



## Academic Speaker Request Process

Use the following steps to have a UGA faculty member serve as a guest speaker for your alumni chapter:

- 1) Review the list of faculty speakers below and request a faculty speaker **three months** in advance through the [Event Request form](#). You may finalize the date at a later time in order to work around the speaker's availability.
- 2) The Alumni Association will contact TEDxUGA within three business days of receiving the request.
- 3) TEDxUGA will contact the faculty member to share the opportunity.
  - i) If the faculty member is unavailable, TEDxUGA will communicate that to the Alumni Association and alumni chapter.
  - ii) If the faculty member is interested in exploring more details, TEDxUGA will put the faculty member in contact with the alumni chapter.
- 4) Work with the speaker to establish dates and details.
- 5) Provide the Alumni Association with final date and details to insert in the evite.
- 6) The Alumni Association will promote the event via an evite. TEDxUGA will also promote the event.



**Sonia Altizer, PhD**  
**Odum School of Ecology**

Dr. Sonia Altizer is a professor in the Odum School of Ecology and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. For the past 20 years, she has traveled the world to study monarch butterfly migration and ecology. In recent years, she has witnessed how the number of monarchs have dwindled. Dr. Altizer co-edited a book to appear in 2015 titled *Monarchs in a Changing World: Biology and Conservation of an Iconic Insect*, and she participated in high-level task forces dedicated to monarch butterfly conservation. At UGA, her students run a citizen science project called “Monarch Health,” now in its eighth year, that involves hundreds of volunteers across North America in sampling wild monarchs for diseases. Dr. Altizer’s main research also focuses on how pathogens affecting wildlife are shifting in response to human environmental change, specifically on diseases that affect bats, birds, rodents, and wild primates. Dr. Altizer wants to emphasize the importance of the Monarch butterfly and encourage activities that could help save this beloved insect.



**Valerie Babb**  
**Franklin College of Arts and Sciences**

Valerie Babb is a Franklin Professor of English and director of the Institute for African American Studies. She has been a professor at Georgetown University and a faculty member of the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. Among her publications are *Whiteness Visible: The Meaning of Whiteness in American Literature and Culture*, *Black Georgetown Remembered*, and *A History of the African American Novel*. She has been a Scholar-in-Residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and is the recipient of a W. M. Keck Foundation Fellowship in American Studies. She has lectured extensively in the United States and presented a Distinguished W.E.B. Du Bois Lecture at Humboldt University in Berlin.



**Mehrsa Baradaran**  
**School of Law**

Mehrsa Baradaran has been an associate professor at Georgia Law since 2012. Previously, she taught at Brigham Young University, where she was named 1L Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association. After earning a bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University, she went on to study law at NYU, where she was an Academic Research Fellow and served as a member of the New York University Law Review. Baradaran’s book “How the Other Half Banks” received significant media coverage and has been featured in *The New York Times* among other national and international news outlets.



**David Barbe**  
**Terry College of Business**

David Barbe has developed a multi-faceted music career since graduating in 1986. Barbe has been the director of the Music Business Certificate Program since 2010, and has worked as an engineer, producer, songwriter, studio owner, and artist on hundreds of albums in studios all over the world. He's worked with many notable artists including Drive-By Truckers, Deerhunter, REM, Son Volt, KD Lang, Animal Collective, Sugar, Cracker, Bettye LaVette, Futurebirds, and Booker T. Jones. Barbe's own recording studio, Chase Park Transduction, has been in operation since 1997.



**Coleman Barks, PhD**  
**Franklin College of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. Coleman Barks has taught poetry and creative writing for more than thirty years. As a professor emeritus, Dr. Barks still resides in Athens and writes and publishes under his own imprint, Maypop Books, as well as others including HarperCollins and the University of Georgia Press. In addition to several poetry collections and books, Dr. Barks is the author of numerous translations of Rumi and has been a student of Sufism since 1977. He makes frequent international appearances and is well-known throughout the Middle East. Dr. Barks's work has contributed to an extremely strong following of Rumi in the English-speaking world.



**Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander, PhD**  
**Terry College of Business**

Dr. Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander is a lawyer, an associate professor of Employment Law and Legal Studies and co-author of the leading employment law text in the country. She is passionate about humanity truly understanding what diversity means and how to operationalize it. Her life work is based on her belief that each of us is here for a unique purpose, and we come with the tools to accomplish it, including race, gender, and sexual orientation. She believes that part of her mission is helping people to understand that the differences we have should not be perceived as meaning "less than" and that concentrating on those differences keeps individuals from doing what they were put here to do.



**Geert-Jan Boons, PhD**  
**Franklin College of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. Geert-Jan Boons has been a professor and researcher in the Department of Chemistry since 1998 and runs a lab in the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center. He serves on the editorial boards of Carbohydrate Research, The Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry, and Advances in Carbohydrate Chemistry and Biochemistry. In 2004, Dr. Boons received the Horace Isbell Award from the Division of Carbohydrate Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. He was also named Chemist of the Year by the Northeast Georgia American Chemical Society and appointed Franklin Professor of Chemistry. In 2012, his lab had a major breakthrough in anti-cancer vaccines that was reported nationally. Dr. Boons recently received the Creative Research Inventor's Award from the University of Georgia Research Foundation.



**Jeb Byers**  
**Odum School of Ecology**

James (Jeb) Byers is a marine biologist and professor in the Odum School of Ecology, with a PhD from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Dr. Byers is an internationally-recognized expert in invasion biology and has served as an expert scientific advisor to develop national invasive species policy. For the past 20 years, he has traveled worldwide to study the role that parasites can play in structuring ecological communities. Dr. Byers is a dynamic instructor and the recipient of several teaching and mentoring awards.



**Caree Cotwright**  
**College of Family and Consumer Sciences**

Caree Cotwright is an assistant professor in the Department of Foods and Nutrition and a double-dawg, having earned a PhD and Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition at the university. Previously a Research Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Cotwright focuses on early childhood obesity prevention, community nutrition, and health disparities. Dr. Cotwright has received the UGA 40 Under 40 Award and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Pacesetter Award. She has also promoted Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative. Her passion is creating interventions that use theater, media, and other arts-based approaches to combat the problem of obesity. Today, she lives in Athens with her loving husband, Marty, and her daughters, Camara and Camille.



**W. Keith Campbell**  
**Franklin College of Arts and Sciences**

Dr. W. Keith Campbell is Head of the Department of Psychology. He holds a BA from the University of California at Berkeley, an MA from San Diego State University, and a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Campbell is the author of more than 150 scientific articles and chapters, and multiple books regarding narcissism. His work on narcissism has appeared in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Time*, and he has made numerous radio and television appearances.



**Leah Carmichael**  
**School of Public and International Affairs**

Leah Carmichael is a professor in the Department of International Affairs. She received her PhD in International Affairs from the University of Georgia and her BA from Guilford College. Dr. Carmichael's research agenda focuses on food insecurity as it relates to domestic policies, international law, and weapons of warfare.



**John Drake, PhD**  
**Odum School of Ecology**

Dr. John Drake is an associate professor in the Odum School of Ecology. Dr. Drake received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 2004 and began teaching after finishing his Postdoctoral Fellowship at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara in 2006. His research seeks to understand the dynamics of biological populations and epidemics, focusing on the integration of theory and experimental or observational data. The practical applications of Dr. Drake's work include decision support for managing invasive species, mapping the spread of infectious diseases, and forecasting disease emergence. His current projects concern the dynamics of the Ebola diseases, and forecasting disease emergence. His current projects concern the dynamics of the Ebola virus in West Africa, spread of White-nose Syndrome in bats, and the development of a new theory for early warning systems of emerging infectious diseases.



**Kamal Gandhi**

**Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources**

Dr. Kamal Gandhi is a forest entomologist and an associate professor at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and M.S. from the University of Alberta. Dr. Gandhi has 20 years experience in teaching as well as conducting research and outreach activities on many facets of community and population ecology of forest insects. Dr. Gandhi is heavily involved in policy issues, and spends time in Washington D.C. working with many state and federal agencies to advocate for science and research.



**John Greenman**

**Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication**

John Greenman is a professor emeritus and Carter Chair of Journalism. Greenman joined Grady College's faculty in 2004 after presiding for ten years as president and publisher of the Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus, Georgia. While working for the Akron Beacon-Journal, Greenman helped direct and edit coverage of the attempted takeover of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company that won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting. While at Grady, Greenman taught the public affairs journalism emphasis and served as director of the Travel Journalism in Prague study abroad program. Having recently retired from teaching, Greenman continues to facilitate the McGill Program, a lecture and symposium designed to advance journalistic courage.



**Nadia Kellam, PhD**

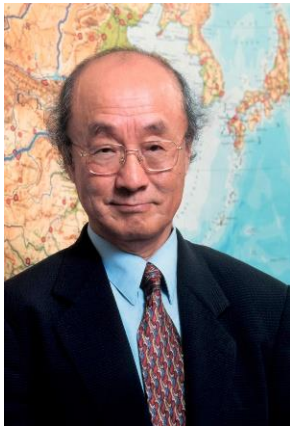
**College of Engineering**

Dr. Nadia Kellam is a freestyle skydiver and an associate professor in the College of Engineering. She is co-director of the interdisciplinary engineering education research CLUSTER where she conducts research to better understand how engineering students develop their professional identity through research projects that focus on the role of emotion in student learning, creativity, and synergistic learning. She designed the environmental engineering synthesis and design studios and is now developing the design spine for the new mechanical engineering program. As a skydiver, she has won the silver and bronze medals at the US National Championships and was selected as the Skydive Carolina Skydiver of the Year in 2012.



**Bettina Love, PhD**  
**College of Education**

Dr. Bettina Love is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Theory & Practice. Her research focuses on the ways in which urban youth negotiate hip-hop music and culture to form social, cultural, and political identities. A continuing thread of her scholarship involves exploring new ways of thinking about education and culturally relevant pedagogical approaches for urban students. More specifically, she is interested in transforming urban classrooms through the use of non-traditional educational curricula (e.g., hip-hop pedagogy, media literacy, hip-hop feminism, and popular culture). Dr. Love also has a passion for studying the school experiences of queer youth, along with race and equality in education. She is the author of *Hip Hop's Li'l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South* (Peter Lang, 2012). Her work has appeared in numerous books and journals, including the *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*, *Journal of LGBT Youth*, *Educational Studies*, and *Race, Gender and Class*.



**Han Park, PhD**  
**School of Public & International Affairs**

Dr. Han Park is a professor of Political Science and the founding director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues. Dr. Park developed a lifelong commitment to peace studies after living in the war-torn areas of China and Korea. In 2010, Dr. Park was awarded the Gandhi-King-Ikeda Community Builder's Prize for his peacebuilding efforts around the world. Dr. Park has multiple writings that portray his idea of peace, including *Development as the Crossroads* (2015), *North Korea Demystified* (2012), and *North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom* (2002). As a peace scholar and mediator with the mission of building peace surrounding the Korean peninsula, Dr. Park has visited North Korea approximately fifty times since the eruption of the nuclear crisis in early 1990s to facilitate dialogue and mediate differences between Pyongyang and the rest of the world. Dr. Park encourages people to view peace as an action, not the absence of conflict.



**James Porter, PhD**  
**Odum School of Ecology**

Dr. James Porter is a Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Marine Sciences. His research interests include coral reef ecology and conservation biology, as well as the human health effects of the naval bombardment of coral reefs on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Dr. Porter regularly speaks on climate change, and is a faculty affiliate of the Water Resources Institute and the Conservation Ecology Program.



**Myriam Quispe-Agnoli, PhD**  
**Terry College of Business**

Dr. Myriam Quispe-Agnoli is a faculty member in the Department of Economics. Previously, she was a research economist and assistant policy adviser in the research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Her fields of specialization are international economics, trade and finance, open macroeconomics, and economic development. Dr. Quispe-Agnoli has published her research in various journals, including *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Contemporary Economic Policy*. Her research has also appeared in several books. A native of Lima, Peru, Dr. Quispe-Agnoli strives to make economics an approachable subject so that everyone can understand the effect they have on the economy around them.



**Belinda Stillion Southard, PhD**  
**Franklin College of Arts & Sciences**

Dr. Belinda Stillion Southard is a scholar of rhetoric with a PhD in Communication and a doctoral certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Maryland. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Studies and an affiliate professor for the Institute for Women's Studies. Dr. Stillion Southard focuses her research on how disenfranchised and disempowered groups in society have created social change. Her research is summarized in the award-winning book, *Militant Citizenship: Rhetorical Strategies of the National Woman's Party, 1913-1920*. Along with her book, Dr. Stillion Southard's research has also appeared in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*, *Communication Quarterly*, *Voices of Democracy*, and elsewhere. She has written about teaching the militant strategies of the Civil Rights Movement in the forthcoming edition of *Chalk*.



**Christopher Whalen, PhD**  
**College of Public Health**

Dr. Christopher Whalen earned both his Medical Degree in 1984 and his Master of Science in Epidemiology & Biostatistics in 1992 from Case Western Reserve University. He is currently the Earnest Corn Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology in the College of Public Health. For the last 25 years, his research involved the interaction of tuberculosis and HIV at the cellular, clinical, and population levels. Recently, Dr. Whalen has studied the transmission dynamic of *M. tuberculosis* in African cities. He has collaborated for over 20 years with Ugandan scientists at Makerere University and health officials from the Ugandan Ministry of Health. His research portfolio has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1993.