

Outreach

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

COMMITTED TO STATEWIDE CONNECTIONS



For more than 200 years the University of Georgia has worked throughout the state to create communities with educated citizens, strong civic and business leaders, good infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and amenities that help provide a positive quality of life, all key to attracting new companies and jobs.

UGA continues to be uniquely positioned to boost the economic vitality of the state and increase prosperity for all Georgians.

IT STARTS WITH **GEORGIA.**

itstartswith.uga.edu

ACADEMICS IN ACTION

Students get experience, communities benefit from service-learning



SMALL FARMS, BIG BUSINESS

Small Business Development Center and Cooperative Extension help farmers grow

PULASKI COUNTY ALMOST LOST ITS HOSPITAL...then UGA stepped in

\$722M
OUTREACH IMPACT

1,700
NEW BUSINESSES CREATED*

12,000
NEW JOBS CREATED*

*in the last five years

Outreach

THE MAGAZINE OF UGA
PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

**\$5.7
BILLION**

Impact on the State of Georgia

- 3 MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
- 4 FIELD NOTES
- 42 FACULTY FELLOWS
- 43 STUDENT SCHOLARS
- 44 OUR SUPPORTERS
- 53 UNITS



ON THE COVER

Anders Yount, left, and Mills Dorn, UGA College of Environment and Design graduate students, document potentially historic sites in Dooly County as part of FindIt, a summer service-learning program. For more, go to page 7. Photo by Shannah Montgomery



Consultant Eric Bonaparte leads a Small Business Development Center class for potential entrepreneurs and small business owners.

- 12 **CREATING JOBS**
Vinson Institute boosts workforce development
- 13 **DEVELOPING LEADERS**
Fanning builds women's leadership
- 14 **ADDRESSING CHALLENGES**
Marine outreach creates flood plan
- 16 **HEALTHIER PEOPLE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT**
Saving rural healthcare
- 18 Addressing food insecurity
- 22 Growing public health leadership
- 24 **A MORE SECURE FUTURE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT**
Helping farmers plan for the future
- 26 Diversifying the coastal economy
- 30 Repopulating native plants and pollinators
- 32 **STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT**
Empowering elected officials
- 34 Creating regional connections
- 38 Partnering for economic growth

Chrissie Brady is a former Public Service and Outreach Student Scholar, who learned about marine science outreach through her student scholar internship at Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. The mechanical engineering and wildlife and fisheries major looked back to the coast when it was time for her engineering capstone project. She and three other engineering students are working with Rob Hein, an aquaculture extension agent with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, to improve the design of floating oyster beds so that marine animals are not caught in the ropes that connect the beds to the estuary bottom. Brady plans to pursue a career in marine outreach.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the highest priorities of the University of Georgia is solving the grand challenges of our time. There are many. They are complex. And they affect residents in every one of Georgia's 159 counties.

As the state's land-grant and sea-grant university, we are responsible for helping to address these challenges, and we take that responsibility seriously. Through our research, teaching and outreach, we make the university's resources available to every community in the state to ensure that all Georgians have the opportunity to prosper. Together, we are making a difference.

JERE W. MOREHEAD
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

At any given time, in any Georgia county, you are likely to see an official UGA logo. That's because we are all over the state taking the resources of the university into Georgia communities.

Our work is not new, we have been doing it for years. We train elected officials, revitalize downtowns, develop civic and business leaders, and shape youth programs, among many other services.

There are hundreds of stories about our impact—how we are helping communities address challenges, attract jobs or develop the next generation of leaders.

I hope you enjoy reading some of them.

JENNIFER L. FRUM
VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH



Public Service & Outreach
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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www.donchambersdesign.com

Rhododendron austrinum, southern flame azalea

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GROWTH

"We need to remember the beginning of the garden and how it grew from an idea in 1968 to what it is today."

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders
director of the State Botanical Garden

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia

named a signature plant and held a special art exhibit to celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

Located three miles from campus, the 313-acre garden at the University of Georgia was founded in 1968. The space offers an environment for learning, inspiration and engagement through horticulture, conservation and science-based programs. Since its inception, the garden has grown to include more than five gardens and collections, a program to protect endangered plants, a five-mile network of trails, a plethora of summer camps, youth and adult programs, and countless community events.

The southern flame azalea was named the signature plant for the anniversary year, and an exhibit of drawings, paintings and photographs featuring the fragrant, fiery orange flower was on display in the garden conservatory.

The celebration continued with the annual Gardens of the World Ball, the State Botanical Garden's biggest fundraiser of the year.

"This being our 50th anniversary, it's an important year to mark our progress, our goals and celebrate the role the State Botanical Garden of Georgia has at the university and within the state of Georgia," says Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, director of the State Botanical Garden.

SOUTHERN FLAME AZALEA INVITATIONAL ART SHOW OPENING In honor of the 50th anniversary of the garden, this show featured local artists' unique interpretations of the signature plant. The southern flame azalea is a Georgia native plant.



UGA STUDENT HELPS RURAL WOMEN FIND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Undergraduate Shivani Rangaswamy is getting a head start on a career in medicine by helping pregnant women in rural Georgia understand how to lower their risk of having low birth weight babies.

Through an internship with UGA's Archway Partnership, Rangaswamy created a resource guide to educate women about behaviors, such as smoking, stress and poor nutrition, that could result in babies weighing less than 5.1 pounds at birth. The guide offers local resources ranging from Medicaid to local health departments and pregnancy centers.

Babies born with a low birth weight are more likely to have health problems later in life including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, metabolic syndrome and obesity.

There is a dramatic divide between the number of low birth weight babies born in rural Georgia and those born in urban areas of the state, in part because resources to help pregnant women are not as accessible in many rural communities.

"I knew that birth weight gaps would exist," Rangaswamy says. "I was surprised [the incidence of low birth weight] was 17 percent higher (in some rural areas), comparable to what you see in developing countries."

"I love working in science labs, but it's hard to see the end goal," Shivani Rangaswamy says. "The end goal here is changing someone's life."

During the summer, Rangaswamy traveled to current and alumni Archway Partnership communities—Grady, Spalding, Colquitt and Clayton counties, as well as Houston County—where low birth weight babies had been identified.

She found that both health care providers and patients were unfamiliar with some of the resources she had discovered. The printed guide will help doctors and nurses in those counties point their patients directly toward targeted support services, many of them free.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

The Rocky Branch Elementary School cafeteria has become less noisy, thanks to engineering students from the University of Georgia.

During the spring semester, five UGA graduate students created and installed sound-absorbing panels on the walls of the cafeteria at the Oconee County school. Third-grade students at Rocky Branch decorated the panels with pictures of fruits and vegetables.

"The cafeteria creates a 'cocktail party' effect," says Ben Davis, an assistant professor of engineering with experience in sound and acoustics. "Students talk at a normal level, the sound bounces off the walls, students raise their voices to be heard, and the sound gets even louder."

The cafeteria noise became a service-learning opportunity for Davis' students, who worked alongside third grade teacher Christina Crowe and her students, taking detailed measurements and making diagrams of the cafeteria. Crowe and her students used an iPad to measure the sound in the cafeteria and learned it exceeded the standards recommended by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Based on all of the information collected, the UGA students assembled a prototype of a soundproof panel. When they took the panel prototype back to the school, it provided an opportunity for the elementary school students to learn more about the science of sound.

"I'm hoping this project can inspire the kids to see what engineering is," says Ryan Romeo, who is getting a doctoral degree in engineering at UGA. "A couple of the kids said they want to be engineers when they grow up."

Students at Rocky Branch Elementary School decorate sound-absorbing panels that UGA students created for the school cafeteria.





UGA UNCORKS NORTH GEORGIA'S RIPENING WINE INDUSTRY

Georgia's growing wine industry has brought a robust number of tourists and side businesses to the Georgia Piedmont. In July 2018, the north Georgia region was designated an American Viticultural Area (AVA), a federal distinction awarded by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. An AVA recognizes geographic areas where 85 percent or more of the wine is developed using grapes from that region. This is the first AVA to fall completely within Georgia state lines.

Winery and vineyard owners aren't the only ones making a living from viticulture. Christina Ernst launched her business, VIP Southern Tours in 2013, with assistance from the UGA Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Her business takes visitors on tours of vineyards and provides an artisan picnic lunch.

Guests of Southern VIP Tours enjoy a wine tasting during a trip through north Georgia.

"The advice the SBDC provided me was very helpful," Ernst says. "They advised me on funding for vehicles, and with that knowledge I was able to structure the rest of my business."

Today, sales are in the six figures. The White County Chamber of Commerce named Ernst the Entrepreneur of the Year in 2014 and VIP Southern Tours earned a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence in 2016 and 2017.

In addition to consulting, the SBDC holds an annual Wine Business Conference to convene leaders in the wine industry for the purposes of networking, education and information-sharing.

georgiasbdc.org/agribusiness



UGA CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM LEADS TO SECOND CAREER FOR VETERAN

In 2017, retired Army Col. Larry Reeves was the first person to use the military G.I. bill to pay for an executive coaching certification program at UGA's Center for Continuing Education & Hotel.

A year later, he has launched a successful second career, providing executive coaching to 11 clients: law enforcement officers, local government officials and military officers, including an admiral in the U.S. Navy.

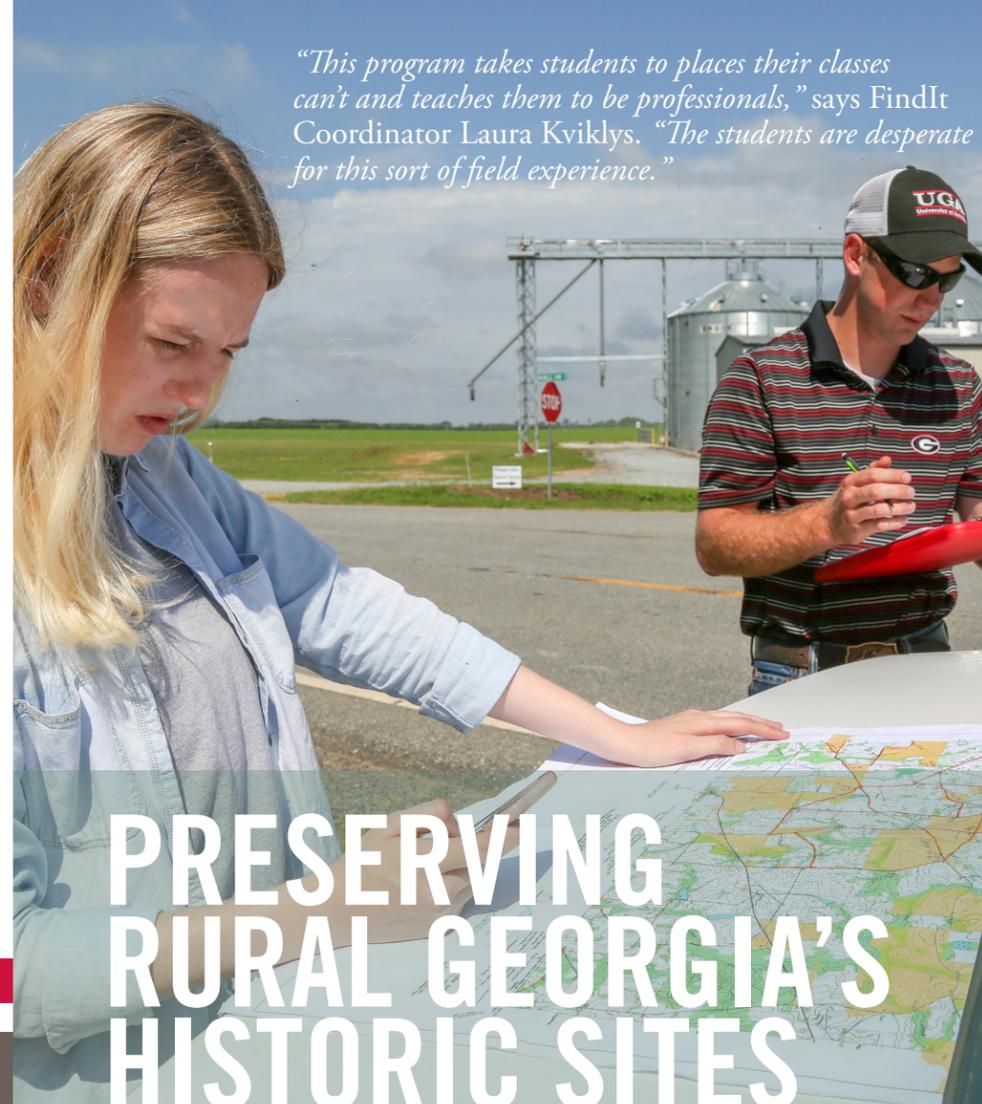
"It really does change the way you think about a lot of things," says Reeves, a resident of Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, where his wife is active military. "You start to live like a coach and hear things differently. It's a new way to look at life and problem solve."

Changes to the G.I. Bill last year made it possible for veterans to use it to pay tuition for certification programs, like the Sherpa Executive Coaching program at the Georgia Center. The program has been offered at UGA for over a decade and has become Sherpa Coaching's flagship, with students enrolling from Japan and Australia. It teaches future coaches a process to follow as they work with clients to identify strengths and weaknesses and find ways to improve business behavior.

Reeves looked for a program closer to home but could not find one as thorough as UGA.

"The fact that UGA, with its focus on academics, would stand behind it says a lot to me," he says.

"This program takes students to places their classes can't and teaches them to be professionals," says FindIt Coordinator Laura Kviklys. "The students are desperate for this sort of field experience."



PRESERVING RURAL GEORGIA'S HISTORIC SITES

Since 2002, graduate students from the College of Environment and Design have spent their summers in rural Georgia, as part of a project designed to help communities identify their historic properties.

Called FindIt, the program sends graduate students studying historic preservation, environment, planning and design, and landscape architecture into rural areas of the state. Their findings are added to the county's inventory as well as an online public database.

For communities, the student surveys are an important first step in understanding what remnants of the past still exist and may be of value historically, culturally or economically. More importantly, the surveys provide a framework and data for land use planning activities. This knowledge can guide discussions about what is worthy of protection in the face of growth or demolition.

This past summer, the students were in Dooly County, south of Macon.

Burton Mercer, a Dooly County homeowner, showed the students a family cemetery with graves dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

"So much of the (historic properties) here have been destroyed," Mercer says.

Students found 972 properties in Dooly County. Since the program began, students have collected data on thousands of properties in more than 60 Georgia counties.

CED graduate students also completed an inventory of all UGA historic properties across the state, which led to the creation of a historic preservation plan that will help the university maintain its historic properties. UGA has the most historic properties of the University System of Georgia schools, with more than 730 historic buildings and 55 cultural landscapes across 11 Georgia counties.

ced.uga.edu/pso/findit

CONNECTING WITH RURAL ROOTS



Saralyn Stafford, right, mingles with guests at a UGA event.

Saralyn Stafford, a community and economic developer with a 30-year career focused on Georgia, is UGA's newest liaison to rural communities.

Stafford joined UGA in July, after 16 years with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and more than 30 years of working in community and economic development, particularly in southeast Georgia.

Based in south Georgia, Stafford's work focuses on connecting communities with UGA's Public Service and Outreach units, to help in addressing community and regional challenges.

She serves as a link between UGA and local elected officials, chambers of commerce, economic development professionals, school boards, nonprofit organizations, small business owners and other community leaders. Stafford also provides expertise in training government officials and community leaders, and in strategic planning within rural communities.

Neptune is the newest addition to the UGA Aquarium. She'll live there until she's ready to be released back into the wild.

A TALE OF TWO TURTLES

Lefty, the loggerhead sea turtle was released in early September from the shore of the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge, ending his three-year stay at the UGA Aquarium on Skidaway Island.

Discovered as a straggler on Ossabaw Island, he was given to UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). During his time at the aquarium, he helped educate visitors about sea turtles and their connection to Georgia's coast.

Along with educating visitors, Lefty advanced research on the species by acting as a test subject. Undergraduate students at Savannah State University performed a study, conducting behavior analysis trials designed to determine whether sea turtles showed color preference among blue, green, orange and yellow objects.

"Looking at a photo of a sea turtle or listening to someone talk about them doesn't have the same impact as watching a live animal swim in the tank," says Lisa Olenderski, aquarium curator. "People are always amazed by how graceful they are in the water or how agile they are when going after blue crabs. Seeing them in person helps establish that connection and leaves a lasting impression."

Neptune, a new DNR-rescued straggler, found in August, will be taking the loggerhead spot left vacant by Lefty. While loggerheads are the most common of sea turtles nesting along Georgia's coast, they are listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia DNR, although nesting numbers on the Georgia coast have been increasing dramatically over the last several years.



Lisa Olenderski, aquarium curator and pre-K to 4th grade education coordinator, and Devin Dumont, aquarium curator, release Lefty into the wild.

DAY OF SERVICE BENEFITS ATHENS COMMUNITY

More than 220 UGA employees spread out across Athens-Clarke County on Nov. 17, 2017, pulling weeds, sorting books and walking dogs as part of the Public Service and Outreach Annual Day of Service.



Coile Middle School

The employees contributed 431 total service hours to 17 nonprofit organizations on that day.

The event, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, began in 2015. It allows faculty, staff and students from the eight PSO units to give back to the local community at places such as Books for Keeps, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials, Lake Herrick, Athens Animal Shelter, Coile Middle School and the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, among others.

PSO faculty, staff and students also joined student members of Campus Kitchen at UGA the night before the Day of Service to pack boxes with food for Thanksgiving to distribute to senior adults in the Athens area.

"We try to get together once a year to celebrate our work and celebrate the impact of the work that the University of Georgia does across the state," says Jennifer Frum, vice president for UGA Public Service and Outreach. "Our faculty and staff really wanted something more meaningful than an ice cream social or a barbecue lunch. So we asked the question, 'How can we do something where we come together as a group but we're also making a difference?' We couldn't think of a better way to do that than working with our great external partners in the Athens community."

UGA grows education across the southeast with new ALICE H. RICHARDS CHILDREN'S GARDEN

The Alice H. Richards Children's Garden, the newest attraction at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, is set to open in early 2019.

The two-and-a-half acre accessible interactive outdoor classroom features hands-on education and Georgia resources. The environment includes different themed areas for children to climb, crawl and experience while exploring the phenomena of the natural world.

As a unit of University of Georgia Public Service and Outreach, the State Botanical Garden's mission is to serve the state through education and conservation. The

children's garden will serve as an outreach tool to educate and inspire children in the state of Georgia and beyond.

Climbing walls, musical instruments that resemble mushrooms and a treehouse in the canopy will teleport children into a whimsical world where nature inspires and delights.

"The Children's Garden is an exploration, a journey, not something you just walk through," says Jenny Cruse-Sanders, director of the State Botanical Garden. "Everything is designed with attention to detail and education in mind."



Fossils recovered from a southeastern dig site over 30 years ago were donated to be a part of the Over, Under, Through area. Casts were made of fossils of other prehistoric creatures once found in the Piedmont region. Cave structures that mimic caves in North Georgia are designed with accessibility in mind for all visitors.



Cruse-Sanders, left, and the garden's education director, Cora Keber, look over an area that will feature water.



Accessible treehouse in the forest.



The garden is designed for interaction.



Mosaics for the pollinator plaza were created by artist Krysia Ara based on designs by Cameron Berglund from Koons Design.



New Faculty Tour participants visited the State Capitol in Atlanta where they heard from state government leaders. They also enjoyed a trawl during a visit to Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant on Skidaway Island.



NEW FACULTY TOUR

Lights spark for research and collaboration opportunities

Justin Bahl, a new faculty member in the College of Public Health, studies the spread of infectious disease.

Sabriya Rice, a new faculty member in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, teaches budding journalists how to write about health and medical issues.

When they met on the 2018 New Faculty Tour, Bahl and Rice discovered a mutual interest. Bahl's students need to learn how to talk about their work in ways that non-scientists can easily understand. Rice's students need to know how to translate the scientific language into laymen's terms.

"Justin and his students study the spread of influenza, for example, and that could be an opportunity for students to write about," says Rice, the new Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism.

Rice and Bahl, an associate professor of infectious diseases and bioinformatics, were among the 40 UGA faculty members on the 2018 New Faculty Tour, which began in Gainesville and traveled through 15 cities and 48 counties, with stops in Dahlonega, Atlanta, Griffin, Senoia, Tifton, Waycross, Savannah and Sandersville, among others. Tour participants

learned about the culture, history, geography and economic engines that drive the state.

"Many of our faculty come from other parts of the country and the world and this trip really opens their eyes to the diversity in geography, culture and population we enjoy here in the state of Georgia," said Jennifer Frum, vice president for UGA Public Service and Outreach. "In addition, they get to meet one another and discover common interests, which often leads to great interdisciplinary partnerships."

outreach.uga.edu/programs/new-faculty-tour



Kids battle robots they made at the Georgia Center Summer Academy robotics camp.

CAMP ATTENDANCE CLIMBS FOR SUMMER ACADEMY AT UGA

Attendance reached a record high at the 2018 Summer Academy at UGA, a series of summer specialty camps organized by the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel. Over the course of six weeks, 54 camps were offered, covering a diverse range of subjects including aviation, robotics and screen writing. Camps are taught by academic and professional experts. Georgia Center's Summer Academy registered 1,008 youth for 2018 camps, 238 more than summer 2017.

georgiacenter.uga.edu/youth/summer-academy

Archway Partnership, a unit of Public Service and Outreach, connects selected Georgia communities with University of Georgia resources to address locally-identified needs and opportunities.

In many cases, Archway Partnership communities provide students in UGA service-learning courses a place to complete the service portion of their classes. By doing this, the students have an opportunity to apply their academic lessons to real-life situations. The community receives the students' findings, which they can use to move forward with a project. This is valuable to smaller communities that might not be able to afford professional consultants.



Karen Cook, undergraduate student in the **Lamar Dodd School of Art**, created the **Hart County Local Resource Guide**, which lists names and contact information for government, nonprofit and private programs and services available to Hart County residents.

1,200 STUDENTS INVOLVED



Twenty students from the **College of Engineering** in a civil and environmental engineering capstone class helped **Griffin-Spalding County** study the feasibility of using a former manufacturing site for an aquatics complex.

147 GRADUATE ASSISTANTS FUNDED

While a master of landscape architecture student in the **College of Environment and Design**, Kiley Aguar designed an area outside Metter Elementary School, in **Candler County**, to include an accessible playground, educational signage and gardens.



ALL 17 UGA SCHOOLS/ COLLEGES ENGAGED

English, art, journalism and business students helped the Highway 15 Coalition, which includes **Washington County**, develop public relations and marketing materials to promote tourism along the "Traditions Highway" from Greensboro to Baxley.



168 PROJECTS COMPLETED



Caroline Davis, an MPA student in the **School of Public and International Affairs**, worked with **Pulaski County** to develop literacy guides for children from birth to eighth grade. The guide was expanded to help all Archway Partnership school systems with childhood development resources.



CREATING JOBS

VINSON INSTITUTE HELPS COMMUNITIES BOLSTER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

By Christopher James

Months before his high school graduation, Tim Olson had job prospects in his local community.

During his senior year at the Hart College and Career Academy (HCCA), Olson learned how to operate industrial lathes and mills in a course taught by Athens Technical College instructors. Other students at HCCA learned technical skills including television production, nursing, cosmetology and 3D print design.

The students learn the skills that prepare them for the workforce while they complete their academic curriculum.

“I get a head start and I don’t have to pay for it,” Tim Olson says. “The number of companies looking for workers is crazy. They’re going to pull from these programs.”

Students get real life training to work in architecture and construction, audio and video technology, and hospitality and tourism, among many other things, while finishing high school.

In Georgia, there are now more than 40 college and career academies, which operate like charter schools run by a partnership between the local school district, technical college and business community.

Faculty from the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government are helping many of these communities plan their academies, bringing educators and business leaders together to identify local workforce needs and programs that can prepare students to meet those needs.

“We want to quit exporting young people to more urban areas by providing great career opportunities right here,” says Dwayne Dye, the Hart County Industrial Building Authority’s director of economic development. “These opportunities are with multinational companies. The career academy is key to getting the young people turned out who can go to work for these companies and stay right here.”

With the institute’s help, Hart County held community meetings to draft a vision for the new academy. Local manufacturers helped determine the skills to be taught there.

“If you’re trying to drive a ship and don’t know which direction to go, you’re just going to go in circles,” says Lee Adams, president of Fabritex, a Hartwell-based tube, sheet metal and plate fabrication company and member of the HCCA board. “UGA helped us ask the right questions. The feedback we got was amazing.”

The Vinson Institute also has helped communities get funding to launch the academies.

Faculty member Greg Wilson, who participated in Gov. Nathan Deal’s High Demand Career Initiative, helped the City of Marietta secure a \$3.1 million grant to start a college and career academy. Haralson County also has hired the institute for technical assistance as they seek a \$3.1 million grant to launch an academy.

“A lot of communities are realizing that workforce is critical,” Wilson says. “We recognized there was a need there and we could help.”

Phillip Brown, CEO of the Hart College and Career Academy and a veteran high school administrator, said UGA assistance is invaluable to a smaller county like Hart, with 26,000 residents.

“In a small town, you may not have the skillset to facilitate something like that,” Brown says. “Working with UGA and having experts at your disposal makes a big difference.”

georgiacareeracademies.org

DEVELOPING LEADERS

FANNING INSTITUTE PROGRAM FOCUSES ON WOMEN IN SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

By Charlie Bauder

As counselor in the Upper School at Bulloch Academy in Statesboro, Kinsley Baker has a great job and a good quality of life.

It wasn’t always this way. In fact, when Baker began the 2017-18 Lynda Brannen Williamson Foundation Women’s Leadership Academy she also had a “great job,” she says. “But it was a challenge to manage work-life balance.”

The leadership program, developed by UGA’s J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development for the Lynda Brannen Williamson (LBW) Foundation in Statesboro, helped Baker realize she needed a change.

Lynda Williamson, a civic leader in Statesboro, established the foundation before her death in 2014 to help guide and mentor young women in southeast Georgia. The leadership academy focuses on servant leadership, mentoring and developing a personal leadership style.

“Women in leadership roles face unique challenges and situations,” says Lisa Lee, president of the LBW Foundation. “We wanted to create a program that would address those specific issues and provide a safe space for women to discuss leadership, learn from each other and grow together.”

“Each session really hit home for me and was so relevant to where I was in my life and in my career,” Kinsley Baker says. “I learned so much about myself, how I work with others, and how I manage conflict. What I learned had a lot to do with me taking that step forward.”

Three groups of women have graduated from the Linda B. Williamson Leadership Academy so far.



Fanning Institute faculty, led by Maritza Soto Keen and Carolina Darbisi, cover topics like personal leadership, communication and conflict, strategies for effective leadership, career and professional skill development and multigenerational leadership. The class also meets with local and state leaders.

“We created a curriculum to examine leadership through a woman’s lens,” Keen says. “By raising these unique issues and allowing women to talk about them and share with each other, they develop their personal leadership abilities and build a network of women leaders that can work together to strengthen their communities.”

So far, 48 women have graduated from the program, held each year since 2015-16. The first two groups organized activities in the Statesboro area, including a career day that offered interview training, resume development and professional makeovers.

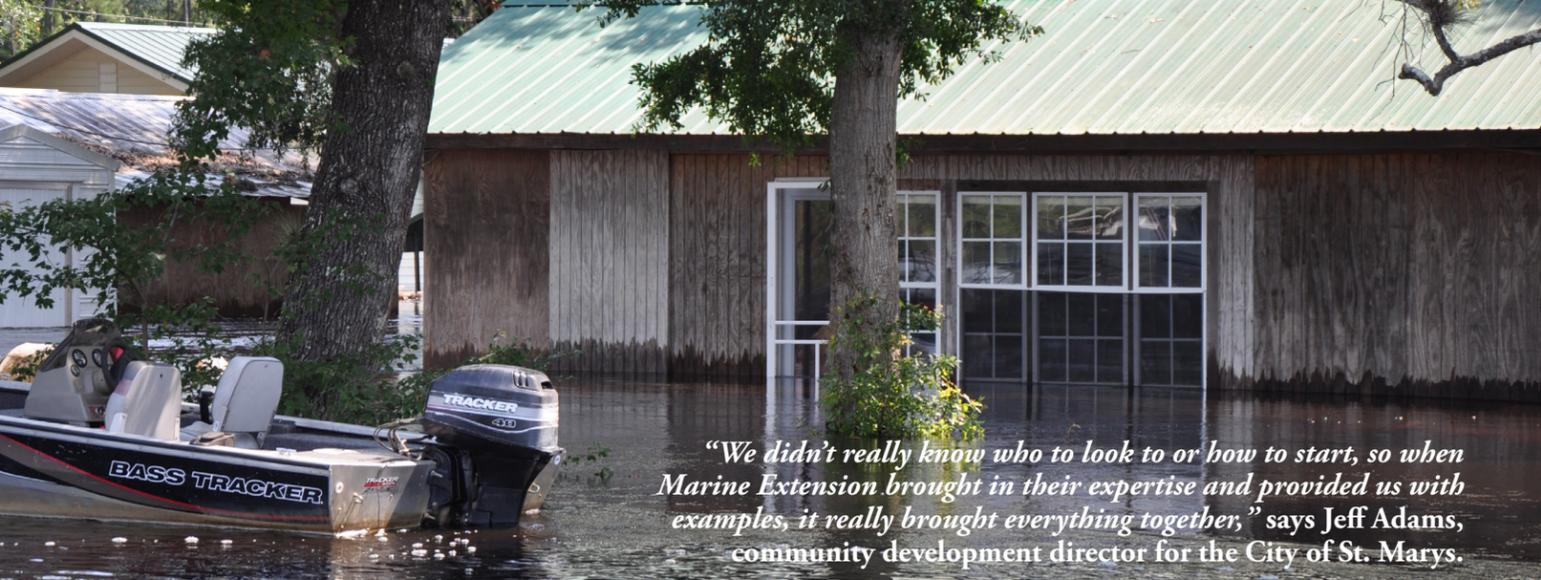
In January, the 2017-18 class will launch a student leadership academy for high school girls. A group of alumnae will stay connected with the program moving forward.

“We want to continue supporting and connecting with each other and giving back to the community in the spirit and legacy of Lynda B. Williamson,” says Erica Sellers, a 2016-17 program graduate.

“Seeing women complete the program and stay involved as alumnae shows us that the foundation’s work and mission to mentor and guide young women in southeast Georgia will continue into the next generation,” Lee says. “While Lynda left us a vision and we knew we wanted a women’s leadership academy, the Fanning Institute took the heart of what we wanted to do and made it beat.”

fanning.uga.edu





“We didn’t really know who to look to or how to start, so when Marine Extension brought in their expertise and provided us with examples, it really brought everything together,” says Jeff Adams, community development director for the City of St. Marys.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES

COASTAL COMMUNITY CREATES FLOOD MANAGEMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN WITH HELP FROM MARINE EXTENSION AND GEORGIA SEA GRANT

By Emily Woodward

For the coastal City of St. Marys, severe storms and flooding are critical local issues.

With assistance from UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, local leaders, property owners and even school children are working together to protect their historic and picturesque community of about 17,500 people. Among the tasks: meeting federal guidelines for floodplain development, raising awareness of behaviors that can contaminate the city’s drinking water and developing an emergency communications plan for severe weather events.

“We needed a better process for getting the information out about flood risks,” says Scott Brazell, Camden County floodplain manager.

In 2015, St. Marys and Camden County developed Georgia’s first joint Program of Public Information (PPI), an outreach tool designed to educate local residents about flood risk and take actions to make the community more resilient.



A committee researched federal programs that reward communities for PPIs. Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant helped them understand the materials, including a 700-page manual on the Community Rating System (CRS), a Federal Emergency Management Agency incentive for communities that improve their resilience to flooding. By following floodplain management practices outlined in the CRS, property owners can earn credits that make them eligible for discounts of up to 45 percent on their flood insurance.

Camden County currently is a Class 6 on the CRS, which means property owners get a 20 percent discount on flood insurance. Reaching a Class 5 would earn them a 25 percent discount.

Brazell, a lifelong resident of St. Marys, recognized the need to educate residents about other ways to mitigate flood damage. Founded in 1787, St. Marys is vulnerable to coastal flooding, sea level rise and storm surge. The low-lying community has experienced about nine inches of sea-level rise since 1897, and the trend is expected to accelerate in the future.

“So much of how we protect our communities and plan for disasters is happening on the local level,” Jeff Adams says. “The resiliency of this country lives in rural America.”

A big concern is protecting the city’s water source from contamination.

Jessica Warren, UGA Cooperative Extension agent for Camden County, talked to the committee about stenciling “dump no waste, drains to stream” messages next to drains to emphasize that stormwater runoff drains directly into streams and sounds. St. Marys passed a resolution to have all of their drains stenciled.

Brazell partnered with St. Marys Middle School to create programs focused on mapping and flood zones. He taught students how to use GPS devices and map areas that are flood prone.

Working with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, St. Marys developed a plan for communications and outreach with local residents before and after a major storm.

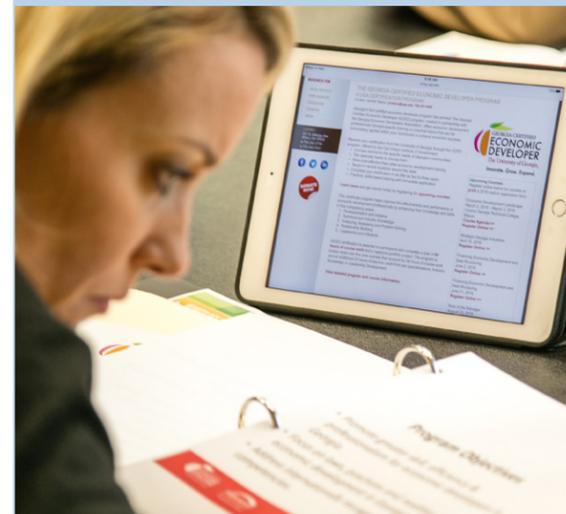
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HEALTHIER PEOPLE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

ASSESSING ACCESS TO RURAL HEALTH CARE

Many rural communities have lost their local hospitals; Pulaski County saved theirs, with help from UGA

By Kelly Simmons
Photography by Shannah Montgomery

Johnny McCune's wife, Rena, was having chest pains. So he took her to the local hospital, Taylor Regional Healthcare in Hawkinsville.

A few scans and tests later, doctors had found blood clots, but also something else: a small nodule on her lung.

"It was malignant," McCune says. "They took out her upper right lobe and she's cancer free now. Thanks to the ER we found it."

"If we had lost this hospital it would have been devastating for this community."

In December 2015 it looked like Hawkinsville, the county seat of Pulaski County—population 11,396—would lose the small regional hospital. The hospital board called in CEO Dr. E.R. "Skip" McDannald.

"They'd already talked to bankruptcy attorneys," McDannald says. "There are just not enough dollars that come into the hospital to take care of all the services we need."

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), mandated by the Affordable Care Act, would cost thousands of dollars the hospital didn't have. Without the CHNA, the hospital would lose its nonprofit status and would be forced to close, McDannald said.

As a University of Georgia Archway Partnership community, Pulaski County had access to all of the resources at UGA. When faculty and students at the College of Public Health (CPH) heard the county's plight, they stepped in to help.

Ayanna Robinson, who earned her doctorate in health promotion and behavior in May, and Sabrina Tindal Cherry, who earned her doctorate in public health in 2017, worked with members of the Pulaski community to define the community profile,

conduct focus groups and administer a survey to the area.

"We had the link with the Archway professional and also a direct link to the community," Robinson said. "It was such an important model that we used. It just shows that when you have that collaborative approach you can really create sustainable change."

Not only did the CHNA show that the hospital was needed by the community, it also showed a need for an outpatient clinic to serve patients with minor injuries and illnesses who would otherwise go to the emergency room at a much higher cost. Taylor Express Care opened adjacent to Taylor Regional Healthcare in June 2016.

The Archway Partnership received a **NATIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE** from the University Economic Development Association for its work with the College of Public Health that resulted in Pulaski County's retention of its local hospital and the addition of an urgent care clinic.

Today, the clinic averages about 15 patients a day. Emergency room visits are down almost 23 percent, from nearly 6,000 a year before the clinic opened to just 4,600 in the past year.

"It was greatly needed," says Bailey Lanier, a nurse practitioner on duty one chilly November morning. "Before you just had the ER, and that was it. We've opened doors to people who didn't have healthcare, who just didn't know who to go to."

"The CHNA shows how UGA brings communities together to build a healthier state," McDannald says.

"We've now joined together

as a force," he says. "We're functioning the way we should as a community."

The collaboration between UGA students and the Pulaski community also provided hands-on experience for Robinson and Cherry, who published two peer-reviewed articles about the project, under the direction of CPH faculty members Marsha Davis and Grace Bagwell-Adams, who oversaw the students' work in Pulaski County.

"There is really no better way to develop competencies and mastery of these skills than to be able to apply them to a real-

world setting," Robinson says.

Pulaski County became part of UGA's Archway Partnership program in 2009. The program, which places a UGA employee in each Archway community, provides the community access to the resources of UGA to address critical locally-identified needs and opportunities.

Thirteen Georgia counties have been Archway Partnership communities since the program began in 2005. Partnerships typically last at least five years, with eight communities active at any one time.



Taylor Urgent Care was created after an assessment showed too many people were using the emergency room for minor illnesses because there was no other local access to health care.



HEALTHIER PEOPLE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

SERVING EVEN MORE SENIORS

Student-run Campus Kitchen at UGA provides food for grandparents raising grandchildren

By Leah Moss
Photography by Shannah Montgomery

Public Service and Outreach Student Scholar Trisha Dalapati (left), an anthropology and biochemistry major, and LeAnn Haddad, a master's student in nutrition, collect food from Trader Joe's to catalogue, organize and store at the Campus Kitchen work space in the Talmage Terrace - Lanier Gardens assisted living community, a Wesley Woods facility.

When her daughter passed away nearly a decade ago, Rebecca Richardson became the primary caretaker for her three young grandchildren.

The additional mouths to feed strained her already-tight budget. Thankfully for her, Campus Kitchen at UGA (CKUGA) was able to help.

"They provide," Richardson says. "They help out those in need so they can focus on other problems. People have many worries and Campus Kitchen takes one of those off our minds."

The program, established in 2012 by the Office of Service-Learning, has expanded in both the amount of deliveries clients receive, and the overall number of clients. At its start, CKUGA served 281 individuals. Now, more than 800 people receive its



CKUGA student volunteers LeAnn Haddad and Nicole Hodge deliver food to Rebecca Richardson, who is part of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program. Richardson is raising three grandchildren: Kytravious, 14; Tyrell, 13; and Shariyah, 11.

service. With the help of students across UGA in service-learning courses, CKUGA has been able to double its deliveries: clients receive a grocery bag of food and a family-size meal once a week, rather than every two weeks.

"The issue of hunger among seniors is not going away," says Shannon Wilder, director of the Office of Service-Learning. "Seniors are a silent majority facing great needs. This is how UGA can address those needs and fill in the gaps."

Out of the clients receiving weekly deliveries, 75 percent are grandparents raising grandchildren.

"Grandparents live on limited incomes and they don't expect to raise kids at this stage of their life," says Paige Powell, who directs the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program at the Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA).

"The greatest solution to fight hunger isn't a system, or meals, or groceries, but informed students who go on to be the next sustainable solution," says Brad Turner, who coordinates CKUGA in the Office of Service-Learning.



Trader Joe's provides about 1,000 pounds of food to CKUGA every week. Employees Grant Beecher (left) and Wes York help Eunice Lee, a CKUGA AmeriCorps VISTA, with meal preparation.

More than 2.5 million children in the U.S. are being raised by grandparents, older siblings and extended family, many who aren't their legal guardians and therefore can't access social service programs for children in need.

The risk of food insecurity for Athens grandparents supporting grandchildren is 50 percent higher than seniors in Athens not raising grandchildren, according to the ACCA.

Students involved in CKUGA collect food from UGA's student-run UGArdens, as well as from area businesses, and repurpose it into meals that they distribute to seniors in need.

"I like that Campus Kitchen works specifically with senior citizens," says Trisha Dalapati, a senior studying anthropology and biochemistry. "You hear about kids with food insecurity, but seniors are an overlooked part of the food insecure population."

CKUGA is also an example of experiential learning. As a program that started as a service-learning course, CKUGA is now involved in 12 service-learning courses in the 2017-2018 school year.

In the six years since its inception, CKUGA has recovered 272,142 pounds of food and served 79,596 meals.

CKUGA also partners with ACCA to collect food during Turkeypalooza, an annual food drive to serve older adults and homebound individuals during the Thanksgiving holiday season. In 2017, more than 30 campus and community



organizations donated 2,588 cans, boxes and bags of food during the drive. Approximately 230 families received bags of groceries and 150 received prepared meals.

UGA's partnerships with ACCA extends beyond feeding the hungry. Tiffany

Washington, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work, created a service-learning course for students majoring in social work or public health and have an interest in gerontology.

The course enabled UGA students to work directly in clients' homes with people suffering from dementia, said Eve Anthony, chief executive officer CEO at the ACCA.

"We want to make sure that we are a good learning environment so that we're creating a second generation of professionals who are interested in working with the aging population, or who at least understand issues related to the aging population," Anthony says. "Service-learning is creating that."

"Having this opportunity to learn and possibly explore and see if we want to work with this population, for me, it's great," says Marissa Jones, a student in the class. "Had I not taken this class I don't know if I would have come into contact with them."

Thanks to service-learning classes and programs, UGA students are able to improve the quality of life for seniors in Athens.

ckuga.org



Grandparents raising grandchildren in Athens-Clarke County are the main recipients of Campus Kitchen UGA (CKUGA) meal delivery. The fresh food and prepared meals help alleviate food insecurity experienced by many seniors who are responsible for their grandchildren, but aren't their official guardians, and can't apply for social services support.



Campus Kitchen works closely with the Athens Community Council on Aging where they host an annual thank you lunch for volunteers and supporters.

STUDENT-RUN SUSTAINABILITY

What began in 2010 as a small student-run community garden on South Milledge Avenue has grown into a year-round working farm that generates fresh produce provided to food insecure families in Athens through Campus Kitchen at UGA and other groups.

UGA Horticulture Professor David Berle helped launch the garden as part of a grant proposal on sustainable food systems. The first garden was planted on three-quarters of an acre near the horticulture greenhouses.

Now more than five acres, the garden produces tomatoes, squash, asparagus, blueberries and other vegetables and fruits.

The garden also provides a site for student innovation. Student projects at the UGArdens have centered on rain gardens, compost management, disease resistant vegetables, medicinal herbs and solar panels for generating electricity, among many other things.

The UGArdens' mission is to build a community of students involved in experiential learning, centered on a sustainable food system, and to share the food with the local community.

Mission accomplished!

HEALTHIER PEOPLE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

BUILDING A HEALTHIER GEORGIA THROUGH COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP



By Charlie Bander
Photography by Shannah Montgomery

The Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA) is a repository for services geared to help older adults and their families with issues like health and wellness, hunger and transportation. The building on Hoyt Street that houses the council sees a steady stream of partners that have been cultivated from nonprofit organizations, state agencies and the University of Georgia.

It can be difficult to manage groups with such a wide variety of interests and accompanying viewpoints.

As a participant in UGA's Public Health Leadership Academy, ACCA director of operations Erin Beasley developed tools to help her more skillfully balance the role of each outside group so they can be better partners.

"The range of partnerships you manage in the public health sphere is so broad, to accomplish anything everyone has to come together and work towards common goals," Beasley says. "That can sometimes pose a challenge."

"The academy provided concrete tools I can apply each and every day at my job, both in managing our staff and our partnerships."

The UGA J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development and College of Public Health, with financial support from Georgia Power, created the Public Health Leadership Academy (PHLA) in 2015.

Twenty-two health professionals from across the state graduated from the 2018 program in October.

By developing leaders focused on collaborating and transcending boundaries, the leadership academy aims to improve health outcomes in communities across the state.



Louise Hill, Fanning faculty member and program facilitator, discusses the importance of self awareness and foundational relationships in creating a collaborative leadership approach.

"Today's health challenges are influenced by many factors, from our access to educational and economic opportunities to our access to healthy foods and health care," says Marsha Davis, associate dean for outreach and engagement in the College of Public Health. "We need to support leaders from all sectors that have an influence on health to create collaborative solutions that address inequalities and to transform communities where health is not determined by zip code, income or ethnicity."

During the nine-month program, participants not only heard from public health experts on trends in the field and networked with their peers, they focused on understanding their own individual leadership styles and developing collaborative leadership skills.

"Collaborative leaders understand group dynamics and process, help people reach consensus, successfully manage conflict, build trust, and understand the need to be flexible to react as circumstances among the group change or new opportunities emerge," says Carolina Darbisi, a faculty member at the Fanning Institute, who designed the academy's curriculum alongside fellow Fanning faculty member Louise Hill.

Groups often overlook the importance of collaborative leadership, Hill said.

"When groups come together around a project or task, they often focus solely on the work set before them," Hill says. "Collaborative leadership development recognizes that understanding yourself and understanding how to build foundational relationships among the group is a key first step for any group to successfully complete the task at hand."

For Beasley, learning new skills for managing conflict and fostering difficult conversations was particularly impactful, she said.

"Putting these skills into practice gives me a more complete view of situations, both within my agency and among our partners,"



Erin Beasley (right), Athens Community Council on Aging (ACCA) director of operations, graduated from the Public Health Leadership Academy and will use the skills acquired to better navigate the partnerships that are vital to the nonprofit.

"These skills empower them to bring people from across spectrums together to solve complex problems," says Carolina Darbisi.



she says. "It builds trust and removes conflict as a barrier, allowing me to focus on building coalitions and moving everyone towards our common goal to ensure our community is living and aging well."

The College of Public Health is currently accepting applications for the 2019 Public Health Leadership Academy, which starts in February.

Jan Carter, health services manager for Georgia Power, speaks at the State of the Public's Health Conference about the value of the PHLA and the real-world skills she gained from the program.



A MORE SECURE FUTURE. THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

HELPING FARMERS BUILD A BETTER BUSINESS

The Journeyman Farmer Certificate program offers business planning, crops and small animal production, and hands-on training

By J. Merritt Melancon

Dennis Hollingsworth was fresh out of college the first time he tried running a farm. It was the early 1980s in south Georgia, and he stuck with it for four years in some of the roughest economic conditions since the Great Depression.

Then he left for an IT job.

"I went to Atlanta and I thought I would never look back and I didn't for years and years," Hollingsworth says. "But it's time for me to do some things that I've always wanted to do."

Over the next five years, Hollingsworth and his wife plan to leave their 4,300 square-foot home in Lawrenceville and move to a manufactured home on a farm in Banks County.

They'll raise goats and calves and the crops needed to feed them. And they'll have the University of Georgia to provide support and guidance.

For the past three years, the UGA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has partnered with UGA Cooperative Extension to equip new farmers with the business acumen they need to succeed.

The Journeyman Farmer Certificate Program, offered at locations across the state, brings together UGA outreach units and outside groups to provide multifaceted training for beginning and young farmers.

The program focuses on developing mentorships for beginning farmers, providing nuts and bolts training in small ruminants (such as goats) production, vegetable production, and financial and business production.

Hollingsworth enrolled in the program in Gainesville and worked with Extension County Coordinator Bob Waldorf and SBDC Area Director Bruce Cutler to refine his business plan before launching his farm.

"I don't want to lose money in retirement," Hollingsworth says. "And that's why I wanted to put together a business plan. As I did, it became a thing where I could look at it and say, 'Yeah, you know I could do this for the next 25 years and enjoy it.'"

The journeyman program has helped more than 500 farmers since it was launched in 2015.

Some are young entrepreneurs looking to make the most of the market's desire for more locally grown food. Some are traditional farmers who are looking to improve an inherited farming business. And many, like Hollingsworth, are second-career farmers looking to make the most of farming in their retirement.

Often those who go into farming have big dreams, a passion for hard work and a vision of the simplicity and peace of pastoral life. What they don't have, in many cases, is a workable business plan.

"I know you've heard it before, but if you fail to plan, you're really planning to fail," Waldorf says.

"Up in this area we have a lot of people who are coming into the area and buying a small farm, and they're calling me and asking me how they can make that farm work," he adds. "Their very first step should be having a plan down on paper to see if they can make it."

The partnership between UGA Extension and SBDC makes sense because both deal with critical but specialized programming, Cutler said.

Agriculture businesses need this collaborative approach because, while they share a lot of similarities with other small business, they're also plagued by more uncertainty, which makes planning and technical advising even more important.

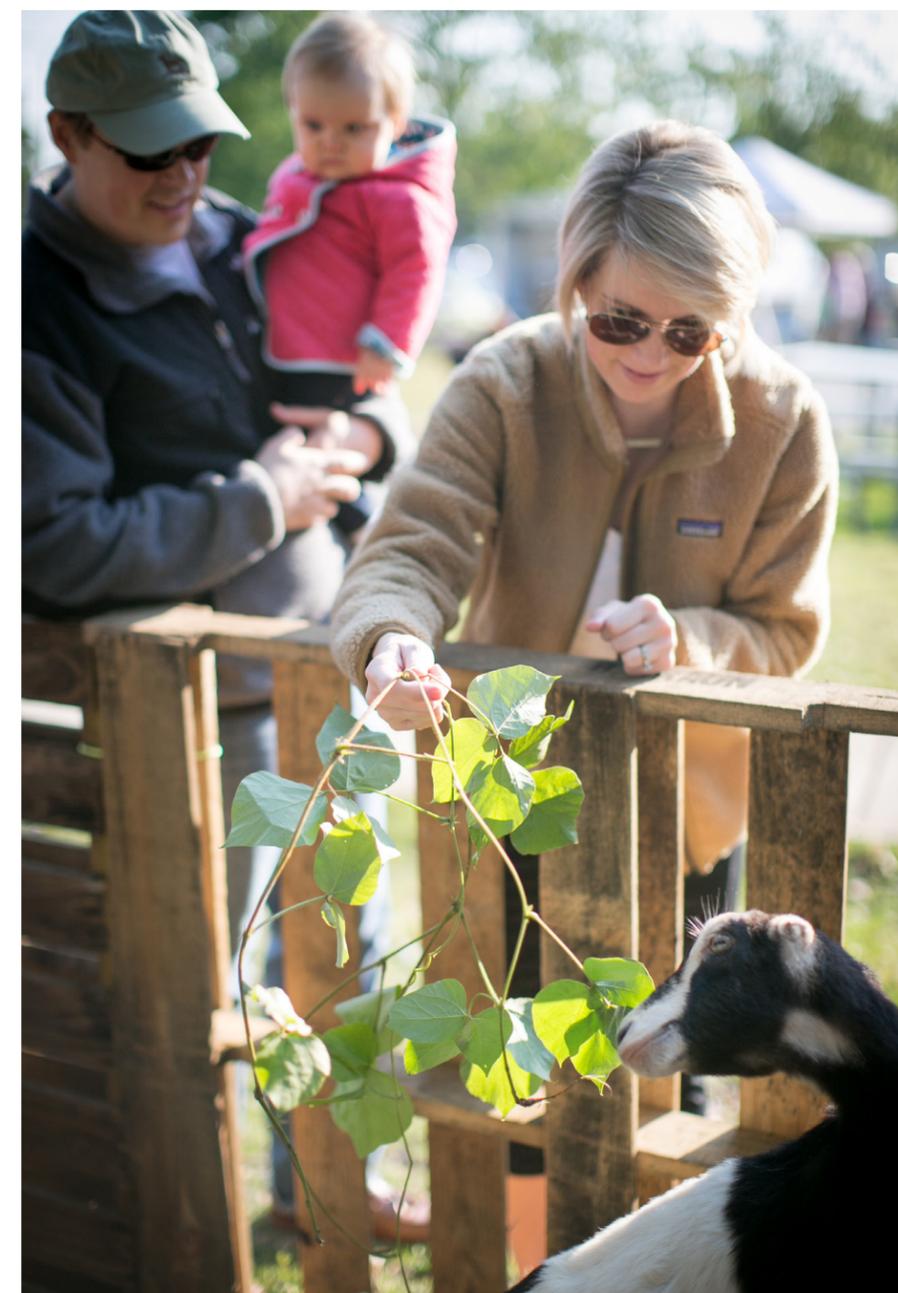
"They have challenges related to nature that are over and above the challenges faced by other businesses," Cutler says.

A big part of the planning is helping people realize when an idea won't work or that an idea needs major changes before it will work.

Having a community of like-minded entrepreneurs and advisors from both the business and agricultural fields can make that process easier.

"Bob is discussing what will grow and what won't grow here from the Extension side," Cutler says, "and I'm talking about it from the business side: How are you going to sell it?"

georgiasbdc.org/agribusiness



When third-generation farmer Roy Crosby took over his family's business, Weeks Honey, in southwest Georgia, he realized that to leave a strong, viable company for future generations he would need to restructure the company's debt and expand. With assistance from SBDC consultants in Valdosta, Crosby secured a seven-figure USDA loan, which he used to finance the company's debt and expand into 28 states. He also received some assistance in social media marketing and developed a plan to target new customers in other states. Weeks Honey now is in 3,000 stores across the country, a big leap from 150 stores less than a decade earlier. Sales have increased by 30 percent and continue to grow.



The 30-acre apple orchard that John Reece's father started in Ellijay is now a 130-acre agribusiness known in the fall for u-pick apples, pony rides, pig races, a corn maze and exotic animals. With SBDC assistance, Reece plans to expand BJ Reece Orchards by more than 50 percent over the next few years, growing the company's line of baked goods, including what his friends call "world famous" fried apple pies that they sell onsite and as wholesale to Atlanta businesses. The SBDC helped Reece develop a financial plan and projections for the new business model, which resulted in a six-figure matching grant from the USDA. Sales have increased by more than 35 percent and the business now employs 15 people.



A MORE SECURE FUTURE. THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

WEATHER, DISEASE AND OVERFISHING *Can Hurt a Coastal Economy*

By Kelly Simmons
Photography by Peter Frey

In Georgia, UGA helps keep the fisheries in business

Orders come in overnight by emails and through messages left on Charlie Phillips' phone.

By 7:30 a.m., he's behind the desk in his cramped office—its walls papered with maps of Georgia barrier islands and marshes—entering orders by hand on a paper spread sheet.

A restaurant in Charleston, S.C., wants about 1,600 clams, while a regular customer on Long Island orders 3,000 to 5,000. By midday Phillips has taken orders for tens of thousands of clams, all farm-raised in the mud flats adjacent to Sapelo Island.

While he logs in the orders, employees on the dock wash the small clams that have just been pulled from the marsh in their mesh grow-out bags. Other employees gently empty baskets of harvested clams into a machine that will sort and route them by size into color-coded bags that will be packaged in boxes lined with bubble wrap. Then the clams will be shipped to businesses from South Florida to Canada.

PIVOTING WITH THE MARKET

A second generation Georgia fisherman, Phillips began shrimping as a teenager alongside his father, and later captained the boat when he took over the business. When the shrimp industry began to take a hit in the 1980s, he explored other coastal commodities. He replaced Blackbeard, his shrimp boat that caught fire and sank, with snapper boats.

But then a study showed overfishing had severely diminished the red snapper population in the Atlantic Ocean, and government regulations effectively closed red snapper fishing.

Phillips already had been exploring aquaculture, and had taken UGA Marine Extension up on its offer of grow-out clam seed for fishers looking to diversify their investments.

By 2009, he was in full production, harvesting 500,000 clams annually. Last year, his harvest was two million.

A LONG HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

Spend time with the boat captains who have worked the waters off the coast of Georgia for decades, and they'll regale you with stories about the good old days, back in the 1960s and 70s, when fuel was cheap and shrimp were plentiful. Back then, shrimp sold for up to \$7 a pound.

In those days, there were more than 60 shrimp boats working the Georgia coast, bringing in upwards of six million pounds of shrimp a year, said Marty Higgins, a marine resource specialist for UGA Marine

Extension and Georgia Sea Grant and first mate on the *R/V Georgia Bulldog*. Higgins recently retired after 33 years.

The industry struggled in the 1980s, as fuel prices increased and foreign countries began exporting farm raised shrimp that sold for much less in the grocery stores than the fresh shrimp on the dock. Boats went out of business, commercial docks closed. Businesses supported by the fishing industry left town.

"I diversified, which most people did not," Charlie Phillips says. "If you don't, you're toast. I would not be in the clam business if it weren't for marine extension."

FROM BOAT REPAIRS TO FINANCIAL PLANNING

UGA Marine Extension became the go-to stop for a variety of needs. Higgins, Herbert "Truck" McIver and Lindsey Parker, captain of the *R/V Georgia Bulldog* and a fisheries extension agent until he retired in 2016, stitched holes in fishing nets, welded parts back onto boats, and fixed mechanical issues when they could, so that the shrimpers could get back on the water as quickly as possible.

Consultants from the UGA Small Business Development Center offered workshops to help fishers make financial projections and plan for the future.

Looking toward the future, Bryan Fluech, associate director of Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, and McIver are working with McIntosh County Academy and Coastal Pines Technical College to possibly develop a career academy program for high school students that want to pursue a career in commercial fishing. The program would address essential subjects that will better prepare participants to serve as crew members aboard commercial fishing boats in the region or possibly work in other maritime-related industries.

NEW ON THE MENU: JELLY BALLS

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant also helps connect fishers in declining industries expand into other areas.

For example, Georgia shrimpers, who have boats with sturdy reinforced hulls, can make money by catching and selling cannonball jellyfish, a seafood delicacy in some Asian countries.

In 2002, entrepreneur Terry Chuang, decided to take advantage of the abundant cannonball jellies in the south Atlantic, and opened a jelly ball processing plant in Darien, about 40 miles north of Brunswick.

At six cents a pound, the shrimpers have to catch a lot of jellyfish to make money. But it's fairly easy work. They scoop the jellies up in their nets and drop them off at the dock. An ambitious boat captain can catch 110,000 pounds, earning \$6,600, every other day, said April Harper, who manages the plant where they dry and salt the jellies before exporting them to Japan and China.

The UGA Food Product Innovation and Commercialization Center (Food PIC) also bought some for product development on a project proposal using jelly balls, said Kirk Kealey, FoodPIC director.

ANOTHER OPTION: OYSTERS

UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant offered another opportunity to diversify in 2015 with the launch of an oyster hatchery on Skidaway Island. About 10 people working in the fishing industry were given oyster seed, or spat, created at the hatchery, to grow out to maturity as single shell oysters.

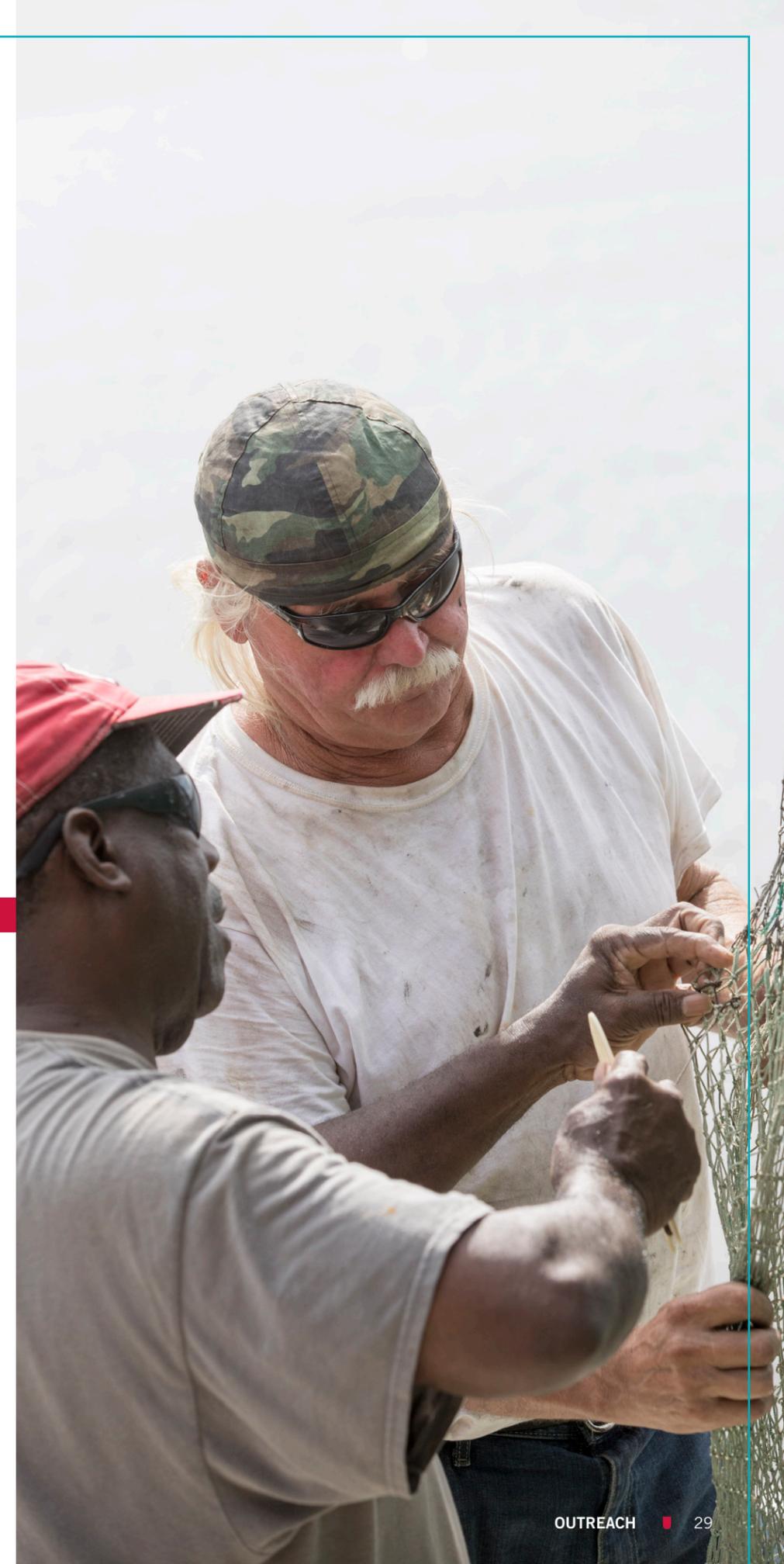
The hatchery produced 11 million oyster seed (spat) in 2018, which, if fully grown out, would have an estimated harvest value of \$2 million to \$3 million. One of UGA's goal is to generate enough interest in oyster farming to attract a commercial hatchery to grow the spat.

At Sapelo Sea Farms, Charlie Phillips also is growing oysters. They take more time and effort than clams and so far he doesn't make much money off it, but he's open to learning more.

After all, he found his niche in growing clams when UGA began introducing that option to Georgia fishers in the late 1990s. There was a learning curve then, too. Today, he can buy 1.3 million clam seeds from South Carolina for \$15,000. The harvest value is \$1.3 million.

gacoast.uga.edu

Capt. Charlie Phillips, left, checks on one of his clam beds; middle, Sapelo Sea Farms employees empty bags of grown out clams; right, Herbert "Truck" McIver, marine resources specialist with Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, helps shrimp boat Capt. Mickey Baxley repair a trawling net.



A MORE SECURE FUTURE: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

NATIVE PLANTS ARE SHOWING UP ALL OVER THE STATE, SOME IN PLACES YOU WOULDN'T THINK TO LOOK

Story and photography by Shannah Montgomery

There is a buzz around Georgia about the importance of pollinators and the native plant ecosystems that support them. The State Botanical Garden's Connect to Protect program combines public displays of native plants with educational materials to foster an understanding of the role of native plants in maintaining biodiversity in urban and suburban landscapes.

So far, 35 Connect to Protect gardens have been installed around the state. From the AMLI residential communities on the Atlanta Beltline to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia in Rabun County, these gardens attract native pollinators as they show the public how well native plants can fit into any landscape.

Staff members at the State Botanical Garden's Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies grow the plants and work with garden professionals, volunteers and sponsors to coordinate plantings.

The garden also educates the public about healthy eating through Connect to Protect sites. Camaria Welch, a graduate student in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, created a curriculum that helps children understand the connection between nature and food. Her program, Bee Smart Eat Smart, is taught during summer camp at the State Botanical Garden, as well as in other settings around Georgia.

"We're thrilled to see the program grow and the connections being made," says Heather Alley, conservation horticulturist at the garden. "These small urban oases for pollinators provide opportunities to help our ecosystem while also educating residents by showing them how to incorporate native plants into their own yards."



OCONEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

State Botanical Garden staff and Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources graduate student Melissa Ray worked with students at Oconee Middle School to help fulfill educational standards. As a part of the curriculum the class planted a Connect to Protect pollinator garden.



MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Macon-Bibb County partnered with the garden in 2015 to install nearly 2,000 native plants in several public parks. As the gardens grow, SBG continues close ties, adding new plants and updated educational signage.



GEOGRAPHY-GEOLOGY BUILDING ROOF

UGA student Carson Dann planted a rooftop Connect to Protect garden to attract pollinators to vegetable beds on the rooftop, which provides food for Campus Kitchen, a Public Service and Outreach program that combats food insecurity.



DOWNTOWN ATHENS

Connect to Protect gardens were installed on all four corners of Washington Street and College Avenue.



STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN CHILDREN'S EVENTS

During an internship at the garden, 2016-17 PSO Student Scholar Suzie Henderson created a coloring book to teach children about the importance of native plants and pollinators. Kids enjoyed the coloring book during the Spring Fling at the State Botanical Garden.

MIMSIE LANIER CENTER FOR NATIVE PLANT STUDIES

Native plants for the Connect to Protect gardens are grown at the center under the care of Heather Alley, conservation horticulturist at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.



THE ATLANTA BELTLINE

Plants that attract bees, butterflies and insects were built into the landscaping at AMLI apartment complexes in the Old Fourth Ward of Atlanta. Drew Watkins, a UGA alumnus and principal at Baytree Landscape Contractors Inc., helped plan and install the sustainable, environmentally responsible gardens.



FOOD BANK OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA/RABUN COUNTY

A Connect to Protect garden was planted to encourage pollinators for the vegetable garden beds. The food grown will be used in the test kitchen on site.



OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

The Oconee County High School (OCHS) Environmental Club built planter boxes at the State Botanical Garden using donated materials from the UGA Materials Reuse Program and the Home Depot. OCHS student Harper Ann Moffett, below, led the project, which resulted in gardens at local elementary schools.



PULASKI COUNTY

Local leaders from Pulaski County, an Archway Partnership Community, visited the State Botanical Garden's Mimsie Lanier Center for Native Plant Studies to explore starting a Connect to Protect planting project.



OCONEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Oconee County High School Environmental club members took the planters they made the previous spring to Oconee County Elementary School where they helped students create a Connect to Protect garden, and talked to them about the importance of native plants and pollinators. Decorative copper plant signs were donated by Metal Garden Markers. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources was a partner in the project.



STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

WHEN ELBERT COUNTY NEEDED HELP ITS LEADERS TURNED TO UGA

By Kellyn Amodeo
Photography by Peter Frey



Elbert County Fire Department Chief Rick Mewborn with a new engine in front of Station 10.

When volunteer firefighter Rick Mewborn got to the accident scene he found a small car wrapped around a tree, just a few miles from the town square in Elberton, the largest city in the county. The teenage driver was unconscious and not breathing. He opened her airway and stayed with her until the ambulance arrived. Weeks later, she made a full recovery.

A few years ago, the outcome could have been much different. Public services, like the volunteer fire department, were skimping by with older equipment and stretched thin to cover the entire county. Things like paving roads had fallen by the wayside.

"We were having to borrow money to even operate," says Bob Thomas, at the time the new Elbert County administrator.

Desperate for help, Thomas and Tommy Lyon, the newly elected chair of the Elbert County Commission, looked 35 miles down the road to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia.

"I quickly got to know the value of the Institute of Government," Thomas says. "I wanted to take full advantage of the educational resources available there."

Since 1927, the Institute of Government has worked with government leaders around Georgia and the nation to improve governance, directly impacting communities and citizens. The institute offers classes for appointed and elected officials, fiscal and economic analysis for communities and multiple other resources for city and county governments.

"We try to make government more efficient, more effective and more responsive to its citizens," says Laura Meadows, director of the Institute of Government. "It's all about making Georgia better—creating jobs, developing leaders and helping communities solve challenges."

The Institute of Government partners with local government associations, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and the Georgia Municipal Association for training elected officials. Lyon and Thomas attended basic management courses required for all newly elected government leaders as well as numerous classes focusing on finances.

These classes were the key for Elbert County leaders to eradicate the massive

debt. First, they took an in-depth look at their budget and learned the most effective ways to cut back on expenses. They found ways to harness the power of grants if they did not have funding for county needs. They also learned to package certain projects and effectively communicate with their citizens, allowing them to raise ample amounts of voter-approved Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funding, the main source of funding for most of the county's projects.

"The classes taught us to better utilize the resources we have, and how we can call on other resources if we don't have the staff or people like the bigger communities," says Rick Mewborn. "The Institute of Government has been a top resource for us."

Mewborn has served with the volunteer fire department in Elbert County for 40 years. He started as a volunteer, moved to part-time chief and earlier this year was named full-time chief.

He manages a 42-apparatus fleet of 130 people who dedicate time and resources to Elbert County. Most volunteer firefighters also serve as first responders. Many have full-time jobs along with other community obligations, but despite those commitments, they still serve. They keep their radios on at all times. They drop everything when a call is close. They are always ready to jump into action for the people in their community.

Since 2006, the county built five new fire stations, purchased and outfitted six new fire trucks and began more training for volunteers. The stations no longer have to fundraise to purchase new equipment; the county is able to self-fund all 12 fire stations.

Improvements in infrastructure, such as emergency services and roadways, are just what industries are looking for in potential building locations.

"These things are important for new employers you're trying to recruit to the area and also important for existing businesses," Meadows says. "That's one thing that we are very concerned about, too: helping create the infrastructure and environment to support those existing businesses. We want to make sure they have the opportunity to grow and prosper."

The improvements also save money for Elbert County taxpayers.

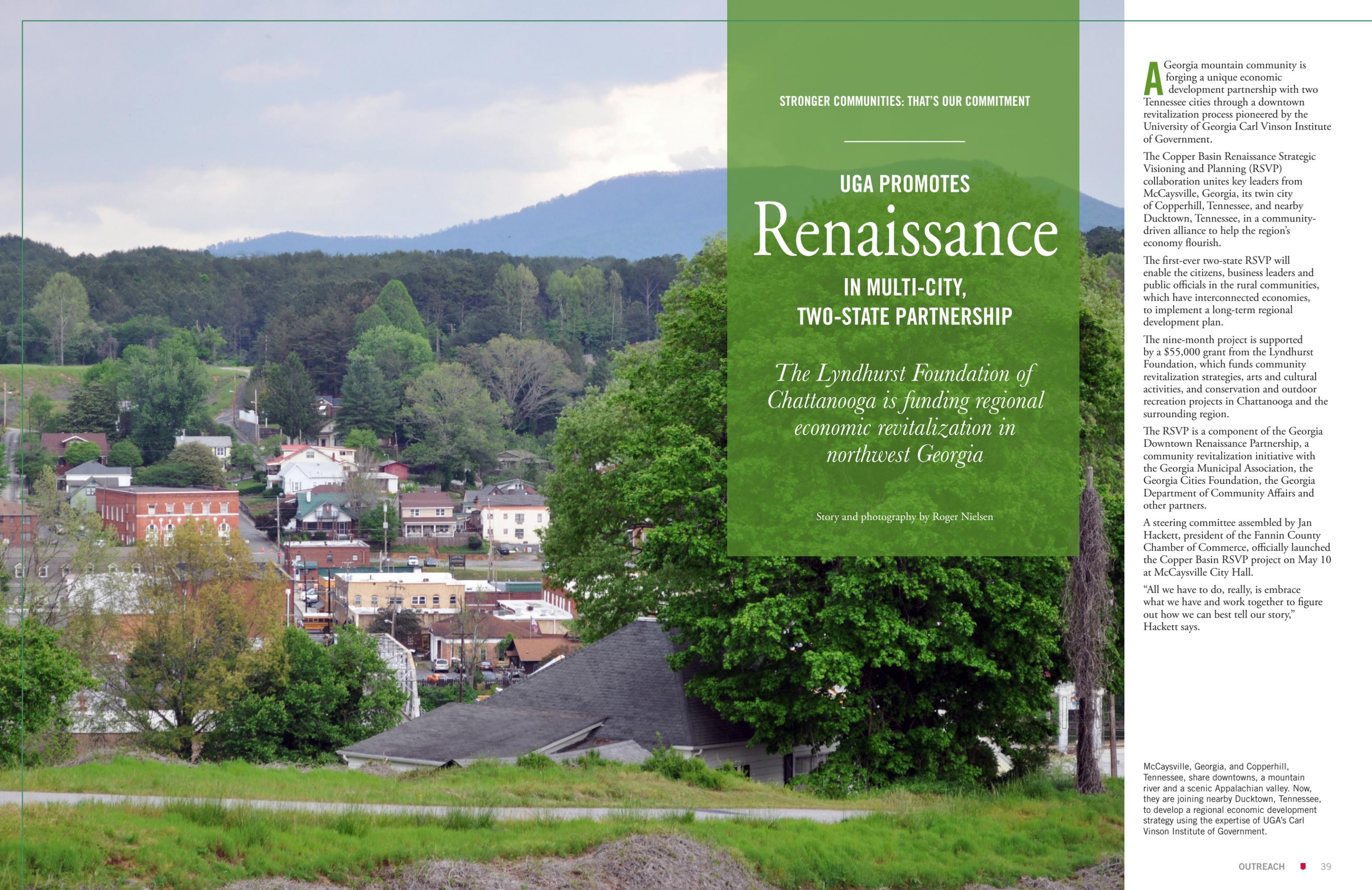
The Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO), provides emergency services rating based on fire suppression capabilities of individual communities or fire protection areas. Because of the new buildings and equipment in Elbert County, all homes in the 370 square-mile county are within five road miles of a fire station, improving the county's ISO rating from class nine to class four. This rating puts them in the top 20 percent of county fire services in Georgia.

For the homeowners of Elbert County, that rating means an estimated \$2.5 million savings per year in insurance premiums. For incoming industries, it means a strong potential building site.

It didn't happen overnight and wasn't painless. County staff didn't receive pay increases for five years. Items in annual budget proposals that weren't absolutely necessary weren't funded. But with time and education, the county was able to get back on its feet and become self-sufficient, no longer relying on lines of credit to function.

"I've run hundreds of calls as both fire and EMS," Mewborn says. "These changes have been a long time coming, and it's a work in progress of course, but it's been really good for us. It's been a group effort. We're all working at this to get better at what we do."

"A lot of counties like us give up. We didn't."



STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THAT'S OUR COMMITMENT

UGA PROMOTES
Renaissance
IN MULTI-CITY,
TWO-STATE PARTNERSHIP

*The Lyndhurst Foundation of
Chattanooga is funding regional
economic revitalization in
northwest Georgia*

Story and photography by Roger Nielsen

A Georgia mountain community is forging a unique economic development partnership with two Tennessee cities through a downtown revitalization process pioneered by the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

The Copper Basin Renaissance Strategic Visioning and Planning (RSVP) collaboration unites key leaders from McCaysville, Georgia, its twin city of Copperhill, Tennessee, and nearby Ducktown, Tennessee, in a community-driven alliance to help the region's economy flourish.

The first-ever two-state RSVP will enable the citizens, business leaders and public officials in the rural communities, which have interconnected economies, to implement a long-term regional development plan.

The nine-month project is supported by a \$55,000 grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation, which funds community revitalization strategies, arts and cultural activities, and conservation and outdoor recreation projects in Chattanooga and the surrounding region.

The RSVP is a component of the Georgia Downtown Renaissance Partnership, a community revitalization initiative with the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Cities Foundation, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and other partners.

A steering committee assembled by Jan Hackett, president of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce, officially launched the Copper Basin RSVP project on May 10 at McCaysville City Hall.

"All we have to do, really, is embrace what we have and work together to figure out how we can best tell our story," Hackett says.

McCaysville, Georgia, and Copperhill, Tennessee, share downtowns, a mountain river and a scenic Appalachian valley. Now, they are joining nearby Ducktown, Tennessee, to develop a regional economic development strategy using the expertise of UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

“Initiatives like this combine private-sector resources with public-sector expertise to revitalize downtowns to generate economic activity and create jobs,” says House Speaker David Ralston. “I am excited about the potential of this project, particularly when we are investing in McCaysville and the surrounding area with more than half a million dollars in state funding for streetscapes and (McCaysville) City Park as well as the ongoing work on widening Highway 5.”

The 14-member committee spearheaded the summer’s public engagement process and helped prioritize regional economic issues the communities identified. The committee will establish action plans to achieve short- and long-term development goals.

Georgia House Speaker David Ralston and his staff have worked with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government since the initial discussions about this project. A longtime proponent of economic development initiatives like the RSVP, Ralston’s district includes McCaysville and Fannin County.

The Copper Basin RSVP strategy will complement public and private quality-of-life amenities underway or already in place, including the privately funded Rivers Crossing restaurant development in McCaysville. It will also leverage tourism opportunities, such as paddling and

tubing on the Toccoa and Ocoee rivers, scenic railways based in Copperhill and McCaysville, and the Ducktown Basin Museum, where people can visit a historic copper mine. The RSVP also will enhance existing partnerships among the cities, all of which are members of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce.

“The Institute of Government is excited to work with such a diverse spectrum of civic leaders in a unique economic development partnership,” says Laura Meadows, director of the Institute of Government. “Downtowns are important drivers of the economy, especially in rural parts of the state. We look forward to helping the Copper Basin team develop a community-guided vision for what they want their cities to be now and in the future.”

Projects like the Copper Basin RSVP reflect the work that the Lyndhurst

Foundation has done in downtown Chattanooga, said Lyndhurst President and Treasurer Benic “Bruz” Clark III. This marks the third consecutive year that Lyndhurst has supported UGA projects in northwest Georgia, but it’s the first time it has funded an Institute of Government project extending across state lines.

“Those three communities are located in an area that has tremendous natural beauty... and I applaud what they’re trying to do,” Clark says. “Through our partnership with UGA, we are trying to provide small communities with access to urban design, planning, architectural services and expertise that are typically unavailable and uncoordinated.”

In the past five years, the Institute of Government has helped 16 other Georgia cities implement downtown revitalization strategies through the RSVP program.



“Strengthening communities and promoting economic development throughout our home state are central to the University of Georgia’s mission as a land-grant institution. We are excited about this partnership and the positive impact it will make.”

Jere W. Morehead
UGA President

At left, visitors explore shops in the city center shared by McCaysville, Georgia, and Copperhill, Tennessee. Above, a restaurant and retail project underway in McCaysville is the kind of development the three cities want to bring to the area.

2017-18
**FACULTY
 FELLOWS**
 FOCUS ON THE
 IMPACT OF
 LEADERSHIP
 TRAINING,
 SHORELINE
 STABILITY
 AND HEALTH
 CONCERNS IN
 RURAL GEORGIA



ABIGAIL BORRON, in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, developed quantitative measures to assess the social and economic impact of leadership programming at the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development.

Borron's goal was to create a research framework that would lead to a unique profile for a communities, including its various opportunities, challenges and barriers. Borron utilized the Community Capitals Framework (CCF), which defines community vitality and sustainability through seven different capitals: natural, cultural, human, social, political, financial and built capital. She modified the CCF to measure perceptions of each capital, which were then transformed into a numerical scale.

Program effectiveness can be evaluated by comparing differences in capitals across time. The data form a comprehensive, unique profile for each community in order to identify which capitals are strengths and weaknesses.

"We know that leadership development is essential to the long-term civic and economic health of communities," says Matt Bishop, director of the Fanning Institute. "However, the ability to quantify that economic impact and return on investment is key."



JON CALABRIA, in the College of Environment and Design, is helping coastal Georgia communities tackle ecological problems that threaten their survival.

Shoreline erosion is a growing concern on the coast, where much of the economy depends on tourism and recreation. It can cause irreversible damage to cultural treasures like the Wormsloe Historic Site in Savannah, where Calabria installed living shorelines in strategic, highly-targeted parts of the coastline.

In a living shoreline, plants and oyster bags are used as buffers between land and sea. This helps maintain habitat for native plants and animals. Calabria's research is on the effectiveness and placement of living shorelines.

Calabria also is helping Fort Pulaski and UGA facilities on Skidaway Island develop long-term plans to ensure the safety, prosperity and longevity of their facilities.

"Jon approaches projects from a landscape ecologist standpoint," says Mark Risse, director of Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. "He can understand the history and ecological setting of an area, and design solutions that fit aesthetically and contextually."



ELIZABETH WEEKS, in the School of Law, worked with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to identify rural health challenges relating to regulations and provider shortages.

Weeks, a J. Alton Hosch professor, looked into the feasibility and effectiveness of alternative health strategies, such as telemedicine—the ability to call a physician or specialist to receive services. Since telemedicine is dependent on broadband access, Weeks studied broadband access data collected by the Vinson Institute. She discovered that nuances in the way broadband access is reported can cause the number of people with broadband to be overestimated.

Weeks also worked to identify public health issues for local governments, such as evolving federal regulations and shifts in Medicaid and Medicare. Vinson faculty members will be able to use the information to help communities in Georgia.

"A big concern right now is access to healthcare, quality of healthcare, affordability of healthcare, especially in rural areas," says Ted Baggett, Vinson Institute associate director. "She's a huge benefit to the faculty here."

Faculty Fellowships offer tenure-track and tenured professors an opportunity to pursue their research through a unit of UGA Public Service and Outreach. The vice president for PSO provides \$15,000 to a fellow's home department, to be spent as the department head deems appropriate. Applications for the fellowships are accepted in March and can be found at outreach.uga.edu/programs/pso-fellowship-program.

2017-2018 Public Service and Outreach Student Scholars hold the plaques they received for completing the program in a photo with their mentors from the PSO units and university administrators.



Scholar Suni Thakur coordinated the welcome session activities for the Georgia Junior Science & Humanities Symposium during her internship with the UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel. The center hosts the annual symposium for Georgia high school students.



Chancellor Steve Wrigley visited with the PSO Student Scholars during one of their weekly meetings in the fall, providing some background on his career in state government and answering questions about higher education. Wrigley encouraged the students to uphold the missions of UGA and to give back to the university once they have graduated.



During their visit to Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, the students had an opportunity to taste roasted oysters.



Sam Driggers, an international affairs major, got hands-on experience writing policy during his internship with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Creating a Trend of **PUBLIC SERVICE FOR STUDENTS**

Nineteen undergraduates representing seven colleges and schools participated in the 2017-18 Public Service and Outreach Student Scholars program, an introduction to the land- and sea-grant mission of the University of Georgia.

The year-long program begins with a semester focused on discovering the diversity of PSO units through tours, speakers and experiences at each of the units. In the spring semester students complete an individual internship within a unit that most closely matches their academic and professional goals.

"The PSO Student Scholar program was one of the first times that I was

able to apply my career interests to public service," says Sam Driggers, an international affairs major in the School of Public and International Affairs. "At my internship with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, I was able to work with multiple governments on developing policy solutions that worked for them—policy solutions that I not only researched and articulated, but that have actually been implemented."

PSO Student Scholars have an in-depth experiential learning opportunity that sets them apart from their academic peers, said Jennifer L. Frum, vice president for UGA Public Service and Outreach.

"They have a greater understanding of the state and the university's role in helping Georgia's communities and people prosper," Frum says. "Many of our student scholars stay engaged in public service in the communities where they settle after graduation."

The PSO Student Scholars program began in 2011 under the direction of then-interim vice president for Public Service and Outreach Steve Wrigley, who is now chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

Applications are accepted in March and can be found at servicelearning.uga.edu/psu-student-scholars.

We celebrate the generosity of our many donors, who make it possible for us to positively impact the lives of Georgians through UGA Public Service and Outreach.

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STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN CELEBRATES LONGTIME DONORS

Six longtime supporters of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia were honored recently during the biennial “Giving Tree” celebration that recognizes patrons who have given their time and money to the garden.

James B. Miller Jr., a charter member of the State Botanical Garden board of advisors, is the 2018 Distinguished Honoree, the garden’s highest honor bestowed on donors. Miller, who helped establish the board, has shown generosity to the garden personally and through Fidelity Southern Corporation, where he serves as chairman and CEO. Miller lives in Atlanta.

Three board members received the 2018 Southern Magnolia Award, which honors philanthropic contributions of more than \$100,000 and continued service to the garden. The 2018 honorees are Martha Brumley Ellis, Brenda Magill and Sissie Morris.

Kathy and Neely Young received the Garden of Georgia medal, the highest award for service and support.

The Giving Tree event recognizes individuals committed to outstanding philanthropic contributions and dedicated service supporting the mission of the State Botanical Garden.

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R. HOWARD DOBBS, JR. FOUNDATION 2018 Donor Impact Award

The recipient of the inaugural Donor Impact Award was the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation, in recognition of its multi-year support of the Legislative Environmental Policy Academy at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and its extraordinary impact on the State of Georgia. This program provides legislators with unbiased, science-based information about Georgia’s natural resources. Lynn Smith, chair of Georgia House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment, applauds the academy for arming committee members with knowledge and helping legislators understand facts that are critical to informed decision-making on environmental issues.

The R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation was established in 1959 as the Helen and Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation and was later renamed the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation. The foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities by supporting educational opportunities, improving access to health services and promoting environmental stewardship. The foundation is committed to honoring the life and impact of Howard Dobbs through its work.



DONORS

GIFT HONORS RETIRING BOAT CAPTAIN

The King and Prince Seafood Corporation, based in Brunswick, gave UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant \$5,000 in honor of Lindsey Parker, above left, who retired after 35 years as a marine resource specialist, fisheries extension agent and captain of the *R/V Georgia Bulldog*.

The gift will be used to make repairs to the *R/V Georgia Bulldog*.

Parker's strong relationships with commercial fisherman and researchers helped to establish UGA as an important resource for marine research and education on the coast of Georgia. From the start of his career, Parker played a key role in advising major research projects aboard the *R/V Georgia Bulldog*, particularly those involving sea turtle conservation practices and techniques. He helped develop and implement the Turtle Excluder Device (TED), which allows sea turtles and other bycatch to escape when caught in a fisherman's net. Every legal TED in the U.S. has been tested in the wild onboard the *R/V Georgia Bulldog* under Parker's direction.

He was instrumental in developing connections with commercial fisherman and fostering cooperation between managers and others in the seafood industry by encouraging collaborative, proactive approaches to solving issues.

King and Prince, which began in 1924 as the King Shrimp company, supplying seafood to markets in New York and Chicago, is among the largest seafood companies in the U.S.

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CALLAWAY GIFT WILL HELP MAKE THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN MORE ACCESSIBLE

A \$1 million gift from the Callaway Foundation will help fund a new visitor entrance to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, enhancing access to the galleries, classrooms, collections and displays.

The new entrance will be an official gateway to the garden from the parking lots to the Alice Hand Callaway Visitor Center and Conservatory and will include an elevator, which will greatly improve access for individuals in wheelchairs, pushing strollers or who have difficulty maneuvering stairs. Alice Hand Callaway was the wife of Fuller E. Callaway Jr., who established the foundation in 1943.

"The Callaway Foundation is pleased to be a part of this effort to improve the experience for visitors to the garden," says Speer Burdette, president of the Callaway

Foundation Inc. "Mrs. Callaway loved flowers and plants, and especially the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Her wish would be that every Georgian could experience the beauty of the garden and discover the many ways it benefits the state, through education and conservation."

About 230,000 people visit the State Botanical Garden each year and director Jennifer Cruse-Sanders believes that number will increase by about 50,000 once the Alice H. Richards Children's Garden is completed in 2019. From the new entrance, visitors would be able to see the children's garden as they wait for the elevator.

Construction of the new garden entrance is expected to begin in 2019. The total cost of the project is \$2.01 million.



DONORS

LONGTIME SBDC EMPLOYEE ENDOWS ANNUAL AWARD

Eric Bonaparte spent 26 years—the bulk of his career—at the UGA Small Business Development Center. When he decided to retire last year, he wanted to give back to the university that had been a big part of his life.

His \$25,000 gift to UGA will endow an annual award presented to the SBDC Consultant of the Year.

“It’s nice to feel that my gift is leaving a legacy that will improve others’ lives. It’s also a way to show my loyalty to the university that’s been loyal to my family and me,” says Bonaparte.

Bonaparte’s UGA career began in 1991 in the DeKalb office of the SBDC. Over the years he helped entrepreneurs secure loans and create plans to launch new businesses. He helped guide small businesses as they grew.

Early in his career, he began hearing that minority entrepreneurs were having a hard time getting loans to start businesses. He began working specifically with minority entrepreneurs, helping them prepare for their meetings with banks and learn best practices for starting a business. Bonaparte was the SBDC’s first minority finance specialist, and from 2001-06 he was head of the SBDC’s Office of Minority Business Development, a statewide position focusing on helping minorities develop and grow their businesses.

The Consultant of the Year was first awarded in 1996. Bonaparte’s gift ensures it will continue.

“Eric has always been known as the consummate professional, but the thing he is most recognized for is his concern for people,” SBDC Director Allan Adams says. “His commitment to helping people improve themselves and make the most of the opportunities life presents has made him an absolutely beloved figure.”

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SUPPORT FOR THE UGA OYSTER HATCHERY

The annual Oyster Roast for a Reason fundraiser has raised nearly \$100,000 to support UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant since the event began in 2016.

In addition to ticket sales, the fundraiser has garnered donations from commercial, civic and nonprofit organizations that want to support the oyster hatchery at the UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant shellfish research lab on Skidaway Island.

Oyster South, a nonprofit organization representing oyster farmers, restaurants, educators and researchers across the southeastern United States, has contributed \$25,000 over the past two years. The money came from proceeds from Oyster South’s annual fundraisers in Decatur, featuring high profile chefs from the southeastern United States.

Oyster South was a Platinum Sponsor of the 2018 Oyster Roast for a Reason.

The sold-out roast on the bluff behind the UGA Aquarium on Skidaway Island has grown over the years from about 200 attendees in 2016 to about 400 this year. In addition to live music and roasted oysters, guests also get to sample oysters on the half shell, grown off the Georgia coast.

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant launched the oyster hatchery in 2015. Extension agents at the hatchery create oyster spat (baby oysters), which they give to local shellfish farmers to grow out. At full capacity, the hatchery is projected to produce 15 million spat each year, with an estimated harvest value between \$3.75 million and \$5.2 million.

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The STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA provides the public and UGA faculty and students opportunities for education, research and events through its natural areas, display gardens and building spaces.

Jennifer Cruse-Sanders, crusesanders@uga.edu, 706-542-6131

Service-learning students from the College of Environment and Design tour a kaolin quarry in Washington County, an Archway Partnership community, during a project to consider the design of a kaolin museum.

