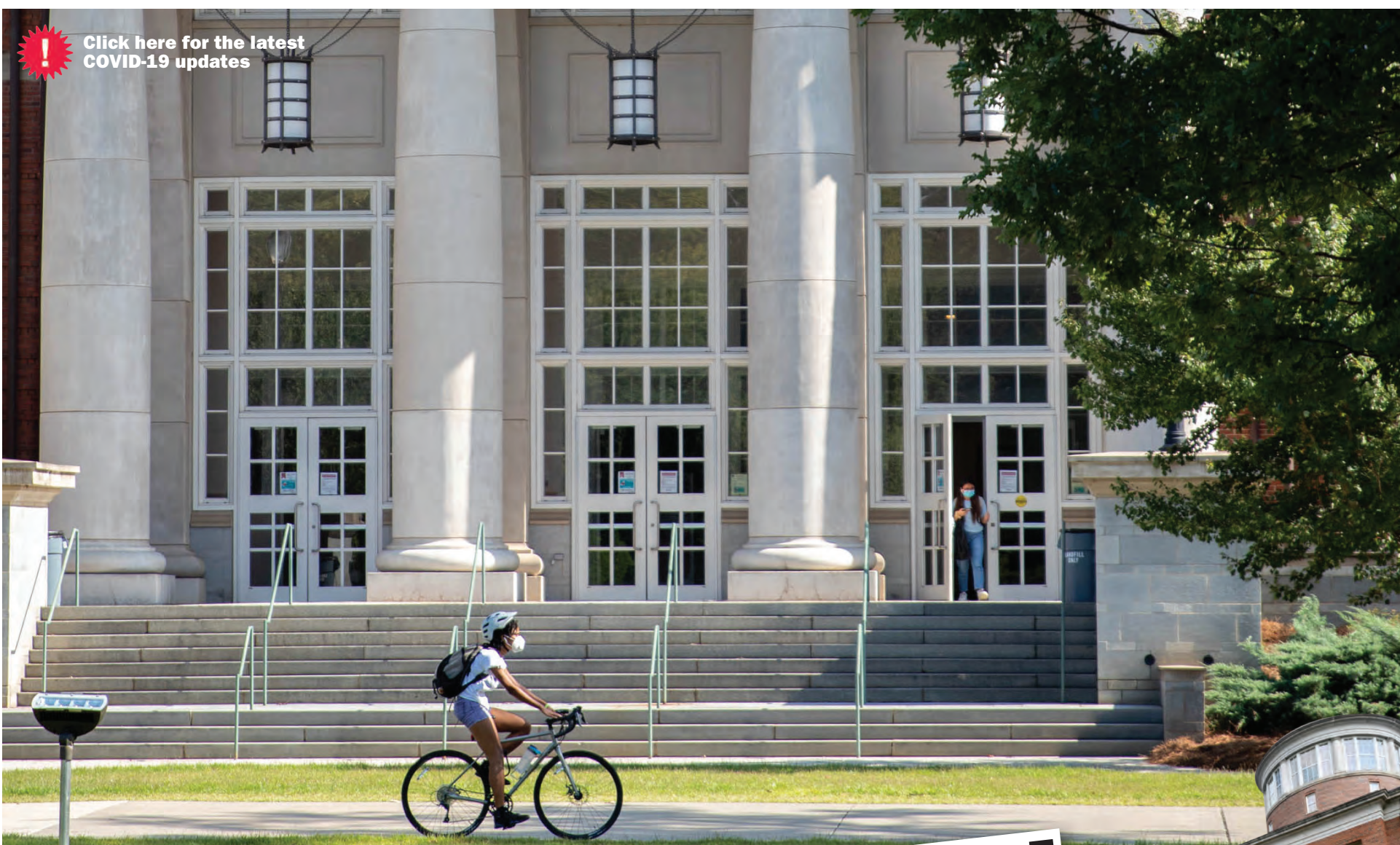
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## COVID CAUTION



## AND CHAOS

UGA and Athens brace for a fall full of unknowns

### A3 SICK 'EM

UGA's COVID-19 surveillance testing program is questioned by experts, faculty and students.

### A7 STADIUM SHRINKAGE

Georgia will hold four scheduled home games in Sanford Stadium at 20-25% capacity.

### A8 FRESHMAN FEARS

Freshmen are adjusting to the university during a time of great change.



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# Debriefing

*Quick updates on the impact of the coronavirus on Athens, UGA*

**1.**

**ACC reported 241 new coronavirus cases from Aug. 17-23**

Although the reported cases are an increase from the previous week, they are mostly in line with weekly caseloads since July and suggest the county is still in a plateau. From Aug. 10-16, the University of Georgia reported that it conducted 793 asymptomatic tests with three positives. The positivity rate from surveillance testing was 0.38% but fell well short of the initial 300 per day goal.

**2.**

**NCAA canceled 2020 fall sports championships except football**

The NCAA canceled all fall sports championships except football on Aug. 13. The decision came after an increasing number of Division I schools chose to opt out of the 2020 fall sports season amid player health and safety concerns caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Georgia soccer, volleyball and cross country were among the teams impacted by the decision, leaving the seasons in jeopardy.

**3.**

**Students adjust to UGA's new COVID-19 campus precautions**

UGA's campus looked different as students returned to class on Aug. 20 amid the coronavirus pandemic. Classrooms were not as full, professors stood behind plexiglass barriers, hallways were quiet and common areas were spaced apart. Signs have been placed across campus to remind people to wear masks before entering buildings, wash their hands and practice social distancing.

**4.**

**Athens Banner Project established to support artists in need**

The artwork of five Athens artists is displayed in various downtown businesses through the end of September. The project generated financial support for artists who were laid off or lost their jobs due to COVID-19. The Athens Banner Project's goal is to inspire and unite the residents of Athens during the pandemic. The five artists each received \$350 for their poster-sized designs.

**5.**

**UGA Greek life criticized for party culture in online posts**

Since the summer, UGA Greek organizations have attracted negative attention for lawn parties, culminating in social media posts that have gained more than 800 likes. House parties popped up late in the summer through the start of the new school year, partially in response to bars operating under an earlier "last call" time. Only one Interfraternity Council chapter has been fined for partying.



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**BLEAK BID DAY**

To all outward appearances, Bid Day, the conclusion of fall 2020 UGA Panhellenic sorority recruitment, was a somber affair. On Milledge Avenue, most sorority houses sported colorful banners and decorations but few, if any, new members. *TAYLOR GERLACH/STAFF*

**Unanswered Questions**

→ **1. Will the University of Georgia move fully online?**

While UGA went ahead with its plans for a phased reopening and return to in-person classes, the University System of Georgia could ultimately decide to close campus and make all classes virtual. Students, faculty and staff have protested and signed petitions to move more classes online, but a complete transition is up to the USG Board of Regents.

→ **2. Is there still a chance that football will be played?**

Only 20-25% of seats in Sanford Stadium will be available for the team's four home games, but priority will be given to season ticket holders. Georgia athletic director Greg McGarity said "over 3,000" student seats will be available in Sanford Stadium. As of press time, the Bulldogs' first game is still scheduled for Sept. 26 at Arkansas.

→ **3. How will online-only classes economically impact the city of Athens and the UGA community?**

UGA President Jere Morehead said layoffs will be inevitable if the university transitions to completely online. The city of Athens will likely face significant economic hardship, especially if football does not return this fall.

→ **4. Where are UGA students isolated and quarantined if they contract or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19?**

As of press time, UGA has not said where isolation spaces are located for students to stay who have the coronavirus. The number of spaces that are available and currently occupied is also unknown.



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# Shared Space



UGA students frequented downtown Athens bars during the first week back to school. TAYLOR GERLACH/STAFF

## Athens residents raise concerns over UGA's reopening

**Jake Drukman**  
City News Editor

Jess Carmean, a retail worker and resident of Athens for 19 years, has Hashimoto's thyroiditis, an autoimmune disease that causes her immune system to attack her thyroid gland. She also has a genetic mutation that further reduces her immune system's capacity to fight off illnesses.

For Carmean, the COVID-19 pandemic has already presented a challenge, and now, her hometown has thousands of new people coming into the community.

The University of Georgia started its fall semester on Aug. 20, inviting more than 37,000 Athens students to campus for in-person instruction. Athens-Clarke County had 2,511 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of press time.

Other college towns across the nation are preparing to deal with similar campus reopenings, and Athens residents are anxious about the potential for new outbreaks of the coronavirus.

As students flood back into the Athens community, student groups have been seen failing to follow safety guidelines recommended by the university. Photos of house parties within UGA's Greek life organizations were posted online throughout the

summer. Days before classes began, groups of students were seen congregating in bars downtown.

Carmean said that keeping herself safe at work has been hard enough, as some customers refuse to wear their masks and practice social distancing. Athens' population suddenly increasing by tens of thousands may increase her risk of transmission.

"To reopen the school is a threat to not only students and professors, but actual citizens of this town," Carmean said. "We have already seen [students] not follow social distancing protocol around town. It would be ridiculous to expect them to. At their developmental stage, they are unable to truly understand the long-term impact of their instant gratification decision making."

If Carmean does test positive for COVID-19, she can expect her case to be longer and more severe than most. She said that when she gets the flu, she is ill for six to eight weeks, and the stress of illness can trigger other issues. Severe cases of COVID-19 can last for more than six weeks, and may cause lasting damage to the body, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Kim Zanone, who has lived in Athens for 15 years, lives with her 90-year-old mother, who is at high risk from complications of the virus. She said Georgia being a "hot spot" of the coronavirus has made it unsafe

for a return to campus. She also raised concerns about students not following safety guidelines. Zanone said she and her husband are fortunate they are able to stay home and care for her mother.

"Some would say, 'well, she has lived a good life, so what if she gets COVID-19?'" Zanone said. "No one should have to die that horrible death if it is avoidable."

While having more people in town can lead to more cases of COVID-19, a lack of students in the city would drastically reduce business for Athens' local shops, restaurants and bars. Haley Davis, a 24-year-old lifelong Athenian, took into account the possible economic hardship that businesses would face if campus remained closed.

"It's a hard decision because a lot of businesses thrive off of college kids and out-of-town sports crowds to stay in business," Davis said. "I never thought of Athens like a tourist area, but without the college, many places wouldn't be here at all."

Davis noted, however, that she does not think the university is concerned with keeping local businesses afloat with its reopening plan.

"I personally do not believe UGA cares about the small business aspect, but is simply bringing students back due to athletics and raking in cash during the football

season," Davis said. "I'm hoping the students will take safety seriously, but already crowded bars at night are not an encouraging sign."

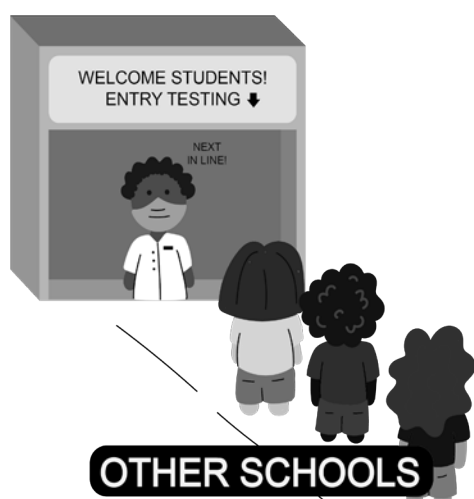
With UGA students returning to the community and some disregarding safety guidelines, Athenians like Carmean who are at high risk for severe complications from COVID-19 face an uncertain and potentially dangerous future.

"I am extremely uncomfortable to work and have already had to experience so much aggression from customers," Carmean said. "As someone with an underlying condition, this truly frightens me."

**"I'm hoping the students will take safety seriously, but already crowded bars at night are not an encouraging sign."**

HALEY DAVIS, ATHENS RESIDENT

Epidemiology experts have said UGA's surveillance testing program isn't robust enough to decide how to combat the virus. CLAIRE BUCHANAN/CONTRIBUTOR



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# Testing anxiety

## Faculty, experts and students question strength of UGA's COVID-19 testing

"Unfortunately, because we did not do entry testing, because the number of daily surveillance tests is so small, because there are delays in reporting results from labs, and the university is not releasing daily numbers, we may not have the full picture in a timely manner and be able to react appropriately," Ebell said in the email.

The CDC does not recommend entry testing for institutions of higher learning because it hasn't been systematically studied, according to its guidance for institutions of higher learning. But it does recommend these institutions consider testing asymptomatic university community members when there's substantial transmission of COVID-19.

Ebell said in the Aug. 23 email the university should conduct random tests without volunteers because students may not participate if they have had high-risk exposure and don't want to be kicked off campus. He said the university should also publish a public dashboard of symptomatic and asymptomatic diagnosed cases.

"Unfortunately, I expect that there will be increasing numbers of students, faculty and staff diagnosed with COVID-19, which may also affect faculty and staff families," Ebell said in the Aug. 23 email.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill tested students on campus and published data on its dashboard, but the university moved to remote instruction after a succession of outbreaks just over one week after starting classes. UNC-Chapel Hill also did not conduct entry testing.

Auburn University and the University of Alabama, two public SEC schools, required students to take a COVID-19 test two weeks before classes began on Aug. 17 and Aug. 19, respectively. Still, Alabama confirmed 531 cases across students, faculty and staff through Aug. 19-24 — less than one week into classes. This figure doesn't include entry testing, according to the University of Alabama System's COVID-19 dashboard.

Dr. Garth Russo, the chair of the UGA Medical Oversight Task Force and executive director of the UHC, did not answer an email question asking if the task force has considered entry testing. The university did not mention entry testing in its 229-page plan to reopen campus, which was published in June.

Janet Frick, an associate professor of psychology, said she expected UGA would test on-campus residents before they could move in. The University of South Carolina, another SEC school, required all students living on campus to be tested for COVID-19 before move-in. Frick's son moved into UGA's Creswell Hall this fall, and she said she thinks the close quarters in residence halls could facilitate transmission of the coronavirus.

Frick led the push to require face coverings on University System of Georgia campuses, and she said she understands testing isn't as simple or cheap.

"Masks were a very simple and important thing to do. Testing is not simple, and it's not free, and there's materials that you have to have that are not universally available. So I fully acknowledge that testing is a complication ... where there's not an immediate solution," Frick said.

UGA could use new saliva testing protocols, according to an op-ed by four UGA public health and health policy faculty members published in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Aug. 22. The faculty said in the op-ed the protocols are "quick, inexpensive, and require no costly reagents."

Isabella Hurley, a sophomore statistics major from Loganville, said she feels like UGA isn't giving as many resources for testing as it should.

"With the news that they will be hosting football games with audiences, I definitely still believe that and feel UGA is caring more about making money than they are about protecting the local community and about protecting their own students," Hurley said. "Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if we go entirely online."

### BY THE NUMBERS

- **300:** UGA's asymptomatic test capacity per day at Legion Field
- **60:** UGA's symptomatic testing capacity at the University Health Center
- **2,511:** Amount of COVID-19 cases in Clarke County as of Aug. 24
- **3:** Number of positive COVID-19 tests reported by UGA's asymptomatic testing program

**Spencer Donovan**  
Managing Editor

The University of Georgia can conduct 300 COVID-19 tests of asymptomatic volunteers per day through its surveillance testing program at Legion Field, yet the Georgia Institute of Technology can conduct 1,500 tests. Despite this, UGA had nearly 5,000 more students, faculty and staff than Georgia Tech in fall 2019, according to enrollment records.

In addition to UGA's 300 asymptomatic test capacity per day, the University Health Center can conduct up to 60 tests of symptomatic students daily, UGA spokesperson Greg Trevor said in an Aug. 21 email. The UHC doesn't test faculty and staff.

Epidemiology experts, as well as concerned UGA faculty and students, have said the university's surveillance testing program isn't robust enough to decide how to combat the virus in the UGA community. UGA started classes on Aug. 20 as cases continued to climb in Clarke County, which had 2,511 confirmed COVID-19 cases as of press time, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. The UGA community has reported a total of 504 cases as of press time.

Testing gives public health officials an idea of how the virus is spreading, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This guides decisions on control measures such as social distancing.

The World Health Organization recommends if a country wants to reduce public health measures like social distancing, less than 5% of its test samples should return positive for COVID-19 for two weeks. Georgia's test positivity rate is 10.6% as of Aug. 23, according to the DPH.

UGA's surveillance testing program had a test positivity rate of 0.38% the week of Aug. 10, according to its public COVID-19 updates page, but this number is based on 793 tests out of the nearly 50,000 students, faculty and staff at UGA campuses. Only three of these tests returned positive, and the tests were conducted before most students moved on campus.

Dr. Mark Ebell, a UGA epidemiology professor, said in an Aug. 5 email that entry testing would create a baseline to decide if it was safe to reopen UGA's campus. Entry testing is testing every student for COVID-19 before they can return to campus.

After classes began on Aug. 20, Ebell addressed the decision to not conduct entry testing in an Aug. 23 email.



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# ‘We will not be forgotten.’

## Black students at UGA strive to hold the university accountable

**Gabriela Miranda**  
Campus News Editor

After a summer of Black Lives Matter rallies, calls to defund the police and unsatisfying responses from the University of Georgia administration, Langston Leake said he was nervous to return to a campus where he sometimes did not feel welcome as a Black student.

Leake, a UGA student returning for his master's in public administration, spent the past five months social distancing in Atlanta with his family. He was wary of coming back to a predominantly white university.

Black and Brown students may feel bound by the baggage of the summer and feel that weight while returning to a university where they don't feel acknowledged, Leake said.

According to the UGA Fact Book, there were 66.9% white students, 8.26% Black or African American students, 5.62% Hispanic students and 0.10% American Indian students enrolled at UGA in fall 2019.

"I've always been a Black man in predominantly white spaces, and I've had to process police bru-

death and violence in communities across our country," Morehead said in the statement, which did not directly mention racism or Black students.

The message quickly garnered attention after multiple students and alumni criticized Morehead on social media, voicing that he did not explicitly mention Black people nor those that have been killed by the police.

However, in a second statement on June 1, Morehead readdressed the UGA community and condemned racism.

"To our Black students, faculty, staff and alumni, I want you to know that I stand with you," Morehead said in his second statement. "I know we don't always get it right, and mistakes are made."

On July 20, Morehead established a task force on "race, ethnicity and community" and a planning committee on "diversity and inclusive excellence." Morehead also announced the creation of community conversations held on campus and a later celebration of the 60th anniversary of desegregation at UGA.

### Work for change

During her freshman year in 2018, Jackie Jefferson was called a racial slur on campus. Since then, she looks over her shoulder while walking through the university and in Athens. Jefferson, a junior entertainment and media studies major, said as a Black woman, there is a fear of not knowing what can happen to you or what people will say to you, even just as you're walking down a hallway.

Jefferson said she saw a "White Lives Matter" poster in the Tate Student Center on the first day of fall classes, which confirmed her concerns that her non-Black classmates did not protect or support her community.

During the 2018 gubernatorial election between Gov. Brian Kemp and Stacey Abrams, Jefferson saw a divide on campus between white and Black, Indigenous and people of color students. She fears she will see this again with students who don't support the Black Lives Matter movement. Jefferson said she's aware the administration has to "play politics" and have ties to Kemp, but she wishes she heard more support for BIPOC students.

"I understand the university's ties politically and to donors, and it's not in their best interest in terms of money to speak on BLM or other movements, which sucks because money comes before my rights and protection at UGA," Jefferson said.

Despite the disappointing response from UGA, Jefferson said the Black students on campus will not be discouraged and will not let the administration and students forget the movements change



Protests calling for racial justice occurred at the Arch over the summer. ALEX ALDANA/STAFF

that occurred this summer.

She hopes to see the university acknowledge and take accountability for the bodies below Baldwin Hall, the buildings named after white supremacists and become more inclusive as a whole.

### 'Little revolution'

Senior marketing major Cedrianna Davis said she also thinks UGA has valued donors over students' needs over the years. She said she saw this when the university failed to properly acknowledge the bodies of slaves under Baldwin Hall and the struggles of Black and Brown students.

However, Davis said she feels hopeful and doesn't allow herself to feel discouraged by the university's lack of effort. Instead, she and others in the Black community plan to hold the university accountable this fall.

"Black students before me had to endure a lot for me to have the right to attend this school so I don't want to say how I feel now is difficult," Davis said. "Instead I'm just going to work for change because we will not be forgotten."

As president of the Black Business Student Association and a member of Black Student Union, Davis hopes to see a statue to commemorate the bodies buried underneath Baldwin Hall or support for Black students.

Leake plans to focus on being more vocal for the political, economic and general needs for BIPOC students, especially as he works with students in his public administration courses.

Although being vocal can be tiring, Leake said it's important to not "grow tired" of speaking on the needs of Brown and Black people, whether in everyday life or the media. Some of Leake's biggest accomplishments are when he speaks out against injustice and sees changes in his peers, he said.

"Start your own little revolution," Leake said to Brown and Black students at UGA. "Spark the conversation and don't feel afraid anymore, and never apologize for how others make you feel."

“Spark the conversation and don't feel afraid anymore.”

LANGSTON LEAKE, UGA GRADUATE STUDENT

tality and killings while in that space," Leake said. "But this summer I was with my family and Black community, so returning back to these white spaces during these times is difficult."

He said this is a "chaotic" time for any student, but specifically for Black and Brown students because of racial tensions, police brutality and the increased risk the COVID-19 pandemic presents for people of color.

Amid a summer of deaths and protests in the Black community across the country, UGA President Jere Morehead received criticism for the university's initial statement regarding racial inequality on May 31.

"At a time when we should be united against COVID-19, a common enemy that knows no barriers, we are instead being torn apart by senseless

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# Opinion



According to a New York Times survey of every four-year college in the country, more than 6,600 coronavirus cases were linked to colleges in the U.S. RACHEL CARLSON/CONTRIBUTOR

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## Being young does not guarantee we'll survive COVID-19 We are not invincible.

Jacqueline Reynolds

Contributor

My 18-year-old brother tested positive for COVID-19 in mid-June. Eager to begin his freshman year at the University of Georgia, my brother traveled to Athens for a weekend visit over the summer and returned to our home in Fort Worth, Texas, with a dry cough and high fever. He was infected amid the surge of cases among younger people, and while we are less likely to face hospitalization and death, we are not invincible.

In the state of Georgia, the leading age group for confirmed COVID-19 cases is the 18-29 year old age group. As of Aug. 24, people within this age demographic makeup for 60,868 cases in Georgia, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Ever since the initial outbreaks in early March, I had been living under the same roof as my parents and younger brother. Over the past five months, my family tried to replace the feelings of anxiety and fear with positivity and excitement surrounding my brother's decision to attend UGA with his older sister. As he embarks on his first year as a Georgia Bulldog, I am on my last. When universities across the country began announcing their reopening plans, we crossed our fingers for in-person instruction, a football season and an open town we hoped to call home.

However, we were selfish, turning a

blind eye to the pandemic's impact on humanity for a normal college experience. After only two days in Athens, my brother became ill, and as the virus spread to our home, reality seeped in with it.

Over the course of about two weeks, my brother was quarantined to his room with body aches and shortness of breath. We wore N95 masks around the house and the smell of bleach lingered throughout every room. While my brother worried about infecting my parents and me, we worried about his underlying conditions.

He has severe asthma, a disease that affects the lungs and causes episodes

# 60,868

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases for 18-29 year olds in Georgia, as of Aug. 24.

of breathlessness, chest tightness and coughing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people with "moderate to severe asthma may be at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19." He was not hospitalized, but he battled the symptoms and the fear that

he may have to be.

I know many younger people who tested positive for COVID-19 and were asymptomatic. Most were glad they had it, convinced they would then be immune to the virus after recovery. The World Health Organization stated "there is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies are protected from a second infection."

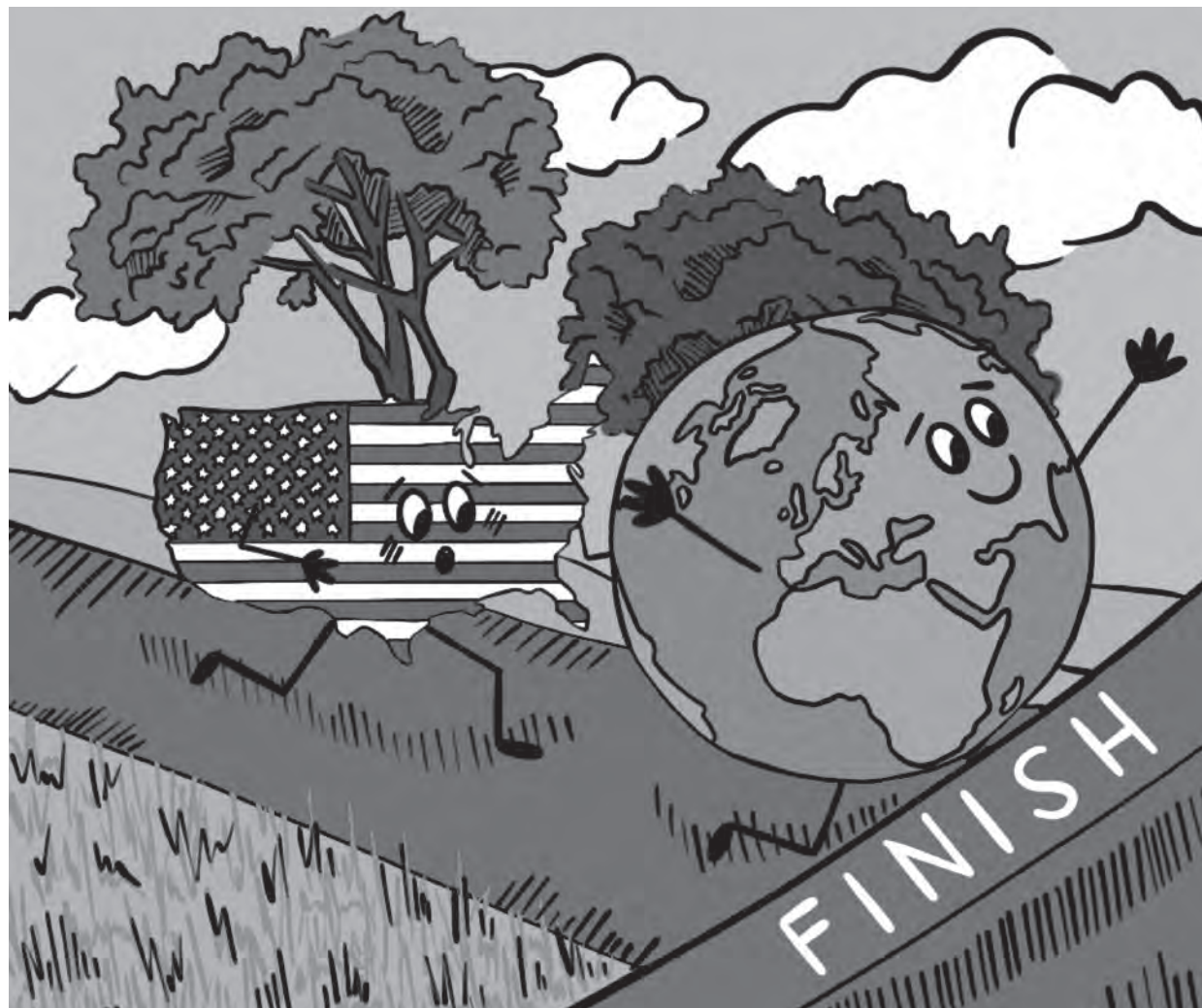
Seeing my brother sick sparked concern for our return to UGA, and that wishful thinking was replaced with the reality that this upcoming year would not and should not proceed as a normal college experience.

During the summer months, the coronavirus had already made its way to college campuses. According to a New York Times survey of every public four-year college in the country, more than 6,600 coronavirus cases were linked to colleges in the United States, and the academic year has not even begun for most schools.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill switched to remote instruction on Aug. 19 and reduced residential capacity after only one week of reopening with at least 177 students testing positive. While the UGA faculty and staff have worked hard to promote safety and wellbeing with their reopening plan, avoiding an outbreak seems almost impossible.

Jacqueline Reynolds is a senior journalism major.

A record-breaking number of Americans have recently renounced their citizenship. RACHEL CARLSON/CONTRIBUTOR



## Leader of none

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*The US needs to catch up in the global race*

Raveena Chaudhari  
Contributor

For hundreds of years, the United States has stood as a beacon of hope, innovation and liberty around the globe. The country was the land of the free and a place where dreams came true, yet the past four years have blatantly demonstrated the U.S.'s decline. Belligerent discrimination, bigotry and polarization plague this nation much like COVID-19, and the world is watching as our once-powerful nation becomes nothing more than a bad example.

While the U.S. may not be a global leader anymore, it leads the world in COVID-19 cases. 2020 has been a rough year for the world, but it has decimated the U.S. Though the virus was spotted in

the U.S. in January 2020, it wasn't until mid-March that the Trump administration declared a national emergency. Even now, President Donald Trump continues to deny how out of hand the situation has become, claiming the reason the U.S. has more cases is because of increased testing. The U.S. has over 5 million reported cases of COVID-19 and over 175,000 dead, and those numbers continue to increase as the Trump administration pushes for schools and the economy to reopen.

Georgia is the No. 4 state in the nation for reported COVID-19 cases, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Due to the spike in cases, many Georgia mayors enforced a mask mandate for their cities, such as Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. Gov. Brian Kemp later sued the Atlanta mayor over the mask mandate, claiming he had the utmost authority to lead the state during the pandemic. While the lawsuit has since been dropped, the shocking revelation remains. If our leaders can't come together to tackle a global pandemic, how can they lead the world toward the future?

The situation in the U.S. has become so severe that a record-breaking number of Americans have

renounced their citizenship, according to research published by Bambridge Accountants New York. Though the majority of Americans giving up their citizenship are living abroad, their reasonings are the political environment and mishandling of the virus. People are fed up with the government and what the country has become, and at this point, there is no benefit to being an American citizen.

Throughout 2019, countries issued travel warnings for the U.S. due to the amount of gun violence. The Trump administration promotes a country of xenophobia, as seen through the president calling the virus the "Kung flu" and his disregard of the Black Lives Matter movement. The government's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic was the final nail in the coffin.

The U.S. has gone from being revered to becoming the laughing stock of the world. Until the U.S. can acknowledge its evils and implement massive change, there is little hope for redemption.

Effectively, the U.S. did end up building a wall. Only it's around itself, and no one can get out.

Raveena Chaudhari is a senior accounting major.

# Sports



Georgia is set to begin its season on Sept. 26 at Arkansas. COURTESY UGA SPORTS COMM.

## Kirby Smart and the Bulldogs know it will take a village to stay on the field this fall

**William Newlin**  
Assistant Sports Editor

With a new opponent on a new date, a fraction of the typical stadium capacity and a ban on tailgating at Arkansas, Georgia's season opener against the Razorbacks will be a testament to the changes COVID-19 has imposed on college football.

But the hard part is making it to Sept. 26 safely — a task Georgia coaches have no choice but to leave to their athletes.

"I think our guys have taken it very serious from the beginning," said defensive coordinator Dan Lanning. "I think a lot of credit goes to [senior associate athletic director] Ron Courson and our medical staff, really educating our guys from day one."

While coaches and medical personnel have repeatedly said their athletes have been cautious since the NCAA granted programs the permission to begin on-campus summer workouts on June 8, the UGA Athletic Association never released information about how many — if any — of its players contracted the coronavirus in the past 12 weeks. Courson said the association plans to maintain its silence this fall.

"Our philosophy is we don't share medical information," Courson said in an Aug. 7 press conference. "On the other hand, we're extremely transparent within our organization. We communicate with our parents with anything we have. We communicate with our staff and our medical staff. We're

not going to release numbers [to the public], and that's our prerogative."

Whether Courson's education on health and safety protocols has been effective or not, head coach Kirby Smart said he's letting team leaders bridge the gap between what they're told and what they do.

As senior defensive back Richard LeCounte may have more riding on playing a season this fall than a fresh recruit, Smart wants team leaders to ensure that individual carelessness doesn't jeopardize the season.

Redshirt sophomore Azeez Ojulari highlighted LeCounte, junior offensive lineman Jamaree Salyer and himself as vocal in advocating for preventive techniques outside of Butts-Mehre Heritage Hall, where the Bulldogs meet and practice.

Those protocols, such as mask wearing and social distancing, became more important once the university's campus reopened for in-person learning Aug. 20. Confirmed coronavirus cases in Athens-Clarke County reached 2,491 as of Aug. 23, including 504 positive tests among UGA students, faculty and staff.

As Courson said a virus-free fall season is unlikely, the team's focus is on risk mitigation rather than complete prevention.

"Obviously, whenever you have a large group of people coming back to campus, you're concerned about a spike [in positive COVID-19 cases]," Smart said. "What we control is what we do outside of our building, outside of our bubble. So we've told our

guys that regardless of what the student population does ... it doesn't control what you do as one of our players."

The fate of the football season is not dependent solely on the Bulldogs. Athletes know that if the student population at large relaxes with COVID-19 safety, both their health and their season are at risk.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shut down athletic activities for four days after multiple coronavirus outbreaks forced the university to move to remote learning. Still, the Atlantic Coast Conference has not folded its football plans, expecting member schools to begin their seasons between Sept. 7-12.

Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Kearis Jackson saw Smart's strategy as extending beyond the practice field. He warned that the student body will have to take a page from Georgia football's coronavirus playbook to see the Bulldogs in uniform this fall. Sophomore linebacker Nakobe Dean echoed his teammate's call to set an example.

"I challenge my student body, my peers ... to wear their face mask just like we'll be doing in class," Dean said.

Even if the SEC's momentum carries teams through to the Sept. 26 projected start date, cautious off-field behavior will remain vital. The conference expanded its testing regimen on Aug. 21 from two required polymerase chain reaction tests each week of competition to two PCR tests and one rapid diagnostic test "close to

competition," according to the SEC's statement. The guidelines require athletes who test positive to isolate for 10 days without physical activity, and their close contacts must quarantine for two weeks.

During the practice period, Georgia can tolerate players in isolation or quarantine. But with Auburn and Alabama positioned in games two and four this fall, respectively, mid-week lapses have the potential to sour Georgia's season before November.

Although adaptability is Smart's buzzword for 2020, health-sustaining choices whenever possible can prevent costly on-the-fly adjustments.

"You can make decisions to not go into environments that are risky and wear a mask to protect yourself," Smart said. "And that's what we're driving home."

“I challenge my student body, my peers ... to wear their face mask just like we'll be doing in class.”

NAKOBÉ DEAN, SOPHOMORE LINEBACKER

→ [Click here](#) for breaking sports news

## Fragmented fandom

*COVID-19 pandemic brings changes to student experience at Sanford Stadium*

**Austin Roper**  
Assistant Sports Editor

If a football season is played this fall, Dooley Field will be busy with players, coaches and officials to mirror a conventional game amid the coronavirus pandemic. The seats inside Sanford Stadium, however, will not be as occupied.

Because of health and safety concerns caused by COVID-19, the University of Georgia Athletic Association announced on Aug. 19 plans to hold each of Georgia's four scheduled home games at 20-25% capacity this season. Students will see a similar conversion, as Georgia athletic director Greg McGarity said "over 3,000" of the usual 16,000 students will get a seat in Sanford Stadium.

As students returned to campus to begin classes Aug. 20, Georgia's plan hadn't enough time to endure everything that could cause its collapse. As of Aug. 23, the number of COVID-19 cases in Clarke County has reached 2,491, including 504 UGA students or employees who have tested positive.

Georgia could still change course on its plan for fans this season. McGarity said in a press conference Aug. 19 that a final decision on fans will "have to be [made] the week of the game at the latest."

Whether fans can tailgate on campus for each home game in Athens is unknown. Other SEC members, like Alabama and Arkansas, have decided not to allow it. McGarity also said the Redcoat Band is still waiting to learn whether or not it will have a place inside Sanford Stadium.

### Spike Squad scruple

Drew Allen, a UGA graduate student, believes it will be nearly impossible for students to receive the full gameday experience this season, as many of Georgia's traditions will be tough to replicate with fewer voices filling the stands.

"I had never really experienced anything like [the atmosphere in Sanford Stadium] and it was really awe-inspir-



Sanford Stadium will be at 20-25% capacity during the four Georgia football home games this season. MARY MCKEAN/STAFF

ing," Allen said. "It kind of snapped open my eyes when we were calling the dawgs before kickoff. But calling the dawgs with a 25% capacity is not going to be anything near what it is at 100% capacity."

Allen also serves as co-president of Georgia's Spike Squad — a group of football-crazed UGA students that routinely cover their upper body in red paint and armor themselves with spiked, red shoulder pads — and knows perhaps more than anyone how much of a staple the group has become.

The Spike Squad has been a part of Georgia's home games since the 2010 season, and it didn't take long for the group's notoriety to reach the national level. Spike Squad alum Pierce Wallace, or the "Georgia Joker," was voted into ESPN's Fan Hall of Fame in 2013.

Allen has been with the Spike Squad screaming at the bottom of section 109 since Georgia's 45-0 victory over Austin Peay to open the 2018-19 season. He helped fill a record crowd of 93,246 last year as the Bulldogs defeated Notre Dame 23-17 and was there when Georgia slipped past Texas A&M by a score of 19-13 in last season's final home game.

Yet Allen doesn't know if he'll be there on Oct. 3 when Georgia hosts Auburn. He doesn't know how well the Spike Squad will be represented in any of Georgia's home games this fall. It's possible he won't receive one single ticket.

### Sanitation safety

As of press time, UGAAA's plan to combat the spread of the coronavirus is to place hand-sanitizing stations throughout the stadium, require face coverings that cover the nose and mouth for all stadium guests and staff and disinfect each restroom the day of the game.

UGAAA's sanitation plan in Sanford Stadium is part of the reason why freshman Morgan Ross said she would feel safe attending a game. What concerns her is whether or not those inside the stadium will socially distance at all times.

"If it was like big clumps [of people] then I just wouldn't feel safe," Ross said.

If the Bulldogs are to have any home-field advantage this fall, they know the responsibility is on them to create it. At the very best, Sanford Stadium will occupy 25% of its capacity. At the very worst, each seat will be empty — or the season could be called off altogether.

"On gameday, all the fans won't be in the stadium, but we're there," redshirt sophomore wide receiver Kearis Jackson said on Aug. 19. "We'll focus on the game. Yes, we do love the fans, but at the same time, we have to control what we can control."

### SANFORD STATS

- Sanford Stadium is the 10th largest stadium in the NCAA with a maximum capacity of 92,746.
- The last time Georgia played four home games was in 1967.
- Georgia's first football game in Sanford Stadium was on Oct. 12, 1929 and resulted in a victory over Yale.
- Tickets for the 2020 season will be available to students, donors and players' families.
- Georgia will host Auburn, Tennessee, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt at Sanford Stadium this season.

# Culture



BROWSE UGA 101, OUR  
GUIDE FOR FRESHMEN

Freshmen share their hopes and fears for their unconventional first year on campus



UGA psychology professor Richard Slatcher recommends students to get “socially creative” when forming new friendships.  
KATHRYN SKEEAN/  
STAFF

## Starting college in a pandemic

**Emma Robinson**

Assistant Culture Editor

Freshman year of college can be one of the most exciting yet terrifying times of a young adult's life. With factors such as moving far away from family, living in a shoebox with a complete stranger and taking on a course load much larger than that of high school standards, college freshmen can face a lot of stress and worry when starting their first year.

For freshman Anannya Das, an intense course load was one of the most daunting and anxiety-inducing factors of starting her first year. Das, a genetics major and member of the University of Georgia Honors program, said she had a bad experience while learning virtually during her last few weeks of high school and didn't want this to be the case for her first semester at UGA.

“I was really excited to take some more advanced science and math classes this semester,” Das said. “However, I don't do well with online learning as it makes it difficult for me to be engaged and excited about the topics I'm studying.”

Das said she is grateful many of her professors have opted for a hybrid-style learning format for their fall instruction. With this structure, students can experience both face-to-face instruction and remote learning at a rotating basis, according to UGA's Center for Teaching and Learning Fall 2020 Instruction Options.

In addition to changes in course loads, the first year of college also comes with the stress of making friends and adapting to a new environment. Freshman mechanical engineering major Garrett Stigall was especially excited to form new friendships during his first few weeks, as he didn't want to end up only socializing with other students coming from his high school.

“Since I don't have any older siblings, my expectations were all based off of what I saw in TV shows and movies,” Stigall said. “I was looking forward to sitting down in dining halls with friends, going to club fairs and joining intramural sports teams.”

Over the course of his few days on campus, Stigall said he experienced some fear about how he would handle the transition. While still abiding by university safety protocols, Stigall plans to put himself out there to the best of his ability and adjust his social habits to fit the new normal.

UGA psychology professor Richard Slatcher recommends students get “socially creative” when forming new friendships. With a research background in the effect of peoples' close relationships on their psychological health and well-being, Slatcher emphasizes the importance of students finding safe social outlets during this time.

“We are evolutionarily hardwired for human connection,” Slatcher said. “And in adolescence and young adulthood, peer relationships are especially crucial.”

To avoid feeling lonely and mentally lost, Slatcher said students need to be proactive when it comes to reaching out to others and adapting to their new environment. He emphasized the importance of utilizing the outdoors during this time as a way to make social connections in the safest way possible.

“Being outside is so important for taking that next step for social relationships,” Slatcher said. “Students can organize a group of friends and go hang out on one of our quads while social distancing. They could also go grab to-go food from a dining hall and go eat it outside at a distance.”

Freshman biochemistry and molecular biology major Courtney Honoré said she was confident she and her fellow classmates can make the most of their first year, regardless of safety protocols limiting normal ways of socialization.

“None of us have done this before. We're all in the same boat,” Honoré said. “It's not like all social interaction is gone forever. I think we're going to be OK.”

“ I was looking forward to sitting down in dining halls with friends, going to club fairs and joining intramural sports teams.

GARRETT STIGALL, FRESHMAN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR



Online classes can pose struggles for introverted students.  
TAYLOR GERLACH/  
STAFF

## Introverts on the internet

*How to succeed in online classes when you're shy*

**Morgan Phillips**  
Contributor

Are you bashful, quiet and shy? Do you eye the exit at parties? Do you prefer being alone? If that's the case, you may be an introvert.

In college, where many of these introverts get anxious about classes, hope they don't have to converse with strangers and pray to get a seat in the back row, it turns out online classes can pose just as much of a struggle. After speaking with students and professors at the University of Georgia, here is an introvert's guide to making it through online classes.

### Choose your classes wisely

If you get anxious at the thought of presenting to your classmates on Zoom or having to do virtual group work, save yourself from the anxiety by researching the class and looking at the syllabus before you register.

“Know who you are, and take classes that will play to your strong suits,” said Anthony Madonna, an associate professor of political science in UGA's School of Public and International Affairs.

### De-stress before class

Going to a class you dislike can be nerve-racking. To combat that, do something before class that relieves your stress, such as listening to a favorite song, watching a motivational speaker or journaling.

If you attend your online classes from your bedroom, it may help to have a change of scenery and some fresh air. Budget some time before class to get outside, take a walk and clear your mind.

### Create a routine

With online classes, it can be easy to fall out of a routine, which can amplify anxiety. Creating a routine adds structure to your day, and sticking to it gives you a better idea of what to expect every day.

Madonna said although virtual classes “have been pretty awkward for everyone,” he thinks routine helps all students and is “especially beneficial for introverts.”

### Take advantage of written discussions

Most professors of online classes make students participate through written discussions. Take this chance to make your own voice heard. Written discussion allows introverts to think through the topic and relay their feelings in a form that is easier for them.

“I actually enjoy virtual classes because you are able to type out answers in the chat window if you want,” said third-year journalism major Carrie Jordan. “Speaking in front of a class has always made me extremely anxious, so the ability to type answers helps me a lot.”

### Reward yourself

After finishing a class that pushes your limits, reward yourself with your favorite drink, grab a snack or listen to your favorite playlist. Just do something that you love to reward yourself for making it through another class.

“ Know who you are, and take classes that will play to your strong suits.

ANTHONY MADONNA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



## 3 places to get masks in Athens

**Janelle Ward**  
Contributor

To limit the spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyone wear face coverings when out in public, even if they aren't experiencing symptoms of the coronavirus. Several Athens-based sellers are offering cloth face masks in various colors and designs, ranging from pastel florals to bold University of Georgia themed prints for Athenians to be safe in style.

The Red & Black compiled a list of three Athens retailers selling face masks to the public.

### Entourage Clothing

Entourage is selling fabric masks for \$8-12. The printed masks without adjustable straps are \$8. Medical-grade fabric masks with adjustable straps are \$12. Both masks are washable.

### Community

Downtown boutique Community, known for sustainable, handmade fashion, now also offers fabric face masks in a variety of patterns with the choice of elastic or ties. The masks cost \$10 each, and for \$5 more, Community will donate a mask to “the hospital,” according to the product listing. A specific hospital was not mentioned. Community limits the number of masks available for order to 10 per customer, which can be purchased in-person or online through the store's website.

### Totally Taylored

Totally Taylored is an online sustainable clothing brand based in Athens. Cloth masks can be found on the Totally Taylored website for \$10. Patterns range from AC/DC and other band logos to sports team logos.



# Eat & Drink

## Check out a trio of new Athens spots

*These places boldly opened (or re-opened) during the pandemic*

For the past six months, Athens restaurants have pivoted to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic. Some closed, some switched to takeout only and others introduced a variety of new options. These three spots were among a handful of businesses that opened during this tumultuous time.

### The Café on Lumpkin

“This is not the grand opening we had envisioned,” read a description on The Café on Lumpkin’s website, as the Five Points eatery opened in early May for to-go orders. Housed in an almost-100-year-old house, the cafe now is open for patio and limited dine-in service, which features a British-inspired afternoon tea.

**Reviewer’s notes:** The teahouse inspiration will surely be an appropriate complement for the string of Five Points restaurants and eateries which it joins and add something new (and necessary) to the neighborhood.

→ [CLICK HERE](#) To read Kyra Posey’s full review of the restaurant

### Classic City Eats

This restaurant, located in the Baxter Street spot formerly occupied by Champy’s Famous Fried Chicken, opened in early March. The grand opening was short-lived, as the restaurant closed on March 18 and remained closed until May 19.

Now open Tuesday-Saturday for dine-in, pickup and delivery, Classic City Eats offers quintessential Southern dishes like fried green tomatoes, fried chicken, wings and catfish. On Saturdays, the restaurant offers brunch specials like chicken and waffles and jalapeño cheese grits.

**Reviewer’s notes:** The fried chicken was still hot and perfectly crispy, despite my 10-minute drive after picking up a takeout order. The chicken’s coating was salty and crunchy without being too oily or soggy. The chicken itself was tender and moist. Both of the sides were plentiful.

→ [CLICK HERE](#) To read the full review of the restaurant by Maggie Cavalenes

### Molly’s Coffee Company

The grand opening of this spot on Macon Highway was a little different from the owner’s vision as the shop opened in the middle of rising COVID-19 cases in Athens. Owner Molly Stokes elected to keep the lobby unopened as she operated on a drive-thru-only basis. The coffee shop offers pastries from Kiki’s Bakeshop and coffee brewed with 1000 Faces Coffee beans.

**Interview notes:** Stokes came to Athens in 2011 as a student at the University of Georgia. Like many before her, she fell in love with the Classic City and couldn’t bring herself to leave after graduation. “A lot of my family lives in the area, and my Athens friends have become part of my family as well,” Stokes said. “Athens is home.”

→ [CLICK HERE](#) To read the Rachel Larson’s interview with Molly Stokes



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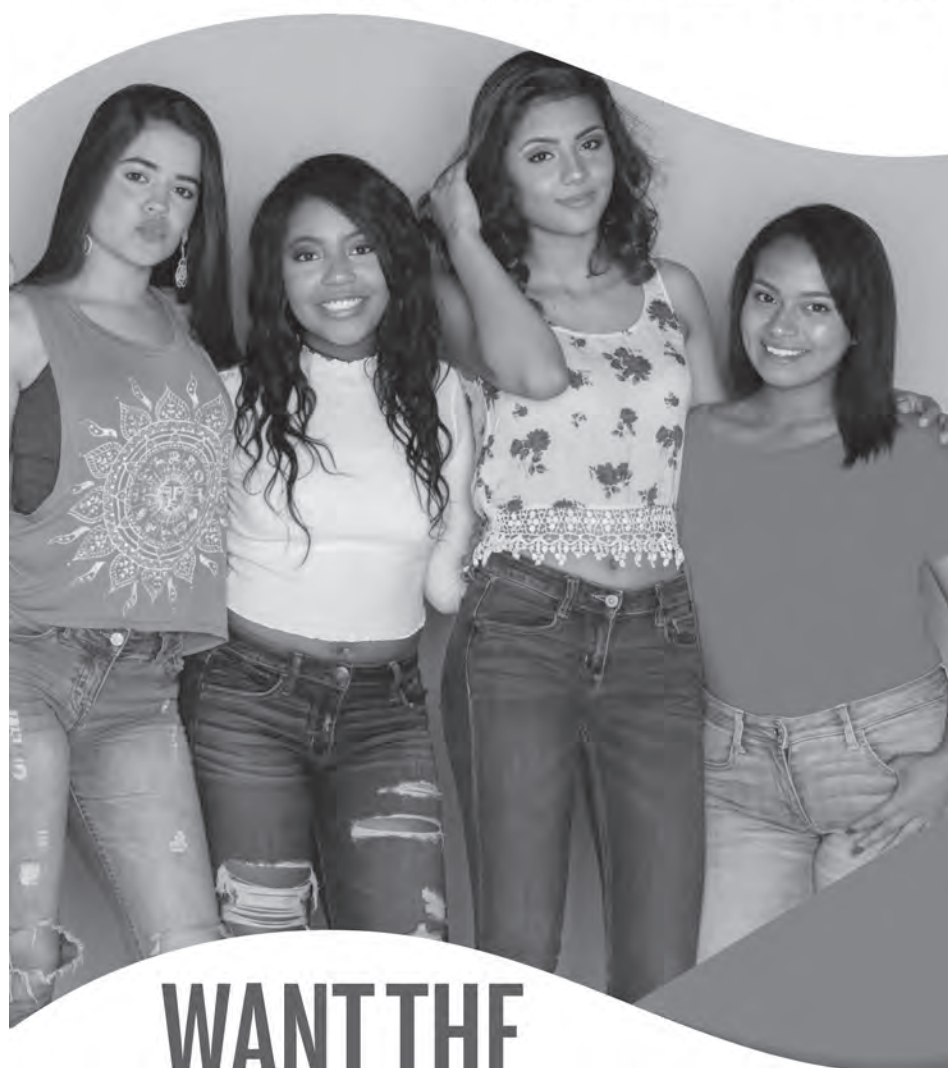


Serving typical teahouse fare, The Café on Lumpkin is now open for patio and limited dine-in service. CAROLINE BARNES/STAFF



Former UGA student Molly Stokes opened Molly’s Coffee Company on Macon Highway over the summer, adjusting grand opening expectations. CAROLINE BARNES/STAFF

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# Eat & Drink

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# Community-driven cooking

*Heirloom co-founder Jessica Rothacker talks family, local food and taking charge in the kitchen*

**Katie Fugett**  
Senior Editor

Jessica Rothacker started her cooking journey in an unusual place — pursuing an English degree at the University of Georgia. She thought she wanted to write novels, but she took a year off school after graduating in 2003 to “figure things out.”

During that time, Rothacker found herself drawn to cooking and reading about food. She decided to pursue culinary school instead of graduate school and enrolled in the culinary arts program at the Art Institute of Atlanta. When she started work at a restaurant she fell in love with it.

Today, Rothacker is co-owner and chef of Heirloom Café & Fresh Market on North Chase Street. She is also one of the newest members of Les Dames d’Escoffier International, a philanthropic organization for women leaders in the culinary field.

“Maybe one day I’ll get back to writing about food, but for now, I’m cooking,” Rothacker said.

### Family business

After Rothacker graduated from culinary school and had worked in the restaurant industry for several years, she approached her father, Travis Burch, who has a history in family business, about opening a restaurant together. They opened Heirloom Café & Fresh Market in 2011.

“I modeled a lot of what I wanted to do off of

father have learned a lot from each other, she said. Burch agrees.

“You know, I have told folks over the years that when I came into this business, I thought I had a lot to teach, and I do,” Burch said. “But I didn’t realize how much I had to learn and how much I would appreciate the things that I have learned.”

### Commitment to local

When Rothacker was 11 years old, her family moved into a new house where the previous owners had grown daylilies from a large plot of land in their backyard. When Rothacker’s family moved in, her mother turned the fertile plot into a vegetable garden.

Rothacker said that was the first time she felt inspired by food.

Fueled by her experiences living with a garden, Rothacker has been committed to sourcing food from local farmers. On the restaurant website, people can browse the variety of seasonal producers Heirloom sources from.

Rothacker prefers this transparency and said her reliance on smaller farms and producers results in a smaller carbon footprint.

“I also feel like buying local gives you a story to tell about where the food comes from, and that people enjoy food more if there’s some sort of emotional connection to it,” Rothacker said.

### A woman in the kitchen

It took Rothacker a while before she was able to fully process her place working in the kitchen. She described culinary work as a “more masculine working environment with lots of yelling and little bit of hazing.”

From her experience, women are often pushed

into stations, like pastry-making, because people often don’t think women can work stations that are harder, dangerous and fast-paced, Rothacker said, adding that she’s witnessed a culture shift providing more opportunities for women.

### IF YOU GO

- ➔ Heirloom now offers patio seating and takeout.
- ➔ Open for lunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday; for brunch from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday; and for dinner from 5-9 p.m. on Wednesday-Saturday.
- ➔ Details at heirloomathens.com

Contributing to this culture shift is Les Dames d’Escoffier International, which provides scholarships for women to venture into the culinary field, as well as conferences and workshops. LDEI is “a philanthropic organization of women leaders in the fields of food, fine beverage and hospitality,” according to its website.

Rothacker was one of six new members to be welcomed into the Atlanta chapter of LDEI in June.

“I was lucky enough to come up in kitchens where there was active work to try to change the kitchen culture to be a more accepting and equitable situation,” Rothacker said. “I’ve tried to work in those kinds of environments and create those kinds of environments in my own restaurant.”



Rothacker is one of the newest members of Les Dames d’Escoffier Internationale. CAROLINE BARNES/STAFF



CAROLINE BARNES/STAFF

things that I really respected about businesses that I’ve worked in, and he was on board with that as well,” Rothacker said of partnering with her father.

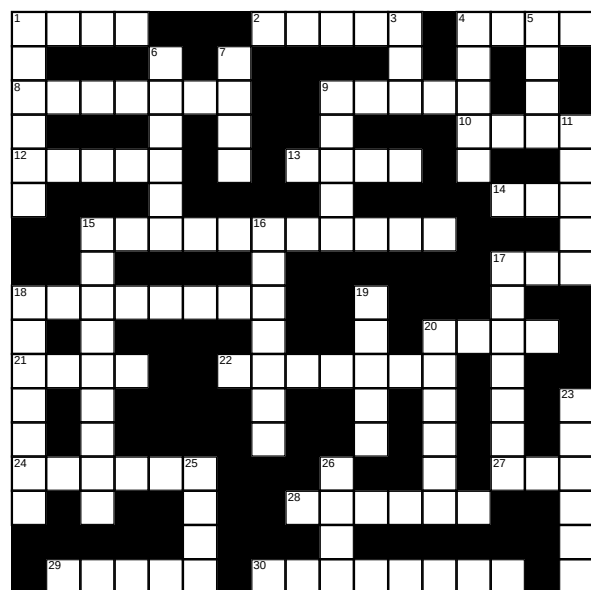
Rothacker said her experience working with her family has been both rewarding and challenging. Since they opened Heirloom, Rothacker and her

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## Crossword | The coronavirus on campus edition

### ACROSS

- 1 Add 40 to this and it equals a famous Athens music venue
- 2 Can be taken using No. 1 pencils — or swabs
- 4 Georgia governor (and UGA alum)
- 8 You should stay this far from others!
- 9 Key symptom to report to Dawg-Check
- 10 Alternative to 12 across
- 12 Popular campus bus route
- 13 Tap this button to keep quiet in class
- 14 Uga (aka Que) for example
- 15 Invisible villain
- 17 Compete for
- 18 Greek word meaning illness that sweeps the globe
- 20 UGA symbol
- 21 There’s no “l” in this
- 22 Classic Athens vegetarian restaurant (2 words)
- 24 Like rain on your wedding day, at least according to Alanis
- 27 Flow’s partner
- 28 Adjective used with media or distance
- 29 Sung twice in Georgia battle hymn
- 30 Herd \_\_\_\_



- 5 Face covering
- 6 First name of chef Weaver, who coined the slogan “Automatic for the People”
- 7 Five \_\_\_\_ Recruit
- 9 Famous infectious disease doctor
- 11 Soaring bird
- 15 2011 Paltrow movie that foreshadowed 2020?
- 16 Key ingredient in hand sanitizer
- 17 Scientists are on a quest to develop one of these to combat 15 across
- 18 French bulldog who upstaged John Mulaney in appearance for UGA students
- 19 Last name of Athens mayor Kelly
- 20 Sometimes vexing portal for class registration (or a Creature Comforts product)
- 23 First home-game opponent thanks to new SEC schedule
- 25 The Classic \_\_\_\_
- 26 Your lectures are more likely to be held here than in the MLC this fall

### DOWN

- 1 Joins moderation and justice in the UGA motto
- 3 Explorer or Equinox, for example
- 4 Head coach



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# Showcase

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## Simply Southern

Life felt almost normal at Southern Brewing Company for their fifth anniversary celebration on the afternoon of Aug. 22. Attendees showed up to enjoy brews and live music while spread across the five-acre lawn. Performances included DJ Osmose, Samer Sabbagh with Justin Hewinson and Max Eve.

JULIAN ALEXANDER / STAFF

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