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Vanguard, Volume I

Katie Kanaday  
*University of North Georgia*

Amy Bailey  
*University of North Georgia*

Brett Fowler  
*University of North Georgia*

Sydney Bhame  
*University of North Georgia*

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The Vanguard-Oconee staff

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EDITOR IN CHIEF Katie Kanaday Kmkana2102@ung.edu
MANAGING EDITOR DAHLONEGA Amy Bailey Aebail8835@ung.edu
MANAGING EDITOR GAINESVILLE Brett Fowler Bcfowl6034@ung.edu
MANAGING EDITOR OCONEE Sydney Bhame Scbham7160@ung.edu
PRINT EDITOR Frank Guest Fghues8976@ung.edu
ART DIRECTOR Audrey Williams Apwill5825@ung.edu

DAHLONEGA EDITORS
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Akers
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COPY EDITING
Amanda Head, Frank Guest, Brett Fowler, Benjamin Tankersley, Sydney Bhame, Stephen Embler

PAGE DESIGN
Brett Fowler, Audrey Williams, Frank Guest, Amanda Head, Angelica Beltran, Meagan Thoss and the staff of the Gainesville campus

PHOTO EDITING
Jessica Meda
Devin Brewster

FACULTY ADVISERS
Dahlonega: Ron Martz ronald.martz@ung.edu
Gainesville: Dr. Merrill Morris merrill.morris@ung.edu
Oconee: Dan Cabaniss dan.cabaniss@ung.edu

Front and back cover art by Matt Wentworth,
UNG Vanguard-Gainesville staff artist

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UNG Vanguard-Gainesville

A production of the UNG Communication, Media & Journalism Department
from the editor

Students, faculty, staff and alumni:

I am excited to introduce you to our new university newspaper — the UNG Vanguard.

Vanguard is a term that can describe the foremost division of an army. They are at the battle first, leading the way. I hope our newspaper will be able to do the same. We want to provide all the students, on each campus, with the most complete coverage of all things UNG.

Over the past several months, staff members from the Gainesville, Dahlonega and Oconee campuses have been diligently working together to combine our separate newspapers into one cohesive unit.

We are truly trailblazers. Combining multiple campus newspapers into one has never been done before. As we achieve the impossible, I ask for your support and dedicated readership. Without you, the reader, our newspaper would not exist.

We are here to be your voice—to discuss your concerns, share your thoughts and provide you with the most relevant news.

Thank you for joining us on this incredible journey. We look forward to hearing from you.

Katie Kanaday: editor-in-chief
kmkana2102@ung.edu

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vanguard contact information
website: www.UNGVanguard.org
e-mail: UNGVanguard@gmail.com
address: 3820 Mundy Mill Rd
Oakwood, GA 30566
advertising: Michael Mullins
memull0017@ung.edu
Classes extended a week as snow days pile up

Saara Wintersgill
Kaitlyn Doyle
Matt Hobbs
Vanguard: Dahlonega and Gainesville

After another week of having to close school for several days, UNG officials decided to extend classes a week at the end of the semester.

Now, May 1 will be the last day of classes, instead of April 25.

“Im not really excited about it, but I understand why they’re doing it,” said Gainesville student Corey Rodgers.

“I’m a bit relieved that they’re doing it this way, at the beginning of May, as opposed to spring break, because I have plans for spring break.”

The university announced Monday that school would be closed Tuesday and Wednesday—this time, they didn’t wait to cancel.

Early Wednesday afternoon, as snow and ice continued to accumulate across North Georgia, school officials decided to cancel classes for Thursday, Feb. 13, as well.

“My only issue with the snow is that my work is closed for two days, so it’s putting a dent in my paycheck,” said Gainesville student Jessica Swords, a Spanish major. “On the bright side, I get an extra week to study for a linguistics test.”

Four Plant Operations crew members slept on campus Tuesday night to guarantee that students in dorms on the Dahlonega campus would be safe in case no one could get onto campus Wednesday morning.

Krista Dowdy, supervisor in the UNG-D dining hall, picked up her employees who didn’t have the equipment or skill in order to navigate the snow.

“I grew up in Pennsylvania and lived for 15 years in Alaska. I learned how to drive in all kinds of weather in Fairbanks,” Dowdy said. “Since we needed people to work I went off to get them.”
The Board of Regents has approved a $2.5 million extension of the Student Resource Center at UNG Oconee, and now all that awaits is the Georgia Legislature's approval to make it a done deal.

The new additions to the SRC building, if approved in March, will include a language lab, four classrooms, one of which will be a multipurpose science lab with a prep room and storage room, 10 new faculty offices, a large conference room, study rooms for students and other facilities such as bathrooms and a janitor's closet. The SRC addition will add approximately 12,000 feet to the building.

Eric Skipper, acting CEO of the Oconee Campus and dean of honors and graduate studies, said, "It is in the works, and it has passed two of the three hurdles." The third hurdle is the Georgia Legislature, which has until around March 19 to decide on whether or not the multimillion dollar extension will be built.

The money for the extension is all external funds. The reason for the project is space. "Space is a priority here," Skipper said, "and we'd be able to offer more classes." His main concern is back-to-back lab times. "Because we need time in between for prep time," said Skipper.

The new facility will also bring in more office space for professors and a study area for students. Many of the full-time professors are doubling up on office space, and the extension will provide those professors with new offices of their own. Skipper said the student space will be "a great benefit, to go and hang out and study [there] instead of the library."

Looking forward to the future, Skipper doesn't believe that UNG Oconee will become a four-year college. Skipper said, "We have the luxury of being next door to the University of Georgia, which gives us great benefits." The level of success at UNG Oconee is high, and the current rate of UGA transfers is 47 percent. Skipper said that there is "no real need for [UNG Oconee] to expand its mission to a four-year mission."

Finally, Oconee may get some breathing room

Undergraduate researchers present at several conferences

UNG's undergrad researchers have been racking up the conferences lately.

Twelve students' projects were accepted for the Georgia Undergrad Research Conference at Columbus State in January: Brittany Barron, mentored by Anita Turlington, English; Katie Kanaday, Cheyenne Franklin, Robert Scott, mentored by Tanya Bennett, English; Teri Jones, mentored by Matthew Horton, English; Jimma Blackwell, mentored by Jennifer Mook, Jeanelle Morgan and Doug Waltman, biology; Carmen Tsui, Mynor Lopez, Vu Tran, mentored by Jeanelle Morgan, biology; Heather Bryan, mentored by Toralf Zachau, psychology; Jody Pinion, mentored by Anastasia Turner, English/Spanish; Jacob Ashmore, mentored by Terry Easton, composition/argument/interdisciplinary.

Eight students have been accepted to the Southern Regional Honors Conference in Savannah in March, and 12 students have been accepted to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April in Kentucky.

And there's still time to apply for the Annual Research Conference at UNG. This year's ARC will be in Dahlonega March 31-April 3; Oconee April 8; Gainesville April 9. Deadline to apply is March 7 at http://bit.ly/1dK5g2P.
This season is a season of firsts for University of North Georgia athletics. The first year with a new identity: the first year with events hosted away from Dahlonega. It’s also the first year of the Battle of Blood Mountain, a huge rivalry with Young Harris College.

The idea of this new rivalry was conceived this past summer by members of the UNG athletic staff and Randy Dunn, current athletic director at Young Harris and former A.D. at North Georgia.

The Battle of Blood Mountain was formed as North Georgia’s and Young Harris’s answer to other rivalries in the Peach Belt Conference such as the Battle of the Pickle Barrel between Georgia College and Columbus State.

The rivalry is named after the highest peak in the Georgia section of the Appalachian Trail.

Blood Mountain is also on the border of Lumpkin and Union counties, where both schools have campuses. The valley between Blood and Slaughter Mountain was also the location of a brutal battle between Creek and Cherokee Indians. These facts made it the perfect name for a rivalry between UNG and YHC.

The Battle of Blood Mountain competition uses a point system involving all sports that UNG and YHC compete in. Lee Glenn, UNG sports information director, said the point system is based on the Ryder Cup, a golf tournament between the United States and Europe. UNG and YHC compete against each other in 10 sports. One point is awarded to the school winning a head-to-head match up. When the schools play each other two or more times in a season in one sport, which is the case in basketball, baseball and softball, a point is awarded if one school wins each meeting. If the season series is split, the points go to the school finishing the highest in the PBC standings that season.

The school with the most points at the end of the athletic season is the winner. In the case of a tie, the school finishing ahead of the other for the Peach Belt Conference Commissioners Cup is the winner. The reward for winning will be a trophy that is yet to be decided on.

The consequence of losing, however, is that the losing school’s athletic director must wear the winning school’s colors while presenting the trophy to that school’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Currently, North Georgia has a 2-1 lead over Young Harris. North Georgia’s points were won by the women’s cross country team for finishing two spots higher than Young Harris in the PBC Championship Meet, and the women’s soccer team who beat YHC 3-2 in overtime Sept. 21. Feb. 5 was the first meetings for both schools in basketball for the 2013-14 season. Young Harris picked up the win in women’s basketball, while the North Georgia men defeated Young Harris’ men’s team.

**Women’s basketball**

**The Scoop**

With only four games remaining in the 2013-14 regular season, the No. 23-ranked University of North Georgia women’s basketball team can’t afford to get comfortable in first place in the Peach Belt Conference Western Division.

The Nighthawks (18-4, 12-3) are clinging to a half game lead over Clayton State University and Young Harris College and a one game lead over Columbus State for first place in the tight Peach Belt Conference Western Division.

Since winning 10 straight games between November 22 and January 15, North Georgia won six of the nine games that followed. Two of those losses came against the team’s right behind the Nighthawks; Clayton State on January 25 and Young Harris on February 5. However, a win over Columbus State has preserved their comfortable in first place in the Peach Belt Conference Western Division.

The win over UNC Pembroke on February 15 was the 400th of head coach Buffie Burson’s career. In her 20 years at North Georgia, Burson has led the Saints/ Nighthawks to eight conference championships. She’s also led the teams to appearances in five Sweet Sixteens and three Elite Eight’s.

Senior Mimi Hill (see story next page) is ranked highly in several statistical categories in the Peach Belt. She’s first in points per game with 23.3, total points with 490, field goals with 184 and free throws with 105. Hill is also second in the conference with 88.2 free throw percentage, eighth with a 53.2 field goal percentage, and 10th with 8.1 rebounds per game and 170 total rebounds.

Junior Stephanie Huffman leads the team and is fifth in the Peach Belt with 202 total rebounds and sixth with 9.2 rebounds per game. Huffman is also ninth with 69 assists.

**The Stats**

- Senior Ishmael Hollis leads the Peach Belt Conference with 19.9 points per game. He’s also second in the conference with 417 total points, fourth with 105 free throws, third with 9.5 rebounds per game, fifth with 200 rebounds.
- Sophomore Corey Green is sixth in the conference with a field goal percentage of 55.6 percent.
- North Georgia leads the Peach Belt with 86.6 points per game. However, the Nighthawks are last in the conference giving up 85.4 points per game.

**Men’s basketball**

**The Scoop**

With the 78-54 win over Francis Marion University on February 16, the University of North Georgia Men’s basketball are back over .500 for the first time since they beat Georgia College in January to start the season 5-4.

The Nighthawks (11-10, 8-7) are now on a four-game winning streak that began with a win over Young Harris College on February 5. Before the winning streak North Georgia had only won two of their previous eight games.

With an 8-7 record in the Peach Belt Conference, North Georgia is only a half of a game behind Young Harris for third place in the PBC Western Division. They’re also two games ahead of Columbus State. To make the Peach Belt Conference Tournament, North Georgia needs to stay in the top four of the western division.

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BrunetteBeauty, Hill is currently UNG’s leading scorer with 355 points. She is second in rebounds with 111, has 30 assists and averages 32.8 minutes a game. With these impressive statistics, it is hard to believe basketball was not always her calling.

“I first started playing in seventh grade,” Hill recounts. “I had been a cheerleader up to that point and tried out for the cheerleading squad that year, but the coaches said I wouldn’t blend in with the girls due to my height [6-foot-3].”

Since her mom (Brenda Hill), dad and sister (WNBA player and UGA All-American Tasha Humphrey) had played the game, she decided to try out for her school’s basketball team.

“I made it but had a terrible experience,” Hill said. “I transferred schools the next year.”

This is where things really began to fall into place for Hill.

“I had a basketball coach who really inspired and encouraged me to continue playing,” Hill said. Shortly after, Hill’s mom resigned from coaching at UGA to finish coaching her daughter through high school.

Hill attended Western Kentucky University for two years before transferring to UNG.

Hill said her first college game was her most embarrassing.

“I was already nervous,” she said, “but it was against Duke whose players and gym are intimidating.”

She said she was so nervous that she felt like she was falling out on the court.

“I literally told my coach, ‘The lines are coming up and grabbing me!’ I was only in for four or five minutes.”

When she started playing college basketball, she did not give much thought to where she played, but as she continued, she realized where she wanted to be.

“When I was little, my mom decided to come back to school and actually played for North Georgia,” she said. “I remember running up and down these halls when she was here.

“I already knew a lot of the coaches and professors, and they knew me. It was only 30 minutes from home, and it was a chance to play on the same court my mom did. I couldn’t turn that down,” she said.

This is Hill’s senior year, and she will be graduating with a degree in physical education.

“I was a nursing major my first three years,” she said. “One day, I realized so many coaches had inspired me, and I want to do the same for others.

“College is the perfect time to do that because this is when you really start to come into your own. I mean, these girls and coaches have been my second family, I want to continue to be a part of that.”

Hill will be the student assistant coach for the Lady Nighthawks in the 2014-2015 season. She summarized college basketball as intense.

Aside from regular practices, the players lift weights three times a week in scheduled workouts designed specifically for them by their athletic trainer, on top of being full-time students and balancing social life.

“It is hard, on and off the court,” she said. “I say that not only because the practices are harder but so is time management.”

North Georgia baseball has high hopes for 2014 season

Patrick Hensley
Vanguard: Gainesville
Staff Writer
phtens7787@ung.edu

After having a disappointing 2013 season, the University of North Georgia baseball team is looking to bounce back with the addition of quite a few new faces. UNG finished last season 18-29 (9-19 PBC) to make for one of the more disappointing seasons in head coach Tom Cantrell’s tenure, which includes over 500 wins while at the helm of the Nighthawks.

Cantrell has been a successful coach for the UNG baseball program, and he has taken them to an elite level over his 15-year tenure. Each year comes with high expectations with this year being no different.

“Our expectation every year is to win a national championship,” Cantrell said. “It starts with being successful both on and off the field, in class and being a good person, being the best possible baseball player you can be. The expectation for the baseball program is to win championships; not win a certain number of games but to win every game we play. We haven’t won a championship here in five years.”

Cantrell believes a winning standard has been set in his years in Dahlonega.

“We have got to get back to that mentality and mental toughness that we’ve lacked the last few years. But the expectation is to win championships.”

The Nighthawks will be replacing four top pitchers, most notably sophomore Brandon Agar, who led the team last year with a 7-4 record along with 6 saves. Agar posted a 3.42 ERA in 52 2/3 innings pitched.

“The teams the last couple of years weren’t very mature or doing the right things on and off the field,” Cantrell said. “That’s our fault. We had the wrong people. We brought them into a situation they couldn’t handle.”

Cantrell can tell a difference this year.

“We’re excited, they’re excited, about competing,” said Cantrell. “We’re not ready to compete but we’re going to have to compete. With the weather, we’re behind a week or so. With all the newcomers and guys coming back, we feel pretty good about the group we have.”

In addition to the new faces that will soon make their debut for the Nighthawks, this offseason has also been an exciting one for reasons off the field. UNG unveiled the Coleman Field House, which is home to the baseball and softball locker rooms, plus coaches’ offices, meeting rooms and training rooms.

Cantrell hopes that by having the new field house it will help bring together his team and will pay dividends down the line.

“The new building, clubhouse, all that has made a big difference in camaraderie and chemistry of the guys a place to hang out and get dressed,” he said. “It also helps with recruiting because the conference we’re in is highly competitive.”

“Looking back at last season, one thing, half the team isn’t here from last season,” Cantrell said. “A lot of guys were let go mainly for disciplinary issues, not doing what it takes to be a University of North Georgia baseball player. We got a good group this year and the outlook for this year is definitely an improvement over last year’s team.”
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Day in the life of a UNG-D cadet: Training from dawn to dark

Dawn Phillips
News Editor
Vanguard: Dahlonega
dmphill116@ung.edu

It’s cold outside, and you’re hungry. Yet you know the enemy is there, and you can’t make a sound. You hold your M16 close and mentally prepare for the battle that is coming.

That’s not a bit of gameplay from “Call of Duty: Ghosts.” That’s exactly what Capt. Patrick Moran and his fellow cadets get to experience out on “Rifle Ridge.”

It’s all part of being a cadet at UNG. These field training exercises are held five times a year to prepare junior cadets for pre-camp, a year-long course that all contracted juniors — cadets in their junior year who have contracted with the Army — are required to complete before being sent to the U.S. Army Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

Being a cadet is not all fun and war games though. Moran wakes up at 5:30 a.m. and then goes to physical training at 5:45. That lasts an hour.

After that, it’s back to his room, and if it’s Tuesday or Thursday, he’s got either a room or uniform inspection that lasts another hour.

Once all of the morning duties are completed, Moran is off to one of his six classes wearing whichever uniform is dictated for the day.

On Wednesday afternoons, he spends three hours in pre-camp “lab,” where the cadets practice technical knowledge learned in their military science classes.

After 5 p.m., Moran can change out of uniform and be a regular guy, at least until the midnight curfew on Sunday through Thursday nights. And while he may not turn into a pumpkin at midnight if he’s not in his room, there are consequences.

Repercussions for violating the rules are based on a system of demerits. Each demerit is an hour of “walking tours,” during which a cadet marches in a box formation around the drill pad with a rifle for as many hours as needed in order to work off his or her demerits.

Requiring the cadet to be in uniform for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with no civilian clothing allowed is another possible repercussion for breaking the rules.

For more serious violations, there is room arrest, where a cadet is confined to his or her quarters unless attending class. Campus restriction is another option, and involves confinement to campus for a period of time.

Fortunately for Moran, his excellent performance as a cadet has kept him from facing any of these consequences.

Master Sgt. James Light, an active duty Army member serving as a cadet instructor, said that Moran is an excellent cadet, which lead to him being chosen as a training, advising and counseling, or TAC, officer.

The TAC officers, in addition to their daily duties, take on the responsibility of training the class below them. Moran, a senior, is the logistics officer for the junior’s field exercises. He is in charge of supplies, ordinance and transportation for the entire exercise.

Moran, a Michigan native who has also lived in California, graduated from Cherokee County High School in Canton in 2010.

He knew that he wanted to serve in the military and had planned on taking all of his college courses online. His father, however, had a different vision for his future.

“My father was not sold on the idea of me enlisting straight out of college,” Moran said. “He cared a great deal for my future and pushed me in the direction of obtaining a bachelor’s degree before I made the choice to join the military.

“My father said, ‘I’m proud that you want to serve your country, but you need to get a college degree before you do so. Those are my rules.’”

As for taking his college courses online, Moran said, “I personally did not want to attend a traditional four-year university, but after touring the NGCSU campus I was sold. Four years later, I have no regrets. It’s one of the best decisions I have ever made.”

Moran, a history major who will graduate in May, is looking forward to his military future, when he will be a member of the Ordnance Corps.
Civil Rights Display stops people in their tracks

Maloy Gunter
Staff Writer
Vanguard: Gainesville
wmgunter0345@ung.edu

In observance of Martin Luther King Day, the Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels hosted a Civil Rights Display at the University of North Georgia-Gainesville campus last month.

Sankofa was established in 1995 by curator Angela Jennings and since that time she has been all over the country, bringing her exhibit to more than 2,000 different colleges.

Jennings established the museum as a response to the lack of African American history provided by the public school system.

“Our main purpose is to educate everyone about African American history and culture,” Jennings said.

The Student Center hosted the event and allowed students to view various African artifacts, pictures, and historical documents.

Many of the artifacts were acquired by Jennings during her travels to Africa.

“Much of the display has sentimental value for me,” she said.

Through the use of authentic material, the museum offered students the chance to view African American history in a visual timeline.

The display began with a look at early African history, progressed to show a large portion of the Civil Rights Movement, and ended with an in depth look at President Barack Obama.

“I was stopped in my tracks as soon as I walked into the Student Center,” said student Terry Bone.

Several photos of beaten slaves caught many students’ attention.

“You could feel the ghosts of the people who were tortured,” Bone said.

The focus on President Obama at the end of the display, however, showed the tremendous progress civil rights leaders have made in American society.

“I’m so grateful to those Civil Rights leaders,” Sophomore Leo Coutermarsh said. “Without them we wouldn’t have the opportunities we have today.”

Gayle Evans, president of the parents association, stated that parents want to be informed.

“We want to support what’s going on and pass information along to the parents, the ones who pay the bills,” she said.

Leavitt said he also hopes to encourage more attendance at the meeting to offer more opinions.

According to Sharma, the final strategic plan is due to be completed by April 18, and final edits will be made by April 23.

According to Leavitt, the implementation committee will then take over and begin a five-year plan.

“We’ll start immediately,” Leavitt said, “but not everything will be accomplished in five years.”

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Oconee: Sydney Bham, scbham7160@ung.edu
Gainesville: Brett Fowler, bcfowl6034@ung.edu
Dahlonega: Amy Bailey, aebail8835@ung.edu
‘Chicago’ kicks off GTA’s Festival of Theatre

Perhaps you’ve heard the songs, perhaps a friend has convinced you to watch the movie, perhaps you’ve seen the Broadway production in all its glory, or perhaps you have no idea about it – regardless, the Gainesville Theatre Alliance began its February Festival of Theatre with its very own rendition of the Tony-award-winning musical, “Chicago.”

“In preparation for the musical, the cast and crew are busy logging between 20 and 30 hours a week of designing costumes, building sets and rehearsing,” said Beth Kendall, the marketing manager for GTA, prior to the show's opening on Feb. 11.

GTA announced this week that due to snow and popular demand, the show will be held over through Feb. 23.

Many of the major roles are being played by members of GTA who have previously been in productions and may be recognizable to returning patrons.

Kendall said the Roxy Hart role is being played by Carly Berg, a senior theatre major at Brenau, who played Sister Sarah in November’s “Guys and Dolls.”

Additionally, the role of Billy Flynn will be portrayed by Atlanta actor Alan Kilpatrick, who not only has been on the GTA stage before, but has also directed for GTA many times.

Despite familiar faces, the production of “Chicago” is also bringing new things to the theatre.

“Our choreographer, Jen MacQueen, is incorporating Cirque-de-Soleil-type movement,” Kendall said, “and trapeze-type aerial skills.”

Not only will that be different, but instead of using a musical computer to create the sound of a full orchestra like GTA normally does, there will be a 14-piece band on stage for the whole show.

While the script being used is the same as the original Broadway production, the set, lighting, and costumes are original, along with other aspects.

“The choreography is also original, the work of Jen MacQueen, who has taught workshops and choreographed shows all over the United States,” Kendall said.

GTA’s production of Chicago began Feb. 11 at Brenau University’s Hosch Theatre and runs through Feb. 23. Tickets are on sale now with prices that range from $12 to $24.

“People who want to come need to get their tickets soon,” Kendall said.

Tickets to all shows are available by calling the GTA box office at 678-717-3624 or on the GTA web site, gta.ung.edu.

All UNG students get discounts but you must buy tickets through the box office.

‘Sampler’ exhibit at Cumming library is a first

The first exhibit by a professional artist on the Cumming campus combines old and new media.

In her “Sampler” exhibit, Athens artist Didi Dunphy stitched needlepoint QR codes that can be scanned with phones or tablets to take the viewer to videos Dunphy created.

“We’ve never shown work quite like Didi’s ‘Sampler’ at the UNG Art Galleries,” said Beth Sale, art galleries director.

“Her work is the first to bring such a large world, through the online videos, into a small space.”

The QR code takes the viewer to one of Dunphy’s performance art videos. Dunphy has taught at UGA and exhibited throughout the Southeast.

If you don’t have a device to scan the codes, Sale said Dunphy hopes people will ask to borrow others’ devices to view her work.

“She says that sharing the experience, making a new friend, can bring her work out of the gallery and into the viewer’s life,” Sale said.

The art will be on display in Cumming through Feb. 28. Dunphy will also have a solo show in the Bob Owens Art Gallery on the Dahlonega Campus in August 2014.

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“We’ve never shown work quite like Didi’s ‘Sampler’ at the UNG Art Galleries,” said Beth Sale, art galleries director.

“Her work is the first to bring such a large world, through the online videos, into a small space.”

The QR code takes the viewer to one of Dunphy’s performance art videos. Dunphy has taught at UGA and exhibited throughout the Southeast.

If you don’t have a device to scan the codes, Sale said Dunphy hopes people will ask to borrow others’ devices to view her work.

“She says that sharing the experience, making a new friend, can bring her work out of the gallery and into the viewer’s life,” Sale said.

The art will be on display in Cumming through Feb. 28. Dunphy will also have a solo show in the Bob Owens Art Gallery on the Dahlonega Campus in August 2014.
Lots of movies to see this spring

**I, Frankenstein**
Aaron Eckhart plays Dr. Frankenstein's creation, named Adam, based on the comic book series Frankenstein by Kevin Grevioux. The setting of the movie is a battle for power between gargoyles and ferocious demons in a century old war. Adam is now caught between both fighting sides as they try to determine the secret to his immortality for their own purposes.
In theatres now

**Godzilla**
Despite a recent reveal, Godzilla(2014) has already become one of the most anticipated films of the year. The story of Godzilla centers around the emergence of a giant monster, Godzilla, with an intent to destroy all that stands before him. Using his massive size, this radioactive lizard proceeds to bring down entire cities and quickly unites the world into an effort to do all it takes to stop its destructive rampage. This blockbuster aims to be action packed, bringing Godzilla back with a darker tone and a gritty story. Coming to theaters May 16

**Robocop**
In 2041, Omnicorp controls the world's robotic forces. Using their drones overseas, the military forged them a corporate empire, and now they seek to bring their robotic enforcement home. When a Detroit cop, Alex Murphy, played by Joel Kinnaman, is fatally wounded in the line of duty, Omnicorp vows to “save his life” by incorporating his dying body into a cyborg hybrid, becoming the police's first part robotic enforcer. Murphy must now adjust to his new life as part-man, part-machine while maintaining his duty to the justice he once served as a man, even if that means uncovering the corruption of those who saved his life. Coming to theaters Feb. 12

**Transformers 4:Age of Extinction**
The next installment of the Transformers series, by Director Michael Bay, takes place after the events of Transformers: Dark of the Moon. With the Autobots and Decepticons mostly removed from the earth after their great battle, mankind focuses on using the technology left behind by the aliens for their own purposes. However, their work uncovers ancient secrets which attracts a new and ancient force of Transformers to earth. Mark Wahlberg and Nicola Peltz play Cade and Tessa Yeager, a mechanic and his daughter that unearth the object that brings this adversary to earth.
In theatres now

**Gimme Shelter**
Based on a true story, Vanessa Hudgins is a 16 year old girl, Agnes “Apple” Bailey, who discovers how tough life on the street can be when you are young and pregnant. She finds help from her current struggles in a suburban shelter for homeless teens who bring her in and help her out. Amidst her struggles, she finds a sisterhood and makes connections with the others in the shelter which help change her future. The shelter allows her to break free from the shackles of her past and shows her that her future can be full of clarity and hope for both herself and her unborn child.
In theatres now

**Labor Day**
Kate Winslet plays Adele, a single mom of 13 year old Henry, played by Gattlin Griffith, who struggles with being the “man of the house”. On a back to school shopping trip, the two meet Frank Chalmers, Josh Brolin, who seems to be somewhat in need of help and convinces them to take him into their home. But with the discovery that he is an escaped criminal, the events of their weekend change the rest of their lives for the better.
In theatres now

Compiled by Christa Kelly
Disney’s ‘Frozen’ perfect for the next snow day

Matthew Hobbs
Vanguard: Gainesville
Staff Writer
mahobb4374@ung.edu

If you’re a fan of great arcade dual-stick shooter games, then Resogun must be on your to-buy list. Housemarque, the company that developed Dead Nation and the Super Stardust series, brings us a game that will continue to build upon their reputation for creating rich arcade experiences.

At the start of each level, you are given the task of saving 10 humans who’ve been trapped in cages located around the cylindrical environment.

You’ll pilot one of three ships. The Nemesis is built for speed and agility, but lacks a powerful overdrive. The Ferox is balanced evenly between speed, agility and overdrive abilities. The Phobos possesses the most powerful overdrive but is also the slowest.

Each ship has three modes of attack. You’ll have a standard laser attack, an overdrive attack that allows you to focus one large beam and cut through several enemies at a time, and a bomb that will clear the entire map of enemies in a desperate situation.

Your battle begins slowly as only a few opponents appear while you take in the atmosphere, learn to control your ship, and rescue humans by gathering them and dropping them off at one of two drop zones.

Eventually, the enemies begin surrounding you from all sides until the combat crescendos into a euphony of chaos, blending up-tempo electronic music with explosive sound effects and phenomenal visuals.

You’ll literally think it’s Independence Day on your screen as exploding enemies dazzle while new ones appear from nothingness.

After you fight your way through the phases of each of Resogun’s five levels, you’ll have to finish off a final boss, each one different from the last.

Some of the bosses are entirely too easy to defeat, and while all the levels look great, there just simply aren’t enough of them.

But don’t let that prevent you from grabbing this one as it has loads of replay value with its four levels of difficulty. Not to mention, it’s free for Playstation Plus subscribers.

Final score: 8.5 out of 10

It has loads of replay value with its four levels of difficulty.

Resogun: Grab this new PS4 arcade game

Sydney Motes
Vanguard: Gainesville
Staff Writer
slmote8986@ung.edu

Walt Disney Studios’ most recent animated film, “Frozen,” is now the Golden Globe winning animated film of the year, beating out contenders such as “The Croods” and “Despicable Me 2” for the title.

Elsa, voiced by Broadway veteran Idina Menzel, is the older sister who has the gift of being able to control ice. Anna, played by Kristen Bell, another Broadway professional, is the free spirited younger sister who has no idea of the power that her sister possesses.

After their parents’ untimely death, Elsa is set to become queen of Arendelle. People come far and wide for her coronation (including Eugene and Rapunzel from Disney’s “Tangled”), and Anna sees it as an opportunity to finally be a part of the world around her.

While Elsa is left to be diplomatic with those that visited the kingdom, Anna spends the night dancing and singing with Prince Hans of the Southern Isles. Towards the end of the night, Prince Hans proposes, and Anna says yes, but when the two young lovers ask for Elsa’s approval, an argument between the sisters ensues and Elsa’s powers are revealed – to everyone.

Elsa runs away, terrified of her power and what people will think. She runs and isolates herself from people, thinking that if she’s away from the kingdom then she cannot hurt her people; if she isn’t around Anna, then she can’t hurt Anna. Due to Elsa’s unruly emotions an eternal winter has now befallen Arendelle.

Anna does the one thing she can think of, she chases after Elsa. She wants to help her sister, and the only way Anna can think to do that is to find Elsa and show her that she doesn’t have to be afraid, and that she has to stop the winter that is threatening everyone. Along the way, Anna is joined by an ice harvester named Kristoff, his reindeer Sven, and a talking snowman named Olaf who enable her to travel to her sister.

Despite the rift between the sisters due to Elsa’s ice-controlling ability, they do share one key trait: both girls love their sister dearly. Which is why Anna followed Elsa into her self-imposed banishment, and why Elsa gave up her fight when she thought that Anna was dead because of her.

All in all, “Frozen” is the type of excellence that is expected of Disney. Catchy songs, likably adorable characters, heinous villains that get what they deserve in the end, and acts of true love.

“Frozen” will be released to DVD/Blu-ray on March 18 of this spring. It has also been recently confirmed that the film will be turned into a Broadway musical; however, the timing has not been nailed out exactly.

“We’re not demanding speed, we’re demanding excellence,” Bob Iger, Walt Disney chairman and CEO, said in an interview with Fortune magazine.
Why you should be concerned about net neutrality

Sarah Conner
Vanguard: Gainesville
Columnist

The United States Court of Appeals overturned the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) 2010 net neutrality principles that force Internet service providers (ISPs) to treat all websites on the Internet equally. With this ruling, your ISP is no longer bound to treat all Internet traffic the same. This can, and probably will, lead to two kinds of Internet. The lightning-fast Internet we have now and the slow, crawling Internet that we grew up with.

To access the lightning web, you’ll pay more than you do now for the same services you use now. Your ISP prices, for higher bandwidth, will rise, and your services that stream through the Internet, like Netflix or Hulu, will raise their prices so they will be able to afford to pay the ISPs to stream their content to your computer.

The ISPs are essentially double dipping financially, charging you more for their services without improvement and on the other side, charging companies for better access, who, will in turn, charge you more to use their services.

The two-lane highway Internet has huge and resounding consequences for start-up businesses. Without the resources to pay to be on the faster Internet, new businesses are stuck on the slow side of things, translating into customers not wanting to visit their website for shopping or news in favor for a larger company who can afford the higher bandwidth.

Nervous yet? It gets worse.

Without net neutrality, your ISP can restrict or block websites with content they do not agree with (good-bye free porn) or content opposing company viewpoints. Or speed up connections to their affiliate websites. Companies will buy the Internet and true capitalism will die. Your ISP can also slow your connection to a crawl, forcing you to buck up more money to return to the Internet speed you are used to now.

The Internet change also has privacy implications. Before, your ISPs were limited in what they could monitor or use your browsing history for but now they have free rein for all of your activities on the Internet and are legally free to sell or use this information however they please. Your privacy is no longer protected by anyone but your Internet service provider and you are kidding yourself if you think they genuinely care about protecting you.

The end of net neutrality is the end of the Internet Golden Age. The Internet is a global community and by buying favoritism, the whole community suffers. There’s a chance nothing will change but, as we all know, money changes everything.

Not all hope is lost. You have a voice. Find and write to your local Congressman (http://www.house.gov/reps/find/) to bring back net neutrality.

Fiasnow II gives Deal a second chance to get it right

Megan Creech
Vanguard: Dahlonega
Columnist

As most people know, Georgia was the laughingstock of America in the Fiasnow that stormed in two weeks ago and caused gridlock that paralyzed the city of Atlanta (due to a mere two inches of snow).

As another snow and ice storm settled on Atlanta and the metro area this week, it seems as if Georgia officials gained a second chance to redeem their poor decision-making of a few weeks ago.

Forecasters predicted several inches of snow and a high chance of an ice storm early on in the week. On Monday, Feb. 10, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency for 45 counties, including Lumpkin, and the University of North Georgia sent out a message late Monday afternoon closing all campuses for Tuesday, Feb. 11, and Wednesday, Feb. 12, before even a snowflake had fallen. It seemed as if everybody finally started to get the snowball rolling.

Declaring a state of emergency may sound terribly drastic. However, more simply put, it gives the governor power to get the snowball rolling. It seemed as if everybody finally started to pay attention to the weather forecast and made plans.

Roads were treated, schools were closed and citizens were urged to stay off roads as early as Monday night. There were no major traffic jams and there were no students stuck in schools or buses. Deal’s quick reactions to the high chance of snow and ice storms may have given him the hope and high ratings that he needed in order to be reelected this year.

Everybody deserves a second chance, right? Mother Nature thinks so.

Listen to UNG's Decibel Radio: radio.ung.edu/new
International College: Oconee

I finally left speech therapy at the end of 10th grade. I left that cold and cramped office with a bright red brochure—a set of rigid rules for me to follow when talking to others.

Make eye contact, smile, take a pause when necessary.

The process reminded me how to communicate when stuttering kicked in. It taught me that, yes, talking to others could be a jagged and draining process on a bad day, but if I followed the rules my speech therapist had shared with me, I’d be as close to a functioning conversationalist as I’d ever be.

Communication was no longer an abstract concept—I had my hands wrapped around it, and I was closer to the day when I’d be able to speak words in the same way they came to me: out of the blue.

Writing appealed to me immensely in the meantime, and as a result my journal served as my confidant. I gave it stories, and in return it handed me confidence. It came in short bursts, yes, but it was still significant enough.

The more time I spent writing, the more I saw it as an antidote for my problems. Maybe I could work with it more. I realized that through making blogs and through writing about things it was still significant enough.

Confidence. It came in short bursts, yes, but it was still significant enough.

When I created my Facebook page a couple years later, I truly believed it would shape my social interactions for the better. For one, the website is convenient; you can chat with friends across the country at the click of a button.

Furthermore, you can wish people a happy birthday without actually adding the date to your mental calendar. And, most relevant to this writer, you can tell your friends the witty blurbs that have been brewing in your brain all day. The website grants you the privilege of communicating with those close to you, and without the awkward shrugs and stutters of a real-life conversation. What a sweet deal, right?

The logic makes sense, which is why it’s also terrifying.

A website originally designed to bring people together is now pushing them apart, noticing each person’s social quirks and saying, “Here, try posting a status instead. You won’t have to look these people in the eye, so be honest.”

But how much does honesty count for on Facebook? If these people couldn’t say these things in person, it means the impact of their stories goes away when Wi-Fi does.

I never quite grasped that Facebook had become the focal point of my social interactions until I saw a cute girl in one of my classes the other day. I was going to ask her out.

Then, instead, I scrambled to learn her name so I could add her on Facebook.

“Well, Jesus, Jacob, isn’t that a little counterproductive?” I thought afterward. I was ready to use Facebook as a shield, protecting myself from the breeds of social interactions I’d been hiding from for years—the kind with unpredictable outcomes.

Facebook taps into these primal fears of ours, which is why it’s so potent. It understands how wary of each other we are, and it presents a way for us to work around our social insecurities.

Don’t get me wrong, Facebook isn’t doing anything wrong here. The business major side of me gives them props for locating so many consumers to capitalize on. It’s just hard to reconcile the fact that people aren’t paying attention to each other more, and it’s plainly obvious that the social networking site has contributed heavily to that fact.

Yes, the problem is us. Blaming Mark Zuckerberg for this has as much weight as blaming a fast food restaurant for fattening up its customers: We get what we pay for, or in Facebook’s case, log in to.

The trick is understanding what Facebook is best suited for. My best friend from childhood lives across the country and keeping up with him on the site is intuitive and convenient. Likewise, I’ve made an innumerable amount of friends through the Internet, and Facebook provides the means of keeping up with them.

If it weren’t for the site, I wouldn’t have been able to share with them, at least virtually, the experiences that changed my life.

There’s a limit, though, and knowing that Facebook is an aid toward social interactions can make keeping up with friends the most effective it’s ever been.

I love having a Facebook. The number of social possibilities it’s assisted me with over the last couple years is to be admired, and with each day that passes I understand how to use it more meaningfully. But because of my experiences with social interaction, I became unhealthily tethered to it; the site appeared to be more than just a site.

If you have issues prioritizing with Facebook, do what I did—delete the app, avoid the site for a while and go take a walk. Everything will be right where you left it. Maybe you’ll see someone on your stroll that interests you, and you’ll wonder if that person could end up being your best friend.

The best way to find out is to go communicate in person: no screens, no chat messaging, none of that.

It’s time for us to remember that talking is the best way to communicate, and that other ways, while convenient in the moment, are just various forms of sidestepping. Go have a meaningful conversation, and remember what it’s like to communicate on the fly.

It’s intimidating and occasionally uncomfortable. But, unlike Facebook, it’s also genuine, and when it comes to talking to another person, genuine is the best kind of experience to have.

The Federal Work-Study Program is great for students who don’t need it.

The Federal Work-Study Program needs to be revamped.

The Federal Work-Study Program has a problem. It is a good idea at its core: students work for their school while the government pays for the cost of labor. However, the way funding for a work study program is determined often results in wealthier students reaping the benefits. This is contrary to the purpose of the program, which is intended for those with fewer opportunities.

When a school receives money from the Pell Grant or other aid, it is based on how many of its students truly need it. But the Federal Work-Study Program plays by a different set of rules. Originally included as part of the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act, the work study program was transferred from the Department of Labor to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as part of the Higher Education Act of 1965. As described in both bills, the program was designed to “promote employment of students…from low-income families.”

According to new data released by the Department of Education, the program actually favors students with a lower level of financial need.

Approximately a quarter of students in work study positions come from families who make more than $80,000 a year and nearly half of all students receiving work study attend a private college. Community college students are more likely to have low incomes but make up less than two percent of work study recipients.

Consider that 30 percent of all students attend a community college, but these schools only get 16 percent of the money devoted to work study. Compare that to private institutions which enroll 17 percent of all students, but receive 40 percent of work study funds. Fewer than half of all recipients actually meet the federal definition of financial need.

Money for work study is allocated to schools based on how much the university received the year before, plus the cost of tuition. Under these conditions, Harvard receives 22 percent more money for work study than its proportion of students who meet the standard of financial need.

It stands to reason that our school would benefit from a system which focuses resources where it is needed most.