

THE HUDDLE



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

Fall 2024

Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Officers and Committees 2024

Officers

President Mack Guest
Vice President David Dukes
Associate Vice President Kelin Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer Mark Hodge
Associate Secretary/
Treasurer Scott Williams

Jack Davis, David Weeks, Bryant Gantt,
Knox Culpepper

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Jim Baker, Daniel Dooley, Chuck
Kinnebrew, David Dukes, Sylvester
Elkins, DJ Jones, Fred Munzenmaier

Parliamentary

Chuck Kinnebrew

Finance Committee

Jack Davis, Knox Culpepper, Justin Scott
Wesley, Mark Hodge, Mixon Robinson,
James Brown, CJ Byrd, Robert
Honeycutt, Dick Conn

Jimmy Payne Hardship Committee

Robert Honeycutt, Marsay Simpson,
Mack Guest, Dick Conn, Jack Davis,
Mark Hodge, David Dukes, David Weeks

Long Range Planning

Brandon Tolbert, Jevaris Johnson,
Derrick Bailey, Jack Davis, Kelvin
Williams, Tra Battle

Executive Steering Committee

Mack Guest, Rennie Curran, David
Dukes, Kelin Johnson, Mark Hodge,
Wycliffe Lovelace, Jack Davis, Bryant
Gantt, David Weeks, Gene Toodle

Oconee Hill Cemetery and Bulldog Laundry Parking

Jack Davis, Ernest Ponder, Mike
Thornton, Willie McClendon, James
Brown, Cameron Allen, Travers Paine,
Nat Hudson

Bulldog Haven

Mark Hodge, Jack Davis, Mack Guest,
Willie McClendon, Wycliffe Lovelace

Reunion Halftime Security

Knox Culpepper, Josh James, DJ Jones,
Horace King, Jim Milo, Kelvin Williams

Lettermen Club Maintenance & Facilities

Ronnie Swoopes, Robert Miles, Steve
Sleek, Chris Burgett, John Kasay

Ole Faithful Dawg Award

Jim Baker, Terry Osbolt, Chuck
Kinnebrew, Charley Whittemore, Ronnie
Swoopes

Wally's Boys

Cicero Lucas

Black Alumni Homecoming Celebration

Kelin Johnson, Gene Toodle, Chris
Burgett, Jevaris Johnson, Justin Scott
Wesley, Ryne Rankin, Mack Guest,
Robert Honeycutt

By-Laws Committee

Chuck Kinnebrew, Mixon Robinson,
Ryne Rankin, Jeff Lewis, James Brown,
Derrick Bailey, Greg Talley, Rosey
Gilliam

Nominations

Mark Hodge, Robert Miles, Knox
Culpepper, Gene Toodle

NFL Relations

Shaun Chapas, Bryant Gantt

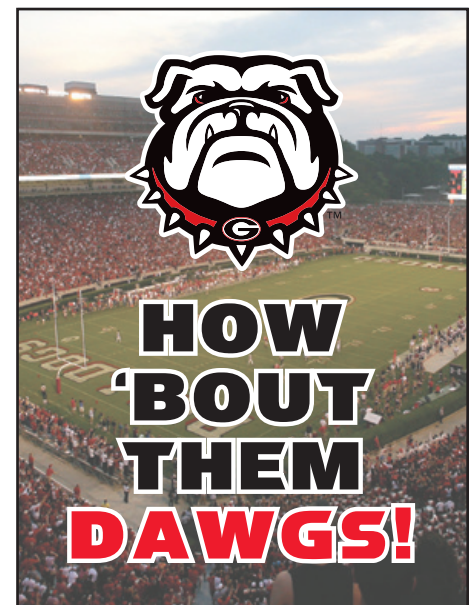
Events – G Day BBQ, Golf, August Lunch

David Dukes, Horace King, John
Lastinger, Wycliffe Lovelace, Brandon
Tolbert, Des Williams, Scott Williams

Huddle/Directory

Skip James, DJ Jones, Chris Burgett,
Marsay Simpson

****Anyone interested in serving on
a committee, please contact Mark
Hodge (gmh@fbglaw.com) or Sally
Haugabook (sallyhaugabook@
ugalettermensclub.com.)**





2024 Lettermen's Tailgate Party & Halftime Reunion

It was wonderful to have so many lettermen and their families come kick off the first home game of the season on September 7, 2024 at our Annual Lettermen's Tailgate and Reunion that was held at Oconee Hill Cemetery. We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces as well as welcome some first-time lettermen. We were rewarded with a delicious lunch from Jim Baker and all his crew. We must give them a huge thank you for all that they do in organizing, preparing, and serving this incredible meal. Then at halftime, lettermen gathered on Dooley Field while we recognized our reunion teams of 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years as well as all lettermen in the end zone. This day is a highlight of the year! We look forward to seeing all of you next year.



DO WE HAVE YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS?



Tailgate Party & Halftime Reunion





DO WE HAVE YOUR ADDRESS?

Letter from the President

Dear Lettermen,

Our 2024 UGA Bulldogs are continuing their winning ways, heading to the SEC championship and onto the 12-team playoff run for the National Championship. We wish Coach Smart continued success the rest of the season.

Jim Baker and his chefs, bartenders, and servers continue their championship performance as well. We were excited to honor our Ole Faithful Dawg, Patrick Garbin, and pay tribute to our loyal and most generous supporter and letterman, Don Leebern. And a special thank you to Kelin Johnson for his successful Homecoming Tailgate.

As y'all notice, we have a lot more participation in our club on the committees and their leadership skills for the future of the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club. Happy Holiday Season to all and Happy New Year!



Sincerely,

Mack H. Guest, III

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 19, 2025-Tentative

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

August 14, 2025

Board Meeting

August 16, 2025-Tentative

Lettermen's Luncheon & Scrimmage
West End Zone
Sanford Stadium

August 30, 2025

Lettermen's Tailgate and Reunion
Oconee Hill Cemetery

Fall 2025

Lettermen's Homecoming Tailgate



Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame



Congratulations to Mike Fisher (1978-80) and Bill Goldberg (1986-89) who were inducted into the Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame on Friday, November 1, 2024 at the East Club at EverBank Stadium.

MIKE FISHER

Mike Fisher, a walk-on from Jacksonville and Bolles School graduate, went 3-0 against the Gators during his Georgia career. In the 1980 win over Florida, he grabbed two key interceptions. He later secured his fourth interception of the season in the 1981 Sugar Bowl with under 9 minutes remaining, securing a 17-10 victory over Notre Dame and clinching Georgia's national championship.

Fisher started his college career on scholarship at Furman before transferring to Georgia as a walk-on. He earned a scholarship in 1978 and recorded an interception in Georgia's 33-10 win over Florida in 1979. As a starter on the 1980 "Junkyard Dogs" defense, which forced 47 turnovers and had three shutouts, Fisher tallied 39 tackles.

In 1981, he was honored with the McCarthy-Crenshaw Award as UGA's Outstanding Senior Athlete from Florida. After football, Fisher built a successful career as an executive in sales, marketing, and management in the forest products industry.

BILL GOLDBERG

Bill Goldberg, a two-time All-SEC defensive tackle, was a four-year letterman for the Georgia Bulldogs from 1986 to 1989. He helped Georgia go 3-1 against Florida, including a memorable 26-3 victory in 1988, Vince Dooley's final season. As team captain in 1989, he led the Bulldogs to a 17-10 win over Florida during Ray Goff's first year as head coach. The Tulsa, Oklahoma native still ranks ninth in UGA history with 348 tackles and led the team with 121 tackles as a senior.

Goldberg was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1990 and made his NFL debut with the Atlanta Falcons in 1992 before injuries ended his career. He then found international fame as a professional wrestler, winning multiple championships, including the WCW World Heavyweight Championship, WWE's World Heavyweight Championship, and the WWE Universal Championship, before being inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2018. While continuing to support the Bulldogs, Goldberg has also built a successful career as an actor and commentator, with a new show set to air on Paramount+ in the first quarter of 2025.

Information via Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame website- https://gafjax.com/hall_of_fame/



2024 Ole Faithful Dawg Patrick Garbin



The Ole Faithful Dawg Award is given by the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club to an individual who is not a football letterman but who has been a loyal and dedicated supporter of the Bulldog football team. This year's recipient of the Ole Faithful Dawg Award, Patrick Garbin, a historian and Bulldog enthusiast, was a perfect fit. Patrick said writing seven books on the subject of UGA football was a labor of love and getting the books published was quite a task. During Patrick's acceptance speech, he made the statement, "When I was a young teenager all of my buddies would get together on Sunday afternoon in my front yard and play football. We would play hard and even use names of you guys! It's hard to believe I am actually standing here today receiving this award from you guys." The 2024 Ole Faithful Dawg Award was presented to Patrick Garbin on September 7, 2024 at halftime of the UGA vs. Tennessee Tech football game. Patrick wrote an article for us. It is below.



I am deeply honored to be this year's recipient of the Ole Faithful Dawg Award. I am forever grateful to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club for this honor and for hosting my son and me at its most recent Lettermen's Tailgate. For me, whose heroes growing up were Georgia football players, it was a surreal and unforgettable moment to be surrounded by those who I've always held in such high regard.

My late father, a UGA professor, started taking me to Bulldogs games at Sanford Stadium in 1981. But it was two years later that I became absolutely obsessed with Georgia football. Just prior to the start of the 1983 season, my mother had a chance encounter with her good friend, Debbie Whittemore, wife of Coach Charley Whittemore. Mrs. Whittemore spotted eight-year-old me with my mother and said she had something she'd like to give me at her house. What she gave me—Georgia's 1983 football media guide—would essentially change my world.

For the next year (or until the following year's guide was available), wherever I went, that '83 media guide was likely with me. I repeatedly poured through it, practically memorizing every page. At a very young age, I soon gained a vast knowledge and a tremendous appreciation of Georgia football's great history and tradition—and ultimately due in large part to Mrs. Whittemore giving me that media guide.

That season, Georgia had been given little chance to continue competing at a championship level after the loss of Herschel Walker to the USFL. Still, with a team full of grit, fight, and senior leadership, the Bulldogs were defeated just once while keeping Texas (where the time will always be "10 to 9") from winning a national championship by upsetting the Longhorns in the Cotton Bowl.

While the inspirational 1983 team got me hooked on Georgia football, I've always had the utmost respect and appreciation for all of you gifted enough to represent the University of Georgia on the gridiron. If anyone should be honored for their loyalty and dedication to the Georgia football program, it should be each and every one of you who can proudly wear the "G" as a UGA football letterman. All of you are true inspirations and remain heroes to the program's followers, both young and old.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. May God bless you and your families. Go Dawgs!—Patrick Garbin





Homecoming Tailgate



This year's UGA Football Letterman Club Homecoming Tailgate at Myers Quad was a fantastic success. We had a great turnout from lettermen and their families, enjoying the beautiful weather and the strong sense of camaraderie. The UGA Lettermen's Club sponsored the food, tables, and tent, ensuring everyone was well taken care of with a delicious catered spread, including the halftime fish fry, which was a big hit. The event continued through the third quarter of the game, and we received generous donations to support additional decor and administration. We're already looking forward to next year's celebration and making it even better!

By Kelin Johnson



DO WE HAVE YOUR
EMAIL ADDRESS?



Homecoming Tailgate





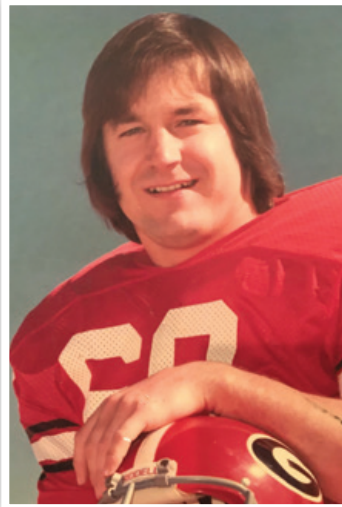
FEATURED LETTERMAN

JIM BAKER

(1973-74-75)

Tell us about your background. What brought you to the University of Georgia?

My father was in the military and I lived many different places including 6 years in Germany. When I was in 7th grade in Columbus, GA, I was encouraged to try out for the football team. When I went to sign up, an assistant coach laughed and said, “Baker, you think YOU can play football?” Well, right then and there I decided I’d show him how wrong he was. It was not until my high school years that I came to love the game while playing under Coach Art Williams. His love for football became MY love for football. He was the one who put my name out there for colleges, sent films, made phone calls and made it possible for me to be recruited by several major universities. I had no preconceived notion of a particular school to attend. I visited several schools, but once I visited Athens and met the Bulldog coaching staff and players and saw the facilities, I knew that this was going to be my new home. Once I made that decision, I never looked back.



him that the Lettermen were going to start an annual tailgate, he said he wanted to be a part of it because the football players had certainly paid their dues, and he loved that we were doing something special for them.

We are so fortunate to have you organize our big tailgate each year. Can you tell us a little bit about how it started and has grown over the years?

Mack Guest and I discussed an annual tailgate for Lettermen 35 years ago. The idea behind the Lettermen Tailgate is to give ALL football lettermen the opportunity to gather and enjoy fellowship with their old friends on Game Day. We started in the playground

of an elementary school across from the practice field with about 25 people. A few years later, we moved to the Coliseum parking lot and our tailgate grew to about 125 people. Once we located to Oconee Cemetery (with the help of Coach Dooley), we just grew and grew. We are now typically serving around 1000 people each tailgate. The best thing about this is that everyone pitches in and makes this a success. We have a group of volunteer chefs that start on Friday and continue Saturday morning putting in 15 plus hours. We have volunteer servers and bartenders that work all day Saturday. This is free to Lettermen and their families as an expression of gratitude and I love every minute of it!

Family Information- Please share a little bit of information about your family and be sure to brag on them.

I’ve been married to my bride, Becky Baker, for 47 ½ years. We have 3 children and all 3 attended UGA at the same time. I was one broke American, but it was worth every penny to see them become Bulldogs. All 3 are married and have given Becky and me 9 grandchildren who are already avid Dawg fans. We are truly blessed that our children live only 30 minutes away from us and we see them often. Our grandchildren range in age from 15 months to 13 years.

You worked at Georgia Crown with Don Leebern for many years. We just presented his grandchildren with the first ever, Truehearted Bulldog Award in his memory. Can you share what Don has meant to you and a story or 2 that represents him?

Don Leebern was one of the finest men I’ve ever known. I worked for him for almost 50 years, but he was a mix between father, big brother, and friend to me. He was encouraging, supportive and understanding of me in all of my endeavors, whether business or personal. I often witnessed him giving a hand-up to people he knew were in need. It might have been to give them a job, give them a loan, or just give them advice and a pat on the back. He was extremely loyal to those he played ball with both in high school and college. When I first told

Rumor has it that you were the grand dragon in August of 1975. Can you share that story?

I’m still not sure exactly why I was chosen to be the Grand Dragon, but I took it seriously. This was back in the day when we had “Rat Court” initiation for the freshmen ball players. I was a senior. I felt that I should look mean and tough, so I bought some Red Man chewing tobacco. Let me say that I never had chewed tobacco before and I never will again. It’s hard to be big and tough when you are “spinning out” on Red Man. Some of the stories that day need to be kept secret forever. Enough said.

Hobbies, organizations, community involvement, etc.

Besides cooking BBQ, I love to work on my farm in Omaha, GA. I love it when my old football buddies come down for weekends to hunt. I enjoy going deep sea fishing with those guys as well. Coming to Athens, tailgating and going to ball games is definitely one of my favorite things to do. I have several rental properties, and I don’t want to be known as a



Slum Lord, so I'm there a lot. Most of my leisure time, however, is spent at ballfields and basketball courts watching my grandchildren participate in sports. I have to admit that we have some pretty good athletes and I have a feeling that we will be watching them for many years to come. Becky and I volunteer at a local mission school and love to be a part of Wake for Warriors on the lake where we live every summer.

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

UGA was one of the best experiences of my life. I cannot put into words what the friendships created there mean to me. I am so glad that we are all still in touch with each other and are continuing to share good times. We love to talk about the "202 Club", the 5th Quarter, the Dog House, Bucky always needing a buck for a beer, shocking times in the locker room, mistaken identity in the whirlpool, Mrs. Johnson in the cafeteria, Coach Copas, fishing with Coach Kasay, 5 AM practice with Coach Kasay on Sunday, butting heads with Coach Russell, wearing Coach Russell's mother's Christmas gift to get into a bar, Bowl game trips, fights that were won and lost, and of course, games that made us look bad, and games that made us look good.

As a supportive member of the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club, what does it mean to you?

I have talked to ballplayers from other colleges and no one has anything like our Lettermen Club. We had a former Auburn quarterback as a tailgate guest a few weeks ago. He was extremely impressed with the cemetery setup and the fact that we were able to be together like we are. He couldn't get over Bulldog Haven! He said AU has nothing like this. We should never take this for granted because it is something special that is years in the making. I appreciate this group beyond measure and hope to be a part of it for many years to come.

Please feel free to add any additional information that you would like to share with your fellow lettermen.

This is a fraternity of brothers. We have lost many good ones along the way, but they will always be in our hearts. I find that saying their names out loud every now and then keeps their memories alive. We have shared good times and bad times along the way. We know each other inside and out. We accept each other as we are. What a privilege to have played between the hedges with those who have become some of my very best friends. We are truly unique and I feel blessed and proud to be able to share this brotherhood with men that I love.





2024 Campaign Update

We must give a big thank you to all of you who have helped us with a successful campaign this year. As of November 4, 2024, we have had 182 donors contribute \$30,125 to our 2024 Annual Campaign. If you have not contributed, it is not too late. Please complete the 2024 Campaign Card and mail it in along with your check. Remember that when you contribute \$100.00 or more to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club, you will automatically receive a 200-point credit towards the William C. Hartman Jr. Fund for your 2025 ticket priority. Thank you to all the lettermen who have already given. Your names are listed below:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Adcock, Matt | Dickens, Pete | Hunnicut, Gail | McWhorter, Mac | Sam, David |
| Akacki, John | Dicks, Robert | Hunnicut, Lynn | Milam, Ed | Sewell, Ryan |
| Allen, Donnie | Dooley, Daniel | Jackson, Tim | Miller, Thomas | Simpson, Tripp |
| Allison, Dave | Ellspermann, Leonard | Jacobs, Wes | Miller, Warner | Sipe, Robert |
| Baker, Bobby | Elsberry, Kent | James, Barney | Milo, Jim | Smith, John |
| Baker, Jim | Epperson, Rusty | James, Josh | Moore, Steven | Smith, Marvin |
| Baker, Ted | Fales, Charles | James, Randy | Morrison, Tim | Smith, Vernon |
| Barber, Fred | Fincher, Robert | Johnson, Joseph | Mosher, Stuart | Snellings, Paul |
| Beall, Jeremiah | Fleming, Ryan | Johnson, Randy | Mull, Curtiss | Stines, Tanner |
| Braswell, Kim | Fletcher, John | Johnson, Travis | Noblet, Jared | Stinson, Les |
| Brice, William | Foster, Clayton | Jones, Patrick | Nowicki, George | Story, Al |
| Brown, James | Franklin, Neal | Kardian, Andrew | Oakes, Mike | Talton, Chadwich |
| Brown, Kevin | Freeman, David | Kasay, John | Paine III, Travers | Tarpley, Ted |
| Bryant, AJ | Garrett, Michael | Kavouklis, Michael | Pannell, Preston | Tench, Jake |
| Bulloch, CW | Ghertner, Andrew | Kelly, Philip | Pascale, DJ | Terry, Gordon |
| Cagle, Jim | Goolsby, Barrington | Kelly, Robert | Patel, Harris | Thomas, John |
| Callaway, Tim | Gray, Daniel | Kimsey III, Cliff | Patton, George | Turner, Richard |
| Camp, John | Griffin, John | King, Horace | Payne, Billy | Ullrich, Andy |
| Carter, Quincy | Guest, Jud | Kinnebrew, Chuck | Peterson, Todd | Varnado, Gerald |
| Chapman, Tim | Guest, Mack | Kohn, Larry | Phillips, Ross | Vella, Leonard |
| Childers, Clyde | Gurley, John | Lammert, Steve | Ponder, Ernest | Vollrath, Tyger |
| Clark, Dicky | Guthrie, Carlton | Lastinger, Brad | Poole, Lee | Wade, Todd |
| Clarke, Lee | Hamil, Jason | Lastinger, John | Poss, Bobby | Wadley, Loring |
| Cole, Bill | Hansen, Brett | Lawhorne, Tommy | Price, JP | Weeks, David |
| Cole, Virgil | Happe, Joe | Lewis Jr., Thomas | Register, Brad | Whitmire, Brook |
| Collier, Steve | Harber, William | Lewis, Joseph | Reider, Ric | Whittemore, Charley |
| Collins, Bobby | Harper, Jeff | Lokey, Thomas | Rich, Derek | Whitton, George |
| Conn, Richard | Harrison, Clyde | Long, Austin | Roberts, James | Williams, Andrew |
| Cook, Fred | Haugabook, William | Lovelace, Wycliffe | Robinson, Matt | Williams, Clark |
| Culpepper, Knox | Herndon, Steven | Lucas, Cicero | Robinson, Mixon | Williams, Kelvin |
| Curington, Jim | Hester, Dennis | Madray, Ashley | Robinson, Will | Williams, Todd |
| Daniel, Lee | Hodge, Mark | McClendon, Willie | Rogers, Danny | Willis, Gary |
| Darden, Joel | Hodgeson, Pat | McGill Jr., Curt | Ros, Frank | Wilson, Buck |
| Davis, Jack | Honeycutt, Robert | McGill Sr., Curtis | Rowland, Bradley | Wood, Jimmy |
| DeMersseman, Paul | Hooten, Jacob | McKenny, Kay | Russell, George | Worley, Jennifer |
| Dennard, Anthony | Horton, Chuck | McPipkin, Jim | Russell, Jay | Zimmerlink, Tom |



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: _____



The origin of the Red Helmet with the power G's on the side and also the logo seen on flags and decal stickers associated with UGA athletic teams

By: George Nowicki 1965

Old news from a very old Letterman. This season is the 60th Anniversary of future College Football Hall of Fame member Vince Dooley coming to Georgia from Auburn. Before Spring Practice in 1964, he decided to change the football helmet from the traditional plain silver one to something else. I was a fifth-year senior to be. The first day of Spring Practice Mr. Howard Beavers, the Equipment Manager, handed me a white helmet with red and black stripes running front to back, similar to the Auburn helmet which had orange and blue stripes running front to back. I was to wear the helmet throughout Spring Practice and the G Day Game. Everyone else wore the silver helmets. My teammates were not happy. They didn't like the idea of being "Auburn East" or the Gaburn War Dogs".

When we came back in the fall, the helmet design was what you see Georgia wear today. The first game in the new helmets didn't turn out well. We lost by 4 touchdowns in a night game over in Tuscaloosa. Coach Dooley said that, despite the score, we didn't play that badly and he thought we could still have a good season. Based on our play in that game, Wayne Swinford, who went on to play defensive back for the San Francisco 49ers, and I were chosen to be co-captains for the next game on Saturday night in Nashville. We beat Vanderbilt, and that was the first of many wins for Coach Dooley and the new red helmet.

Years later, I asked Coach Dooley if the Green Bay Packers had a copyright or patent on the G design. He said they didn't. But they called up there to see if the Packers minded their logo being copied. Green Bay said it was fine with them if Georgia used it.



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
Rahmon Cooper
Joe Creamons

2025 Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Directory

Advertising Packages will be available for the 2025 Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Directory. This will be a great opportunity to support our club as well as promote your company among our lettermen.

Please contact Skip James at barneyjames92@yahoo.com or call (706) 988-3161 for questions.

Send us your ad and make checks payable to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive Athens, GA 30606.



Packages:

- \$500 – Full Page
- \$250 – Half Page
- \$125 – Quarter Page
- \$75 – Business Card



DO WE HAVE YOUR
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UGA Football Scrimmage

One of our favorite preseason events occurred on August 17, 2024. Coach Smart welcomed all football lettermen to the West End Zone for a delicious lunch catered by Stripling's and to watch the team practice. Our largest group of over 200 lettermen attended and enjoyed the perfect day of fellowship while watching the Dawgs get ready for the 2024 season. Thank you, Coach Smart, for your continued support of the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club!

Photos courtesy of Hamilton Culpepper; Bulldawg Illustrated





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

Jim Massey in memory of Don Leebern, Jr.

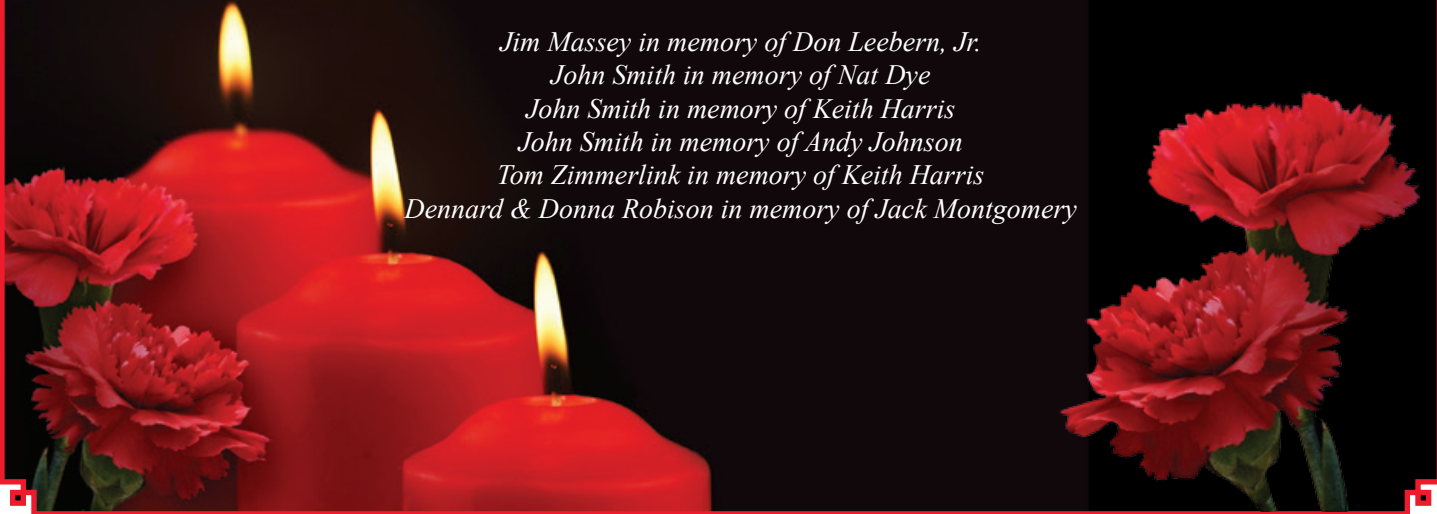
John Smith in memory of Nat Dye

John Smith in memory of Keith Harris

John Smith in memory of Andy Johnson

Tom Zimmerlink in memory of Keith Harris

Dennard & Donna Robison in memory of Jack Montgomery



LETTERMEN CONTACT INFORMATION



MOVING? CHANGE IN JOBS?? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS??? Please be sure to contact Sally Haugabook at 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!



Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame

Congratulations to nine UGA football lettermen who were inducted into the 2024 Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame class that took place on October 26, 2024 at the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, GA. They are: Edgar Chandler, Thomas Davis, David Greene, Len Hauss, Lauren Hargrove, Hudson Mason, Alec Ogletree, Leonard Pope, and Ben Zambiasi. Congratulations on this fantastic honor!



Lettermen News

2008: **Stuart Kingsley** and his wife Bethany are pleased to announce that their daughter Joselyn was born on August 17, 2024! She is their third daughter behind Evelyn and Adelyn. :)
Email Address: stuartkingsley@gmail.com

2002: **Kirby Towns** and his wife, Kathryn, would like to share the news of the birth of their son. Robert Ross “Bo” Towns was born on June 2, 2024. He is named after his grandfather, also a Georgia Letterman, Bobby Towns (1957-1959), and Kathryn’s father. Bo’s 4 older sisters are taking turns spoiling him as much as they can!
Email Address: kirbytowns@gmail.com

1998: **Ben Haynes** was promoted to Colonel last June and is the Assistant Jail Commander for the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Office.
Email Address: govnrben@gmail.com

1995: **Jason Cancel** will be representing Hong Kong in the World Masters Ultimate Championships in the Mixed Masters Division as player/coach. The ultimate frisbee tournament will be held November 10-16, 2024 in Irvine, California and will feature teams from 12 countries in 7 divisions. This will be his 4th time playing in a World Masters Ultimate Championship.
Email Address: mondesi@rocketmail.com

1992: **Tyger Vollrath** completed his 7th US Olympic Trials in Slalom Canoe/Kayak in Montgomery, AL and Oklahoma City, OK this summer, finishing 12th in Kayak Slalom and 6th in Kayak Cross Extreme.
Email Address: tyger_vollrath@pswebsolution.com

1987: **John Brantley** and his wife, Diane, are pleased to announce the arrival of their second grandchild. Vivienne Louise Brantley, born February 27, 2024, weighing 6 lbs 15 oz.

Mom and dad, Kate and Bo Brantley, are adjusting to life with a second baby and Elijah is enjoying being a big brother.
Email Address: jbrantley42@hotmail.com

1979: **Jay Russell** was inducted into the Georgia High School Athletic Directors Association (GADA) Hall of Fame in March 2024. He served as a High School Athletic Director for 25 years at 5 different schools. In 2002, he was President of the organization. He currently lives in Thomaston, Georgia working for the Georgia High School Association as the coordinator of football for the state of Georgia.
Email Address: jwr8181@gmail.com

1974: **Horace King & John Gurley** played on the winning team at the recent NFL Alumni Atlanta Chapter Charity Golf Event held at Bear’s Best GC and advanced to the “Super Bowl of Golf” held on October 7th at the TPC Golf Club of New Orleans, all expenses paid courtesy of the NFL Alumni Association and competed against the winners of other NFL Alumni Chapters around the country.

In New Orleans they tied for fourth place with a cap adjusted 61, in a scramble format with no mulligans permitted and walking scorekeepers!!

Horace is an active member of the NFL Alumni Atlanta Chapter having played as a Running Back for The Detroit Lions from

TYGER VOLLRATH



Lettermen News

HORACE KING & JOHN GURLEY

1975-1984 & was the “player coach” of the team he “drafted” for the golf competition ..sights are set for a W in 2025.

Email Address:|
hmking@ameritech.net;
john.b.gurley@outlook.com



1973: Jim Baker & Mac McWhorter along with their wives, Becky Baker and Becky McWhorter, enjoyed catching up in Spain this summer. Mac was the Assistant Head Coach and Offensive Line Coach of the Madrid Bravos this season in Madrid, Spain.

Email Address: jrbaker @georgiacrown.com;
Mcwhorterhp@gmail.com

JIM BAKER & MAC MCWHORTER





DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Lettermen News

1973: Dick Conn and his family celebrated with his teammates the 50th Anniversary of Super Bowl IX in Pittsburgh, PA at the Steelers vs. Jets game on October 20, 2024.

Email Address: dickconn22@gmail.com

**DICK
CONN**



1970: Cliff Kimsey is proud to announce that his grandson, Shane Lussier (age 25), is now engaged to Miss Anna Shumard, whom he has had a relationship with since they were sophomores together at Greater Atlanta Christian School. She is a beautiful Christian lady with a wonderful family. He is proud to have her as a great addition to their family.

Email Address: cliffkimsey@gmail.com

1970: Jim Massey took a 26-day trip this summer. He and his son had a great time. They went to see Sumo wrestling in Japan because his roommate at Georgia, Lon Chatfield, really liked wrestling. The team got a big kick out of them wrestling. It occurred sometimes at practice when the coaches stopped to talk about some issue. Then everybody would circle up and make Jim fight/wrestle Lon. However, Lon weighed 250 lbs while Jim only weighed 151 lbs. They also wrestled at the McWhorter Hall cafeteria when they would lock the doors and not let Jim out until he wrestled Lon. The cafeteria staff would go crazy. Wrestling occurred in the dorm room where Lon would get Jim in the Airplane spin. They had some wild matches.

In Japan, Jim and his son saw lots of culture. Their train system is well organized and is amazing. The streets are always clean. They went to Tokyo Disney for four days then to Hawaii for few days to lay on the beach at Waikiki. The next stop

**JIM
MASSEY**



was Denali in Alaska and then back to Anchorage where they met his brother and all his family and children for a cruise back down to Vancouver, Canada.

Email Address: jmassey22@verizon.net

1962: John Paul Holmes and his wife, Susan Holmes, report they now have three precious great-grandchildren, Sisters Eve and Georgia Holmes (Paul and Katie) and Sam Holmes (Sam and Elizabeth).

Email Address: jpholmes692@bellsouth.net



3rd Annual Keith Harris Memorial Golf Tournament

On September 6, 2024 a group of lettermen played a round of golf at the UGA Golf Course in memory of Keith Harris (1972-74) who passed away on March 25, 2022. These lettermen had a great time on the course and know Keith was smiling down on them.



Pictured: Front Row (L to R): Ralph Clark, Johnny Cobb, Horace King, Josh Watt, David McKnight, Ed Milam, Andy Ullrich, Mad Dawg Oakes
Back Row (L to R): Bill Cole, Mixon Robinson, Steve Sleek, John Gurley, Rex Putnal, Dicky Clark, Ric Reider, Tom Zimmerlink

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 or mail information to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606. Thanks for your help!

Gary Adams
Kendall Baker
Collin Barber
Herman Bell
Illya Berry
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
JT Daniels
Brent Davis
Reginald Davis
West Davis
Akeem Dent
Reuben Faloughi
Glenn Fox

Lamont Gaillard
Steven Donald Gates
Carl George
Walter Grant
A.J. Green
Todd Gurley
Michael Hall
David Hargett
D'Marcus Hayes
Terry Henderson
Albert H. Hollis
Mark Howard Holmes
Robert Allen Hope
Bertrand Jackson
Darius Jackson
Willie K. Jackson
David Jenkins
Jermaine Johnson
Kennar Johnson
Wayne Johnson
Jake Jones
Preston Jones
Clarence Kay
Torin Kirtsey
Greyson Lambert
Matt Landers

Ben Lane
Richard Lecounte
Josh Paul Lowell
Clete Marshall
Tyrique McGhee
Thomas McKinnon
Prince Miller
Emmett Mitchell
Tymon Mitchell
Jesse Murray
Andrew Owensby
Patrick Pass
Suquorey Pitts
James Ray
Keyon Richardson
Riley Ridley
Michael Robinson
Dominick Sanders
Justin Shaffer
Robert Singleton
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
Charles Willis
Michael W. Willis
Timothy Worley
Billy Worrell





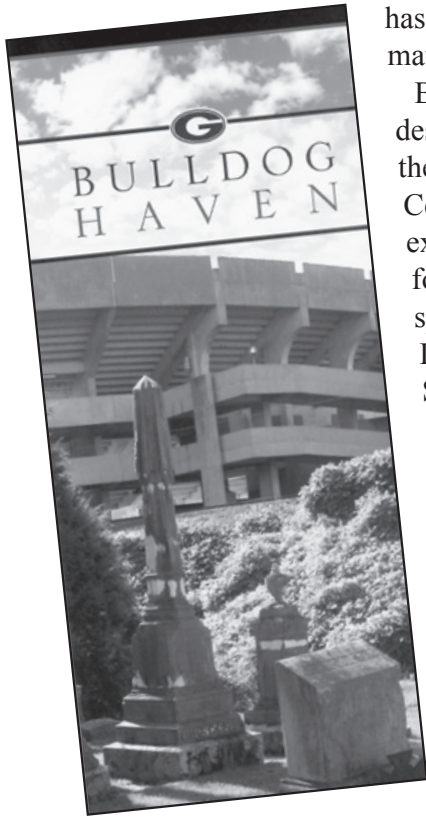
BULLDOG HAVEN

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)

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



Victory at Texas One of Georgia's All-Time Classics

Loran Smith

October 22, 2024

It was a relatively short flight of an hour and 45 minutes home from Austin for the Georgia football team last Saturday night. With a competent police escort on the ground and a tailwind pushing the Delta jet that brought the victors to Ben Epps Field, it was, nonetheless, a night owl flight that touched down only a couple hours before twilight.

I walked into my house at 4:20 a.m., beleaguered and physically spent, but all that was trumped by reverberating euphoria. Classic victories stimulate adrenalin flow — even for geezers — and you can't wait for Sunday morning's SportsCenter and the replays that make you want to sing your favorite fight song, "Glory, Glory."

In another day, a lesser technological era, daybreak's morning papers would have had flowing tributes and photo spreads that would have warmed the cockles of alumni hearts.

How is it that in this day when everything is instant from coffee to a drone disrupting a terrorist's trip to a hideout that we can't get the sports columnists printed take on a signature triumph until two days later?

Athens was very quiet and sound asleep when the Bulldogs scrambled to their quarters with the penultimate satisfaction of a job well done. The thunder of applause will be delayed until the Florida game in Jacksonville. With the team, it was back to work on Monday. Unfinished business remains. The preparation that is always cutting edge with the coach, the Smart man in charge, will be accompanied with reminders that pitfalls await the mentally unprepared on football Saturdays.

Soon there was a note from Claude Felton which read: "Might be the best regular season victory I can recall." That caused rambling reflection.

My first flashback connected me with 1965 when Georgia defeated Michigan at Ann Arbor, 15-7.

As the advance representative, managing team travel arrangements for the Bulldogs, I arrived at Ann Arbor where Michigan was the defending Rose Bowl champion. The attitude was like, "Who is this high school we are playing this week?"

"What conference do you guys play in?" asked the man behind the desk at our team hotel in Ypsilanti, 12 miles away. "How big is your stadium?" was the next question, as he smirked with knowledge that, even in the Big Ten, not many stadiums could match the Wolverines' 105,000 seats.

It was obvious that Michigan partisans considered Georgia to be in the "Little Leagues." When the game was over, however, it was a different story.

When the Michigan game of almost six decades is recalled, one interesting sidebar is that there has never been a greater reception for a victorious team returning to Athens. Folks back home in the Classic City had listened to Ed Thilenius call the game, which was over by 5 p.m. Ann Arbor is in the Eastern Time zone and the Bulldogs flew two Southern Airways Martin 404s, stopping in Memphis, as I recall, for refueling. We probably reached Athens around 11 p.m.

As the planes banked to land from the east, we could see headlights in bumper to bumper traffic all the way from the airport to downtown Athens. In the history of UGA football there has never been a greater reception for a returning team.

Considering all factors, the erudite Mr. Felton is probably right about the results last weekend in Austin: sterling victory against the No.1 team in the country before a record crowd of 105,215 and a move to a No. 2 ranking in the polls.

It had to be head turning in 1927 when UGA defeated Yale in New Haven, 14-10; beating Texas 10-9 in the Cotton Bowl in 1984 remains a memorable victory for the Dawgs and so was edging Notre Dame at South Bend, 20-19 in 2017.

The good news for the fans is that with an open date on the schedule, there will be two weeks to enjoy the celebratory highlights of the last game.

It was Georgia's best played game since Clemson and should mollify most doubters.

Fortunately for Georgia, the Bulldogs have a coach who started de-focusing on the Texas victory as soon as he turned in for the night. That is no small thing in his business.





The Donald M. Leebern Jr. Truehearted Bulldog Award

On September 7, 2024, we had the honor of presenting The Donald M. Leebern Jr. Truehearted Bulldog Award in memory of Donald M. Leebern, Jr. Don lettered in football at the University of Georgia in 1957, 1958 and 1959. He served on the Athletic Board and was Chairman of the Board of Regents. He was devoted and loyal to the University in both academics and athletics his entire lifetime. He was especially supportive of the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club in every way. He was a Truehearted Bulldog through and through. This Donald M. Leebern Jr. Truehearted Bulldog Award was presented to his five grandchildren in his memory- Donald M. Leebern IV, Lily Leebern, Lawson Leebern, Christopher Shadburn, and Nicholas Shadburn.







Tailgate Party & Halftime Reunion

(more photos)



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“ Paul DeMersseman 1975

Paul would like to announce that his youngest son, Dustin, is now working in his financial strategies business with Peachtree Planning.



706.354.8302

peachtreeplanning.com

JIMMY PAYNE HARDSHIP FUND

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 Andre Smith.

For an application, please visit our website -

www.ugalettermensclub.com.

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- 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.
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Natalee Kay Wilson

Internal Medicine, Board Certified MD, MS

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 Bulldogs 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

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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!

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