. women’s team, which won a total of 14 medals.
New/Expanded Academic Programs
The initiative to launch a medical campus in Athens as a partnership between the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine and the University of Georgia continued to move forward, with an inaugural class expected to matriculate in August 2010. By the end of the 2008-09 academic year, the schools received confirmation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the accrediting body for the country’s medical schools, that resource development was on track and MCG began accepting applications for the class. UGA’s renovation of the Interim Medical Partnership Building, which sits on the banks of the North Oconee River in Athens, neared completion, and recruitment of faculty and staff was under way. The MCG/UGA Medical Partnership aims to address the critical need for more physicians in Georgia.

In November, UGA opened the Office of STEM Education (for “science, technology, engineering and mathematics”) to promote a broad range of activities to strengthen teaching and learning in these subjects. The office is part of an initiative launched by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents called Math + Science = Success. The UGA office aims to serve as a “one-stop” source of information for higher education faculty, as well as teachers and students.

UGA became the first university in the state to offer a major in Arabic as of spring semester. The department of religion had instituted a minor in Arabic nearly a decade ago. Demand had grown since then and escalated following the events of 9/11. The new major consists of 21 upper-division semester hours in Arabic together with 15 upper-division major electives drawn from Arabic, history, religion or international relations, as well as courses in a relevant foreign language. Since many students have been taking successive courses in Arabic during their time at UGA, the first graduates in the new major received their diplomas in May.

The Graduate School presented several seminars as part of its Initiative for Optimal Doctoral Completion, a three-year project designed to keep faculty informed about doctoral completions in order to improve completion rates. Seminar topics included using web sites for recruitment and retention, fostering productive student-adviser relationships, and improving peer support among doctoral students — all conditions that impact doctoral completion.

The Office of Curriculum Systems launched a new version of the online UGA Bulletin. Students, faculty and staff can now sift through core requirements, check out the classes required for any major at UGA, find which classes have prerequisites and even compare requirements among two or more majors. The new General Education Curriculum, which became effective in the fall, is a significant feature in the new design. The site is updated each semester with a new list of courses and requirements.

The move from Web CT to the new online learning tool eLearning Commons got under way in the spring with formal training workshops to help faculty convert courses to the new system. The implementation of eLC is expected to be complete by January 2010. The upgrade brings UGA on par with other institutions of higher learning in Georgia. Migrating to an application that is being adopted through most of the university system allows for better development and collaboration and could defray costs to the university through a system site license.
UGA also began participating in iTunes U, a free service from Apple. Students, faculty and staff can now download podcasts that include talks by guest lecturers and class presentations by faculty. Any faculty or staff member can open an account to upload a podcast.

The university contracted with SunGard Higher Education to utilize its DegreeWorks program, which will be phased in throughout the next year. DegreeWorks replaces an outdated system and was recommended by a University System of Georgia committee on enhanced advising practices last year. It is currently being piloted at several USG institutions. Once all modules of DegreeWorks have been implemented, academic department heads and deans will have easy access to information that will assist in scheduling necessary courses as well as provide cumulative data on specific courses that have been used to meet various requirements. DegreeWorks should be available to all undergraduate programs by mid fall of 2010.

Research and Outreach
Research funding reached a record high, with UGA researchers receiving more than $173 million from external sources. The previous peak, $150.6 million, was reached in fiscal year 2005. UGA ranks among the top 100 public and private research universities for federal research and development expenditures, placing 94th in the most recent NSF rankings, based on figures from fiscal year 2007. Sponsored research funding stems from contracts and grants awarded to the university primarily by federal, state or local government agencies; state, national or international private foundations; or individual donors from Georgia and elsewhere.

In fiscal year 2009, federal agencies awarded grants and contracts to UGA researchers totaling $100.6 million, or almost 60 percent of the total. Funding agencies included the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Education, Defense and Commerce.

UGA’s total external funding—which includes research, instruction, public service and outreach—also rose, ending the year at $246.7 million. Declines in instruction and public service awards were offset by increases in cooperative extension and research awards.

FY09 research awards included:
- $1.7 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Faculty of Engineering Outreach to improve air quality by retrofitting diesel vehicles in Athens-Clarke and Washington counties
- $18.7 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases to research ways to reduce morbidity from schistosomiasis in low- and middle-income countries in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas.
- Several grants to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences: $2.4 million from the National Science Foundation to understand how to genetically engineer better soybeans; $1.7 million from the USDA to advance the blueberry industry in the Southeast, $1 million from the Georgia Peanut Commission to improve peanuts, and $1.75 million to reduce risk to tomatoes and peppers from thrips and tomato spotted wilt virus in the southeastern U.S.
- $1.3 million from the National Institutes of Health to the College of Veterinary Medicine to “bring biology to life” for high school students using 3-D models and animation.

UGA also achieved its highest ranking in the most recent licensing survey published by the Association of University Technology Managers in December 2008. UGA ranked 3rd in the total number of license and option agreements. On the basis of licensing income, UGA ranked 11th.
among U.S. public universities and 20th among all institutions, public and private. In 2008, UGA’s Technology Commercialization Office signed two major license agreements in commodity chemicals with European companies and also signed the first international turfgrass license agreement with a Chinese company.

Along with eight other public universities, UGA formed the National Outreach Scholarship Partnership. The group, which focuses on best practices in outreach and engagement, adopted formal bylaws in fall 2008. UGA planned to host the group’s annual conference in fall 2009 that includes a pre-conference workshop specifically for graduate students and early-career faculty.

The Office of International Public Service and Outreach hosted an April conference on the interconnected future of India and the state of Georgia. The focus was on Indo-American business relations for economic development, as well as educational partnerships for UGA and Indian institutions of higher education.

Major Events
The Office of Institutional Diversity hosted an October symposium on “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion through Institutional Change.” The daylong event was aimed particularly at those doing direct work in diversity and equity, including administrators and those serving on faculty search committees. Among the featured speakers were Steve Michael, chief diversity officer at Kent State University, and Susan Herbst, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer for the University System of Georgia.

Magazine publisher Steve Forbes and Terry College of Business dean Robert Sumichrast offered assessments of the state and national economy at the college’s 26th annual Economic Outlook luncheon in December at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. Forbes, who is chairman and CEO of Forbes Inc. and editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine, discussed what the November election results mean for the economy and financial markets. The luncheon also included opening remarks by Gov. Sonny Perdue and UGA President Michael F. Adams.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, received the 2009 Delta Prize for Global Understanding at a March ceremony at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel. ElBaradei was honored for his dedication, leadership and diplomacy in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Delta Airlines and UGA present the prize annually to an individual whose initiatives have helped promote world peace. ElBaradei is the 10th recipient.

At the ceremony, ElBaradei, who also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, advocated the need for a new global security system. While on campus, ElBaradei also appeared on a panel with other leading security experts addressing nuclear disarmament and terrorism as part of the 20th anniversary commemoration of UGA’s Center for International Trade and Security.

Also in March, award-winning researcher and best-selling author Robert Hazen delivered the Charter Lecture on “Genesis: The Scientific Quest for Life’s Origins,” the title of his 2005 book that explores the role that minerals and chemical evolution played in the creation of life billions of years ago. The Charter Lecture Series, established in 1988, brings speakers to campus who
can engage the university community and the larger public with ideas important for a free society.

Thirty-six recipients of the 68th annual Peabody Awards were honored in May at a luncheon hosted by Brian Williams at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The awards program is administered by UGA’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. The winners, chosen by the Peabody board as the best in electronic media for 2008, were selected from more than 1,000 entries, which become a permanent part of the Peabody Archive in the University of Georgia Libraries. The collection is one of the nation’s oldest, largest and most respected moving-image archives.

Construction Projects
The new Lamar Dodd School of Art building opened in time for fall classes, with a dedication ceremony held in early September. The three-story, 172,000-square-foot building adds another key facility in a plan conceived more than a decade ago to create a premier complex on East Campus for teaching, research and performance in the visual and performing arts. The Lamar Dodd School, one of the nation’s largest university art programs with more than 1,000 students, had long since outgrown the visual arts building on North Campus where it has been located since 1961. Construction on the $40 million building began in 2006.

A $3.25 million renovation of the Fine Arts Theatre on Baldwin Street is under way. Built in the late 1930s, the building is considered an architectural treasure and is being restored to its former glory. The first phase of the renovation, scheduled for completion in fall 2009, addresses needs for increased visibility, better acoustics and audience comfort, and includes the installation of several handicapped accessible bathrooms. More than 600 new seats will be added and 149 original seats refurbished. Future phases involve restoring the massive domed ceiling.

Work continued on the expansion of the Tate Student Center, while the Department of Recreational Sports managed several construction and renovation projects at the Ramsey Student Center for Physical Activities and elsewhere. These included a Club Sports Complex, which opened on South Milledge Avenue in March, and renovations to parts of the Intramural Sports Complex to accommodate needs of the Redcoat Marching Band.

The new entrance and addition to the University Health Center opened in March. Completed ahead of schedule, the new section features a spacious lobby with enhanced patient registration and business services. The communications and health promotion departments, including the John Fontaine Jr. Center for Alcohol Awareness and Education, were relocated to an expanded area on the first floor, where a new vision clinic, open to students, faculty and staff, is scheduled to open in August 2009. The second floor is dedicated solely to Counseling and Psychiatric Services to meet the increasing demand for mental health services and to accommodate additional clinician offices, group therapy rooms and testing space. With the new addition open, renovation on the existing building is next.

Campus Security
A symposium on campus security, sponsored by UGA’s Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness and the Center for International Trade and Security, was held in September during
the fourth annual National Preparedness Month. Marking the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the program featured administrators, professors and security professionals who discussed measures that individuals and first responders can take to handle emergencies.

The first class of UGA students and employees completed the university’s Campus Emergency Response Team training program, which prepares non-emergency personnel to respond to emergencies on campus. The seven-week program, administered by UGA’s Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness in conjunction with the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department, teaches fundamental disaster response skills and practices and provides hands-on training in disaster scenarios. Graduates of the UGA CERT Program have the opportunity to participate as volunteers in emergency exercises, special events, drills, advanced training and potential large-scale emergency responses to better prepare the campus and community for disasters.

The Behavioral Assessment and Response Council, appointed in spring 2008, created a new tool to assist faculty and staff in dealing with students in distress. The Faculty/Staff 911 Guide, distributed at the start of the school year, was designed as a ready reference to available resources to help faculty and staff manage concerns regarding students—both in and out of the classroom.

Academic/Administrative Appointments
President Adams appointed a search committee in March to help choose a successor to Arnett C. Mace Jr., who announced his intention to retire Jan. 1, 2010 as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. William Gray Potter, university librarian and associate provost, was asked to chair the 20-member committee composed of faculty, staff, administrators, students and alumni. The committee began a national search, working with a consultant firm. In October, Dr. Barbara Schuster, an internist and seasoned medical educator who chaired the Department of Internal Medicine at Wright State University’s Boonshoft School of Medicine in Ohio, was named campus dean of the Medical College of Georgia/University of Georgia Medical Partnership Campus in Athens. Dale Monson, director of the School of Music at Brigham Young University, was named director of UGA’s Hugh Hodgson School of Music, and Ruth Bettendorff, associate director for learning services at UGA’s Center for Continuing Education Conference Center and Hotel, was named assistant vice president for academic affairs and director of UGA’s Gwinnett Campus.

Section 2 – Assessing Institutional Effectiveness

National Survey of Student Engagement
Data from the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement showed that UGA first-year students and seniors generally give more positive evaluations of their educational experience than students at peer institutions. A sampling of UGA freshmen and seniors were invited to participate in the survey in spring 2007 and nearly 2,000 students chose to do so. NSSE has been administered nationally each year since 2000 and UGA students have participated in three previous surveys, providing a basis to compare this year’s results with earlier data. Among the 2008 findings are that UGA seniors rated their student-faculty interaction and “enriching educational experiences” – which includes such things as internships, study abroad and community service work – significantly higher than senior respondents in two comparison
groups. A comparison of 2008 UGA data to 2005 results found that UGA has made progress for both first-year students and seniors in all benchmark areas identified. As has been true in previous surveys, a high percentage (90 percent in 2008) of UGA first-year students reported having a favorable image of UGA, while 92 percent of seniors said they would choose UGA again if they were starting their college career over. Since UGA first participated in the NSSE survey in 2003, a number of initiatives to improve undergraduate education have been undertaken in response to information received from the surveys.

Collegiate Learning Assessment
To coincide with implementation of the new General Education Curriculum in the fall, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness recruited first-year students to participate in the Collegiate Learning Assessment. The CLA was administered as part of a plan to assess student learning across the UGA curriculum. The CLA is a 90-minute, national standardized test developed by the Council for Aid to Education. A sample of seniors was recruited to take the test during spring semester. The difference in scores between the two samples will be analyzed as one measure of UGA student attainment in the critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and writing competencies measured by the test.

Preparation for SACS Reaccreditation
The Office of Institutional Effectiveness continued its preparations for the upcoming 2010-2011 SACS review for reaffirmation of accreditation. One important addition to the process is the Quality Enhancement Plan requirement, which calls for institutions to develop an initiative to improve undergraduate education in a measurable way. A Student Learning Enhancement Team, composed of faculty, staff, student and alumni representatives, was appointed to solicit ideas from the university community and then lead development of the initiative. The team held public forums in the fall and conducted surveys and other activities to identify what single new initiative presents the university with the greatest potential to have a direct, positive impact on student learning. The team solicited pre-proposals from the university community, reviewed data such as the results of the National Survey of Student Engagement and key task force reports, and looked at projects implemented at other schools.

During spring semester, open meetings were held to discuss various pre-proposals and topics were then narrowed to four for further development. By the end of the academic year, the four proposals were forwarded to the SACS Leadership Team—composed of the president, provost, other senior administrators and faculty—for their recommendation on which initiative to pursue.

Strategic Plan
During spring semester, Provost Arnett C. Mace Jr. appointed a 30-member strategic planning committee and named William Vencill, a professor in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, as chair. The committee began its work with a review of progress on the current strategic plan, adopted in 2000. To seek input on the new plan, the committee distributed a survey to faculty in May. Committee members planned to hold a series of forums in fall semester 2009 to gather ideas from faculty, staff and students and also to solicit suggestions via a strategic planning web site.
After refining the plan in early 2010, the committee aims to submit it to the University Council Strategic Planning Committee next spring with a goal of having a final plan approved by the end of the academic year.

UGA’s current strategic plan, centers on three major themes: building the new learning environment, maximizing research opportunities and competing in a global economy. Units across campus have been systematically assessing their contributions to these goals throughout the decade. The new plan is expected to encompass the same broad areas but also include UGA’s growing leadership in medical research and education.

College of Public Health Accreditation
UGA’s College of Public Health, founded in 2005, was awarded full accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health, becoming one of only 41 accredited colleges of public health in the nation and the only accredited public health college in the University System of Georgia. The college joins the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University as the only two accredited colleges of public health in Georgia.

The mission of the college is to promote health in human populations through innovative research, exemplary education, and engaged service dedicated to preventing disease and injury within the state and around the world. In addition to the Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees, the college offers Bachelor of Science degrees in environmental health science and in health promotion and behavior; Master of Science degrees in environmental health science and toxicology; and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in health promotion and behavior and toxicology.

Section 3—Measures of Overall Institutional Health

Freshmen continue to set records for academic quality
Some 4,800 new freshmen entered UGA in 2008, drawn from more than 17,500 applicants, the largest pool in UGA history. The entering class is both diverse and academically talented, according to statistics compiled by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The class had an average high school GPA of 3.8 and an average SAT of 1253, with an average SAT writing score of 610. The rigor of students’ high school curriculum continues to be a key factor in admissions decisions, with some 93 percent enrolled in College Board Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes while in high school.

Breaking previous records for ethnic and racial diversity, 21 percent of the students in the new class self-identified as other than Caucasian. The number of African-American freshmen, 370, was the second-highest total in the past 10 years. A record 150 Hispanic students enrolled, the largest number of entering Hispanic freshmen in UGA history. The class is geographically diverse with 173 students from 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, although more than 48 percent have social security numbers initially issued in other states, indicating continued in-migration to Georgia from other parts of the country.

In addition to the freshmen enrolled in the summer and fall, UGA for the first time offered an opportunity for 200 additional first-year students to enroll for the spring 2009 term. They began their UGA studies in January.
UGA’s nationally recognized Honors Program again enrolled just over 500 freshmen. Those students had a GPA average of 4.04 and SAT average of 1456, according to the Honors Program.

New records set for overall enrollment, including graduate enrollment
Spurred by growth at two of its extended campuses, UGA had its largest student body in history in fall 2008 with an enrollment of 34,180—the first time ever that enrollment has topped 34,000. The fall semester enrollment is 349 students (one percent) above fall 2007 and 221 more than the previous record of 33,959 set in 2006. The university set another record in spring 2009 with a total of 32,968 students attending classes in Athens and at the four extended campuses. The total is 2.5 percent above spring 2008’s enrollment of 32,177, and exceeds by 458 the previous spring record of 32,510 students, set in 2007.

Graduate enrollment for fall 2008 also was the highest ever at UGA with figures reaching 7,125, which is considerably higher than the previous record enrollment in fall 2007. The record numbers are reflected across the board in the graduate student population, particularly among historically underrepresented populations.

New record set for private giving
UGA raised $110.8 million in gifts and commitments for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009, setting a new record for private giving. The previous record of $108.3 million was set in fiscal year 2006 during the Archway to Excellence Campaign. Fiscal year 2009 marks the fourth consecutive year that private giving to the university topped $100 million.

The university officially ended its Archway to Excellence Campaign with a closing celebration in September 2008 at the Classic Center in Athens. The seven-year campaign raised more than $653.6 million in private gifts and pledges that will be used to support academic and research programs, student scholarships and awards, endowed professorships and chairs for faculty, and other projects. More than 102,000 donors contributed to the campaign, which began in 2001, with a goal of $500 million.

UGA again ranked in top 20 public universities in “Best Colleges” guide
The University of Georgia tied for 20th among public universities and tied for 58th overall in the 2009 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” guide, published in August 2008. UGA has been ranked among the top 20 leading public universities in the nation eight of the last ten years. UGA also was listed among 25 national universities for graduates with the least debt.

The undergraduate program in the Terry College of Business ranked 30th overall and 18th among public business schools. Of the more than 2,000 U.S. business schools, fewer than 500 have achieved full accreditation and are eligible to be ranked by U.S. News. This year’s ranking marks the 10th consecutive year Terry has been ranked in the top 30. Terry’s risk management and insurance program maintained its second place ranking nationally, as did the real estate program, which is ranked third in the country.

U.S. News considers several factors in producing the annual ranking, including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and peer assessment.

In other rankings, UGA placed fourth in ratings of best values among 100 public colleges and universities by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine. Kiplinger’s ranks schools on “a combination of outstanding academic quality and an affordable price tag.” More than 500
colleges and universities were surveyed for the ranking and the top 100 were chosen based on academic quality, cost and financial aid.

UGA graduate programs continue to rank among the best in the nation
UGA graduate programs remained among the best in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2009 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” The College of Education ranked 30th and the School of Law tied for 35th.

The College of Education, which had more students enrolled in graduate teaching programs in 2008 than any public university in the nation, ranked 22nd among public universities and third among public universities in the South. Six of the college’s specialty programs continue to rank in the top 10 nationally: vocational/technical education (1st), counseling/personnel services (tied for 3rd), higher education administration (6th), secondary education (4th), curriculum/instruction (8th), and elementary education (4th).

The School of Law ranked among the top 14 public universities and among the top five public universities in the Southeast.

The School of Public and International Affairs’ master of public administration (MPA) degree program continues to share a fourth place ranking with Princeton University. SPIA’s public finance and budgeting specialization and the public management and administration specialization both continue to hold second place rankings in their respective top 10 categories.

In other rankings, the Executive MBA program at the Terry College of Business received its highest ranking to date in a global survey published in October in the Financial Times, one of the world’s leading business news organizations. The program ranked 22nd in the United States and 59th in the world.

The College of Environment and Design’s landscape architecture programs again received top national rankings. The bachelor’s program was ranked first in the nation and the master’s program was ranked second in the 2009 edition of “America’s Best Architecture & Design Schools.” The programs have both placed in the top five for the past five years – as long as landscape architecture programs have been nationally ranked. This was the second time the bachelor’s program was ranked the best in the country.