

# Steps Towards Diversity

Timeline of African American Achievements and  
Milestones at the University of Georgia from 1960-2023



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Finance & Administration

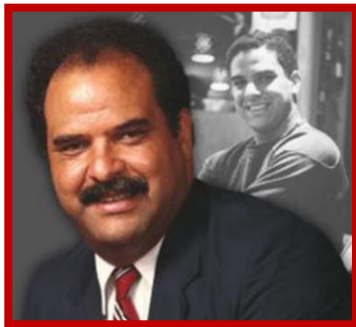
*Resource Guide Compiled by Bernard Thomas, Director of Diversity and  
Inclusive Excellence, UGA Finance and Administration*

*This Resource Guide is presented on behalf of the Finance &  
Administration Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee*

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As part of the UGA Finance & Administration Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee's presentation of the **Steps Towards Diversity: UGA African American Campus Site Tour**, this accompanying resource guide contains a list of the African American site tour locations and a timeline (1960-2023) of many, but not all significant achievements and milestones of some African American graduates, faculty, staff, and students at UGA.

## **Steps Towards Diversity Campus Locations**



**Holmes-Hunter Academic Building**  
101 Herty Drive, Athens, Georgia

Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault were the first two African American students to enroll at the University of Georgia. Their first steps into the UGA Academic Building on January 9, 1961, to register for undergraduate classes left a historic milestone. UGA established the Holmes-Hunter Lecture Series in their honor in 1985. The Academic Building was renamed in their honor in 2001.



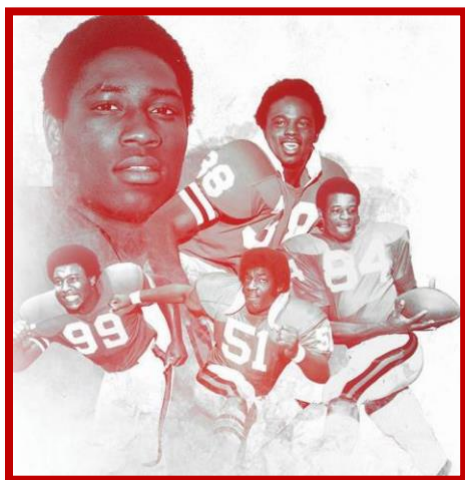
**Baldwin Hall Memorial**  
355 S. Jackson Street, Athens, Georgia

The Baldwin Hall Memorial was dedicated in November 2018 and is located on the south end of the front lawn of Baldwin Hall, near the Old Athens Cemetery. The Baldwin Hall Memorial serves as a place of remembrance for the individuals who were originally buried on this site in the 1800s, most of whom were slaves or former slaves.



***Black Fraternities and Sorority Markers***  
*45 East Baxter Street, Athens, Georgia*

In the fall of 2021, campus markers were placed to recognize the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities that are members of the National Panhellenic Council on the West Lawn of the Tate Student Center. In May 1969, the Zeta Pi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity became the first NPHC member organization to establish a charter at UGA. This was followed shortly thereafter by the Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in November 1969.



***The Five - Sanford Stadium***  
*100 Sanford Drive, Athens, GA*

In the fall of 1971, a decade after the University of Georgia was first desegregated, Richard Appleby, Chuck Kinnebrew, Horace King, Clarence Pope and Larry West became students at UGA. They were the first African American scholarship football players at UGA. These freshmen students were signed by legendary coach Vince Dooley and would change the face of Bulldog football and Georgia athletics.



***Black-Diallo-Miller Residence Hall***  
*315 Baxter Street, Athens, GA*

In 1962, Harold Black, Mary Blackwell Diallo and Kerry Rushin Miller became the first African American students to enroll at the University of Georgia as freshmen and complete their undergraduate degrees. Black-Diallo-Miller Residence Hall opened in Fall 2022 and was named in their honor to mark the 60th anniversary of their enrollment.



***Shirley Mathis McBay Science Library***  
*210 D.W. Brooks Drive, Athens, GA*

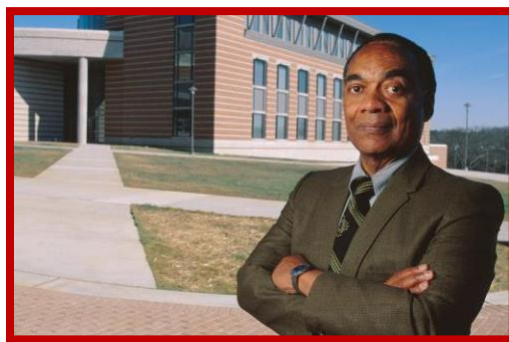
In 1966, Dr. Shirley McBay was a trailblazing mathematician and UGA's first African American Ph.D. graduate. This is notable for many reasons including the fact that the first Ph.D. was not awarded at UGA until 1951, and the university only desegregated in 1961. The UGA Science Library was renamed in her honor in December 2021.





***Mary France Early College of Education***  
*110 Carlton Street, Athens, GA*

On August 16, 1962, Mary Frances Early became the first African American to graduate from the University of Georgia. She obtained a master's degree in music education and later returned to UGA to earn a Specialist in Education degree. In January 2018, Early received one UGA's highest honors, the President's Medal. The College of Education was named in Mary Frances Early's honor in February 2020.



***Hugh Hodgson School of Music***  
*250 River Road, Athens, GA*

Dr. Richard Graham was the former director of the Hugh Hodgson School of Music in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. He came to the university in 1968 as a visiting professor and permanently joined the faculty the following year, becoming the first full-time African American faculty member at the University of Georgia. He was a pioneer in the discipline of music therapy, the application of music to restore, maintain or improve mental and physical health.



***UGA Main Library Exhibit***  
*320 S. Jackson Street, Athens, GA*

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of desegregation at the University of Georgia, the UGA Main Library is hosting an exhibit that chronicles the historic events of 1961, when Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault made history by becoming the first African American students admitted to UGA. The installation begins in the Main Library's lobby with reproduction items and graphic panels that focus on the events of 1961. The exhibit continues into the first-floor main hallway of the building. Original items in the hallway spotlight the career achievements of Holmes and Hunter-Gault after their graduation from UGA in 1963. Fabric panels in the space explore milestones throughout the six-decade journey toward a more inclusive and diverse campus.



***Myers Hall***  
*1055 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA*

Charlayne Hunter-Gault lived in Myers Hall while pursuing her bachelor's degree in journalism. She and Hamilton Holmes made history in 1961 as the first African American students to enroll at UGA. A permanent exhibition honoring Hunter-Gault is displayed in the Myers Hall lobby—the exhibit features photos that chronicle the Civil Rights Movement and desegregation of the University.

# **UGA AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES TIMELINE: 1960 – 2023**



***This timeline of events is not intended to be all inclusive but to provide additional information about some of the significant African American achievements and milestones between 1960 to the present at UGA.***

## **1960s**

**1961: Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault** became the first African Americans to enroll at the University of Georgia after winning a legal battle to gain admission on Jan. 6, 1961. Both Holmes and Hunter-Gault were classmates at Turner High School in Atlanta. After a legal decision was made on January 6, 1961, they both entered the UGA Academic Building to register for undergraduate classes three days later. In 1985, UGA established the annual Holmes-Hunter Lecture series in their honor and renamed its academic building after Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault in 2001.

**Hamilton Holmes** transferred to UGA from Morehouse College in 1961. He was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies while attending UGA for a Bachelor of Science degree, which he earned in 1963. He continued his education to become a notable physician in the U.S. Army, chief of orthopedics at the Veterans Administration Hospital, medical director at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and an assistant dean at Emory University. Holmes became the first African American to serve on the UGA Board of Trustees of the UGA Foundation in 1983.

**Charlayne Hunter-Gault** transferred to UGA from Wayne State University in 1961 and received her journalism degree from UGA in 1963. She had an outstanding professional career in journalism in which she received two National News and Documentary Emmy Awards and two Peabody Awards. Hunter-Gault worked at notable news organizations including CNN, National Public Radio, the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour and the New York Times. She was the first African American UGA commencement speaker in 1988 and, along with Hamilton Holmes, established an academic scholarship for African American students in 1992.

**1962:** On August 16, 1962, **Mary Frances Early** became the first African American to graduate from the University of Georgia. She obtained a master's degree in music education. She returned to UGA to earn a Specialist in Education graduate degree in 1967. Early was employed by the Atlanta Public School System for more than 30 years and was the head of the music department. She also worked at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. In 1994, Early became the chair of the Clark Atlanta University's Music Department.

She was awarded the UGA Honorary Doctor of Law in 2013 and received the President's Medal from President Jere Morehead in 2018. UGA named its College of Education after Mary Frances Early in 2020.

In 1962, **Harold Black**, **Mary Blackwell Diallo**, and **Kerry Rushin Miller** became the first African American students to enroll and graduate from UGA. UGA named the newest residence hall, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022, after Black, Diallo, and Miller.

**Harold Black** was the university's first African American male freshman and the first African American graduate of the Terry College of Business in 1966, earning his bachelor's degree in economics. He retired as professor emeritus of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville after 24 years of service. Through the years, Dr. Black served on the faculties of American University, Howard University, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Florida as a finance professor.

**Mary Blackwell Diallo** was the first African American student from Athens, GA, to enroll at the University of Georgia. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in French literature from UGA and her doctorate from Emory University. Dr. Diallo taught at Morehouse College and Florida A&M University, from which she retired in 2021.

**Kerry Rushin Miller** was the first African American to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in mathematics in 1966, and shortly thereafter began an extensive professional career in the telecommunications industry. She retired from BellSouth after 29 years. As a later member of the Charlotte Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Miller developed an education program to help at-risk elementary and middle school students raise their self-esteem, strive for excellence and achieve their personal best.

**1966:** In 1966, **Dr. Shirley McBay** was a trailblazing mathematician and UGA's first African American Ph.D. graduate. This is notable for many reasons, including the fact that the first Ph.D. was not awarded at UGA until 1951, and the university desegregated in 1961. McBay also earned master's degrees in math and chemistry from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University). After serving at Spelman College as a math professor, McBay became MIT's dean for student affairs and chair of the National Science Foundation's committee on equal opportunity in science and engineering. McBay was an early champion of the need for diversity in STEM fields, founding the Quality Education for Minorities Network (OEM), a nonprofit that she led for two decades. The university's science library was named in memory of Shirley Mathis McBay in 2021.

**Chester Davenport**, an Athens native, became the first African American School of Law graduate in 1966. He graduated in the top 5% of his class and was a founding member of the Georgia Law Review. After law school, Davenport worked as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, worked on President Jimmy Carter's transition team and was named the assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Davenport served on the UGA Law School's Board of Visitors and the UGA Arch Foundation. In 2016, he received the Distinguished Service Scroll Award, the Law School Alumni Association's highest honor.

In April of 1966, **Kenneth Dious** of Athens made national news by walking onto the Georgia football team, becoming the first African American player to don a UGA athletic uniform. At the time, Georgia head coach Vince Dooley recognized him as "a fine prospect." In a tragic twist of fate, Dious lost his father to a heart attack during that time. Dious departed the program following the spring practice. Dious later graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in



business administration and a doctoral degree in law. Dious is currently a practicing attorney and owns his own law firm in Athens.

**1967: James Hurley**, a freshman out of Atlanta's Carver High School, started at defensive end on the UGA "Bullpups" freshman squad as a walk-on. That season, he was praised in the press for his defensive performance, was awarded the Bill Mundy Award for having the highest academic average on the entire team and was a recipient of the Freshman College Friendship Award, given by Atlanta's 100% Wrong Club.

For the 1968 Red and Black G-Day spring game, Hurley started at left end for the red team, but still, he was curiously never given a spot on the Bulldogs' varsity team. Hurley soon transferred to Vanderbilt where he earned a scholarship and a letter on the 1970 Vanderbilt Commodores varsity football team.

In 1971 "Five Pioneers," Horace King, Chuck Kinnebrew, Clarence Pope, Larry West and Richard Appleby, were the first group of African American UGA football players to sign a scholarship to play at the varsity level. They will always be recognized and praised as the group synonymous with the integration of the Bulldog program. They helped to pave the way for subsequent African American players and coaches to represent University of Georgia football. However, let us also remember those African American players prior to the pioneers, UGA football's "pre-pioneers"—those who initiated the program's integration process. Their presence might have been brief, but it was still extremely significant.

**1968: Maxey Foster** (sprinter) and **Harry Sims** (long jumper) both from Athens, became the first African American UGA students to participate in an athletics competition as part of the UGA Track team.

**Harry Sims** graduated from UGA in 1974. After his track career, Sims became an elementary school teacher at David C. Barrow Elementary School in Athens where he worked for 29 years. While teaching at Barrow, Sims served two terms on the city council and later became the ACC District 2 commissioner in 1992, a position he held for 27 years. In 2007, Sims received the President's Fulfilling the Dream Award.

**Richard Graham** became the first full-time African American faculty member in 1968. Dr. Graham began teaching at the School of Music and was a pioneer in the discipline of music therapy. While at UGA, he served as the president of the National Association of Music Therapy and was the editor of the Journal of Music Therapy. Graham retired after 32 years of service in 2000.

**1969:** The **Zeta Pi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha** became the first African American fraternity at the university and **Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta** became the first African American sorority.

## **1970s**

**1970: Margaret Davis Vaughn** became the first African American female graduate from the UGA Terry College of Business. Hailing from Madison, Georgia, Vaughn had a 20-year career in the Internal Revenue Service and then started her own private accounting business in Atlanta.

Basketball player **Ronnie Hogue** became the first African American to play a major sport at UGA. He was named to the Southeastern Conference's All-Sophomore team in 1971. In 1972, he was

named to the First Team All-Southeastern Conference. Hogue was drafted by the Washington Bullets in the National Basketball league in 1973.

**1971: Richard Appleby, Horace King, Chuck Kinnebrew, Clarence Pope, and Larry West** broke the color barrier on the football team. Appleby, King, and Pope were all from the first integrated football team at Clarke Central High School in Athens, GA. Both Kinnebrew and West were from Georgia as well. **Richard Appleby** became the first African American football player to throw a touchdown for UGA, and he was named to the 2nd team All-Southeastern Conference team. **Horace King** became the first African American to score a touchdown and would later play for the Detroit Lions in the National Football League.

**1972:** A group of African American students formed a vocal ensemble called the Pamoja Singers; the group later changed its name to the **African American Choral Ensemble (AACE)**. AACE is sponsored by the UGA School of Music and has performed in many national music conferences, including the Smithsonian Institute's "Southern Harmonies" traveling exhibition in 2013.

**1974:** The **Pamoja Dance Company** was an offshoot of the Pamoja Singers. The group was formed to support students who did not major in dance and provide them an opportunity to explore diversity in dance and choreography. The Pamoja Dance Company performs two major performances each year.

**1976:** The **Black Theatrical Ensemble** was formed to expose members and audiences to African American playwrights. Both Pamoja Dance Company and the Black Theatrical Ensemble are student organizations under the Multicultural Services and Program unit in the UGA Student Affairs Division.

**Larry Blount** became the first African American professor in the UGA Law School in 1976. He was instrumental in his legal work on the last major revision of the State of Georgia Constitution, unification of Athens and Clarke County Governments and the founding of Athens' first African American radio station, WXAG. Blount was a long-time faculty advisor to the UGA Black Law Students' Association. In 2004, the Black Law Students' Association designated a student scholarship in his honor.

**1977: Leroy Ervin and Ron Fadden** founded **Abeneefoo Kuo Honor Society** for African American students. The name means "Circle of Honor" in Swahili.

**1978: Beaurrice Lyon** became the first African American volleyball player for UGA.

**1979: Cynthia Collins and Bernadette Locke** became the first two African American student-athletes to join the UGA Women's Basketball team.

**Bernadette Locke** became the first African American UGA Women's Basketball program's All-American and All-Academic American. She served as a full-time assistant coach for UGA Women's Basketball from 1985-1990. She later became the first woman to be an assistant coach of a men's basketball team at the University of Kentucky in 1990.

**Renee Thompson and Veronica Walker** became the first two female African American track and field athletes.

## **1980s**

**1980:** A group of faculty and staff members formed the **UGA Black Faculty and Staff Organization**. The founding members included **Dr. Katheryn Davis, Dr. Maurice Daniels, Leroy Ervin, Asa Boynton, and Willie Ed Wilker**.

**1981:** **Harold Wright** became the first African American drum major for the UGA Redcoat Marching Band.

**Randy Grimes** became the first African American UGA Swimming and Diving student-athlete. After earning undergraduate degrees in molecular biology and physics, Dr. Grimes went on to have a distinguished medical career in cardiology and bioengineering.

**1982:** **Hornsby Howell**, an Athens native, was both the first African American assistant football coach and athletics administrator at Georgia. After a long and successful run as head coach at his alma mater, North Carolina A&T State University, Howell was hired by Bulldogs football coach Vince Dooley in 1982 to work with the scout team. Howell later turned his focus toward making sure all Bulldogs were prepared for life after college. Beginning in 1985, he coordinated and later directed the UGA Student-Athlete Development and Career Placement Service. He retired from UGA in 1996.

**Herschel Walker** became the first African American UGA football player to win the Heisman Trophy in 1982. Walker was a record-setting running back from 1980-82. He led UGA to a National Championship in 1980. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2018, he was named co-chair of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition.

**1984:** **Asa Boynton** was named the first African American Director of Public Safety. The Public Safety Division included the University Police Department, the Northeast Georgia Police Academy, a Traffic Safety Department and the Environmental Safety Services Department. In 1987, Boynton served as the president of the International Chiefs of Campus Law Enforcement Executives.

**1986:** As a college junior, **Gwen Torrence** became the first African American woman to win an NCAA title at Georgia when she won the 55-meter dash at the 1986 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. She won the race again the following year, as well as the 100 and 200 at the 1987 NCAA Outdoor Championships. Her greatest Olympic achievement came at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where she won gold in the 200 and the 4x100 relay and took second in the 4x400 relay.

**Steve Carter** became the first African American scholarship baseball player at Georgia. During his two seasons with the Bulldogs, in 1986 and 1987, Carter led the team in at-bats each year. In 1986, he led Georgia in hits (73), runs scored (65) and stolen bases (10). As a senior in 1987, Carter was an All-SEC outfielder on the Bulldogs' first team to make it to the College World Series. Carter was one of six Bulldogs selected in the 1987 MLB Draft, picked in the 17th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

**1987:** **Robert Pratt** became the first African American faculty member in the History Department. Dr. Pratt also served as the director of the Institute for African American Studies and chair of the History Department during his tenure.

**1988:** **Bryndis Roberts Jenkins** was named UGA's first African American vice president, heading

the Legal Affairs Office from 1988-1998. Roberts then continued her distinguished legal career in private practice.

President Charles Knapp announced the hiring of 20 new **African American faculty members** in 1988, nearly doubling the number (29) previously on campus.

**Dawn Bennett Alexander** became the first African American female professor at the UGA Terry College of Business in 1988. Dr. Bennett-Alexander taught employment law and legal studies for 33 years and received over 50 awards and recognition for teaching and service. In 2021, the University of Georgia instituted a faculty award in her honor, the first of its kind, the Dawn Bennett-Alexander Inclusive Community Award to be given to a faculty member who contributes extensive efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusiveness at UGA.

**1989:** The **Office of Minority Services and Programs** opened, and **Dr. Leslie Bates** was named the director in 1990. **Vanessa Williams Smith** was the assistant director and initiated the **Black Educational Support Team (BEST)**. The Office of Minority Services and Programs is now named **Multicultural Services and Programs** and falls under the UGA Student Affairs Division.

## 1990s

**1990:** The Board of Regents approved the establishment of the **African American Studies Institute**, an outgrowth of the African American Studies Program directed by Dr. Norman Harris, paving the way for a major in African American Studies which was first offered in 1999.

**1993:** **Telvis Rich** and running mate, **Ron Jones**, became the first African American students to serve as president and vice president of the Student Government Association.

**1994:** **Dr. Ivery Clifton** became the first African American dean. Clifton, a native Georgian, was a professor, department chair and was interim dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences from 1994-95. He also was an associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

The **African American Cultural Center** was founded by the Division of Student Affairs, African American Studies, and members of the UGA Black Faculty and Staff Organization. **Kimberly Johnson Thomas** was the first coordinator of the center.

**1995:** **Tubby Smith** became UGA's first African American men's head basketball coach. In two seasons, he led the Bulldogs to a 45-19 record, including the first back-to-back seasons of 20 wins or more in school history before he accepted the head coach position at the University of Kentucky in 1997.

**1996:** **Debbie Ferguson** joined the UGA Women's Track team. During her career, she won four individual national track titles from 1996-99. Ferguson, a native of the Bahamas, was a 20-time All-American, won the 1999 Jackie Joyner-Kersey Award as the nation's top collegiate performer, was named a Presidential Scholar, and received the NCAA's Top VIII Award (awarded to eight student-athletes for achievement in athletics, academics, and leadership). She won three Olympic medals: 1996 (silver), 2000 (gold) and 2004 (bronze).

**1999:** **Hilton Young** became the first African American president of UGA's National Alumni Association. Young was a running back for the 1975-1976 football team. He received the 1999 Bill

Hartman Award, which recognizes former UGA student-athletes who have distinguished themselves as alumni.

**Mark Anthony Thomas** became the first African American editor-in-chief of The Red & Black. He has since published two books of poetry and won awards for journalism, editing and publishing. Thomas has additionally excelled in a professional career as a deputy director of the Center for an Urban Future (New York-based think tank), an executive for the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and more recently, oversees in the Pittsburg Regional Alliance. In 2013, he was recognized by UGA as “40 under 40” honoree and keynoted UGA’s Inaugural TEDxUGA conference.

## **2000s**

**2000: Art Dunning** was named vice president for UGA Public Service and Outreach and became the first African American to hold this post. Dr. Dunning has had an extensive career in higher education and has notable achievements such as assisting in the development of the university’s Archway Partnership and serving as president of Albany State University and senior vice chancellor for human and external resources for the University System of Georgia.

**Lesley Joseph** became the first African American UGA Men’s Tennis athlete. He was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference player and played on the 2001 NCAA Division I Championship winning tennis team.

**Maritza Correia** became the first African American woman on the UGA Swimming and Diving team. She would become the first African American female to make the U.S. Olympic swim team and earn a medal. In 2002, she set the American record in the 50-yard freestyle, becoming the first African American to obtain an American record. She would also become the American record holder for the 100-yard freestyle. When her collegiate swim career ended in 2005, she had earned 11 NCAA titles and was a 27- time All American.

**2001:** UGA renamed its Academic Building after **Hamilton Holmes** and **Charlayne Hunter-Gault**.

**Dr. Rodney Bennett** was named dean of students for the UGA Student Affairs Division. He later became the Vice President of Student Affairs in 2005. In 2013, Bennett was named the President of the University of Southern Mississippi.

**2002:** The **Office of Institutional Diversity** was established under the direction of the College of Education, headed by **Dean Louis Castenell**. Dean Castenell would also serve as the acting associate provost for Institutional Diversity at UGA.

**Geneil Newbern** became the first African American UGA women’s soccer player. She was named All- Southeastern Conference Honorable Mention as a first-year student-athlete.

**2003: Angel Fairley** became the first African American member of the UGA Equestrian team.

**2004:** UGA partnered with the Athens-Clarke County government and the Clarke County School District to host the inaugural **Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Breakfast**, now an annual event to mark the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday.



**Damon Evans** became UGA's first African American director of athletics (2004-2010). Evans played wide receiver for the Bulldog's football team from 1988-1991. Evans went on to become the athletic director at the University of Maryland in 2018.

**Natalie Frazier** and **Shadisha Robinson** became the first two African American females to join the UGA Tennis team.

**Natalie Frazier**, who is from the Atlanta area, helped UGA Tennis achieve a No. 1 ranking in the NCAA standings and was named Southeastern Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player in 2007. She helped lead the team to win the SEC regular-season and tournament and achieved All-American recognition. She was named the ITA Southeast Region Senior Player of the Year in 2007.

**Shadisha Robinson** joined the UGA Tennis team in 2004 and helped to lead the team to win both the Southeastern Conference regular-season and tournament titles in 2007. She was ranked first in doubles and number six in women's singles while at UGA.

**2005: Maurice Daniels** became the dean of the School of Social Work. After joining UGA's School of Social Work in 1979, Dr. Daniels held several leadership positions, including assistant to the dean of the Graduate School, director of the Master of Social Work program and director of the Patricia Roberts Harris graduate fellowship program. He is a noted scholar on the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia and has been the executive producer of five public television documentaries. Dr. Daniels has received numerous awards for his contributions to academics and civil rights, including the University of Georgia President's Fulfilling the Dream Award in 2007.

**2006: Dr. Cheryl Dozier** became UGA's associate provost for Institutional Diversity. She was a tenured member of the School of Social Work for 17 years, instrumental in the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and the president of the Georgia Association for Women in Higher Education. Dr. Dozier served as the president of Savannah State University (GA) from 2011-2019.

**2007: Juanita Cousins** became the first female African American editor-in-chief for The Red & Black, UGA's independent student newspaper. She continues to work in journalism in Nashville, TN.

**2008: Mark Dawkins** was named the associate dean for Academic Programs for the UGA Terry College of Business. Dr. Dawkins was an accounting professor since 1994 at UGA and in 2004 was named as the first African American to be the director of Diversity Relations for Terry College. Dawkins received numerous accolades for service and teaching while at UGA, including having a student scholarship named in his honor by the Black Faculty and Staff Organization. In 2014, Dawkins was named to be the Dean of Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida.

**2009: Christina Swoope** became the first African American woman to be named a UGA Redcoat Band Drum Major and was voted the Homecoming Queen. Swoope has worked as an esteemed health policy professional in Washington, D.C., and continues to be involved in the UGA Redcoat Alumni Association. In 2016, she was recognized as UGA's "40 under 40."

## 2010s

**2011: Steve Jones** was appointed a U.S. District Court Judge by President Barack Obama. Judge Jones was a graduate of Cedar Shoals High School (Athens, Georgia) and received degrees from both the UGA Terry College of Business (1978) and UGA Law School (1987). He also served as a superior court judge for the Western Judicial District (Georgia) for sixteen years, was an officer for the UGA Foundation and member of the UGA Athletic Association Board. Jones is a past president of the UGA Alumni Association and the School of Law's Board of Visitors. He received the President's Fulfilling the Dream Award in 2007 and the UGA Law School Distinguished Service Scroll Award in 2013.

**2013: Amira Alexander** became the first African American student to play Women's Golf. Hailing from Puerto Rico, Alexander won the 2015 Caribbean Amateur Golf Championship and participated in the World Golf Championship tournaments during her collegiate years.

**2015: Carla Williams** became the first African American assistant athletic director at UGA and served as the executive associate athletic director from 2011-15. Dr. Williams was a three-year starter for the UGA Lady Bulldogs basketball team from 1987-89. From 2015-17, she served as the deputy director of UGA Athletics before moving on to accept the position of director of Athletics at the University of Virginia in 2017.

**2015: Joni Taylor** became UGA's first African American women's head basketball coach. Taylor was the 2021 Southeastern Conference Women's Basketball Coach of the Year and was on the coaching staff that earned the 2021 FIBA World Cup Gold medal for U19 Team USA Women's Basketball. Taylor became the head coach for the Texas A&M University Women's basketball team in 2022.

**2018:** The University of Georgia hosted a ceremony to dedicate a new memorial marker at Baldwin Hall in tribute to those slaves or former slaves who were buried there. The **Baldwin Hall Memorial** site, located on the south end of the front lawn of Baldwin Hall, near Old Athens Cemetery, will serve as a place of remembrance for the individuals who were originally buried on this site in the 1800s.

## 2020s

**2020:** UGA named its College of Education after **Mary Frances Early** in recognition of her work as a trailblazing music educator and her contributions to UGA.

**Phaidra Buchanan** was the first African American UGA student to be selected as a Rhodes Scholar. A native of Tyrone, Georgia, Buchanan received her degree in Social Studies Education (minor in German) from the Mary Frances Early College of Education in 2021. A Presidential Scholar and recipient of a UGA Foundation Fellowship, Buchanan has studied abroad in Ghana, Germany and England.

**2021:** The UGA Athletic Association hired **Caryl Smith Gilbert** on June 13, 2021, to coach both men's and women's track teams. Smith Gilbert is the first female head coach of a men's sports program in the history of UGA athletics.

On November 30, 2021, the UGA Athletic Association hired **Keidane McAlpine**, the first African

American women's soccer coach. McAlpine was a previous Pacific Athletic Conference (PAC-12) Coach of the Year and led his University of Southern California women's soccer teams to eight-straight NCAA tournament appearances, including a 2016 national championship.

**Black Fraternities and Sororities** - Campus markers were installed on the West Lawn of the Tate Student Center to recognize the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities that are members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

**Shirley Mathis McBay Science Library** - The University's science library was named in memory of Shirley Mathis McBay, the first Black student to earn a doctorate from UGA in 1966. Dr. McBay became a math professor at Spelman College and championed the need for diversity in the STEM fields.

**The Five Memorial, Sanford Stadium** - Memorial on the north side of Sanford Stadium that recognized Richard Appleby, Horace King, Chuck Kinnebrew, Clarence Pope, and Larry West as the first Black players to earn football scholarships to the University of Georgia in 1971.

**Harold Black/Mary Diallo/Kerry Miller Residence Hall** - UGA named the newest residence hall, at the corner of Baxter Street and Cloverhurst Avenue, Black, Diallo, Miller Hall, to honor Harold A. Black, Mary Blackwell Diallo, and Kerry Rushin Miller. These were the first African American students to enroll as freshmen and complete their undergraduate degrees.

**2022: Inaugural Recognition of Juneteenth as a Statewide Holiday** - The University System of Georgia adopted federal and state law to establish Juneteenth as a statewide holiday. June 20, 2022, marked the first observation of this holiday at UGA.

**The UGA Finance & Administration Division exists to provide exceptional service and stewardship of the University's financial, human, and physical resources. Learn more about our teams at [fanda.uga.edu/our\\_services](http://fanda.uga.edu/our_services).**

**Finance & Administration Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee Mission:**

The UGA F&A Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee's mission is to foster a workplace culture where diversity and inclusion are respected and valued in all interactions so that we create and sustain an environment where every member of the F&A family and our respective teams can reach their fullest potential. We achieve this through:

- Facilitating efforts to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse workforce.
- Increasing visibility and awareness of F&A's commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence.
- Creating and sustaining a forum for campus-level dialogue on issues directly related to diversity and inclusion.



**Thank you for participating in the Steps Towards Diversity African American Site Tour.**

*The F&A Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee appreciates you taking the time to learn more about the contributions of these members of the UGA community.*



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