Annual Showcase
Georgia Southern University
Virtual

April 14, 2021
Eagle Showcase: Excellence in Service-Learning
Office of Leadership and Community Engagement
and
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

2:00 PM— Opening Remarks (central room)
Participant & Faculty Recognition  Dr. Urkovia Andrews, Assistant Director for Service-Learning
Service-Learning Facilitators Recognition  Dr. Urkovia Andrews, Assistant Director for Service-Learning

2:15 PM—Poster presentations begin (breakout rooms)

3:30 PM—Award Ceremony

Graduate Poster Submissions

Development of a Health Communication Evaluation Plan: Share Health Southeast Georgia

Authors: RoShonda J. Welch and Lakeysha Mutcherson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tilicia Mayo-Gamble
Course: Communication & Advocacy

Introduction: ShareHealth Southeast Georgia is a non-profit organization that serves 16 counties throughout the Southeast Health District. ShareHealth works to improve health equity among at-risk and in-need community members.
Objective: We worked with ShareHealth to develop communication materials and an evaluation plan to increase organizational awareness and donations.
Purpose: The purpose of the evaluation plan was to determine if the addition of communication materials would result in increased use of ShareHealth services. This organization sought to expand their services and increase their presence in all 16 counties.
Methods: An interview was conducted between the GSU student team and the Executive Director and Program Manager to collect information about the organization, target audience, communication needs, and design expectations.
Findings: Communication materials developed were: (1) Organizational Brochure, (2) Scholarship Brochure, (3) Information Card and (4) Donation Card.
Conclusion: Cost effective communication materials can be effective among the rural communities and community partners.
Grant Application for the Hearts and Hands Clinic

Authors: Christine Cooper  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Yelena Tarasenko  
Course: PUBH-9135 -01P Public Health Funding and Grants

During summer 2020, we took a grant writing class which allowed us to collaborate with the Hearts and Hands Clinic. We helped them to write a funding proposal to support the hiring of social workers to serve as the liaison between them and social organizations that provide services including shelter and counseling in Statesboro, Georgia. The grant was submitted to Georgia Power, a foundation that is focused on improving the lives of residents of the state. This service learning opportunity enhanced our understanding of the major concepts on funding of public health programs taught in the class and allowed us to gain experience in writing grants thereby enhancing our professional growth opportunities. Amid Covid-19, our service-learning experience was adapted to online format using WebEx and Folio. We had the opportunity to network with the community partner and made a significant contribution to the health needs of the local community.

Keywords: Social worker, Hearts and Hands Clinic, Grant writing, Service-learning experience

Mental Health Services for Underserved Communities in Bulloch County: A Service-Learning Project with the Hearts and Hands Clinic

Authors: Aurela Nikaj and Kadiatou Diallo  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yelena Tarasenko  
Course: Public Health Funding and Grant, PHLD 9135

The increasing demand for mental health services during the COVID-19 global pandemic was the driving force behind our collaboration with the Hearts and Hands Clinic in a service-learning project. The project aimed to prepare a grant application at Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation. Our objective was to secure funding for the clinic, enabling it to expand its staff and offer free mental health services for underserved communities in Bulloch County. This project helped us apply the knowledge gained from the Public Health Funding and Grants course to real-life challenges amid COVID-19, enhanced our critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and, most importantly, increased a strong belief in the importance of partnership and collaboration with the community. Despite facing occasional technical issues typical for remote communication between partners, we prepared a grant application intended to help raise mental health awareness and address mental health issues in underserved communities.

Key words: service-learning, community, mental health services
Grant Application for the Hearts and Hands Clinic Social Workers Hiring Program

Authors: Sylvia Ofori and Manyun Liu  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yelena Tarasenko  
Course: PUBH-9135 -01P Public Health Funding and Grants

During summer 2020, we took a grant writing class which allowed us to collaborate with the Hearts and Hands Clinic. We helped them to write a funding proposal to support the hiring of social workers to serve as the liaison between them and social organizations that provide services including shelter and counseling in Statesboro, Georgia. The grant was submitted to Georgia Power, a foundation that is focused on improving the lives of residents of the state. This service learning opportunity enhanced our understanding of the major concepts on funding of public health programs taught in the class and allowed us to gain experience in writing grants thereby enhancing our professional growth opportunities. Amid Covid-19, our service-learning experience was adapted to online format using WebEx and Folio. We had the opportunity to network with the community partner and made a significant contribution to the health needs of the local community.

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Communication Plan to Raise Awareness for Dementia and Promote Caring Closet

Authors: Aishwarya Potluri and Prachi Joshi  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mayo Gamble  
Course: Communication and Advocacy

This poster was designed to communicate the products developed for Rockin'Out Alzheimer’s, an organization to help caregivers in providing everyday essentials for at-home dementia patients, in Statesboro, GA.

The authors collaborated with the organization and helped to develop communication materials for their program - "Caring Closet" which was aimed at providing diapers, bed-pads, barrier creams and other necessary items to qualified individuals suffering with dementia. The authors helped to set up a webpage, a Facebook page and design an infographic for "Caring Closet" and helped communicate about the program in the community. The end results were then compiled and presented in the form of a poster.
Provision of Free Oral Health Services in Bulloch County for Uninsured, Low-Income Individuals

Author: Blerta Shehaj and Paige Perry
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Yelena Tarasenko
Course: Public Health Funding and Grants

Improving the oral healthcare needs of rural populations involves practical, tailored, and flexible approaches to expand oral health services and increase the oral health workforce. The Hearts and Hands Clinic provides free primary health care services for Bulloch County residents aged 18 and older, uninsured, and those who live below 200% of the federal poverty guideline. This service-learning summer project aimed to identify potential organizations that would provide funding for oral health activities of the clinic and develop a grant application to the selected organization. By the end of this service-learning project, the students were able to identify the multiple barriers to accessing oral health services among vulnerable Bulloch County residents, increased knowledge on funding of oral and other public health services, and developed grant-writing skills.

Health Issues Affecting the Youth of Jeff Davis County

Authors: Ruby Hallam and Kim Harris
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Tilicia Mayo-Gamble
Courses: COHE 7234 - Community Health Analysis

A community health assessment was conducted in Jeff Davis County between September and December 2020 in collaboration with Share Health Southeast Georgia. The assessment gathered information to understand the current health status and needs of children in Jeff Davis County. Community asset mapping, informant interviews, community coalition observations, and secondary data from Georgia Department of Public Health’s Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS) were used to gather information. The data highlighted children’s mental health shortages, childhood obesity, and access to primary care providers as major disparities within the community. Project challenges included the inability to gather in-person data and gaps in secondary data for childhood morbidity in Jeff Davis County. Nevertheless, having the opportunity to conduct this project remotely was beneficial to engage stakeholders and community partners. Results from the community health assessment highlighted mental health services for children, childhood obesity, and transportation as areas for improvement. Keywords: Needs Assessment, rural health, children’s health, barriers to care, Jeff Davis County
“Squashing the Spread in Bulloch County” Program

Authors: Osaremhen Ikhile and Karabi Barai
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tilicia Mayo-Gamble
Course: Communication and Advocacy CHBE 9235-A

The purpose of this service-learning project was to assist the organization “Squash the Spread Bulloch County” with bolstering communication of health information regarding COVID-19 together with using an evidence-based theory, diffusion of innovations, to dispel fear regarding COVID-19, reassure residents of their rights, answer their current questions, build trust in the health care system and ultimately ensure the adoption of health behaviors that would reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Bulloch county. These hinged upon earlier group research to understand public attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs that hinder the adoption of the desired health behaviors to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Adherence to recommendations to wear face coverings, hand washing, and physical distancing guidelines are of public health importance in reducing the spread of COVID-19. The assignment culminated in final deliverables which included communication materials such as posters and infographics that were presented to the organization.

3D Model of Existing Conditions for the Creek on the Blue Mile Project

Authors: H M IMRAN Kays, Usman Ibrahim and Charles Crowner
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gustavo Maldonado & Dr. Marcel Maghiar
Course: CENG 5435G (Introduction to Terrestrial LiDAR)

This service-learning project involved the generation of a 3D computer model of the existing conditions on a relatively large area (~12 acres), in the City of Statesboro, GA. This site will host the future recreational and residential area, known as the Creek on the Blue Mile. The project was completed by students taking the CENG 5435/G (Introduction to Terrestrial LiDAR) course in Fall 2020. Its purpose was to assist the City of Statesboro, the Blue Mile Group, and a Design Engineering firm in the predesign tasks leading to substantial improvements of an area near the heart of the city. It includes a public recreational small lake, a redesigned, enlarged, and redirected existing channel on a garden-like setting, and several private residences. During this activity, students collected data in the field and post-processed it in numerous laboratory sessions. They learned the state-of-the-art and powerful surveying technique while completing valuable community service.
Many thanks to our judges:

Dr. Padmini Shankar, Professor, Waters College of Health Professions
Dr. Heidi Eisenreich, Assistant Professor, College of Science and Mathematics
Ms. Angelique Jennings, Graduate student, MPH in Community Health

Celebrating Excellence in Service-Learning

According to Georgia Southern’s mission statement, “The University provides transformative learning opportunities to meet the needs of a diverse student population through its legacy of commitment to academic excellence and personal attention. Through the shared resources of its multiple locations, the University creates vibrant learning environments that foster an inclusive, student-centered culture of engagement designed to prepare students for lifelong service as scholars, leaders, and responsible stewards of their communities.” 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 annual 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.

Showcase Organizing Committee
Dr. Urkovia Andrews, Assistant Director for Service-Learning
Dr. Padmini Shankar, Professor, Nutrition and Food Science
Ms. Angelique Jennings, Graduate Assistant for Service-Learning