Here are some academic highlights since the Cabinet last met in September 2012.

**Awards/Honors**
Our most recent Rhodes Scholar, Elizabeth Allan, is the university’s fourth in the past six years. This remarkable record reflects the academic quality of our students as well as the opportunities provided by the university’s Honors Program and Foundation Fellowship, both of which are led by Associate Provost David Williams.

Five faculty members in the department of mathematics were recently named Fellows of the American Mathematical Society. Five additional faculty members were named to the inaugural list of Fellows of the Ecological Society of America.

**Rankings**
UGA earned a 12th-place ranking among all U.S. institutions on the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors 2012 study abroad list. The ranking is up from 15 last year. UGA ranked fifth in the nation in the number of students who participate in summer and other short-term programs.

**Appointments/Searches**
Craig H. Kennedy has been named dean of the College of Education. Dr. Kennedy comes to UGA from Vanderbilt University's number-one-ranked Peabody College, where he is senior associate dean as well as associate dean for research. His appointment is effective Jan. 1.

Dean searches are currently underway for the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the College of Engineering, and the School of Public and International Affairs.

**Other news**
UGA has been elected to the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, a nonprofit consortium of North American research universities. UGA is the 78th member of UCAR, and its membership is a recognition of the institution’s growing reputation in atmospheric science.

UGA has partnered with the Digital Public Library of America, an ambitious project to make the nation's archives digital, searchable and freely accessible.

The university launched a two-year project known as ConnectUGA that will result in a new student information system that will improve institutional planning and decision-making capabilities while also improving and expanding services for students.

The university held a Spotlight on the Arts festival from Nov. 3 through 11 that included more than 50 events in the visual, performing and literary arts. More than 13,000 people attended festival events, including the Charter Lecture by alumna and U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey. (More information on the arts at UGA is available at [www.arts.uga.edu](http://www.arts.uga.edu).)