2013 Spotlight festival attracts good audience

The 2013 Spotlight on the Arts festival attracted more than 16,000 people from the university and surrounding community to a wide range of arts events and activities at venues on and off campus. Member units of the UGA Arts Council presented more than 60 events from Nov. 7-15 highlighting the performing, visual and literary arts at UGA. Student groups also gave informal performances at indoor and outdoor locations, including a saxophone studio flash mob that brought students at the Ramsey Center and the Village Summit flocking to see what was happening.

Among the highlights of this year’s festival was a sold-out performance of Hal Holbrook’s one-man show as Mark Twain, plus popular productions of Carmen by the University Opera Theatre and Pride and Prejudice by the University Theatre. Film festivals presented by the UGA Press and the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, along with special events at the Georgia Museum of Art, the Lamar Dodd School of Art and the Special Collections Libraries, drew enthusiastic crowds.

See photos from the arts festival on pages 3-6.

Notes from the desk of Provost Pamela Whitten

When I visited UGA as a candidate for provost last October, I noted in my public presentation that the humanities and arts have an important place in today’s public research university. So now that I am here on campus, I am excited to be learning about the UGA Arts Council and the fall Spotlight on the Arts festival, sponsored by the council in collaboration with the Office of the Provost. It’s impressive that the festival, in its second year, grew to more than 60 events produced by member units of the council in collaboration with the Office of the Provost.

Noted trumpeter joins faculty

Philip Smith, principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic for 36 years, will join the faculty of UGA’s Hugh Hodgson School of Music in the fall.

“UGA is a destination for brass musicians seeking to study with world-class talent,” said Dale Monson, director of the school of music. “Philip Smith’s arrival is another tremendous step forward in the history of our school.”

Other top-tier trumpeters who have served on the faculty include the late Fred Mills, a founding member of the Canadian Brass, and David Bilger, principal trumpet of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Smith is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he was still a student when Sir Georg Solti invited him to join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1975. Three years later, he was appointed co-principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic by Zubin Mehta and was named the sole principal trumpet in 1988.

“I am excited by this opportunity to be involved in the lives of young musicians, sharing all that I have experienced,” Smith said.
UGA launches program in creativity and innovation

A new Interdisciplinary certificate in Creativity and Innovation, launched this semester, offers UGA graduate students an opportunity to improve and document creative potential – something employers say they are looking for.

In a recent IBM research study, 1,500 CEOs from around the globe cited an increasingly complex world as their biggest challenge and creativity as “the single most important leadership competency” for success.

Graduate students in any discipline can add the certification to their degree by taking 15 hours of courses: nine hours of core courses in creativity and six hours of approved electives.

Bonnie Cramond, a professor of gifted education and director of UGA’s Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, was instrumental in developing the certificate program and hopes to involve faculty across campus. “We plan to provide support for faculty who wish to create or tweak courses that could be core courses or electives. The core courses must deal with basic theory and research on creativity and innovation. Electives should support this learning through extension and application in specific disciplines.”

While some other institutions around the country are offering creativity certificate or degree programs, these “do not really promote the interdisciplinary aspects as we do,” says Cramond, who was recently quoted in a New York Times article focusing on creativity as an academic discipline.

Georgia Writers Hall of Fame 2014 inductees announced

Olive Ann Burns, Mary Hood and Alfred Uhry have been named to the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame and will be inducted in a fall 2014 ceremony on the UGA campus.

Burns is best known for her novel Cold Sassy Tree, a coming-of-age story set in rural Georgia. She began the novel after a cancer diagnosis, and followed it with a sequel that was published posthumously.

Hood is the author of two award-winning collections of short stories, How Far She Went and And Venus is Blue. She continues to write reviews and essays, and a novel, Familiar Heat, was published in 1995.

Uhry is the only playwright to have won a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award and several Tony Awards. He is best known for Driving Miss Daisy, set in Atlanta and based on his grandmother and her driver. The play was awarded the 1988 Pulitzer for drama.

The three were elected to the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame by a board of judges that includes academics, civic leaders, librarians and the heads of the University of Georgia Press and The Georgia Review, as well as recent hall of fame inductees.

The hall of fame began in 2000 at UGA’s Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, which holds the most comprehensive collection of books by Georgians in existence, along with the papers of many Georgia writers.

Follow UGA arts on Facebook and Twitter

Want to keep up with – and share – information on arts programs and activities at UGA? Follow UGA Arts on Facebook and UGA_Arts on Twitter.

The Georgia Museum of Art, Performing Arts Center and several other UGA arts units also have Facebook pages and Twitter accounts.
Interim director Gene Wright acted as a tour guide for the Lamar Dodd School of Art open house.

UGA’s student improv troupe, Lady Parts, cut up at Tate.

Improv masters Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood got laughs at the Classic Center.

The Dirty Book Sale by the UGA Press drew throngs to Tate Plaza.
The dance department presented a sampler of student performances.

Larry Dendy signed copies of his new book chronicling the history of campus buildings.

The lobby of the Main Library featured a Georgia Review display.

Students from the Hugh Hodgson School of Music shared their skills at the Community Music School open house.

The Black Theatrical Ensemble performed scenes from noted plays.
The UGA Opera Theatre’s production of Carmen drew a standing ovation for the cast and directors.

Georgia Poet Laureate Judson Mitcham was inducted into the Georgia Writer’s Hall of Fame.

The musical theater group Next Act sang at Tate.

Performing Arts Center staff enjoyed the festival.

An impromptu dance performance at Tate.
GMOA director Bill Eiland led a special tour of the museum.

Hal Holbrooks’ one-man Mark Twain show packed Hodgson Hall.

Alumni and faculty spoke at a roundtable on careers in the arts.

David Saltz with robot ZeebZob at the interactive media open house.

Twin sisters Emily and Catherine Backus entertained outdoors.
From the desk of Pamela Whitten 
continued from page 1

the council, plus more than two dozen events presented by student groups, and drew more than 16,000 people. The 2013 festival was clearly a great success and with dates already chosen for the 2014 festival, I am excited to inherit this burgeoning tradition.

The photos and articles in this newsletter indicate the breadth of opportunities for students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community to engage with the performing, visual and literary arts at UGA. I’m looking forward to such experiences myself and to visits to the university’s wonderful venues for the arts. It is a definite point of pride for UGA to be home to the state museum of art and to one of the best concert halls in the Southeast, not to mention strong academic programs in music, art, theater and dance and a nationally recognized literary journal and academic press.

I’m particularly pleased to learn about numerous collaborative efforts involving the arts – collaborations not only between Arts Council units, but also with other units on campus as well as community groups and organizations. Such collaborations produce exciting synergies.

I certainly want to thank the students, faculty, staff and administrators who have been working hard to promote the arts at UGA. Special thanks to Libby Morris, who as vice provost convened the Arts Council in 2011 and has been, and I’m sure will continue to be, a champion for the arts. As provost I want to maintain support for the arts and look for new opportunities down the road.

As President Jere Morehead has said, “A university cannot be truly great without a strong, vibrant arts program.” With the Arts Council at work on an ambitious strategic plan for the next five years, I know great things are ahead for the arts at UGA.

GMOA hosts bowl painting for Food Bank

The Georgia Museum of Art hosted a bowl painting session on Valentine’s Day to raise funds for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. UGA students, faculty and staff joined others from the community to paint glazes on pre-made bowls for the Food Bank’s annual Empty Bowl luncheon in March. Some chose to make a donation, paint a bowl and give it to the Food Bank. Others made a larger donation and chose to keep their masterpieces.

Students from the ceramics department in the Lamar Dodd School of Art were on hand to provide instruction and inspiration, as well as glazes and materials. The event was such a success that the museum is planning to schedule another bowl painting at a later date.

Pearl Cleage play presented for Black History Month

As part of UGA’s observance of Black History Month in February, University Theatre presented Pearl Cleage’s dramatic comedy Flyin’ West. The play follows a female settler who migrates to the free state of Kansas with her three sisters in the late 19th century. The production marked the directorial debut of Kristyl Tift, a doctoral student in theatre and performance studies, who also coordinated student events for the Spotlight on the Arts festival. Cast members included undergraduate and graduate students and Freda Scott Giles, a professor in theatre and film studies.

Flyin’ West originally was commissioned and produced by the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta.

Collaborative project blends science, technology and dance

Artists, students, faculty and technicians from three departments in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences worked together for several months to create a new production titled DAAP Stellar and the Dream Chasers.

The show, which premiered this semester, features aerial dance, film animation and spoken passages delivered by “morphed alien scientist” DAAP Stellar, a fictional composite based on UGA expertise. Ten UGA physics and astronomy professors expound ideas reflecting leading-edge scientific research on such topics as black holes, spin waves and quantum levitation.

Film-projected visual landscapes for the production were created by associate professor Mike Hussey and graduate students in the department of theatre and film studies. Members of the CORE Concert Dance Company performed on bungee, trapeze, lyra, silks and the roué Cyr wheel.

Video highlights of the production can be viewed at coreconcertdance.com. A brief film is also on YouTube.
Some special open-to-the-public events are planned on and off campus following UGA’s spring break. Here’s a brief rundown.

**Slingshot festival**
**March 19-22**
This festival of music, electronic art and technology takes over four city blocks and dozens of venues in downtown Athens to showcase international, national and local acts. First organized last year by Kai Riedl, a graduate student in the School of Music, and Eric Marty, an instructor in the School of Art, the 2014 festival includes boundary-pushing artworks and a tech conference involving leading innovators. One-day and weekend passes can be purchased online. See www.slingshotathens.com.

**Return to the Arch Alumni Seminar**
**March 20-22**
This three-day gathering focuses on “The Best of UGA” and includes tours of the Georgia Museum of Art and the Special Collections Libraries housed in the Richard B. Russell Building, as well as faculty presentations on a variety of topics. “This is a rare chance for non-students to access UGA’s rich academic and cultural resources,” says Meg Amstutz, associate provost for academic programs. For further details about the schedule and costs, see www.alumni.uga.edu/alumniseminar.

**Thinc. Entrepreneurial Week**
**April 13-17**
This year’s weeklong celebration of entrepreneurial efforts by students, faculty, staff and alumni includes a Local Arts & Culture Business Summit on April 17 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Tate Reception Hall. Local arts and culture business owners will share experiences and best practices and advocate for the best ways to support local arts entrepreneurs. For more information about this event and other Thinc. Week activities, see thinc.uga.edu.

**UGA Arts Council directory**
The UGA Arts Council was convened in October 2011 by then-Vice Provost Libby Morris. Current members are listed below. For more information on any of these units, please see their web sites.

- **Hugh Ruppersburg**, interim provost
  Office of the Provost
  provost.uga.edu

- **Nicholas Allen**, director
  Willson Center for Humanities and Arts
  willson.uga.edu

- **Linda Bachman**, assistant dean
  Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
  www.franklin.uga.edu

- **Lisa Bayer**, director
  University of Georgia Press
  www.ugapress.org

- **Stephen Corey**, editor
  The Georgia Review
  garev.uga.edu

- **William Eiland**, director
  Georgia Museum of Art
  georgiamuseum.org

- **George Foreman**, director
  Performing Arts Center
  pac.uga.edu

- **Lisa Fusillo**, department head
  Department of Dance
  www.dance.uga.edu

- **Toby Graham**, deputy university librarian
  Special Collections Libraries
  www.libs.uga.edu/scl

- **Dale Monson**, director
  Hugh Hodgson School of Music
  www.music.uga.edu

- **David Saltz**, department head
  Department of Theatre and Film Studies
  www.drama.uga.edu

- **Gene Wright**, interim director
  Lamar Dodd School of Art
  art.uga.edu

- **Eva Berlin**, student representative
  Georgia Museum of Art Student Association

State of the Arts is a publication of the UGA Arts Council
Editor: Sharron Hannon
Designer: Charles Johnson