The 2012-13 academic year sped by even faster than usual, it seems. Of course one of the highlights of the year was the inaugural Spotlight on the Arts festival, which took place over the course of nine days in November.

The units that comprise the UGA Arts Council presented more than 50 wonderful events for members of the UGA and local community to enjoy. In addition, student performers staged impromptu events at locations around campus, much to the surprise and delight of those passing by!

The festival was such a success that when the Arts Council met in January, the first topic of discussion was choosing the dates for the 2013 festival. So please mark your calendars for Nov. 7-15! We’ll be announcing the festival line-up later, but we can promise it will be just as enjoyable as last year’s.

We certainly hope that faculty – particularly those teaching First-Year Odyssey seminars in the fall – will think about ways to encourage students to

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Orchestra; the Boston Pops event was especially noteworthy for Maestro Keith Lockhart since it was his 1500th concert as conductor of the Pops. The PAC’s season also included a live taping of public radio’s popular program, *From the Top*, as well as a memorable concert by Sir James Galway on his Legacy Tour. Béla Fleck, the world’s premier banjo player, made two appearances in Hodgson Hall during the season, the second of which featured a performance of his new Banjo Concerto with the UGA Symphony Orchestra.

The Hugh Hodgson School of Music had a robust presence at the inaugural Spotlight on the Arts festival. In addition to numerous student recitals and large ensemble performances, the festival also featured the Georgia Woodwind Quintet in “A Southern Wind Serenade,” as well as the pièce de résistance: the UGA Symphony Orchestra’s sold-out performance of Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, which brought the UGASO together with the entire choral department for a total of over 300 students on stage. In the spring, the School of Music presented its second annual “UGA in Atlanta” concert at Spivey Hall. The performance featured the Bulldog Brass Society, the Southern Wind Quintet and the Hodgson String Quartet.

University Theatre’s 80th anniversary season was one of its most successful. It began with the sold-out run of *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, followed by Chekhov’s classic *Three Sisters* and *The Darker Face of the Earth* by former poet laureate Rita Dove, who attended the opening night performance. 2013 began with the delightful musical *The Fantasticks* and the world premiere play *Must Go On*, followed by the profoundly moving avant-garde *Under Construction*. Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* closed the season with spectacular innovations in digital technology and a towering, multilevel set designed by visiting artist Rick Clark of Entertainment Design Group of Atlanta.

The department of dance hosted a three-day residency of the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. Master classes and lecture-demonstration were open to all students, and the residency included a public performance. The company set choreography on the members of CORE Concert Dance Company. Grants for more than $40,000 were awarded to dance faculty for guest artists, performance projects and research. UGA dance majors performed with the Joe Goode Performance Group at the Ferst Center for Performing Arts in Atlanta and at the UGA Fine Arts Center. The department also hosted a 10-day residency by Marcus Bugler, the Wilson Center’s Guest Artist in residency and a former principal dancer with Metropolitan Opera Ballet and ballet master for Cirque de Soleil in Las Vegas.

The Lamar Dodd School of Art celebrated student work with the school’s 4th Juried Student Exhibition in October. Juror Lloyd Benjamin of Get This! Gallery in Atlanta selected undergraduate and graduate works across all areas of concentration. The LDSOA hosted a celebration of UGA arts units with Artapalooza in January featuring performances by student musicians, actors and dancers, student artwork and a drawing class workshop. The 2013 MFA Exit Show returned to the Georgia Museum of Art for the first time in five years. The Dodd Chair Exhibition featured the work of jeweler Lola Brooks, in residence at LDSOA for 2012-13.

The Georgia Museum of Art celebrated its reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums — an honor given to less than five percent of museums. The museum furthered important collaborative research between the arts and the sciences through hosting the Orpheus Relief Project, which involved chemical and spectroscopic analysis of a work of art. In February, the museum’s annual Black History Month dinner honored the late Rudolph Byrd and the sculptor Harold Rittenberry. Throughout the academic year, GMOA continued to collect awards and organize exhibitions, including the School of Art’s MFA exit show, which returned to the museum’s galleries in March.

The Georgia Review dedicated its oversize Fall 2012 issue to the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame and released it in time for the GWHF grand celebration in September. The Winter 2012 issue offered a literary tour of three continents and six centuries, while the Spring 2013 issue show-
cased noted Georgia fiction writer Mary Hood. The Review presented readings in Athens by poets and fiction writers and participated in the 2012 Georgia Literary Festival at Jekyll Island in the fall and the 2013 Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Boston in March. The Review’s fifth annual Earth Day celebration at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia featured award-winning essayist and conservationist Scott Russell Sanders.

The UGA Press is celebrating two important anniversaries. The year 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the Press, which was founded on July 1, 1938. In honor of the anniversary, local artist Philip Juras has loaned three of his landscape paintings to the Press, which will be exhibited in the Press’s lobby in the Main Library through June. The Press also celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction by featuring “30 Days of the Flannery O’Connor Award” on its blog through the month of March. The Press has released two new anthologies that span the history of the award and are available exclusively as ebooks.

The Special Collections Libraries presented “Ready, Steady, Vote!” in the fall, a program series focused on getting citizens in the mood for the 2012 election season with a combination of film screenings, community forums, debate watch events, stump speeches, and an art opening. During the Spotlight on the Arts festival, the Libraries held a reception to celebrate the completion of Art Rosenbaum’s mural in the gallery of the Russell Library, and literary society members recited stump speeches from the Russell collections on Election Day. Georgia’s literary history has been on display in the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame’s first exhibit in its new home at the Special Collections Libraries. Established in 2000 as part of the Haggett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame honors Georgia’s most influential writers.

The Willson Center for Humanities and Arts introduced a variety of new programming initiatives during the academic year that showcased the richness, diversity and reach of the university, particularly in the context of the arts. The Willson Center’s main event during the Spotlight on the Arts festival was the Athens premiere of the 2006 feature film Somebodies, written and directed by UGA alumnus Hadjii and shot entirely in Athens. Another highlight of the year was the launching of the Willson Center’s Global Georgia Initiative that included talks by longtime R.E.M. adviser Bertis Downs and South African journalist, publisher and DJ Ntone Edjabe, who spun viny at Athens’ legendary 40 Watt Club as part of his visit. The center also organized Songs @ Cine, a musical showcase supporting the downtown art cinema’s digital conversion campaign that featured a rare solo appearance by R.E.M.’s Mike Mills.

From the desk of the vice provost
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explore arts opportunities at UGA. As was true last year, many of the festival events will be free and those requiring tickets generally offer special rates for students.

To keep up with the latest news about the arts at UGA visit the website that was launched last fall (arts.uga.edu) or follow UGA Arts on Facebook or Twitter. Have a great summer and save those fall dates!
Melissa Harshman, an associate professor in the Lamar Dodd School of Art, has been named faculty director of UGA’s First-Year Odyssey Seminar program, which provides students with an introduction to life at UGA by engaging them with faculty and other first-year students in a small-class environment.

Harshman has been a faculty member at UGA since 1993. She served for two years as the graduate coordinator for the art school and has been chair of the printmaking and book arts department for 12 years. For the last two years, she has taught the FYO course “The Fine Art of Printmaking.”

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

Morris to serve as interim provost
UGA President-elect Jere Morehead has named Libby V. Morris as interim provost, effective July 1. Morris has served as vice provost for academic affairs since 2010. In that role, she works closely with the UGA Arts Council, the Georgia Museum of Art, the Performing Arts Center and the Office of Faculty Affairs. Morris has been a faculty member in the university’s Institute of Higher Education since 1989 and has served as its director since 2006. She also is an adjunct professor in the College of Public Health and a member of the UGA Teaching Academy.

She earned her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and her bachelor’s degree from UGA.