**Students Get Hands-On in Athens During Dawg Day of Service**

Twenty-five UGA students crammed into the Athens Area Humane Society to tackle mundane chores—cleaning out sheds and kennels, straightening the pantry and updating landscaping. Their reward would come later in the form of cuddling and socializing with the shelter’s dogs and cats.

The students on this assignment had traveled from the Tate Student Center, their rally point on campus for the fifth annual Dawg Day of Service on Aug. 29. More than 450 students had gathered before dispersing to 21 sites around Athens.

Each student volunteered three hours at various sites for Dawg Day of Service, which began in 2011 as a project of the Center for Leadership and Service in the Division of Student Affairs. Combined, they volunteered 1,365 hours of service this year to help the Athens community. The sites included nonprofits like the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia and Keep Athens Clarke-County Beautiful.

Each site had leaders—upperclassmen who helped organize the students and work with staff. Rahul Shah, a third-year economics and biology major, was one of the site coordinators and had participated in Dawg Day of Service the previous two years.

“I don’t expect us to change things in just one day of service,” he said. "But what we did today is the first step."
UGA Law School Alumnus Funds Nation’s First Child Sexual Abuse Victim Clinic

The University of Georgia School of Law will be the first in the nation to have an experiential learning opportunity dedicated solely to the assistance of victims of child sexual abuse.

The Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic will open January 2016. Initial funding for the clinic has been donated by Georgia Law alumnus Marlan B. Wilbanks, who received his Juris Doctor in 1986. It is expected that many of the clinic’s first clients will be those now eligible to bring civil charges against their abusers as a result of the passage of House Bill 17, the "Hidden Predator Act," by the Georgia legislature.

"The act of sexually abusing a child is the attempted murder of a soul. I can see no more important task than protecting those in our society who too often have no voice," said Wilbanks, a longtime advocate for child protection issues. "The underlying goal of this clinic will be to educate, prepare and sensitize the next generation of lawyers as to the ways victims can be protected. On behalf of the children and families who would otherwise not be able to avail themselves of legal assistance, I applaud the University of Georgia School of Law for its willingness to be the first law school in the nation to draw a line in the sand against child sexual abuse."

Georgia’s Hidden Predator Act created a two-year window of relief from the statute of limitations for bringing civil charges in the case of child sexual abuse. Regardless of when the abuse occurred, victims can bring suit against their abusers until the window closes on July 1, 2017. After that time, the law requires suits to be brought forward before the victim reaches 23 years of age or within two years of the time the victim makes the connection that sexual abuse caused current problems such as substance abuse or relationship difficulties.

"The passage of the Hidden Predator Act signaled a desire by our state’s elected leaders to open the doors of justice to the victims of child sexual abuse," Georgia Law Dean Peter B. "Bo" Rutledge said. "We are honored to expand our public service footprint and help those in society who too often remain voiceless." Read More

UGA Students Provide Thanksgiving for Hundreds of Athens Area Senior Citizens

Turkeypalooza is one of the biggest events of the year for the University of Georgia’s Campus Kitchen and a great way for the UGA community to give back during the holiday season. The event is a partnership with the Athens Community Council on Aging.

Students with Campus Kitchen, which is a program within the Office of Service-Learning, will provide almost 1,400 Thanksgiving meals to seniors and their families this week. The dinners include cornbread stuffing, pumpkin pie, green bean casserole, potatoes and, of course, turkey.

Twenty-eight different organizations contributed cans or food items, including all eight PSO units, the Terry College of Business and UGArden. UGA Food Services participated for the first time, placing collection bins in each campus dining hall and food court. Local businesses also contributed and helped with deliveries. Volunteers included 20 Public Service and Outreach Student Scholars, 28 members of Athens Church and about a dozen UGA students. Read More
The University of Georgia is rolling out its Women’s Leadership Initiative with new policies and programs related to recruitment, hiring and retention, leadership and career development, and work-life balance.

The percentage of women holding leadership positions in UGA’s administration has remained flat for more than a decade, even as the proportion of female faculty has grown steadily. This is reflective of national trends in higher education and in the private sector, and UGA is taking several steps to increase the representation of women in leadership roles.

In spring 2015, UGA President Jere W. Morehead and Provost Pamela Whitten launched the Women’s Leadership Initiative. Whitten charged a 10-member planning committee with assessing what barriers were preventing the university from developing, recruiting and hiring qualified women for campus leadership positions. The committee identified three areas of focus where reimagined policies and targeted programming could advance gender equity at UGA.

RECRUITMENT, HIRING AND RETENTION
To address the recruitment, hiring and retention of women, the university will formally define and integrate its practices for recruiting and hiring women. From the outset of every search process, encouraging the successful recruitment of a diverse, qualified talent pool and documenting these efforts will be standard practice as units work with the Office of Faculty Affairs.

LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT
To support the career development of women, UGA will launch the Women’s Leadership Fellows program, which will offer a selected group of faculty a yearlong series of seminars, discussions and workshops on leadership development and early exposure to administrative training in budgets and finance, fundraising, change management and legal affairs.

UGA also is launching a campus-wide development series aimed at early-career faculty who may be unfamiliar with administrative roles and opportunities.

Finally, the university is providing a series of Women’s Leadership Lectures for the entire campus that will focus on unique gender-based challenges. Focused on leadership and career development, the series will bring provocative speakers to campus and delve into opportunities in higher education to address timely issues related to women.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE
To promote work-life balance, UGA Human Resources is piloting a new staff position to develop a hub of work-life balance resources and assist faculty and staff seeking advice. The Work-Life Resources Coordinator will serve as the point of contact on campus to help university employees productively address concerns about work-life balance.

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**UGA Outreach Offices Hold First Day of Service**

Employees from the University of Georgia Office of Public Service and Outreach fanned out across Athens-Clarke County on Friday to provide hands-on assistance to local nonprofit organizations.

The first Day of Service, sponsored by the vice president for public service and outreach, was an opportunity for employees working in the eight units of public service and outreach to give back to the local community. UGA's PSO units are already engaged in Athens in several ways, among them training for government officials through the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Small Business Development Center assistance to local business owners and entrepreneurs and educational programs offered by the Georgia Center for Continuing Education and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

Public Service and Outreach units have an annual $345 million impact on the state.

"Every day we have people working on the front lines throughout the state, helping to create jobs, develop leaders and address critical issues in Georgia's communities," said Jennifer Frum, vice president for public service and outreach. "Our staff asked for an opportunity to come together in Athens to do something together for the community in which they live and work."

Friday's service projects included helping the Athens Interfaith Network clean and organize additional space to house homeless individuals, helping Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful by removing trash from a stream, gathering supplies for Mercy Health Center, donating coats for the Salvation Army coat drive, organizing merchandise at the Project Safe Thrift Store, helping Coile Middle School with a pollinator project, and donating supplies to Mercy Health Center and the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. [Read More]
First-year University of Georgia students have set a new record for academic quality, with the highest GPA and SAT scores in the university's 230-year history.

"We are pleased that the University of Georgia once again has enrolled a record-setting class of first-year students," UGA President Jere W. Morehead said. "These students are attracted to UGA's world-class learning environment with bold new initiatives to expand experiential learning and to reduce class sizes. This year's incoming class is another sign that UGA is reaching new heights of academic excellence."

In addition to being the most academically qualified, the 2015 freshman class also is one of the most diverse in UGA history, with more than 30 percent of the entering freshmen self-identifying as other than Caucasian. Eight percent have self-identified as African-American and 6 percent as Hispanic. 

MacKenzie Tobin, a senior at Schley County High School in Ellaville, was the first student to be offered admission to the Class of 2020 at the University of Georgia. Her application was among a record 14,516 received by the university for early action admission—an increase of nearly 10 percent over the previous year—and she was given an early surprise when UGA officials notified her in person that she was being offered admission.

Watch MacKenzie's surprise here.
**UGA Mobile App Now Includes Athens Transit Bus Routes**

The official mobile app for the University of Georgia now includes a real-time bus tracker for Athens Transit, making it easier for students, faculty, staff and visitors to travel between campus and the surrounding Athens-Clarke County.

Since its initial launch in 2013, the UGA mobile app’s most popular feature for students has been a bus tracker for Campus Transit. Now, Athens Transit buses are included in the app, which tracks buses and displays schedules of when buses are expected to arrive at each stop.

"With student housing rapidly expanding across Athens and more students using Athens Transit services, it made sense to include the Athens Transit bus tracker on the UGA mobile app," said Johnelle Simpson II, president of UGA’s Student Government Association. "This, along with multiple other initiatives, is what SGA is working diligently on to connect students to resources and make them more accessible."

The UGA mobile app is free to download and is available in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices.

[Read More](#)

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**New Fresh Food Bus Takes Riders from Campus to Farmers Market**

A new on-campus bus route has been taking riders from the University of Georgia campus to the Athens Farmers Market at Bishop Park this fall. The Fresh Food Bus operates each Saturday (excluding UGA home football game Saturdays) through Dec. 19.

The bus route includes stops at Building S of Family and Graduate Housing, Memorial Hall, the Athens Multi-Modal Center and Russell Hall on the Health Sciences Campus. The bus runs from 8:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. with hourly stops at the farmers market.

The new route aims to make fresh, healthy foods more accessible to students and community members, and to increase participation in the SNAP Double-Value Coupon Program.

"The Fresh Food Bus is so important to me because I believe that knowing where your food comes from is extremely important," said Morgan King, a sophomore from Kennesaw majoring in social work. "Having the opportunity to buy locally should be an option for everyone. I understand the difficulties that come from not having one’s own transportation, but lack of a car should not limit Athens citizens from enjoying local, healthy food." [Read More](#)
UGA Adds Solar-Powered Waste Reduction Stations to Meet Strategic Goals

The University of Georgia has installed 40 additional solar-powered waste reduction stations throughout the UGA Athens campus to make it easier to recycle bottles, cans, paper and plastic.

The "smart" and enclosed solar-powered bins keep out rain and unwanted critters, and have effectively increased exterior recycling rates by about 40 percent.

In total, UGA now has more than 70 solar-powered waste reduction stations working to keep materials out of the Athens-Clarke County landfill. The solar-powered waste reduction stations are one step toward meeting goals in UGA’s 2020 Strategic Plan of diverting 65 percent or more of campus waste from the local landfill.

The stations also save the university both time and money. When more waste is kept out of the landfills, UGA pays less in landfill fees. And UGA staff spend less time collecting and transporting trash and recycling.

Read More

UGA Charges Ahead with Solar-Powered Picnic Table

University of Georgia students, faculty and staff are now able to power up their electronic devices without attaching to the grid by connecting to a new solar-powered charging station near Herty Field.

This pilot energy conservation program is a first offered by a university in Georgia. The station has eight USB ports and four standard plugins and can support up to 75-150 hand-held mobile device charges per day—even on overcast days.

Senior Brian Holcombe wanted to help solve the problem of finding outlets to charge devices in public areas, and he wanted to meet that need through renewable solar energy. With help from the UGA Campus Sustainability Grants program administered, Holcombe worked with the Facilities Management Division Grounds Department and the Office of Sustainability to set up the charging station. Read More