We are all fortunate to be associated with the University of Georgia at a particularly significant time in its history. This year we are celebrating the 225th anniversary of the signing of the charter which created UGA, the first state-chartered university in America.

It has long amazed me that the General Assembly of Georgia, meeting in what was a frontier environment almost two years before the ratification of the Constitution of the United States, would focus on the importance of higher education. That courageous and historic action still resonates on the UGA campus today.

As I said in this year’s State of the University address, we are the curators of an idea—the idea that higher education is a public, not a private, good. Every student walking North Campus, every faculty member teaching and conducting research, every Extension agent, every alumnus and, yes, every parent or family member bears a responsibility to our forebears to ensure this place is even stronger for future generations.

We are planning a two-day symposium on April 22-23 in honor of the 225th anniversary. The first day will focus on UGA’s past and the past of higher education, and the second day will look to the future. I hope you can join us for that.

Thank you for the very important role you play in what we are doing today and what UGA will do for centuries to come.

Michael F. Adams
President

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Thinking About Grad School?

If your student is unsure, here are some things to consider.

You finally see graduation in sight for your son or daughter. While earning a baccalaureate is certainly a major milestone, you may wonder, “Is it enough?” Is it better to follow a bachelor's with an advanced degree or gain work/life experience first?

Seeking a graduate degree is a major commitment of time, energy and money. It takes motivation and commitment for handling years of intense study and demanding course load. A candidate must enjoy researching one topic in depth, be self-directed, hardworking and intellectually curious. While there is more interaction with faculty and fellow students, there is less time for a social life.

Before deciding, take time with your student for some in-depth soul searching and have him or her consider the following:

**Why do you want to get a graduate degree?**

Graduate school is not the place for those who are unsure about what they want to do with their life or want to delay decisions about their future. But, if you have a clear understanding of what you want to do with your career, an advanced degree can be both intellectually and financially rewarding.

**When is the right time to apply?**

Some of the top reasons for continuing into grad school right after earning your bachelor's are: familiarity with the educational process and momentum will help ease you into the transition, your study skills are still sharp, life obligations are most likely at a minimum and your career choice may require an advanced degree.

Reasons for waiting to apply include: you feel burned out from 4 years of education and are unsure of your career goals, you want to gain more maturity and a broader world view before continuing your education, your graduate program requires work experience, you need to improve your chances of acceptance to your graduate program—especially if you were not a top-tier student.

**UGA can help**

Each spring semester, through a P&F grant, UGA offers it’s “Preparing for Graduate School Workshop” designed to provide information for current undergraduate students interested in pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Georgia. Topics include: benefits of earning a graduate degree, the application process and how to obtain financial assistance. Panelists and speakers include Graduate School representatives, current graduate students, admissions and financial aid representatives and UGA alumni.

UGA encourages students to use the Graduate School resources and attend special events scheduled during 2010 to celebrate the School’s centennial anniversary.

LEARN MORE >> www.grad.uga.edu
A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Thank you for all that you do for the Parents and Families Association and for the University of Georgia. The role you play as a liaison between the University and your respective communities is extremely important, and the input and perspective you bring to us is helpful as we make decisions and form policies.

I am particularly grateful for your support of the Partners Program, which provides critically needed financial support for our academic programs.

In this newsletter, you will read about the important role the Graduate School plays in its 100th year, which was celebrated at a kickoff event earlier this year. Graduate education is an essential part of a world-class university, and helps establish an institution’s national reputation. Graduate students assist faculty with research and provide excellent instructional support while preparing for their future careers in a myriad of disciplines.

Graduate education also is important to the state for significant economic reasons which include the recruitment of science-based industries and start-up companies. Graduate education helps drive the research program, which supports innovation, leading to new products and services for the marketplace.

I am grateful for the ever-increasing involvement of the Parents and Families Association in the life of UGA, and extend all best wishes for continued success.

Tom S. Landrum
January 27, 2010, marks the 225 anniversary of the signing of the charter by the Georgia legislature to create the University of Georgia. In the spirit of celebration, here are a few of the University’s many historical photographs preserved in UGA’s Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Football on Sanford Field circa 1925.

UGA dorm room around 1924.

A typical scene at the Student Union Grill in Memorial Hall during the 1950s.

Students in a UGA chemistry lab circa 1900.

Dairy science equipment, 1892.

UGA Military Band (1906) that evolved into today’s Redcoat Marching Band.

Football on Sanford Field circa 1925.
Parents: Join our Online Social Network

Students aren’t the only ones using social media! Link to the UGA Parents and Families group on either (or both) LinkedIn and Facebook to see announcements, articles and discussions of interest to UGA parents. Both sites are free to join and easy to use. Just follow directions on their home page to become a member, then use their search feature to find our home page. Joining our group will help you connect to other parents and to the University.

www.facebook.com
Once on our group’s home page, click the link to Become a Fan.

www.linkedin.com
Once on our group’s home page, click the link to Join this group.

Senior Signature
The Senior Class Gift 2010

Grads will always remember their days at UGA. Make sure UGA remembers them!

Make a Senior Signature gift of $35 or more for your senior to be included on the 2010 plaque. Senior Signature is a UGA tradition of giving that encourages graduating seniors to support students and academic initiatives through the Georgia Fund.

In recognition of this class gift, your senior’s name will be included on the Class of 2010 Senior Signature plaque permanently displayed in Tate Plaza.

Remember, the deadline to be included on the plaque is March 31, 2010.
For more information or to give over the phone, call 888-268-5442.
Give online: www.givingtouga.com/seniorsignature