Service-Learning Fellows
Informational Session 2015

Academic Service-Learning...

...is the application of academic skills and knowledge to address a community need, issue or problem, and to enhance student learning.
An Important Part of UGA

- **UGA**: a Carnegie Foundation community-engaged institution
- **Service-learning** is a high-impact educational practice, and part of the upcoming Experiential Learning requirement
- Service-learning and community engagement support and bring together UGA’s land- and sea-grant missions of teaching, research, and public service & outreach

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**Service-learning: Connecting core aspects of UGA’s mission for over a decade.**

- In the 2013-14 academic year
  - **182 service-learning courses** were taught in 377 course sections
  - **Over 7300 students** were enrolled
  - **Over 175,000 service hours** were provided through these service-learning courses
  - Courses are available in all 17 of UGA’s schools and colleges, including through study-abroad programs
  - **Office of Service-Learning**: Celebrating our 10th Anniversary in 2015, with almost 80 Service-Learning Fellows since 2006!
Service-Learning Fellows Program

- Our signature faculty development opportunity
- Supporting UGA faculty in creating, implementing, and becoming leaders in service-learning in their departments, campus-wide, and in their disciplines

Past SL Fellows by Cohort Year

77 Fellows, 2006-present

- 2006: 9
- 2006-07: 5
- 2007-08: 12
- 2008-09: 8
- 2009-10: 9
- 2010-11: 8
- 2011-12: 7
- 2012-13: 7
- 2013-14: 8
- 2014-15: 8
2006 Cohort

2006-07

2007-08

2009-10

2008-09

2010-11

2011-12
What is the SL Fellows Program?

A cohort-based, year-long opportunity to...

- Develop and implement a service-learning course or project;
- Become part of a core group of faculty leaders engaged in service-learning pedagogy;
- Increase your familiarity and exposure to service-learning theory and current research;
- Apply best practices of service-learning research and pedagogy;
- Consider ways to integrate service-learning throughout the curriculum or programs of study;
- Connect to public service and outreach initiatives and existing community-university partnerships; and
- Develop interdisciplinary service-learning projects through conversation and collaboration with faculty from other disciplines.
What happens at SL Fellows meetings?

• Spring “kickoff” with overview of service-learning theory, practice, and resources
• Monthly meetings from August to April, focused on topics such as:
  – Service-learning course design
  – Partnering with the community
  – Research and assessment
  – International service-learning
  – Reflection techniques
  – Risk management and logistics
  – Scholarship of engagement
  – And more!

Other Program Elements

• Individual consultations with OSL faculty, and sometimes with a service-learning mentor
• Funding as part of the Fellowship (@$2500)
• Opportunities for research, assessment, networking, presentation, and professional development
What Benefits do SL Fellows Report?

• From pre- to post-participation, past Service-Learning Fellows have reported statistically significant growth ($p<.001$) in:
  • Level of competence in advancing SL on campus
  • Knowledge of service-learning pedagogy
  • Skills and knowledge of engaged scholarship
  • And other benefits!

“What was the biggest benefit to participating?”

• “I learned a lot more than I anticipated and was supported to apply my ideas in practice. I also enjoyed the cohort of faculty who I got to know over the year and to see the variety of approaches and applications of S-L at UGA.” (2013-14 Participant)

• “Conducting a course with [my department’s] students who stated, “this was my best learning experience at UGA." Forging new partnerships with UGA departments, establishing additional SL partners in the local community, gaining a deeper understanding of SL pedagogy and course development models.” (2012-13 Participant)
More feedback…

• “I learned so much about what service-learning really means and how to use service-learning to become a better teacher and enhance the learning of my students. But best of all was working with Shannon and Paul, and gaining new friends among the SLFs with whom I can talk about teaching, research and service.” (2012-13 Participant)

• “The Fellows program made me feel more comfortable and confident seeking help and mentoring from the Office of Service-Learning. I found their mentorship, resources, and knowledge of the subject invaluable. The fellowship money was also invaluable; it helped buy necessary supplies and provided travel monies to conferences so I could learn more about S-L in my discipline. It is a great program!” (2010-11 Participant)

Longer-Term Benefits & Outcomes Reported by Previous SL Fellows:

• Networking with Campus & Community Partners
• Understanding SL Theory/Best Practices
• Access to Resources & Funding
• Enhanced Motivation & Job Satisfaction
• Improved Course Development
• Opportunities for Research & Scholarship
Who is Eligible?

- Any full-time faculty member at UGA, in any discipline
- All faculty career tracks are eligible and welcome to apply
- Must be able to commit to attending program meetings and activities and have unit support
- Do not need to have extensive prior experience with service-learning

Past SL Fellows by Faculty Role

![Graph showing the count of Service-Learning Fellows by Faculty Rank]
Past SL Fellows by School/College

None yet from Terry College of Business, Law School, or Graduate School!

How do I apply?

• Application materials are available online, and are due by March 20
• Include Cover Sheet; Letter of Support from Department Chair/Dean; CV; Letter of Intent and Project Proposal, including potential benefits to self, community, and unit
• Notification by April 3; Retreat May 13
• Feel free to attend the SL Fellows Showcase on Monday, April 13!
What are possible projects?

- Development of a new service-learning course in Athens, on extended campuses, or in study-abroad programs
- Integration of service-learning pedagogy and partnerships into an existing course
- Projects that connect to existing community-university partnerships such as Experience UGA, Campus Kitchen, Archway Partnership, or Professional Development Schools
- Development of interdisciplinary service-learning collaborations, as well as connections between instruction, Public Service and Outreach, and Cooperative Extension

- **See Handout with some past projects from SL Fellows!**

Questions?

Learn more about the Office of Service-Learning and Service-Learning at UGA at:

[www.servicelearning.uga.edu](http://www.servicelearning.uga.edu)

Or follow our Facebook page, and subscribe to our listserv

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