

EAGLE SHOWCASE

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE-LEARNING

Join students and faculty at the Eagle Showcase to celebrate accomplishments in service-learning



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Inaugural Showcase

**Georgia Southern University
William Center**

April 14, 2017

Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning

Office of Leadership and Community Engagement and The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

2:00 PM—Reception and Opening Remarks

Thank you to the Office of the Provost, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the Food Science Association for providing refreshments and gifts for participants.

3:00 PM—Award Ceremony

Participant & Faculty Recognition Dr. Todd Deal, Executive Director, Office of Leadership and Community Engagement

Undergraduate Submissions Dr. Todd Deal

Graduate Submissions Dean Barry Joyner, College of Health and Human Services

Digital Submissions Dr. Carolyn Bryan, Phi Kappa Phi President

4:00 PM—People's Choice Award

Graduate Poster Submissions

Community Assistance and Fire Emergency (C.A.F.E) Fundraising and Public Relations

Authors: Shareen Clement, Macey Kilgore, Kaede-Ray Benton, and Kortnie Maxoutopoulos

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robbie Robichau

Course: Nonprofit Administration

The City of Millen is participating in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) program, which provides funds for economic revitalization. The City intends to replace and/or renovate homes based on the often-poor housing conditions and homeowners need for assistance.

We worked with community members to complete 597 electronic housing assessments over the course of 6 days. The data collected was used to inform community revitalization strategies. Presently, renovation and housing replacement within the city limits has begun.

This project illustrated the impact of urban migration on once thriving rural areas. This impact was reflected through the number of abandoned homes and the predominant older adult population left behind. As students, we learned the value of working with our communities as partners, in the hopes of ensuring quality and affordable housing for local residents.

Building Student Competency for Community Advocacy: Development of a Media Advocacy Kit for Safe Haven, Statesboro

Authors: Sean C. Bear, Addison Mickens, and Olivia Osaji

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Moya Alfonso

Course: CHBE 9235: Communication and Advocacy

During the Fall 2016 semester, our team was tasked with developing a clear and concise media advocacy kit for a local community-based organization to be disseminated locally. Through a student-directed partnership with Safe Haven of Statesboro, GA, we organized and developed employee biographical statements, organization information

sheets, transmittal letters, an infographic fact sheet, press release, brochure, website, and kit cover. This process included regular meetings with organization staff and group coordination to ensure accuracy and thoroughness of information provided. Since completion of this project, Safe Haven has adopted use of our created materials, including brochure, infographic, and organization information sheets, with our collaboration culminating in final migration of the Safe Haven website domain in February 2017. Through this experiential, service-learning experience, we learned how to establish collaborative partnerships with community organizations, develop effective advocacy materials, and implement community-based research and leadership skills into successful project design and implementation.

Leading the Pack to the Finish Line

Authors: Danielle Debien and Stacie McDaniel

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robbie Robichau

Course: Nonprofit Administration

Parent-to-Parent of Georgia strives to be the source of choice for support, information, education, and leadership development for Georgians impacted by disabilities or with special health care needs, ages birth to 26, and their families, and to bring about positive outcomes for these individuals. Annually, they host the SoulShine 5K to raise funds for their organization. Funds are generated from both race registrations and charitable sponsorships. Parent-to-Parent is seeking to increase both revenue and awareness of this event, but has little staff time or resources to devote to strategic planning. Our team addressed these concerns by developing a plan to increase sponsorships and public outreach. Our final project is a collection of resources compiled into a reference manual, including a list of potential sponsors, media contacts, promotional materials, budget, and a timeline for completing each step.

Undergraduate Poster Submissions

Service-Learning Facilitators in Training and the Community

Author: Emily Coats

Faculty Mentor: Urkovia Andrews

Course: LEAD 2100: Leadership through Service-Learning

As the LEAD 2100 Chair and Service-Learning Facilitator for LEAD 2100, I assisted Urkovia Andrews in training new facilitators during Fall 2016. Part of this process included teaming up with a community partner to get hands on experience. Our partner was United Way and the class helped recruit volunteers for October Quest. The students had the opportunity to experience first-hand what it is like recruiting volunteers for an event as well as being in charge of those volunteers throughout the event itself. This project allowed the students to use the skills that they learn in the classroom and put them to use in the community. After the event, the facilitators in training participated in a reflection activity where they discussed how they felt everything went as well as reflecting on the challenges they faced.

A Dog's Love: Animal-Assisted Therapy and Service to the Community

Author: Sarah Rogers

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer

Course FYE 1220H- Animal-Assisted Therapy & FYE 1410H –Animals, Kids & Families

This year-long service-learning project partnered directly with the Statesboro chapter of Therapy Dogs International. The objective was to shadow therapy dogs as they performed their duties to serve the community and see first-hand the benefits of animal-assisted therapy (AAT) as indicated in research. This project was completed for my University Honors Program First Year Experience and Global Citizens courses, appropriately titled Animal-Assisted Therapy and

required 25 hours of service and blogs kept to reflect on our experiences. My blog posts include what my visits were like and the results of my visits, which are some benefits of AAT: lowering heart rate, lowering blood pressure, pain management, and decreasing anxiety and stress. Also included are the challenges and benefits it entailed, the things I have learned, what research I have done, and how the benefits of AAT can affect us all.

Service and Gerontology

Author: Joseph Taylor Folsom

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Ryan

Course: Psychology and Service

In 2014, 15% of Americans were 65 or older; by 2060, this percentage is expected to double. With the rise in older adult populations, the opportunities for those who have studied gerontology will increase drastically in the coming years. I am pursuing a degree in Psychology and a minor in Gerontology. As part of fulfilling the requirements for my minor, I am completing a service learning Capstone course with a focus in Gerontology. I decided to obtain my Service Learning hours at Brown's Healthcare, a local nursing home in Statesboro, GA. While volunteering I have been able to see and apply Psychology of Aging terms, theories, and concepts. I was allowed to work through my reservations about going into the field, while also forming new connections with the subject material. I believe this insight can only be obtained in the field with guidance from the classroom. This poster presentation will outline the objectives of my Capstone course, the results of my Service Learning assignments where I connected my experiences with specific terms, and my personal reflection and growth as a result of my service learning.

Service-Learning: Fostering Environmental Stewardship for Our Public Lands

Author: Emily Howell and Zachary Rivera

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Peden

Course: Outdoor Recreation Management

Service-learning is a form of experiential education that enhances student learning by providing opportunities to conduct meaningful volunteer work that is directly related to course objectives. This presentation highlights two service-learning projects that were conducted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Student Conservation Association in the Fall 2016 Outdoor Recreation Management course. Students were required to visit an outdoor recreation area of their choice and write a short reflection paper that explained how their site visit increased their understanding of course concepts. We use these reflections to explain how service-learning partnerships with two of these agencies allowed us to learn more about the management of outdoor recreation resources, while fostering a sense of environmental stewardship in participants, and providing beneficial services to the partnering agencies. We emphasize the importance of stewardship when caring for, protecting, and enhancing the use of our nation's public lands.

Three-Dimensional Point Cloud Modeling of an Intersection

Authors: Mariah Peart, Sandra Yankine, Dylan Mesta, and Brandon Yingling

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Gustavo Maldonado and Dr. Marcel Maghiar

Course: Senior Project

Since 2010, as Service-Learning activities, students working at the Georgia Southern Built Environment and Modeling (BEaM) laboratory have generated accurate 3D models of buildings and other objects for multiple practical applications. In all cases, they used state-of-the-art, laser-based scanners and robotic total stations. In fall 2016, Civil Engineering students attending their Senior Project course completed a pro-bono project for the city of Statesboro.

The successfully attained objective was a 3D virtual model of a complex street/rail-road intersection (South Main St./Fair Rd./Brannen St./two rail roads). The resulting model assists the city in redesigning the referred intersection to improve its overall safety conditions.

Graduate and Undergraduate Digital Submissions

The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing in Millen, Georgia

Authors: Allison Drew, Angela Moore, and LaPonda Edmondson

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ashley Walker

Course: Community-Based Research in Public Health

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Grant Writing for the Hearts and Hands Clinic

Authors: Angela Moore, LaPonda Edmondson, and Allison Drew

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yelena Tarasenko

Course: Public Health, Funding and Grantsmanship

As part of the Public Health Funding and Grantsmanship course, our team of students worked with the Hearts and Hands Clinic which provides free health services to Bulloch County residents who lack health insurance, are ineligible for Medicaid and Medicare, and live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

The objective of our collaboration was to provide quality writing assistance to Hearts and Hands for a competitive grant application to Susan G. Komen Coastal Georgia.

The team's research of organizational structure, capabilities, and needs coupled with environmental assessment informed the write-up of the background, budget, work plan, and evaluation plan, all of which constituted parts of a submitted grant application.

This service-learning project provided the clinic with the tool needed to further sustain its program operations, and enhanced students' grant-writing skills. Students also learned communication skills and acquired hands-on experience in obtaining information needed for successful grant submission.

Many thanks to our judges:

Dr. Michelle Cawthorn, Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Linda Mullen, Associate Professor, Director of the Center for Sales Excellence, Department of Marketing

Mr. Deonte' Martin, graduate student, MPH in Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Celebrating Excellence in Service-Learning

According to Georgia Southern's mission statement, "The University's hallmark is a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes students growth and life success." In keeping with the mission, through numerous service-learning activities, students and faculty contribute to the university and local community. In an effort to celebrate such contributions, the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement, in partnership with The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, presents the inaugural Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning. All Georgia Southern University students, graduate and undergraduate, were invited to showcase their service-learning projects. We hope this showcase will connect you to meaningful service-learning opportunities and encourage you to build partnerships and address genuine community needs.

A Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



FOOD SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Showcase Organizing Committee

Mrs. Urkovia Andrews, Assistant Director of Service-Learning
Dr. Padmini Shankar, Professor, Nutrition and Food Science
Ms. Kiana Anderson, Graduate Assistant of Service-Learning