

# THE HUDDLE



Volume L VIII • The official newsletter of the University of Georgia Football Lettermen's Club

Spring 2024

## Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Officers and Executive Committee 2024

### Officers

President	Mack H. Guest, III
Vice President	David Dukes
Secretary-Treasurer	Mark Hodge

### Executive Committee

Jack Davis  
David Dukes  
Bryant Gantt  
Mack H. Guest, III  
Mark Hodge  
David Weeks

### Ex-Officio Members

Josh Brooks

## Letter from the President

Dear Lettermen,

This upcoming football season has the making of our 3rd National Championship in four years. Wow, so let's get the team off to a great start in Atlanta then share our support for them at our 1st home game in Athens which is also our tailgate and reunion on September 7, 2024. As our game continues to adjust to new ways and standards, UGA needs our support more than ever. See y'all in September.



Sincerely,

Mack H. Guest, III

## Important Dates to Remember

### August 17, 2024

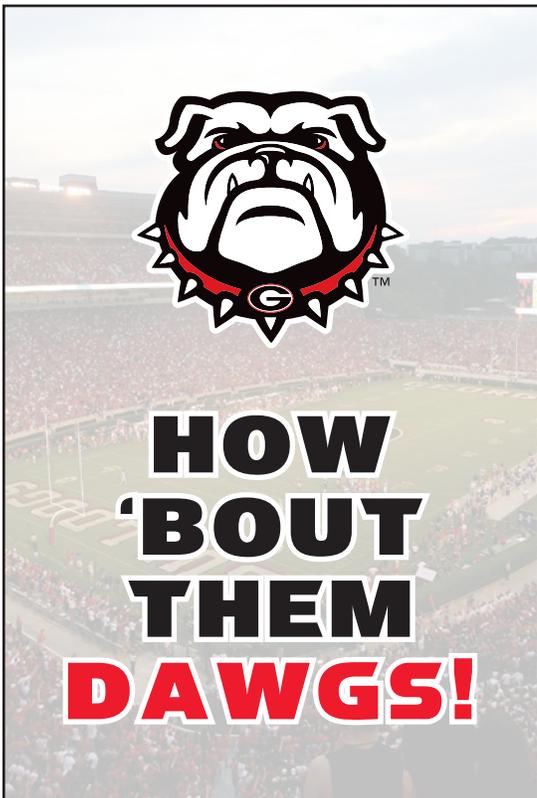
Lettermen's Luncheon & Scrimmage  
West End Zone  
Sanford Stadium

### September 7, 2024

Lettermen's Tailgate and Reunion  
UGA vs. Tennessee Tech  
Kickoff 2:00 PM  
Oconee Hill Cemetery

### April 19, 2025-Tentative

Alumni Flag Football Game  
Lettermen's Cookout  
G-Day Game  
Sanford Stadium





# Lettermen's Cookout

How fortunate we were to have a picture-perfect day for our Lettermen's Cookout at Reed Quad prior to G-Day on April 13, 2024. This could not have been possible without the support of the University of Georgia Athletic Association who hosted this event for all football lettermen and their families. It was so incredible to see all of the lettermen and their families catching up with one another while enjoying a delicious meal catered by Stripling's. We look forward to seeing even more lettermen and their families next year!





# Lettermen's Cookout





## **LETTERMEN REUNION**

All lettermen will be honored during the UGA vs. Tennessee Tech football game on September 7, 2024. Instructions on where to meet and stand once your team is called will be provided at the Lettermen's Tailgate registration table at Oconee Hill Cemetery that morning. There will be a special recognition for the class reunion teams of 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 70 years.

### ***10 years ago 2014***

Belk Bowl Champions  
(10-3) Coach: Mark Richt

Captains: David Andrews, Hutson Mason, Amarlo Herrera, Damian Swann, Kosta Vavlas

### ***20 years ago 2004***

Outback Bowl Champions  
(10-2) Coach: Mark Richt

Captains: David Greene, David Pollack, Thomas Davis, Reggie Brown

### ***25 years ago 1999***

Outback Bowl Champions  
(8-4) Coach: Jim Donnan

Captains: Quincy Carter, Steve Herndon, Orantes Grant, Richard Seymour

### ***30 years ago 1994***

(6-4-1) Coach: Ray Goff

Captains: Eric Zeier, Hason Graham, Will Muschamp, Travis Jones, Drew David

### ***40 years ago 1984***

Tied- Citrus Bowl

(7-4-1) Coach: Vince Dooley

Captains: Knox Culpepper, Scott Williams, Donald Chumley, Kevin Butler

### ***50 years ago 1974***

Tangerine Bowl Participants

(6-6) Coach: Vince Dooley

Captains: Keith Harris, Craig Hertwig, Abb Ansley

### ***60 years ago 1964***

Sun Bowl Champions

(7-3-1) Coach: Vince Dooley

Captain: Barry Wilson

### ***70 years ago 1954***

(6-3-1) Coach: Wallace Butts

Captain: Joe O'Malley

## *In Memoriam*

*Let us not forget the recent deaths  
of our lettermen.  
These men loved the game of football  
and all that it had to offer.*

- Hiawatha Berry
- Billy Darby
- Doug Davis
- Nat Dye
- Jimmy Harper
- Kevin Jackson
- John Jennings
- Don Leebern, Jr.
- Frank Malinowski
- Jim McClelland
- Jack Montgomery
- Nate Taylor

## **Holiday Inn Express Room Block-Reunion & Tailgate Weekend**

We have a room block in place at the Holiday Inn Express in Athens for September 6-8, 2024 – our Tailgate & Reunion weekend. The booking link is below, or you can call the hotel directly at (706) 546-8122 and reference group code "GAF".

There is a two-night minimum stay required and the cutoff date for making reservations is August 7, 2024.

[https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=AHNDT&\\_PMID=99801505&GPC=GAF&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=AHNDT&_PMID=99801505&GPC=GAF&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)





# 2024 GEORGIA Football Schedule

August 31	Clemson	Atlanta, GA
September 7	Tennessee Tech	Athens, GA
September 14	Kentucky	Lexington, KY
September 28	Alabama	Tuscaloosa, AL
October 5	Auburn	Athens, GA
October 12	Mississippi State	Athens, GA
October 19	Texas	Austin, TX
November 2	Florida	Jacksonville, FL
November 9	Ole Miss	Oxford, MS
November 16	Tennessee	Athens, GA
November 23	UMass	Athens, GA
November 30	Georgia Tech	Athens, GA

## National Football Foundation University of Georgia Chapter

The National Football Foundation of the University of Georgia Chapter recently held their 38th Annual Awards Presentation at the Athens Country Club. Many awards were given out to our much-deserving lettermen.

- Sedrick Van Pran-Granger and Ladd McConkey received the Jack Turner Award.
- Ryan Goede, Dan Jackson, Chad Lindberg, Ladd McConkey, William Mote, and Jared Zirkel received the Billy Payne Award.
- The J. Reid Parker Post Graduate Achievement Awards were given to Kevin Butler, Lynn Hunnicutt, Leonard Pope, Mohamed Massaquoi, Greg Talley, and Russ Tanner.

Congratulations to all of you on this wonderful accomplishment!





## Remembering Don Leebern and His Impact on University of Georgia Athletics

By Loran Smith

All of us bring about multiple images as we travel life's journey, and we will be remembered differently by those with whom we cross paths. For the Payne Hall fraternity of the late fifties, there were some interesting characters with divergent and varying ways.

Payne Hall was the athletic dorm at the University of Georgia at that time. Athletes on scholarship lived there, primarily because of the training table in the basement. Players on all teams were housed there along with those who were tryouts, the term for "walk-on" athletes in that era.

It was not "Animal House" altogether, but those of that ilk were abundant and very prominent. However, there were some doggedly serious students who knew the importance and consequence of a degree. They had the discipline and the commitment to leave campus with a sheepskin.

I could tick off names of those who were not headed to the National Football League; the many who were not necessarily "Touchdown" heroes but who were quality athletes who played for the "Glory to Ole Georgia," and would become most valuable alumni.

One of those was Columbus native Don Leebern Jr., who passed away a few days ago. Leebern was the son of a wholesale liquor dealer and would take the family business to new heights. Owing to the death of his father, there was an interruption of his educational process.

On campus, he kept himself in peak condition to satisfy the rigors required of offensive lineman of that era. He wasn't the biggest member of the "trenches clan," but at 6-2, 215, was big enough to start and compete fluently in the Southeastern Conference. He had the assets of a canny streetfighter. His smarts and competitive passion made him a winner, who elicited high praise from his line coach J. B. Whitworth and the head man, Wallace Butts.

Although the family business was the sale of spirits, Leebern didn't drink. He never hung out at the popular beer joints with his teammates who were given to such routine. He spent his downtime in his room studying or at the library.

He dated one of the prettiest coeds ever on campus, and she later became his wife. While he was a member of the SAE

social fraternity, he was a serious student who enjoyed quiet conversation with his teammates in the dorm.

When his father passed away late in the fall of 1959, Leebern left Athens, and soon took over the family business empire at the tender age of 21.

With the same work ethic that he identified with on the football field and the good business sense that came natural with him, he soon had Georgia Crown scaling new heights in the marketplace. Ties with one of the quality names in the spirits world, Seagram's, his business savvy got the attention of the Bronfman family, who owned the brand.

Leebern expanded Georgia Crown into Alabama and Tennessee. He developed satellite distribution centers across the Peach state. As the company grew, he hired former teammates and Bulldog football players as salesmen. He has always had a deep and abiding commitment to the University of Georgia, serving on the UGA athletic board and was a long-time appointee of the Board of Regents.

Lettermen from 1957-59 teams will tell you the thing that all players on all teams consider the ultimate import—that Don Leebern was a good teammate. If you really knew him, you are likely to recall a time when he befriended you and your family. He was very generous to his friends.

There was an incident on campus that helps define the Don Leebern we all knew and appreciated. Sanford Drive runs down the middle of campus and is now closed to automobile traffic. In the late fifties, however, it was an active thoroughfare. One day, a blind student was crossing the street in front of the old Commerce-Journalism Building. A jerk of a student easing down Sanford Drive suddenly sat down on his horn, causing the blind student to panic as he frantically tried to find solid and safe ground with his white cane. Leebern went over to the driver's side of the car, opened the door and gave the driver a "knuckle sandwich." As the driver slumped over the steering wheel unconscious, 'ole No. 77 unceremoniously headed off to class.

That is one of the many images Don Leebern's former teammates and old friends have of this "Damm Good Dawg."

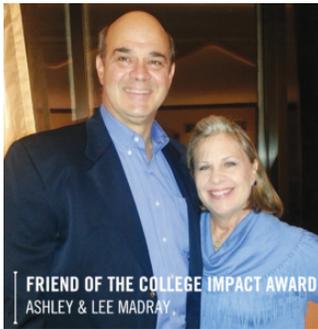


*His smarts and competitive passion made him a winner.*



## FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE IMPACT AWARD ASHLEY & LEE MADRAY

*The Friend of the College Impact Award recognizes a friend of UGA Engineering whose impact has been shown in their organization's mission or individuals' professional career, service to their field and community and to UGA Engineering.*



Ashley T. Madray, earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Education from the University of Georgia in 1980, where he also excelled as a three-year letterman for the UGA Football team. With over three decades of experience in the gas industry, Ashley founded Gas Innovations in 2002, where he serves as President and a member of the Board of Directors. Ashley's commitment to excellence and

industry collaboration is further demonstrated through his active participation and leadership in various organizations, including Gas Innovations LNG Refrigerants, Meritus Gas Partners, Sovereign Energy Solutions, and Caring Friends Indeed.

Allena Sewell Madray (Lee) is a dedicated professional with a diverse background in education, healthcare, and the arts. A graduate of Wayne County High School and the University of Georgia, she spent 20 years as a Pre-K educator. Throughout her career, she has also contributed her time and talents to various volunteer initiatives in the Houston area. Notably, she is a breast cancer survivor and has spent over 1000 hours volunteering at the M D Anderson Cancer Center. Lee's commitment to service, resilience, and creativity continues to positively impact the lives of others.

Impact Award honorees were recognized at the College of Engineering's 2024 Celebration of Excellence Award Ceremony on April 2, 2024.

## Woodward Academy Athletic Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Jack Davis (1965-66) on his induction into the Woodward Academy Athletic Hall of Fame on March 17, 2024. Way to go Jack!



## 1980 Seniors Weekend

The 1980 National Championship seniors recently got together for a fun weekend. A great time was had by all- fishing, eating and remembering their teammates!





DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

# Alumni Flag Football Game

What a perfect way to start a Saturday in Athens by having the Annual Alumni Flag Football Game. The guys kicked off at 10:45 AM before the G-Day game on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Sanford Stadium. We loved having everyone come out, play, and cheer from the sidelines. A huge thank you to Joe Teasley who organized the event as well as a big thank you to Jeffrey Thomas and Calvin Ruff who served as coaches. Next year, we want to see even more of you join in the festivities. You can play in the game or just be on the field to help cheer on a team. It's always a great Spring Saturday in Athens!





# Alumni Flag Football Game



## Frostbite Tournament

The 36<sup>th</sup> Frostbite Golf Tournament was held on March 14-16, 2024 at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Jackson, GA. Once again, these lettermen enjoyed wonderful fellowship while playing a few rounds of golf. A big thanks to Ralph Clark for organizing the event. They would love for you to join in the fun next year.



Pictured L to R: Johnny Cobb, David McKnight, Ric Reider, Ralph Clark, Tom Zimmerlink, Bill McCullough and Mike Striplin. Not shown Lon Chatfield.



# FEATURED LETTERMAN

## **RONNIE R. SWOPES, SR.**

(1974-75-76-77)

**Tell us about your background – Where you grew up; went to high school and what brought you to The University of Georgia:**

I am a native of Alabama. I was born in the city of Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, in the Pine Ridge Community. What an “AWESOME” community with caring and concerned neighbors! I could walk a few blocks to the Tennessee River. Once we got to the river it was...On! My brothers...all seven of them, and I would fish for hours. If the fish weren’t biting, we would blame it on the bait we were using and go swimming...in the Tennessee River. There was never a wasted trip or a waste of time when we got to the river.

I was blessed to grow up in a community surrounded by influences in music, arts, sports, and education. I attended the W.C. Handy Elementary School. W. C. Handy is recognized around the globe as the “Father of the Blues.” His influence on Jazz and Blues is inestimable! I was also blessed to grow up listening to the “Sounds of Muscle Shoals” that were produced in the “Hit Capital of the World” ... FAME Studios!

As I transitioned from elementary school into middle school, I experienced a huge growth spurt. After watching Wes Unseld, Wilt Chamberlain, and Bill Russell play, I began to play basketball and developed a pretty good low post game...with a fade away jump shot that was lethal. However, injuries sustained in an automobile accident prohibited me from becoming Wes Unseld’s replacement. I heard doctors advise my parents that I would never play basketball again “on that leg.” So, what did I do? After watching my older brothers Charles and Wayne and a few others like Larry Little, Willie Lanier, “Deacon” Jones, Jim Brown, and Gale Sayers, I developed a desire to play football.

When I got to Henry A. Bradshaw High School (9<sup>th</sup> grade) I was six feet and four inches tall, and I weighed two hundred and ten pounds. After hearing guys in the neighborhood talk about trying out for the football team, I told my parents that I was tagging along to watch them practice. I was persuaded not to ask nor tell my parents that I was actually going to participate in the practices... “on that leg.” I thought it was a great scheme until the Sunday edition of the “Times Daily” was published with photos of local high school football teams. I can still hear my father call my name when he saw my photo in the newspaper, and my mother say “what’s wrong?” After an honest heartfelt explanation and the strategic purpose for my actions, I was able to declare myself a football player! Fortunately, I was blessed to develop into a talent

that brought college scouts and coaches calling. Ultimately, it was family influence, opportunities for societal change, and football that brought me to Athens and The University of Georgia.

**What are some of your fondest memories or special moments from your days at UGA?**

I matured in Athens. The University experience and changes impacting UGA and society afforded me the opportunity to develop my personal thoughts and learn from others. The opportunity to learn from “The Five” (Richard Appleby, “Chuck” Kinnebrew, Horace King, Clarence Pope, Larry West), the first UGA Black scholarship football players, and to be included in the early recruitment of Black football players was life changing. It also afforded me the opportunity to exchange ideologies and learn from coaches such as Vince Dooley, “Erk” Russell, Sam Mitchell and John Kasay. However, learning from coaches started much earlier with my high school coaches...Coach Golden, Coach LaRue Harding, Coach Johnson, Coach Max Bobo, Coach Kelly and Coach Don Graham.

Wow! What a time we had in McWhorter Hall. There were challenging times as well as rewarding times. I will tell you that some of my freshman roommates were from Atlanta, Pennsylvania, and New York (Gary Urbanus, Jim Flannery, Aaron Bond, D. J. Pascale, Dan Crisp, Ben Zambiasi) and my experiences with them were also life changing, rewarding, and heart-warming. After a few days of practice with the freshman team, I was moved up and practiced with the varsity team. Needless to say, my roommates were impressed; and I was pleasantly shocked! I truly cannot explain the feeling I had, as a freshman, traveling with the Varsity team to play Clemson. I regret we lost the game. But that loss was, what I believe, to be the foundation for “Ronnie and the Runts,” “The Junkyard Dawgs,” and the 1976 SEC Championship team.

I was blessed to earn a BSED from The University of Georgia. Earning that degree was a “Big Deal” for me and my family. My parents, siblings, relatives, and all of Pine Ridge celebrated the hope set forth for the children in the community.

**You are a retired educator and Pastor. Tell us about these careers and what was the influence of football on your professions?**

I have been blessed to have a very meaningful career. I retired from a career in education in 2019. When I retired I was serving the community and children of Athens as Coordinator of Work-Based



THE ALABAMA BOYS on Georgia's varsity proudly walk to the center of Jordan-Hare Stadium Saturday as the Building captains: L-R, DG Ronnie Swopes, FE Dutch Box, DG Kirk Price, CB Billy Woods, R Rodney Johnson and DE Lawrence Craft. Photo by Travis Ellison.





Learning and Graduation Coach at Cedar Shoals High School. Previous positions at the secondary level included serving as a High School Teacher and Football Coach. My career in education also included postsecondary positions. I served as a Facilitator for the Institute of Community and Area Development (ICAD); Career Advisor, Assistant Director of Employer Relations, and Implementer of the “Student Employee of the Year” Program at the UGA Career Center.

I currently serve as Pastor and Spiritual Leader at Oconee Baptist Church, Stephens, GA. Previous assignments have included churches in Seneca, SC and Athens, GA. When pastoring the church in Seneca, SC it felt like I had come full circle since several of the Clemson Tigers football team attended the church. I always remembered that my first varsity team game was against the Clemson Tigers and Benny Cunningham.

Lessons learned from football have been important to me in my career. Some of these lessons include the importance of following rules, working together as a team, loving and respecting each other as people, and never giving up.

Too many people have given up or left the game early. This reminds me of a story. Two teams were playing a game. The home team was getting beat by a large margin! In fact, the home team was getting beat so bad their fans began to express their disapproval by booing the team and rushing out of the stadium. It was a horrible scene! The team, embarrassed by their first half performance, went into their locker room where they made a few adjustments in their offensive and defensive game plans.

The team returned to the field for the second half of the game. The home team received the opening kick-off of the second half and returned it for a touchdown. On their next defensive series, the home team returned an interception for a touchdown. A few plays later, the visiting team was driving. They had driven the ball to the three-yard line. They were primed to score and maintain their lead. However, on the next play, there was a poor exchange between the ball handlers, resulting in a fumble that was recovered by the home team who took the ball and scored seven plays later! Wow! Suddenly, the home team was only a field goal behind. As the remaining fans cheered, the fans who had filed out of the stadium earlier tried to return. They were hoping to get back into the game to cheer their team onto victory. Unfortunately, they lost

the opportunity to witness one of the greatest come-from-behind victories ever! Why? Because, they had abandoned their seats and left the game before the game was over. The moral of this story is “Don’t leave the game before it is over!” “It is not over until God says it’s over!” Somewhere on my journey, I also heard someone say “Anybody can do one more!” So, I keep going!!

**Family information**

God has blessed me better than I deserve. I am the young man who God blessed to play football “on that leg.” I am the young man who learned the power of prayer at an early age. The younger me is the one who asked God to grant me the ability to play, educate myself, and give me the strength to walk away from football when it required surgery to keep me playing. And, you know what. God Did it!!

When I say God has blessed me, I cannot convey to you how blessed I am to have my family. As many of you may recall Annie, my first wife and mother of our four wonderful children, passed away several years ago. I thank God for your prayers, phone calls, and cards received from you during that time. God, being a keeper of His Word, blessed me again. I am blessed to now have Rosemary as my wife. I am also grateful that many of you attended our wedding ceremony. Talk about the power of prayer. She is the answer to a prayer. Through her I learned to breathe again.

We have four adult children and eight grandchildren. They are fascinating individuals in their own way. They always get a chuckle when they hear someone talk about my playing days or find themselves in awe when listening to the stories being told in the Lettermen’s Club.

**As a supportive member of the GFLC, what does it mean to you?**

Simply put, it means that I have earned the privilege to be a participant in something bigger than me. The Lettermen’s Club is a legacy for each and every football letterman. Thus, we ALL have a responsibility to enhance services and privileges offered by the Club, foster the Club’s overall success, and ensure the inclusion of every football player who has paid the price and made the sacrifice to the “G” to earn the “G”!





# The Boy from Bowman: Mecole Hardman Makes Small Georgia Town Proud

By Loran Smith

Mecole Hardman will be long remembered when Super Bowl histories are recalled. His three-yard touchdown catch was not that spectacular as spectacular plays go, but what it meant will make him a hero forever.

Then there is the humility of how he figured into the process—down and out in New York but getting a second opportunity with his old team was like a jilted lover being reunited and a broken heart mended.

Add to that the small-town aurora. The population of his hometown of Bowman is 875. His winner's share of \$164,000 for a day of work last Sunday is probably greater than the net worth of the entire town.

You find small town boys achieving fame and fortune through the avenue of sports. Stories such as Jerry West and Cabin Creek, West Virginia; Ty Cobb and Narrows, Georgia, Jim Brown and St. Simons Island, Georgia, Herschel Walker, Wrightsville, Georgia, Red Grange, Wheaton, Illinois, Darrell Royal, Hollis, Oklahoma are Walter Mitty stories that never cease to amaze and enthrall us.

Now you can add Mecole's name to that list.

I remember when he was being recruited by Georgia. One coach called him "the best football player in America." Perhaps that was an overstatement but everybody in Bowman today is ready to declare him as the greatest thing since sliced bread.

The community is ready to bring about a parade in his honor although with his speed he could run from one side of the town to the other in less time than he could run a hundred-yard dash.

Mecole has always had a smiling, outgoing demeanor which endeared him to his teammates and coaches. He is still bringing great smiles to the Kansas City locker room. When he shows up in Bowman again, however, he will be the small-town boy they knew when he was growing up.

It will be the same when he returns to Elberton, 12 miles away, where he played high school football for a coach named Sid Fritts who said that Mecole was "not just the best player I coached, but he was the best player I ever saw."



His versatility as an athlete was such that he started out as defensive back at Georgia and then switched to wide receiver which was the perfect home for him.

In the national championship game with Alabama in 2017, he scored on an 80-yard bomb from Jake Fromm. His junior year in 2018, he caught 34 passes for 532 yards and seven touchdowns.

Following his rookie year with the Chiefs, I called friends in Kansas City and there were rave reviews about his popularity with Chief fans as his small-town humility made them appreciate him more.

While he made the headlines, it is in order to underscore that one of his teammates who will be getting sized for a ring will be Malik Herring, former Bulldog defender, who was injured for last year's victory over the Eagles. He was credited with a tackle and an assist against San Francisco.

This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year a Georgia player participated in the Super Bowl. The first former Bulldog to win a Super Bowl ring was Zeke Bratkowski, who was the backup quarterback to Barr Starr in Green Bay's defeat of the Chiefs in Super Bowl I. Three former 'Dawgs have been named MVP of past Super Bowl games: Jake Scott, 1972; Terrell Davis, 1998 and Hines Ward, 2006.

John Rauch, former Georgia quarterback under Wallace Butts coached in the second Super Bowl as the head coach of the Oakland Raiders.

He had two assistants: John Madden was the line coach and Bill Walsh was the backfield coach.

I was fortunate to interview both of these great NFL personalities, on two different occasions. Madden said that John Rauch was the only coach he ever knew who could actually coach every position on the team.

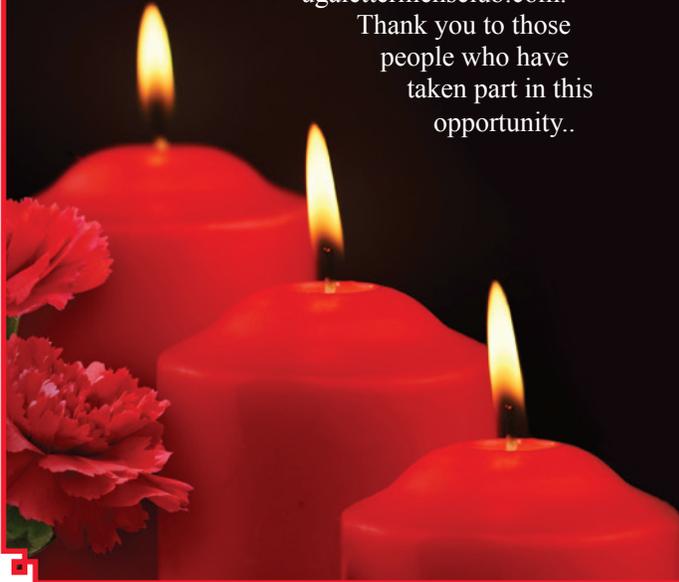
Walsh said the "genesis" of the West Coast offense began with Rauch and that Raiders team. It is easy to conclude if that was the case, then the roots of the West Coast offense really had its beginning on the practice fields at Georgia where Rauch learned the basics of offensive football from Coach Wallace Butts.



## Send a Memorial

You can send a memorial gift to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club in memory or in honor of a loved one. This is a special way to honor those people who you loved. Gifts can be sent to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive Athens, GA 30606. For more information, please contact Sally at [sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com](mailto:sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com).

Thank you to those people who have taken part in this opportunity..



- Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Norman King*
- Jim Massey in memory of John Jennings*
- Jim Massey in memory of Frank Malinowski*
- Myrtle Romanas & Family in memory of John Jennings*
- The Kirby Tyler Family in memory of John Jennings*
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Denny in memory of John Jennings*
- Charley Whittemore in memory of John Jennings*
- Bobby Poss, III in memory John Jennings*
- Philip Jennings & Triston Jennings in memory John Jennings*
- Jim and Becky Baker in memory of Denise Kinnebrew*
- Jim & Becky Baker in memory of David Pasley*
- Jim Baker in memory of John Jennings*
- Chris White in memory of John Jennings*
- Teammates of Chuck Kinnebrew in memory of Denise Kinnebrew*
- Jim Massey in memory of Billy Darby*
- Mack H. Guest, III in memory of John Jennings*
- Mike Oakes in memory of John Jennings*
- James Roberts in memory of Nat Dye*
- Jim & Becky Baker in memory Nat Dye*
- Mack H. Guest, III in memory of Kevin Jackson*
- Mack H. Guest, III in memory Don Leebern, Jr.*
- Jud & Paula Guest in memory of Kevin Jackson*
- Mack H. Guest, III in memory of Mark Delafschell*
- Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Don Leebern, Jr.*

IN HONOR OF...

*Mandy Culpepper in honor of Knox Culpepper*

## LETTERMEN CONTACT INFORMATION



**MOVING? CHANGE IN JOBS?? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS???** Please be sure to contact Sally Haugabook at [sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com](mailto:sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com) with any change in your contact information. It is important for us to have the current mailing address for you. Also, if Sally does not have your email address, please send it to her. She periodically sends out emails concerning lettermen, tailgating, golf tournaments, and shirt sales. Thanks for your help!



## REMINDER

Georgia Football Lettermen's Club logo is for approved Georgia Football Lettermen's Club events only. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Jimmy Payne Hardship Fund

The Jimmy Payne Football Lettermen's Hardship Fund has been established by the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club for the purpose of providing financial assistance to needy football lettermen who find themselves under hardship conditions. The Jimmy Payne Hardship Fund recently provided assistance to Resty Beadles. For an application, please visit our website- [www.ugalettermensclub.com](http://www.ugalettermensclub.com).



## Lettermen News

**1991: Al Story** is pleased to announce that his daughter, Allie Story, has been accepted into The Nursing Program at Auburn.  
Email Address: [altonstory17@gmail.com](mailto:altonstory17@gmail.com)

**1989: Fred Cook** and wife, Heather, have 4 grandchildren. Eliza Kate is 2 and John Reed is 1. They are the son and daughter of Caroline and Reed Allen. Reed is the son of John Allen who played at UGA 1988 through 1991.

Reid Bryant and Fred's daughter Betsy are parents of Reid, Jr. who is 2 and Mary Lou is 7 months. Reid and Betsy are expecting their third child in September. Reid and Betsy opened their State Farm Agency in Clinton, TN in March 2024. Fred's daughter, Ashley Patterson, married Kane Patterson on May 13, 2023, and lives in Nashville, TN.  
Email Address: [fredcook@berryglobal.com](mailto:fredcook@berryglobal.com)

**1988: Aaron Chubb** is proud to share that his son, Bradley Chubb, a six-year NFL veteran and OLB for the Miami Dolphins, was inducted in the NC State Athletics Hall of Fame in April 2024. Bradley is the youngest member inducted in the NC State Hall of Fame in its history.

His other son, Brandon Chubb, retired NFL player and current Player Director for the NFL Players Association, will earn his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in June and will open his new business called "Do Not Disturb" in Atlanta (jointly with his brother Bradley) in July 2024.  
Email Address: [chubb.aaron@gmail.com](mailto:chubb.aaron@gmail.com)

**1985: Rob Bailey** has published a two-volume series on the 1972 Apollo 16 lunar mission titled "The Ever-Changing Moon." Book One looks at the Apollo 16 crew's contributions to NASA's early years through the first Moon landing, and Book Two focuses on their involvement with Apollo 13 and their own mission. The books are available on Amazon.  
Email Address: [moonnerd@yahoo.com](mailto:moonnerd@yahoo.com)

**1983: Brad Ansley** and his wife, Beth, are thrilled to announce the arrival of their second grandchild, Wyndell Bradford Ansley, III (Ford). He was born on October 8, 2023 in Atlanta, GA to their oldest son Bradford and his wife Michele.  
Email Address: [bradansleysr@gmail.com](mailto:bradansleysr@gmail.com)

**1983: Lon Buckler** welcomed his first grandchild, on February 4, 2024, Alonzo Magruder Buckler V!!!! The proud parents are Alonzo (Beau) M. Buckler IV and his beautiful wife, Ashley. Alonzo V will have numerous names, but his parents are going with Brody Buckler. Lon will be calling him, Zo and V. Lon is sure he will be wearing #24 with a birthdate of 2/4/24. He hopes Lindsay is ok with that. Lon's father/Alonzo Jr lettered on the 1942 UGA Track Team, Alonzo III lettered on the UGA Football Team 1980/81, and Alonzo IV was on the UGA Baseball Team 2011, 2012, 2013! Go Dawgs!  
Email Address: [alonzo81@msn.com](mailto:alonzo81@msn.com)

**1982: Jud Guest** and his wife, Paula, are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Katherine Hampton Bragg, who was born on February 20, 2024 weighing 7 lbs 3 oz and was 20 inches long. Kate Hampton's parents are Stewart and Caroline Bragg.  
Email Address: [jguest@ladtrucklines.com](mailto:jguest@ladtrucklines.com)

**1980: Tim Morrison** and his wife, Leigh, are pleased to announce the arrival of their second grandchild, Mia Grace Morrison, born on February 8, 2024, weighing 8 lbs 11 oz. Mom and Dad, Leigh Ann and Zach Morrison, are adjusting to two girls and big sister, Blakely Ann, loves being the little helper.  
Email Address: [Timmorrison76@gmail.com](mailto:Timmorrison76@gmail.com)

**1979: Jeff Pyburn's** youngest son Will and his wife Sadie just blessed him with his 4th grandbaby (their 1st). Daisy Lynn was born in February and is doing great. She joins Boone (5), Annie Jayne (3) and Bear (1) to carry on the Pyburn tradition. These 3 belong to his oldest son Jay and his wife Shannon. Great southern names, huh?  
Email Address: [jeffpyburn7@gmail.com](mailto:jeffpyburn7@gmail.com)

**1978: Mack Guest** and his wife, Camilla, are excited to announce the marriage of their daughter Amanda Guest to James Cornell that took place on June 1, 2024 in Athens, GA.  
Email Address: [mguest@ladtrucklines.com](mailto:mguest@ladtrucklines.com)

**1977: Glenn Townsend** and his wife Debra, would like to announce that their son Travis Townsend has been hired by Robert Baxley (former Chief Operations Officer of Zaxby's Inc.) and Real Estate Investor Paul Sparks. He is a Jr. Partner of Omnipotent Brand in Greenville, South Carolina, and will be the C.O.O. in charge of their Zaxby's Franchises in the Greenville Metropolitan Areas.  
Email Address: [gndtownsend79@gmail](mailto:gndtownsend79@gmail)

**1975: Randy Johnson** is proud to announce that his two oldest grandchildren, Gracie Arrington and Tyler Whelchel, graduated from Shorter University this spring with degrees in education.  
Email Address: [rjdawg63@comcast.net](mailto:rjdawg63@comcast.net)

**1975: Paul DeMersseman** is excited to share that his son, Dustin, graduated last year from Lee University in Cleveland, TN with a degree in business. He received a golf scholarship and was able to play 5 years due to Covid. His team won the 2022 D2 Golf National Championship. He has joined Paul's team as a Financial Professional with Peachtree Planning Corporation.  
Email Address: [Paul\\_E\\_DeMersseman@peachtreeplanning.com](mailto:Paul_E_DeMersseman@peachtreeplanning.com)



## Lettermen News

**1972: Lynn Hunnicutt** is pleased to share the following announcement. "ATHENS — Recently, in front several hundred Bulldog fans, the National Football Foundation's University of Georgia chapter held its 38th Annual Awards Presentation at the Athens Country Club, and former local Rome coaching great Lynn Hunnicutt received the J. Reid Parker Post Graduate Achievement Award. Lynn lettered in football 1970-1972 at Wide Receiver and Tight End and was the Offensive Team Captain in 1972!"

Email Address: [lynnhfbcb@gmail.com](mailto:lynnhfbcb@gmail.com)

**1970: Jim Massey** has enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, Zelda and Angelica. They are at a fun age. Angelica (6) is becoming a real soccer player. She knows how to take it and dribble for position and make a goal. His life is full of adventures with a recent trip to Death Valley to hike the mountains and see the wildflowers. He also spent a week in

Vegas enjoying the shows and all the tourist activities. Now he is off to Europe on a repositioning cruise. In June, it's a trip to Japan for three weeks then onto Hawaii followed by Anchorage, Alaska for a nuclear family cruise. Let him know if you would like to travel someplace. He is always up for a trip. Life is to be an adventure. He doesn't want to die with a clicker in his hand! He is looking forward to September 7th to see everyone! Remember "Keep The Faith!"

Email Address: [jmassey22@verizon.net](mailto:jmassey22@verizon.net)

**1965: Barry Wilson** and his wife Kay are on the move. After living in Chattanooga, TN for 26 years, they have recently moved to Birmingham, AL to be with their daughters and grandkids! Family is their most important asset. They loved Chattanooga, but want to spend the rest of their lives very close to their loved ones.

Email Address: [barryw51243@gmail.com](mailto:barryw51243@gmail.com)

---

**Lost Lettermen!** The following lettermen do not have a current address with us. If you have any information of their whereabouts, please contact Sally at [sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com](mailto:sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com) or mail information to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606. Thanks for your help!

Thomas Ashe  
Ron Asher  
Kendall Baker  
Collin Barber  
Herman Bell  
Terreal Michael Bierria  
Larry Bowie  
Latavious Brini  
Douglas Burnett  
Robert Burns  
Brandon Carley  
Tyler Catalina  
Brian Cleveland  
Anthony W. Clincy  
Antonio Cochran  
James B. Collins  
Brandon Coutu  
Ahkil Crumpton  
Vance Ervin Cuff  
Brent Davis  
Reginald Davis  
West Davis  
Akeem Dent  
Reuben Faloughi

Lamont Gaillard  
Carl George  
Walter Grant  
A.J. Green  
Michael Hall  
David Hargett  
D'Marcus Hayes  
Terry Henderson  
Albert H. Hollis  
Robert Allen Hope  
Bertrand Jackson  
Darius Jackson  
Jarvis Jackson  
Willie K. Jackson  
David Jenkins  
Jermaine Johnson  
Kennar Johnson  
Preston Jones  
Clarence Kay  
Torin Kirtsey  
Greyson Lambert  
Ben Lane  
Emarlo Stanza Leroy  
Clete Marshall

Tyrique McGhee  
Thomas McKinnon  
Prince Miller  
Emmett Mitchell  
Jesse Murray  
Andrew Owensby  
Patrick Pass  
Suquorey Pitts  
Keyon Richardson  
Riley Ridley  
Michael Robinson  
Dominick Sanders  
Matt Smith  
Jonathan Smith  
Michael Smith  
Michael James Steele  
Kirby Stewart  
Ricky Styles  
Tyler Sullivan  
Michael Taylor  
Nathaniel Taylor  
Lemonte Donzell Tellis  
Walter Tereshinski  
Trenton Thompson

Jimmy Vickers  
Michael A. Wallace  
Thomas Michael Wallace  
Damon Ward  
James Edward Warner  
David West  
Evan J. Wells  
Gregory Steven Williams  
Henry Williams  
Michael W. Willis  
Billy Worrell  
Chris Young





# BULLDOG HAVEN

[www.bulldoghaven.org](http://www.bulldoghaven.org)

As UGA football lettermen, we take immense pride in the University of Georgia and its traditions. To continue the University's exceptional heritage, the UGA Football Lettermen's Club has started a new tradition

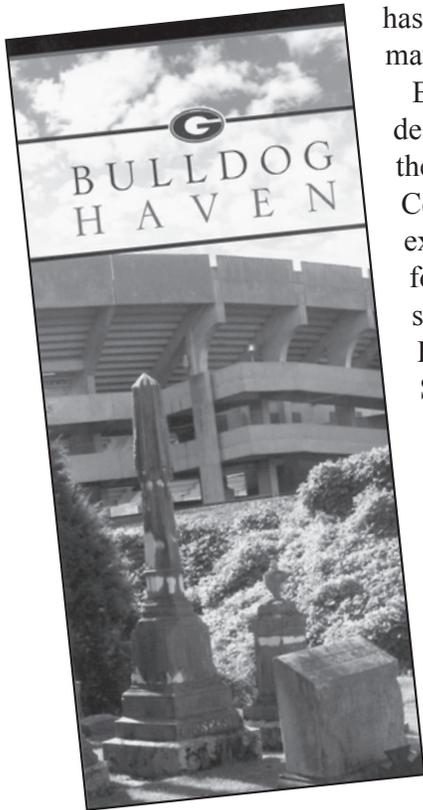
among those for who UGA has been more than an alma mater, but a way of life.

Bulldog Haven is a designated section of the historic Oconee Hill Cemetery that is open exclusively to UGA football lettermen, their spouses and families. Located adjacent to Sanford Stadium, Bulldog Haven offers a unique resting place in the heart of the University of Georgia campus. This is Athens' only cemetery designated to honor and celebrate the lives of UGA football lettermen. We invite you to consider supporting Bulldog

Haven by deciding now to invest in a plot for yourself and your loved ones.

Bulldog Haven is a non-profit venture that will support the maintenance and restoration of historic Oconee Hill Cemetery. In addition to the noteworthy University of Georgia personalities interred there, Oconee Hill Cemetery is also the resting place of many important figures in Georgia's history.

Private tours of Bulldog Haven are available by calling **General Manager Don Smith** at (706) 543-6262.



## BULLDOG HAVEN

### LETTERMAN INFORMATION

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact *(please choose one)*

Mail     Phone     E-mail

Year(s) Lettered at UGA: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Plots Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot Numbers:

*(listed on landscape plan at [www.bulldoghaven.org](http://www.bulldoghaven.org))*

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plots Requested:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$6,000\* = \_\_\_\_\_ (total)

\_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL CHECKS AND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

BULLDOG HAVEN

c/o MACK H. GUEST, III

1070 LAKE WELLBROOK DRIVE, ATHENS, GA 30606

INFO@BULLDOGHAVEN.ORG



## Remembering the Most Unforgettable Georgia Football Character

By Loran Smith

Years ago, Reader's Digest, published a periodic feature under the heading of, "The Most Unforgettable Character I Ever Met."

There were remarkable profiles of such famous people as Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers (by Jackie Robinson). Thomas Edison by his son, Charles; Eleanor Roosevelt by journalist Emma Bugbee and Chuck Jones by his cartoon creation Bugs Bunny. The Digest also connected with ordinary people who left their mark on society: A woman chimney sweep and helicopter pioneer, Igor Sikorsky.

Last Sunday, there was a gathering of ten dozen or more family and friends of the late Norman King at Johnnie's Hideaway on Roswell Road in Atlanta to remember the most unforgettable character who ever dressed out in silver britches between the hedges of Sanford Stadium.

His son, Mike, organized the tribute with able assistance from his daughters Kendall Isaacs and Christian Taylor, old friends, a few teammates, drinking buddies and those who enjoyed his company for a day or a weekend or a lifetime.

It was Norman who originated the concept of extended stay lodging. He would show up out of the blue, and a friend would invite him to hang out for a couple of days. Then five years later... you know the rest of the story.

This iconoclast with the most winsome personality and a bank account that was always overdrawn, was the son of a preacher man and found adventure every day in whatever came his way. He never met a stranger, and he never worried about being broke. Breaking even was good enough for him, but even those times were few and far between.

This is the way it was in the early sixties. Norman married a classic beauty with supermodel good looks by the name of Gaye Boardman. He arranged a brief honeymoon stay at Callaway Gardens.

He did not own a car, and if she had been up for it, he and Gaye would have hitchhiked to Pine Mountain. Coming to the rescue, however, was Jimmy Harper, the longtime Southeastern Conference referee and one-time Georgia quarterback.

Harper told Norman to take the keys to his new Oldsmobile for the weekend and that he would see him the following Monday. A week later, Norman called the exasperated Harper from New Orleans, letting him know that he would return Harper's Olds in a couple of days.

That story was one of the many that regaled those who gathered to pay tribute to one of the greatest pure athletes ever to wear

the Red and Black and the most colorful character to have ever walked the campus of the University of Georgia. Too bad Reader's Digest failed to send a writer to Athens for a sit down with Norman, who was bright enough for Phi Beta Kappa Honors except that attending class for Norman was as appealing as sitting for a root canal.

A highlight of the celebration was a taped interview with South African Gary Player, the accomplished golfer who knew Norman well. The way that came about was that a mutual friend from Atlanta, Bob Witcher, went over to run Player's business empire.

They called Norman and invited him to join them. All it took was a plane ticket. He became close friends with the Players (Gary and his wife Vivienne), stayed with them and partied with them. Player introduced him to accomplished people such as Ian Smith, the prime minister of old Rhodesia.

He also introduced Norman to Bobby Locke, the South African golfer who won the British Open four times. They became close friends and were frequent golf partners during Norman's five-year stay in South Africa. During this time Norman's golf handicap was an enviable 2. This is evidence of how athletic this former Bulldog really was.

From South Africa, Norman moved on with Witcher to Australia where he became a successful businessman, returning to Atlanta after ten years on the longest sabbatical he ever experienced.

For all the wild oats he sowed and the unconventional lifestyle he embraced, Norman King loved his alma mater and was a man with a good heart.



### West Jefferson Hills School District Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Dan Crisp (1976)** who was inducted into the WJHSD Hall of Fame on March 9, 2024 in Pittsburgh, PA. Dan was a football, basketball and track standout. We are proud of your accomplishment!



## Huddle Sponsor / Advertising Packages

Advertising packages are available for the Lettermen Huddle Magazine. This is a great opportunity to promote your company to all of your fellow lettermen. Listed below are the packages that are available. Please contact **Sally** at [sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com](mailto:sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com) for questions. Send us your ad and make your check payable to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club and mail to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606.

### Top Dawg: \$500

Full page ad in the Huddle newsletter

### Between the Hedges: \$250

1/2 page ad in the Huddle newsletter

### Silver Britches: \$125

1/4 page ad in the Huddle newsletter

### Dawg Pound: \$35

Business Card in the Dawg Pound

- The Dawg Pound is a special section of the Huddle solely devoted to business cards. Everyone needs to take advantage of this.
- Discounts will be given on multiple Huddle editions for full, 1/2 and 1/4 page. No discounts on the Dawg Pound.
- You are responsible for designing your own ad.
- You don't have to be a letterman to advertise.

## The Dawg Pound

**Adam Erickson**  
Associate Director

O 404.654.2596  
 M 706.254.9757  
[adam.erickson@berkadia.com](mailto:adam.erickson@berkadia.com)

Berkadia Commercial Mortgage LLC

Three Alliance Center  
3550 Lenox Road, Suite 2600  
Atlanta, GA 30326

We do Multifamily financing all over the country primarily with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

[BERKADIA.COM](http://BERKADIA.COM)

**Fast Lane Cigar Cellar LLC**

Fred F. Lane  
Owner

**Fast Lane Cigar Cellar LLC**

[www.fastlanecigars.com](http://www.fastlanecigars.com)

404 358-2113

[FASTLANECIGARCELLAR@gmail.com](mailto:FASTLANECIGARCELLAR@gmail.com)  
PO Box 13216 Atlanta Georgia, 30324

Facebook twitter Instagram Youtube  
LinkedIn Google+Pinterest TikTok

**Judson J. Guest**  
Executive Vice President

Phone (706) 769-4048 x201  
Fax (706) 769-5826  
Mobile (706) 540-3222  
[jguest@ladtrucklines.com](mailto:jguest@ladtrucklines.com)

**LAD Truck Lines, Inc.**  
Your Full Service Transportation Solution  
Logistics and Warehousing

109 Barnett Shoals Road  
P.O. Box 749  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
[www.ladtrucklines.com](http://www.ladtrucklines.com)



## 2024 Annual Campaign

THE GEORGIA FOOTBALL LETTERMEN'S CLUB  
1070 Lake Wellbrook Dr. • Athens, GA 30606

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: The Georgia Football Lettermen's Club

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$1,000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

DO WE HAVE YOUR  
EMAIL ADDRESS?



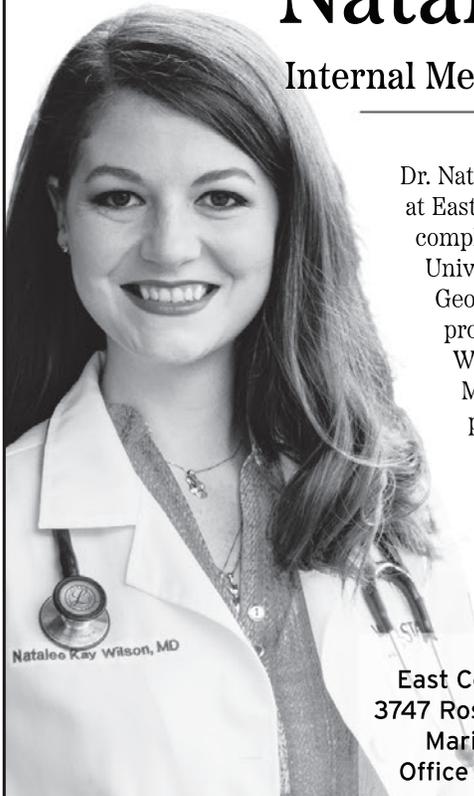
TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT US VISIT

[DGDOUTDOORS.INFO](http://DGDOUTDOORS.INFO)



# Natalee Kay Wilson

Internal Medicine, Board Certified MD, MS



Natalee Kay Wilson, MD

Dr. Natalee Kay Wilson practices at Wellstar Family Medicine at East Cobb Health Park. She is a native Georgian and completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Emory University. She graduated from the Medical College of Georgia (AU/UGA Partnership Campus) in 2017 and proceeded to complete her Internal Medicine Residency at Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center in Marietta, GA. Natalee lives in Roswell, GA. She is the proud daughter of her parents, Buck and Tricia, and the new parent of 2 yorkies, Remington and Priscilla. Natalee loves to cheer on her UGA Bulldawgs and is committed to advocating for the long-term health of her community.

East Cobb Health Park  
3747 Roswell Rd Ste 216  
Marietta, GA 30062  
Office (770) 973-2272



**THE HUDDLE**  
**THE FOOTBALL LETTERMEN'S CLUB**  
1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive  
Athens, GA 30606

PRSRT. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATHENS, GA  
PERMIT #11

**\*\*Return Service Requested\*\***

## *Lettermen, What's Your News?*

Change in address? Promotion? Transfer? Family News? We want to publish your news in THE HUDDLE. Just fill out the following form and submit to **Sally Haugabook**, 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606 or email her at **sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com**. Letters and suggestions for THE HUDDLE are also welcome. **CALLING ALL LETTERMEN!** Send THE HUDDLE your current e-mail address. You and all of your teammates will be able to keep in touch!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree and Class \_\_\_\_\_

Business Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

My news is \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---