

University of North Georgia
Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository

UNG Vanguard Student Newspaper

Communication, Media & Journalism

8-18-2014

Vanguard, Vol. 2, issue 1

Elise Perkins
University of North Georgia

Joey Argento
University of North Georgia

Julia Regeski
University of North Georgia

Syndey Bhame
University of North Georgia

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/vanguard>



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Perkins, Elise; Argento, Joey; Regeski, Julia; and Bhame, Syndey, "Vanguard, Vol. 2, issue 1" (2014). *UNG Vanguard Student Newspaper*. Book 2.
<http://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/vanguard/2>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Communication, Media & Journalism at Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNG Vanguard Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository.

VANGUARD

ungvanguard.com

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1, AUGUST 18, 2014

Featured Stories

Campus News

Have we got a club for you!



Sports

Fall schedule



Arts and Entertainment

Discover 'Destiny'



Features and Opinions

Religious Neutral



The student newspaper of The University of North Georgia



Photo by Chase Yarbrough/Vanguard Staff

Where are we now, almost two years consolidated?

Hunter Leger
hdlege7016@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Gainesville

It's been a year and a half since NGCSU and GSC merged to become the University of North Georgia. Going into another school year as a merged institution, where does UNG stand?

"I think this will be a year of refinement," said Kate Maine, the director of University Relations.

After a full year of seeing what works, as well as what doesn't, faculty and staff are at work putting fixes into place.

"I think we will be looking at our processes, and operations to further refine things," Maine said. "During consolidation, some things came together very quickly. So we will continue looking at those opportunities to streamline processes and operations to make them easier for everyone."

Despite the obstacles overcome by students, faculty and staff, the process has had its rewards. For Maine, this is especially true when it comes to a common school identity.

"Though we have a lot of similarities and a lot of common relationships, there were different processes and different

Consolidation continued on page 3

Welcome, from the desk of the editor

Hello and welcome to our very first fall semester issue of the Vanguard.

As editor in chief, I am happy to announce that you will see our publication on campus every two weeks after the second issue on Sept. 8.

As members of the Georgia College Press Association and College Media Association/Associated Collegiate Press, we are here to inform, educate and entertain the members of UNG.

The print edition will consist of articles from the Dahlonega, Gainesville and Oconee campuses. Each campus, also, has its own news website where more stories can be found for each campus.



The Vanguard staff produces videos, podcasts and photo galleries that will appear on our web sites. Visit ungvanguard.com for links to all our campus sites.

I look forward to what the Vanguard staff will produce this year as we are revamping our media outlets. Along with constant change, we are always open to ideas, suggestions and new people to join our team.

We appreciate your support and are happy to have you as a reader. We hope that you will help our paper grow in the future.

Amanda Head
Editor-in-Chief
ahead4524@ung.edu
ungvanguard.com



Photo by Elise Perkins/Vanguard Staff

AUGUST

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
17 Full & First Session Begin Meet Nigel the Nighthawk Dahlonega 9:30am Gainesville 11:00am Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	18 Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	19 Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	20 Donuts with the Deans-Cumming 9:00am Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	21 Donuts with the Deans-Gainesville 7:30am Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	22 Drop/Add for Full & First Sessions Weeks of Welcome	23
24 Roll/Attendance Verification (First Session) Weeks of Welcome	25 Roll/Attendance Verification (First Session) Weeks of Welcome	26 Pizza with the President-Oconee 12:00pm Roll/Attendance Verification (First Session) Weeks of Welcome	27 Meet Nigel the Nighthawk Cumming 12:00pm Oconee 6:30pm Roll/Attendance Verification (First Session) Weeks of Welcome	28 Roll/Attendance Verification (Full Session) Weeks of Welcome	29 Roll/Attendance Verification (Full Session)	30
31 Labor Day Holiday (no classes)	01 Roll/Attendance Verification (Full Session)	02 Roll/Attendance Verification (Full Session)	03	04	05	06

Consolidation, continued from page 1

programs at each institutions. So we have gone through a lot of reorganization internally, of course," Maine said. "Just that coming together and getting to know one another, and building those relationships takes some time."

While Maine doesn't believe this has been the greatest problem facing the institution, she believes it to be a key issue. The UNG student identity does not exclude unique characteristics across the university.

"I think there is both a common identity as an institution, but I think each campus and

student population has its unique aspect in its culture," Maine said. "I think that's going to continue. It is exciting, though, to see students beginning to take on this new university's identity."

In order for a school to have a common identity, it must have a common symbol to rally around. A symbol that embodies the spirit of the school. The Nighthawk.

"I was at our spirit night earlier this spring at one of our basketball games, and you know, we have transitioned to the Nighthawks mascot, and it was great to see the students embracing that school spirit," Maine said.

UNG students took part in the process of naming the Nighthawk. In the end, a name was chosen: Nigel.

"Nigel will be making his debut at the student welcome event, during the Weeks of Welcome. We've set up a Facebook for Nigel, and a Twitter account," Maine said, "You know, the beginning of every school year is particularly exciting. Not just for students, but for faculty and staff, too, because you return to this rhythm that has this energy," she said.

"I think this year has a lot of opportunity for us to come together, and solidify that school identity," she said.

New construction signals new amenities at UNG

Amanda Head
ahead4524@ung.edu
Editor-in-Chief

As the school year begins, the University of North Georgia is looking forward to upgrades and changes on several campuses.

"We are trying to adjust to students wants, needs and desires," said Kate Maine, director of University Relations.

Gainesville

Construction around the Gainesville campus has become a common happening. Last year the campus added 315 parking spaces with the new parking lot added near the science building and continuing education building.

"Students want to park where it's easy to get to classes," Maine said, "and we have to find space that is easy for construction purposes as well."

Over the summer construction began on a parking lot at the front of the school, which will add 229 new spaces once it is complete.

Along with more parking, Gainesville's science building will have three new wet labs soon.

"The wet lab project that has been in the works for a couple of years and will be finished by the end of September," Maine said.

Oconee

Oconee, with about 2,500 students registered, will have 58 new spaces on campus.

"The campus stays full almost all the time and they need some more breathing room," Maine said.



Photo by Elise Perkins/Vanguard Staff

Construction is ongoing on the Gainesville campus as workers build a new parking lot and a new sidewalk.

Along with more parking spaces, Oconee will see a new annex soon.

"Construction on the Oconee Campus annex project should begin by late fall," Maine said. "It will add almost 12,000 square feet of space."

Cumming

Another UNG location that has made changes is the Cumming campus, which also added a new parking lot.

"That particular campus is seeing growth pretty quickly, in fact faster than what we expected," Maine said.

The campus has a new pavilion as well, a place for students and faculty to go have lunch or study.

With the constant growth, Maine anticipates that in the future UNG may be able to add a new building down the road, she said.

As for the Dahlonega campus, no new construction was started and nothing new is in

future planning, at this time.

No matter which campus students attend, Maine said there are new policies UNG students need to be aware of.

The new gun law that went into effect over the summer states that all guns carried by those who are licensed must stay in their motor vehicle at all times while on the campus.

Another new policy is the tobacco policy, which will take effect in October. Look for updates as the Vanguard staff gets more information.

To stay informed with things happening around campus, Maine said all students need to make sure they read their emails.

"We were sending emails because that is the official form of communication and we are trying to channel that and organize that information," she said. "We are trying to modify email to students twice a week."

Check us out online
for news of your campus

www.ungvanguard.com
vanguarddahlonega.com
vanguardgainesville.com
vanguardoconee.com

Join it! There's a club for everyone at UNG

Emily Primm
ekprim3633@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Gainesville

The University of North Georgia offers several clubs for students who want to get involved in their school or to meet new people.

The most popular, making up over half of the clubs total, are special interest clubs. One special interest club is the Second Amendment Club.

"I support the right to bear arms. It is important because with that amendment to the US Constitution, it gives the common man the means to defend himself as well as to stand against tyranny within our government," Scott Graham said.

Club meetings usually involve its members discussing what guns work for desired needs and how to be safe with firearms.

"I like being around like minded individuals who share a common goal," Graham said. "I would encourage others to join by informing them of their rights and how it would make

them a great patriot for standing up for their fellow man."

In Fandom, another special interest club, members can hold positions such as president, vice president and so forth within the club as a means of organization and opportunity for leadership.

Positions are filled for now, but will be up for grabs this semester. The club is all about encouraging interaction with the student body.



Photo by Angelica Beltran/Vanguard Staff
Fandom Club showing their spirit at New Student Orientation

"We try to host tournaments for Magic and Yu-Gi-Oh, which I see a lot of students playing around campus," Amber Dean said.

Last year Fandom hosted two scavenger hunts that were open to the whole student body and used the outdoor trails and woods on the Gainesville campus, Dean said.

Each meeting of Fandom focuses on a different things such as card games, video games, Harry Potter, TV programs like "Doctor Who," "Sherlock" and comic books. Students can even debate things such as who's the better superhe-

ro or what comic book universe is the best.

"If we find new members with different interests, we ask them to tell us why they love what they do," Dean said. "We're just people who really like to nerd-out over things and want others to do that with us."

A busy school and work schedule can make it hard for some students, like Nick Zervas, to get involved in a club. Other times, they want more diversity.

Zervas, who remains unaffiliated with any club, hopes for a less than busy schedule this semester, but if he joined a club he would want to join an Improv Club.

"A little bit of humor would make anyone's bad day a better one," Zervas said. "I think it would help relieve stress from school and get people to interact and socialize with one another."

UNG's clubs offer students a way to feel they are a part of a big school in more than just their academics. With so many to choose from, there's no reason to not find one to like, Dean said.

Dean said being part of a club is important because it is where she met almost all of her friends at school and was able to talk to people she had things in common with.

"We love the friendships that come out from that and we accept anyone who's interested," she said. "My club-mates are now some of my very best friends. I hope we can do that for so many more people."

For more information on clubs, check out the school's website under Student Life or attend the club fair during Weeks of Welcome.

Oconee art program to expand with donation to local arts foundation

Sydney Bham
Scbham7160@ung.edu
Managing Editor-Oconee

The Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation received \$50,000 on July 25 from The University of North Georgia and the UNG Foundation, according to news@UNG. The money will be used for repairs and renovations for OCAF's 112-year-old building along with School Street Studios and Rocket Hall, all of which make up the OCAF complex.

OCAF has allowed the university to hold art classes in their facilities for several years now. Founded in 1994, OCAF is an all-volunteer, nonprofit arts center located on Oconee County. OCAF offers programs and classes in the performing, visual, and literary arts.

Have an interest in writing?
Photography? Broadcasting? Video
production? Teamwork?

Come join our team!

Email us at
[ungvanguard@gmail.com!](mailto:ungvanguard@gmail.com)

Nighthawk sports start off the fall season

Thursday, Sept. 4 @ 6 p.m.

Men's soccer vs. Barry University

Friday, Sept. 5 @ Spartanburg, S.C.

Women's cross country vs. USC Upstate

Friday, Sept. 5 @ 4 p.m.

Women's soccer vs. Valdosta State

Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 11 a.m.

Men's soccer vs. Nova Southeastern

Sunday, Sept. 7 @ 2 p.m.

Women's soccer vs. Lees-McRae

Monday, Sept. 8 @ Sevierville, Tenn.

Men's golf at Smokey Mountain Invitational

All games are at the Dahlonega campus unless noted.



Photo courtesy UNG-Joshua L. Jones

Find your inner jock with UNG intramural sports



Photo courtesy UNG-Joshua L. Jones
Students at UNG Oconee enjoy intramural sports on their campus by playing flag football.

UNG offers a variety of recreational sports in a safe environment to create a life-long involvement across all campuses.

The hope is to create a setting that promotes a sense of community and belonging while developing meaningful life skills, promoting physical fitness and healthy habits, encouraging personal achievements, and improving the overall social, mental, and physical well-being.

Please visit the imleagues webpage for more information about intramurals and how to register. www.imleagues.com

Look for the Fall 2014 lineup on your campus.

Dahlonega

- 3v3 Basketball (Men's and Women's)
- Flag Football (Men's, Women's, and CoRec)
- Indoor Volleyball (Men's, Women's, and CoRec)
- Recreational Soccer (Men's, Women's, and CoRec)
- Sand Volleyball (Men's, Women's, and CoRec)
- Ultimate Frisbee (Men's and Women's)
- Wiffleball (Men's and Women's)

Gainesville

- Bowling
- Flag Football
- Soccer
- Singles Tennis
- Volleyball
- Kickball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Swim Meet

Oconee

- Flag Football
- Volleyball

'Destiny' worth the wait

Matthew Hobbs
mahobb4374@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Gainesville

The highly anticipated release of Destiny is closing in, and Bungie, developer of the Halo series, has gamers all riled up about their \$500 million baby.

While certain elements of the Halo series do reflect in Destiny, it should make for a distinguished, unique and beautiful MMO experience, boasting superior in-depth modification capabilities and vast territories setting it apart from other similar MMO shooters.

In Destiny, you'll choose from three classes of characters to develop. The Titan is your typical soldier. The Warlock, they use magic. Then there are the Hunters, which are your sneaky bastards.

For each character, you'll have two focuses, which are what ultimately determine your super power, plus some extra abilities, all of which can be upgraded.

Each character is allowed three weapon slots for primary, special and heavy weapons to be carried at all times. In addition, each character will have five slots for extra gear and three vanity slots, which allow customization of appearance for your ship, vehicle and your hovering companion, the ghost.

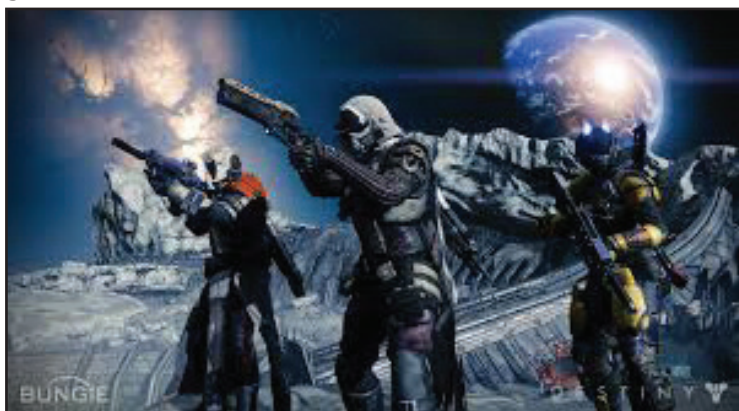
After character creation, you'll have a few options for gameplay and tons of side quests to distract you from leveling up really fast but may result in finding interesting things and or makin' buddies.

Story mode will progress you through the campaign, but if you're looking for co-op destruction then Strikes will be your game. If you are more of the explorer-type, then Explore mode will allow you the adventure you crave. Unfortunately though, an internet connection is required to play all modes, including story missions.

You can play Destiny September 9 on Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3, or PlayStation 4. Bungie has not confirmed a PC version, but Steam's Database currently shows Destiny will be available on PC in March of 2015.

After playing both the Alpha and Beta for Destiny, I can definitely say the full game will be very pleasing graphically. The shooting mechanics were a bit wacky, but this was not the final product I experienced. The complete game is sure to implement tighter shooting in addition to a host of other improvements.

Although confirmed day-one DLC has gamers rightfully irritated, Destiny seems like a game that simply can't be ignored.



Creative Corner

Original Student Submissions

Do Not

Sydney Motes
slmote8986@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Gainesville

- I. Do not ask me about him (because I'll have to tell you that I still love him).
- II. Do not ask why certain people we pass cause my steps to falter as if I'm suddenly walking on red Georgia clay in the middle of a summer storm (because I'll have to tell you that their eyes match his).
- III. Do not look at me with an ocean of pity in your eyes as you hold out your unblemished hands to help me up off the floor after I've decided that whatever is outside my door is not worth discovering today (because I'll have to tell you that he would have sat down beside me and tried to figure out which spot on the wall had my attention).
- IV. Do not ask me about that scar – you know which one (because I'll have to tell you that it's story is one I cannot tell without the drumming of rain and the beeping of his heart monitor drowning out the melody of his voice in my head).
- V. Do not ask me on a date because my answer will be no (because I'll have to tell you that my heart is broken and I would never wish my pain on anyone).
- VI. Do not ask why (because I'll have to tell you that I have no answer).
- VII. Do not look at me when you leave (because I'll get up off the floor eventually-without your helping hand, and without his steadfast comfort).

Want to submit your own work? Email us! - ungvanguard@gmail.com

Religious neutrality still an issue at UNG

Saara Wintersgill
sewint3414@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Dahlonega

“In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”

The Corps of Cadets’ previous chaplain Matthew McClure ended his prayer at the spring 2014 Memorial Retreat with those words, and they did not rest easy with many cadets and guests in attendance.

It’s not a new issue. A number of University of North Georgia students have felt uneasy with prayer at school-sponsored events for years.

In late 2012, the Freedom from Religion

Foundation issued the statement on their website, “North Georgia College & State University will no longer be including prayers at University-sponsored events after receiving a letter from the Freedom from Religion Foundation. A concerned student informed FFRF that at an event that was mandatory for some students, faculty members led everyone in several Christian prayers. ... An attorney for the school responded on Dec. 13, writing that the president would ‘remind [all faculty and staff] that prayers shall not be included in University-sponsored events.’”

Being that the university did not uphold their promise of prayers not being included in school-sponsored events, students in spring 2014 formed a group -- unaffiliated with Student Life at the university -- dubbed Students for Secular Freedom.

The SSF gathered video recordings of the Military Retreat and other Corps events, in part with the student organization Skeptics Society at UNG, and submitted them to blogger Hemant Mehta, more popularly known as The Friendly Atheist on the Patheos blog site. Mehta wrote an article, shared a petition started by Skeptics president David Gormley, and acquired both local and nationwide support for the SSF’s cause.

UNG junior Rachel Glazer said on the petition website, “I fully support this petition, and this there are several simple alternatives to mandated religious prayer—why not do a moment of silence or private meditation? Hard-working students should not be made to feel uncomfortable or like they don’t belong at an event that is for them. Let’s hope that future event organiz-

ers can recognize the inequality in the current format and make these ceremonies relevant to more than just one population.”

Alexander Gray, a UNG senior, said, “As a student of UNG, my tuition and fees help to fund these events, and, as a nonreligious person, I do not want those funds to go towards sectarian prayer.”

The SSF contacted the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which took up the case on the SSF’s behalf.

From there, Michael “Mikey” Weinstein, founder and president of the MRFF, sent a letter to the university, quoting in part: “As UNG is a

public school, which is funded by both the state and federal government, it is lawfully required to maintain religious neutrality. ... In addition to UNG-sponsored Christian prayers, it has been brought to our attention that you have developed an exclusively Christian Chaplain Corps. ... Any active or retired military officer, or enlisted member for that matter, who does not recognize that the Army’s Chaplaincy is designed to support the spiritual needs of ALL service members regardless

of faith is guilty of willful ignorance. ... We currently represent numerous civilian students and military cadets at UNG, and it is their request that prior to taking this case to the courts of law and public opinion, we schedule a face to face meeting with as many of you as possible in order to resolve this issue as courteously as possible.”

The Students for Secular Freedom asked for the university to instead implement a moment of silence, which, in their words from a memorandum sent to Col. Palmer, “would allow both religious, and non-religious, participants of these ceremonies the ability to remain observant of their various belief systems, while not being offensive to those which hold none.”

A meeting between university officials and the Military Religious Freedom Foundation is to be held Monday, Aug. 18, at 3:30 p.m. on the second floor of Young in Dahlonega. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Details can be found on the UNG-Students for Secular Freedom’s Facebook page.



Photo by Elise Perkins/Vanguard Staff

Preparing for Fall Semester 101

Breanna Langston
bmlang6740@ung.edu
Staff Writer-Gainesville

As the summer is winding down and everyone is getting ready to start the new school year there are a few things that you should know as a new student.

NO ONE WILL PUSH YOU: If you fall behind in class no one is going to be there to push you to get back onto track. If you fall behind and don’t do the work you will fail.

DON’T ABUSE ATTENDANCE: Some teachers will be very relaxed on attendance; don’t take advantage of this. There will also be teachers who will be very strict on attendance and will require you to be in class daily or it will result in point deductions off your final grade. Make sure you know your teachers’ policies upon entering the class.

BREAKS BETWEEN CLASSES: Free time will lose its charm quickly. In the beginning you will be very determined to use that in-between class time to get caught up on work but as the semester progresses you will want to just spend it goofing off. Do yourself a favor and continue using that time wisely instead of wasting it.

DON’T BRAG: No one cares how you dress, what your grades are, if you did your homework last night, or how late you stayed out partying. People come to class to learn and are not there to find out what you did over the weekend, so keep it to yourself.

USE YOUR RESOURCES: If you notice you are falling behind or can’t swing a class then reach out to the tutors in the department for extra help. You can also visit the counseling offices for advice on your current goals and future goals. Your tuition pays for these services so you should use them to your advantage. Another option is to simply ask your teachers for help. If they know you are trying to succeed, they will more than likely help you out to keep you from failing.

Nigel Nighthawk? Really?

Colin Ochs
ctochs4561@ung.edu
News Editor-Gainesville

In case you haven't heard, our new mascot's name is Nigel the Nighthawk. Whoop-de-freakin-doo, is my response to that. It's boring, dull, lame, and makes you want to yawn.

Nigel doesn't stand out. It blends in with the crowd. We had a perfect chance to create the mascot of all mascots. One that would be talked about for ages. I'm talking about Mike Hawk.

Don't get it? Say it out loud. Now five times fast. Funny, right? Controversial? Of course. But what memorable moment in history wasn't without a little controversy

Picture it, everyone sitting on the edge of their seat in the gymnasium before a basketball game, anxiously awaiting the introduction of their beloved mascot, Mike Hawk.

"And now here comes Mike Hawk" rings out over the PA system and everyone erupts, "Mike Hawk, Mike Hawk, Mike Hawk."

Now imagine "Nigel, Nigel, Nigel." I know, right? One of these things is not like the other, one of these things is lame and it's not Mike Hawk.

But what about the kids? The kids too young for this kind of humor won't get it and those who get it have heard a lot worse. Forty-five percent of my vernacular in the fifth grade consisted of curse words, so yeah. Chill the f@#% out, parents.

I'm tired of social progress being

stunted in this country because we're worried about the children. Elementary school students don't go to this university, I go to this university, and I love Mike Hawk.

Nigel is kid friendly, but kid friendly doesn't appeal to college students. When I think of the name Nigel, I think of Nigel Thornberry of the Wild Thornberry's, a kids' show that aired on Nickelodeon back in the day. A red-headed ginger with messed up teeth and a lisp or asthma or a really stupid British accent (I can't tell, it all sounds the same to me).

I know that geek chic or whatever is in right now, but will it be 10-20 years into the future. Dirty jokes have been and will always be funny. Mike Hawk is timeless. That one doesn't even make much sense, and I still laughed. Point, Mike Hawk. See, I can't stop. Mike Hawk is a classic. There I go again.

I want to make a plea to the entire UNG student body. I say we all do what the administration didn't have the guts to do and unofficially adopt Mike Hawk as the name of our school mascot. I want "Mike Hawk" to echo in the gym. I want "Mike Hawk" to ring through the halls. I want "Mike Hawk" on the lips of every boy and girl at this university.

I know we can do it. We are college students. We can accomplish anything we put our minds to, especially if it is stupid and requires little to no effort. We have a chance to start a new school tradition for our new school and I say we take it and never look back. Sorry Nigel, but Mike Hawk's better.

www.ungvanguard.com
vanguarddahlonega.com
vanguardgainesville.com
vanguardoconee.com



ungvanguard@gmail.com

www.ungvanguard.com
vanguarddahlonega.com
vanguardgainesville.com
vanguardoconee.com

*We Want You To
Connect With Us!*



The staff strives to inform, educate, and entertain the members of the UNG community, and we are open to all ideas and opinions held by members of that community.

The paper does not necessarily reflect the opinions of UNG's administration, faculty or staff. All ideas expressed in Opinion articles are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of newspaper editors and staff members.