

JERE MOREHEAD

On Progress & Success

Jere W. Morehead is the 22nd president of the University of Georgia. Prior to becoming president in 2013, he served in several UGA administrative posts including senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, vice president for instruction and director of the Honors Program, president of the Southeastern Conference's Executive Committee, chair of the NCAA Division 1 Board of Directors, a member of the NCAA Board of Governors and co-chair of the Council on Competitiveness' University Forum. A 1980 graduate of the UGA School of Law, Morehead is also a Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business.

PHIL KENT As a proud UGA alum it was wonderful to witness the football team winning the 2021 national championship. As this is written, we don't know who the 2022 national football champions will be. But, in any event, provide readers an update on the Athletic Association's future plans. How are UGA's athletic programs faring?

JERE MOREHEAD As a fellow UGA alumnus, I share your pride in last year's national football championship. This year's football team has been extraordinary as well, with an undefeated regular season, an SEC title, and a No. 1 ranking in the College Football Playoff. I am very proud of Coach Kirby Smart and his team.

Of course, we aspire for excellence in all our athletic programs. To that end, I am extremely proud of how our coaches and staff are helping UGA student-athletes excel at the highest levels of athletics and academics.

It was very exciting to see our volleyball and soccer teams reach NCAA postseason competition this fall, while all eight of our teams competing last spring earned postseason berths as well. Last spring, we placed 97 student-athletes on the SEC Honor Roll, top among SEC institutions. And thanks to the generosity of the Bulldog Nation, we continue to receive record

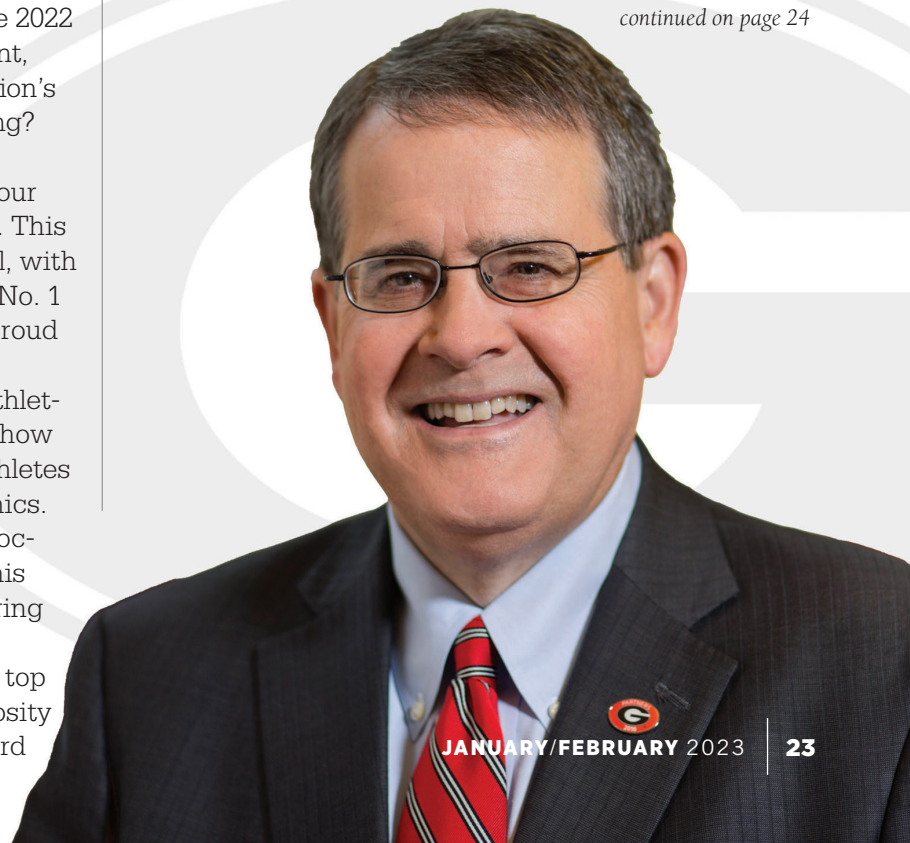
levels of gifts in support of our student-athletes' academic success and well-being, in addition to capital projects that will position our teams for the future.

In November we launched a major renovation of the Lindsay Hopkins Indoor Tennis Facility, and recently we began significant upgrades to Sanford Stadium. Major renovations to Foley Field and Jack Turner Stadium, home of UGA's baseball and softball programs, also are being planned. So, as you can see, our Athletic Association is doing incredibly well and laying a strong foundation for future success.

PK What's the latest on new campus facilities opening and others being planned? And what is your overall vision for future campus growth?

JM UGA has been very fortunate to receive strong, consistent support from the state and our amazing alumni and friends. Last year, for instance, our loyal supporters set a new record for private giving to UGA. This has enabled us to launch several capital projects to accelerate our missions of teaching, research, and service.

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In the fall we dedicated our newest residence hall, Black-Diallo-Miller Hall— named for the first African-American students to enter UGA as freshmen and graduate. Thanks to a \$15 million gift from the Woodruff Foundation, the iconic Holmes-Hunter Academic Building— named for Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who integrated UGA in 1961— will undergo major renovations. We also were pleased last fall to dedicate the newly renovated Driftmier Engineering Center, home of our College of Engineering.

Our most significant challenge will be to provide adequate space for our growing research enterprise. Given the importance of UGA researchers to the state, we have moved aggressively to address this issue. Last year, for instance, we broke ground on a new Poultry Science Complex, which will house our renowned Poultry Science Department and support Georgia's vital poultry industry. In August, we dedicated the final phase of our I-STEM Research Complex, a 200,000 square foot facility aimed at fostering interdisciplinary research and innovation in engineering and chemistry. And just this month, we began construction on the first phase of the Science and Ag Hill Modernization, a significant, multi-year project designed to provide upgraded laboratories for UGA's growing number of STEM faculty. UGA has tremendous momentum across every area of our mission, and that is reflected in these exciting capital projects.

PK What about the growth of UGA's research enterprise and the impressive record of research-based discoveries?

JM During the past decade, UGA scholars have pushed research enterprise to unprecedented heights, unlocking discoveries in the life sciences, agriculture, and a host of other areas. In the most recent fiscal year, total R&D expenditures exceeded \$500 million, a rise of 10 percent from the prior year and 50 percent since 2014.

The number of sponsored awards earned by our faculty has also soared, rising more than 100 percent over the past decade. Whether it is enhancing crop yields to feed a growing population, generating treatments for neurological diseases like Parkinson's, or mitigating the scourge of human trafficking, our faculty are conducting innovative research to improve our quality of life.

PK I hear good things about a UGA Innovation District. What is this initiative and its recent impact?

JM We launched the UGA Innovation District in 2018 to provide greater cohesion among our rapidly expanding research, innovation, and public service enterprises and to spur economic growth locally and across Georgia. Positioned at the intersection of our historic North Campus and downtown Athens, the District was envisioned to be an ecosystem of facilities, programs and people committed to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Through the hard work of our campus community, this vision has been realized, and the results are remarkable.

To date, over 200 companies have been launched from UGA research, and our pipeline of new startups continues to expand, with 185 percent growth over the past decade and over 40 projects entering our startup program last year. Over 900 products based on UGA research have been brought to market by our industry partners, and thanks to the Innovation District our commercialization efforts are accelerating. In fiscal year 2022, for example, 60 products developed by our faculty reached the market, more than double the number developed in 2014. Because of such growth, UGA has ranked among the top five U.S. universities for research-based products reaching the market for eight consecutive years.

PK You stress that "educating Georgians is UGA's first principle" and in this regard there is a continued expansion of programs and degrees. Can you elaborate on that thought?

JM UGA has no greater mission than to educate Georgia's future leaders. To this end, our campus has embraced bold, ambitious initiatives to foster a world-class undergraduate experience. Through our experiential learning initiative, for example, UGA students

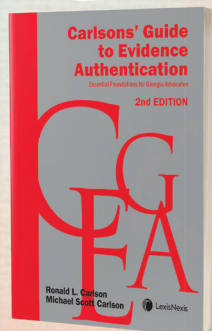
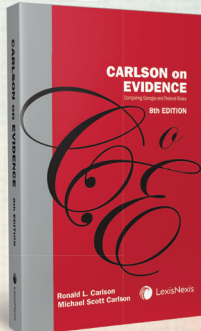
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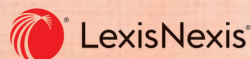
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receive tailored, hands-on learning opportunities that prepare them for today's knowledge-based economy. Our Double Dawgs initiative enables students to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in five years or less, giving them a competitive edge as they enter the workforce. We also recently launched an ambitious active learning initiative to transform traditional classrooms into active learning spaces and accelerate evidence-based teaching and learning approaches on our campus.

Our campus also has stepped up to meet the surging demand for education in the STEM fields. Over the last decade, STEM majors at UGA have increased by 37 percent and we have introduced state-of-the-art facilities, such as the Science Learning Center, as well as new academic programs to enhance teaching and learning in these fields. A good example is our School of Computing, established last summer to meet the soaring demand for computer science and cybersecurity degrees. Our College of Engineering, too, continues to expand, with enrollment more than tripling since 2012, and the Terry College of Business now has over 9,000 students.

As these examples show, UGA is steadfastly committed to helping our students excel in a rapidly changing world.

PK How many of UGA's undergraduate population hail from Georgia, and how many graduates who enter the workforce get jobs in Georgia?

JM I am proud that 87 percent of our undergraduate students hail from Georgia. Our significant percentage of in-state students reflects the special relationship between UGA and the great state we call home, and I would add that this figure exceeds most of the state flagship institutions in our region. I also am very proud that we admit a student body representing all geographic areas of Georgia. For example, our most recent class of first-year students—the largest in UGA history—represents 148 out of Georgia's 159 counties.

Meanwhile, in the most recent data available, 92 percent of our students were employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation, and we are very pleased that over two-thirds of our graduates stay in Georgia to begin their careers.

PK As you well know, student tuition and related college costs present a big obstacle for parents and students. What are the ways UGA provides an affordable, high-quality education?

JM Providing an affordable, high-quality education is not just a tradition at the University of Georgia. As the state's flagship institution, it is core to our mission,

and we remain focused on keeping our programs and services affordable for students and their families.

Our university is proud to have kept tuition and fees steady for three consecutive years as well as five out of the last seven years. Thanks to the support provided by the governor and General Assembly in last year's state budget, we also were able to eliminate the Special Institutional Fee. Another way we've been able to keep students' costs low is our Affordable Course Material Grants program, in which faculty are transitioning classes from costly textbooks to open and affordable educational resources, saving students approximately \$1.45 million per year. We also eliminated course and lab fees prevalent at other institutions.

Our fundraising efforts, too, have been focused on keeping UGA financially accessible for any student regardless of their family's income. For example, through our Georgia Commitment Scholarship Program, UGA's generous supporters have created over 645 student scholarships and committed almost \$100 million toward need-based awards.

Our institution takes great pride in maintaining affordability, and this will remain an important priority at UGA while I am president. We are proud of our ranking in the top 20 of *U.S. News and World Report's* list of best public research universities, but we are proud to be consistently rated as a best value institution as well.

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