

## Service-Learning Fellows Project and Course Outcomes

Since 2005, the Office of Service-Learning has selected over 75 UGA faculty members to participate in annual cohorts of its **Service-Learning Fellows** faculty development program. Representing 13 of UGA's schools and colleges, plus units reporting to Public Service & Outreach, the Vice President for Instruction, and the Provost's Office, and the UGA medical partnership, each of these faculty members has not only learned about service-learning course design, best practices for working with community partners, assessment and engaged research, and other monthly topics, but also has developed and implemented a project to further enhance service-learning opportunities on campus. These have resulted in enhanced educational opportunities for students, from first-year students to upper-division, professional, and graduate coursework, while also benefiting the community.

Pre- to post-participation assessment across cohorts has demonstrated that participants report statistically significant increases in their level of competence to advance civic engagement on campus and in their own research and teaching, and to understand and implement best practices into service-learning course development and instruction, among other outcomes.

Sample projects by past Service-Learning Fellows include:

### ***Enriching Disability Studies through Service-Learning***

2013-14 Service-Learning Fellow Dr. Carol Britton Laws (Institute on Human Development and Disability) has created new courses and integrated service-learning across the core courses for the undergraduate Certificate in Disability Studies. Students engage in service-learning projects with goals of enhancing student understanding of the lived experience of having a disability and empowering people with disabilities in our community. In IHDD 4002: *Disability Issues in Adulthood*, undergraduate students worked with the Athens Community Council on Aging to meet an expressed need for volunteers in their day habilitation program, completing a strengths-based portfolio for adults with significant disabilities. In IHDD 5720S: *Advocacy Practice for Social Change*, students created and led workshops on self-advocacy for People First of Athens. Dr. Laws has also presented on service-learning in disability studies at national conferences, and is creating additional service-learning coursework.



### ***Engineering Student Participation in a More Sustainable Built Environment on Campus***

Students in the ENGR/LAND 4660: *Sustainable Design* course taught by 2010-11 Service-Learning Fellow Dr. Tom Lawrence (College of Engineering) conducted several projects at the request of the UGA Office of Sustainability. Student teams surveyed recently completed new building occupants for thermal comfort satisfaction (used in conjunction with the LEED certification process); evaluated the cooling, ventilation and lighting control systems; and prepared a design guide for the installation of green roof projects. Besides learning specific technical skills involved with their particular project, the students experience the benefits and pitfalls of working on real-world projects.

### **Financial Therapy and Counseling**

As a 2009-10 Service-Learning Fellow, Dr. Joseph Goetz (Department of Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics) engaged students in FHCE/HACE 8900 and other courses to provide financial counseling and financial therapy services to individuals and couples from the local community via the UGA ASPIRE Clinic. Students also provided financial counseling to survivors of domestic violence in partnership with Project Safe. Through several service-learning courses, each semester his students work to increase the overall financial wellbeing of members of their community, while applying their classroom knowledge and developing their client-relationship skills. Dr. Goetz has also published on service-learning in financial education, and has received UGA's *Richard B. Russell Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award*.



### **Women's Studies and Campus Kitchen at UGA**

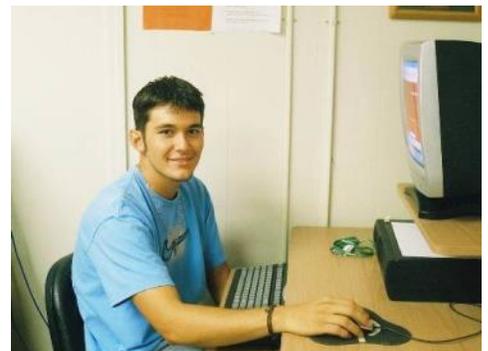


Dr. Cecilia Herles (Institute for Women's Studies), a 2009-10 Service-Learning Fellow, led students in WMST 4170/6170: *Environment, Gender, Race, Class* to examine how environmental degradation is connected to issues of social injustice. In 2010, they analyzed ways in which campus kitchens across the United States use existing resources to meet hunger and nutritional needs in the surrounding community while addressing the environmental problem of food waste; their feasibility analysis resulted in the establishment of the Campus Kitchen at UGA the following year.

Since then, students in Herles's courses have continued to be involved in leadership roles with the Campus Kitchen, which has won national awards for its success at recovering and redistributing food to combat hunger in the local population of older adults, via Meals on Wheels and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

### **Spanish Adult Literacy Program**

Students in 2012-13 Service-Learning Fellow Dr. Betina Kaplan's Fall 2012 SPAN 4090S: *Practicum in Service-Learning* and Spring 2013 SPAN 3011: *Spanish Grammar, Composition, and Comprehension for Heritage Speakers* classes took part in a Spanish Adult Literacy program, providing instruction in Spanish to Hispanics with little or no schooling in their home countries. This program champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of Hispanic adults, their families, and the Athens community at large. At the same time, while UGA students practice their language skills with native speakers in real life situations, they not only increase their fluency in Spanish, but also their understanding of a different culture. Dr. Kaplan has also taught service-learning courses at UGA's Buenos Aires study abroad site and through the First-Year Odyssey Program, and has presented at disciplinary conferences on service-learning in language instruction; she was the 2014 recipient of UGA's *Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award*.



### ***Engaging Future Teachers of English through Service-Learning***

Dr. Peter Smagorinsky (Department of Language & Literacy Education), a 2007-08 Service-Learning Fellow, developed a service-learning course, LLED 3461S: *Service-Learning in Teacher Education*, engaging future teachers of high school English in tutoring and mentoring educationally at-risk students in the local alternative high school. Dr. Smagorinsky has also published extensively on service-learning, and is a UGA Distinguished Research Professor as well as the 2014 recipient of UGA's *Service-Learning Research Excellence Award*.

### ***Conducting Neighborhood Assessments: Service-Learning in Housing and Community Development***

In Spring 2014, Dr. Karen Tinsley (2013-14 Service-Learning Fellow) and Dr. Kim Skobba (2012-13 Fellow) from the Department of Financial Planning, Housing, and Consumer Economics partnered with the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program on a service-learning opportunity for the students in FHCE (formerly HACE) 4340S: *Housing and Community Development*. The City of Porterdale, a participant in the GICH program, identified the need for a housing assessment study of their Newtown neighborhood. Course participants conducted a windshield survey of housing conditions, and analyzed and summarized secondary housing and demographic data in a written report presented to city elected officials and staff. Through evaluating housing conditions firsthand, the students gained a better understanding of housing problems facing low-income residents and neighborhoods, as well as planning challenges of housing organizations and local governments.



### ***Integrating Service-Learning into the Veterinary Medicine Curriculum***

Dr. Ajay Sharma, a 2012-13 Service-Learning Fellow, and Dr. Mary Hondalus, a 2014-15 Fellow, developed IDIS 5230S/POPH 5230: *Special Topics in Public Health, Community Engagement, and Service-Learning*, a mandatory course for DVM-MPH students also available to other UGA students. The course's goals include development of student cultural competencies and professional leadership, and it engages students in a community service project encompassing some aspect of animal health and public health. In Spring 2013, students interacted with local Latino communities through educational outreach on preventative health care for dogs and cats, a vaccination clinic, and post-vaccination follow-up with community members. Dr. Hondalus has also been recognized as a UGA *Lilly Teaching Fellow* and with the *Tyler Award for Innovation in Teaching*.

### ***Video Modules to Prepare for Working with Georgia's Latino Community***

Dr. Maritza Soto Keen (J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development), a 2011-12 Service-Learning Fellow, partnered with Dr. Paul Matthews (2005 Service-Learning Fellow and OSL assistant director) to create materials to support service-learning with Latino communities. Through a series of four video-based modules, coupled with resource links and reflection questions, this project helped prepare students to recognize community assets, strengths and needs; understand the educational challenges Latino students face; understand immigration trends and their impacts; and better understand the influences of culture and family. Publicly available on YouTube, the videos have accrued over 16,000 views and been integrated into cultural competency training at institutions around the country.



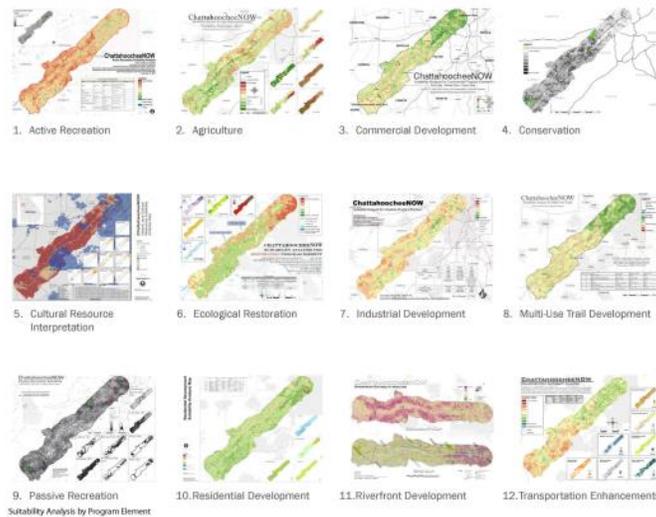
### **Web Site Redesign through Writing Classes**

Dr. Elizabeth Davis (Department of English), a 2009-10 Service-Learning Fellow, has engaged students in several iterations of ENGL 4832: *Writing for the Web* to analyze existing websites, pinpoint specific problems, and develop a plan to redesign the site based on best principles and practices in Web writing and design. Clients have included the UGA Writing Center, and the UGA Archway Partnership communities of Candler County and of Clayton County, among others. Dr. Davis also directs UGA's Writing Certificate program.

### **Understanding Dementia and Caregiving through Gerontology Service-Learning**

2014-15 Service-Learning Fellow Dr. Tiffany Washington (School of Social Work) is developing a Maymester gerontology course in which her students interact with, learn from, and provide respite care for caregivers of people with dementia, including Alzheimer's, in the local community. Dr. Washington has also won national awards for her social work research.

### **Environment and Design: Nature and Sustainability Studio**



Students in LAND 6030: *Nature and Sustainability Studio*, co-taught in Fall 2013 by 2013-14 Service-Learning Fellow Alison Smith Bramlet (College of Environment & Design) and 2006-07 Service-Learning Fellow Alfie Vick, completed an intensive site inventory and suitability analysis for a 53-mile corridor of the Chattahoochee River that flows through five counties in metro Atlanta. The landscape architecture graduate students developed inventory and analysis maps and a proposed land-use scenario based on the suitability analysis, previous studies and the vision and goals of Chattahoochee NOW, which were presented to stakeholders for feedback and will be used to assist in future master planning efforts.

### **Service-Learning in Introductory Pharmacy Practice**

Building on work from 2008-09 Service-Learning Fellow Daniel Forrister and others in the College of Pharmacy, service-learning is fully incorporated into the second and third year pharmacy curriculum (PHRM 4520/4530/5710/5720), with a variety of internal, local, and statewide partnerships to provide direct patient care and improve health outcomes. For instance, 2010-



11 Fellow Deanna McEwen worked with pharmacy students to create and implement a smoking cessation program entitled *Beat the Pack*, offered to UGA employees. This service-learning program, originating in direct response to a monthly surcharge levied by the university's health insurance plan to all employees who use tobacco, has proven remarkably successful at helping participants quit smoking, improve health outcomes and save money, and has been replicated each semester by additional service-learning students. Dr. McEwen was the 2012 recipient of UGA's *Service-Learning Teaching Excellence Award*.

### ***Service-Learning through Photography and Video***

2011-12 Service-Learning Fellow Michael Marshall (Lamar Dodd School of Art) developed a new course, ARST 4210/7210: *Special Topics in Photography*, to utilize the storytelling capacity of photography for service-learning. It supports the goals of local communities by raising public awareness through enhanced storytelling, and expands students' awareness of and capacity to engage the issues impacting their surrounding community. Marshall's Spring 2012 course partnered with an advanced writing class to combine the tools of written and visual languages to produce photographs, articles, pamphlets, fliers, websites, and videos for local nonprofit organizations focused on community food issues. Other courses have engaged with communities across Georgia to help produce photo and video work in service of their community needs, while expanding the artistic, personal, civic and academic perspectives of students.

### ***Vocal Instruction in Northeast Georgia: Service-Learning in the Fine Arts***



2010-11 Service-Learning Fellow Dr. Stephanie Tingler (Hugh Hodgson School of Music) transformed MUSI 3450S/7500S: *Vocal Pedagogy* into a service-learning course. Since Fall 2010, students enrolled in this required course have provided vocal instruction to youth and adults in nearby rural counties, including for students preparing for All-State Chorus auditions in public high school choral programs. Community partners provided career-relevant situations to which students could apply their classroom knowledge, while students brought qualified vocal instruction

to areas that have limited access to this educational resource. Dr. Tingler has also engaged first-year students in UGA's music learning community in multiple service activities each year.