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Book Review: Through the Arch: An Illustrated Guide to the University of Georgia Campus

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Off the SHELF

Through the Arch: An Illustrated Guide to the University of Georgia Campus by Larry B. Dendy, foreword by F.N. Boney (The University of Georgia Press, 2013: ISBN 978-0-8203-4248-1, \$26.95)

In his new work, *Through the Arch: An Illustrated Guide to the University of Georgia Campus*, Larry B. Dendy aims to reveal the beauty of the University of Georgia's campus while noting the institution's many achievements in higher education. Dendy accomplishes this by highlighting the University of Georgia's buildings, gardens, facilities, and surroundings. He also describes the history and academic accomplishments associated with each location. The result is an illuminating survey that delivers not only a highly useful guide to the physical attributes and landmarks of the University of Georgia (UGA), but also presents the history and cultural heritage of the university in a way that is both accessible and engaging.

Beginning with a brief history, Dendy offers a vivid overview of the University of Georgia's campus and academic achievements. Drawing from the scholarly works of Joel Thomas Bowen, F.N. Boney, Thomas G. Dyer, Robert Preston Brooks, and many others, the author provides a comprehensive description of the history of the University of Georgia as an academic institution, its growth in higher education, and its cultural heritage. Starting with the Charter of the University of Georgia in 1785 (that marked UGA as the first higher education institution in the United States to be created by a state

government), Dendy documents the major events in the history of the university, including the development of its academic programs and the need for expansion. Of particular interest is Dendy's discussion of the social challenges and constraints over the years, as well as the university's progress and triumphs, including the enrollment of the first female students in 1918, and the enrollment of Charlayne Hunter, Hamilton Holmes, and Mary Frances Early, the first African American students accepted into UGA.



Following the brief history of UGA, the book is arranged geographically, with each chapter addressing the buildings, landscape, and history of each area of campus. The major sections include North, Central, South, and East campus, along with off-campus and athletic facilities. Dendy

describes each of the highlighted buildings in great detail, discussing the structure's architectural elements, interior layouts, furnishings, and renovations, as well as the historical events associated with each building. Dendy also acknowledges the leadership responsible for the different phases of campus growth and academic initiatives for the university throughout its history, while honoring the influence and contributions of the university's donors and benefactors.

The text is complemented with hundreds of photographs, maps, and illustrations that help to display the vibrancy of the university's campus, culture, and legacy. As a supplement to the text, Dendy includes sidebars describing

significant historical events, campus traditions, legend, and lore. The reader learns of the legends of Joe Brown Hall, the experiences of UGA's first female students, the Forestry School "Student Revolt," and other colorful anecdotes. Dendy also includes a sidebar section called *UGA Memory*, which incorporates personal accounts and experiences of UGA alumni.

Through consultation with the University Architect's office, UGA Archives, and diligent study of works by the state's most prolific historians, Dendy successfully accomplishes his goal of illustrating the beauty of UGA's campus

while conveying the richness of its history. Much more than a guide to campus landmarks, this volume contains a wealth of historical detail and cultural perspective that would be a useful tool for the UGA freshmen first-year experience. With a succinct and highly accessible approach, Dendy has created a valuable resource that would appeal to current students, alumni, and anyone interested in UGA's campus and its place in Georgia history.

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