# Reaching Out to Georgia and the World



Scholarship of Engagement Grants

Domestic & International

| 2007 - 2008 |

PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



The Scholarship of Engagement Grants - Domestic & International at the University of Georgia are funded and administered by the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach.

Trish Kalivoda, senior associate vice president for public service and outreach, coordinates the Scholarship of Engagement Grants Program.

Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
Treanor House
1234 South Lumpkin Street
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-3692

Phone: 706-542-3946 Fax: 706-542-6278

Project descriptions and data were compiled from 2007-2008
Scholarship of Engagement (Domestic & International) Grant final reports,
which were prepared by principal investigators.
Final copy and design by LaTroya Gant. Editing by Lindsey Myers.



Last Updated: April 15, 2010.

#### **Table of Contents**

2 Executive Summary

4

Affirming Families in Cambodia

7

Nourishing Ghana

8

**Healthy Marriages** 

9

Child Support Arrears in Georgia

10

Unlocking the Secrets of the Earth

12

Testing the Waters of Glynn County

13

Refugee Program: Gaps in Georgia

14

Business in Tanzania



16
Roundtables in Morocco

18

Economic Development in Antofagasta de la Sierra

20

**Reviving Cultural Competency** 

#### Executive Summary

In 2007-2008, the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach of the University of Georgia (UGA) continued to support projects that extend a faculty member's disciplinary expertise to the needs of local and international communities through a competitive seed-grant process called the Scholarship of Engagement Grants Program.

The 2007-2008 grants were designed to support projects that:

- Address a need expressed by a community;
- Apply a faculty member's disciplinary expertise to the community need, and then provide fresh insights
  and "lessons learned" to shape the faculty member's future research, teaching, and outreach endeavors;
- Create collaborations across disciplines and university units;
- Involve UGA students in a service-learning activity;
- Have strong support from the faculty member's home unit; and
- Demonstrate a strong likelihood that the project can be sustained by internal and/or external funding.

#### 2007-2008 Scholarship of Engagement Grant Recipients in Georgia and abroad:

- Angela Fertig and Monica Gaughan (Health Policy and Management) developed a service-learning project to provide the Office
  of Child Support Services with evidence to inform their policy and procedure decisions.
- Ted Futris (Child and Family Development) developed a premarital marriage enrichment program as a part of the Hall County Healthy Marriage Initiative.
- · Lisa Liguori (Marine Extension Service) worked with high school students in Glynn County to test blue crabs for contaminants.
- Njeri Marekia-Cleaveland (International Center for Demorcatic Goverance) developed a workshop to help leaders address gaps
  in the immigrant/refugee programs and policy in Georgia.
- Alex Anderson (Foods and Nutrition) provided hands-on experience to students while collecting baseline information to serve as benchmarks against which future nutrition intervention impacts will be assessed.
- Robert Galen (Health Administration, Biostatistics & Epidemiology) led public health students to complete an internship focused
  on global health issues in collaboration with the Hanoi School of Public Health.
- Dale Gauthreaux (Institute for Leadership Advancement) led students in a group project to design a business start-up template in Tanzania for the Global Text Project's Business Fundamentals textbook.
- Alan Godlas (Religion) trained UGA students in intercultural dialogue at the American Language Center in Marrakech in an
  effort to increase mutual intercultural understanding between Islamic Africa and the US.
- Denise Lewis (Child and Familty Development) and her graduate student took part in the development, implementation and assessment of a grandparent-focused service-learning program in Cambodia.
- Alberto Patino Douce and Michael Roden (Geology) provided study abroad students the opportunity to assist the people of Antofagasta de la Sierra, Argentina, to develop a locally-managed adventure tourism industry.
- Julia Requero de Atiles's (Child & Family Development) and Silvia Giraudo's (Food & Nutrition) students visited Jalapa to study Mexican culture and diet to develop nutrition education materials for Latino children.
- Leara Rhodes (Journalism) students integrated with locals to plan the creation of a computerized journalism training center within the African Teaching, Research and Outreach Center in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Deborah Tippins and Julie Kittleson (Mathematics and Science Education) enhanced students learning with a pedagogical
  program in science education for primary school teachers in Thailand.
- Nancy Williams and Kimberly Clay (Social Work) traveled to Xalapa, Mexico, to re-develop a service-learning program for social work students which will apply knowledge gained to the local Latino population.

Units that Received Grants		Undergraduate Special Topics in Foods and	Georgia Family Council
Carl Vinson Institute of Government		Nutrition (FDNS 4580)	Georgia Office of Child Support Services
-International Center for Democratic		Study Tour in Foods and Nutrition	Georgia Small Busness Development
Governance		(FDNS 5710)	Network
College of Arts & Sciences		Graduate Special Topics in Foods and	Glynn Environmental Coalition
-Religion		Nutrition (FDNS 6580/FDNS	Institute for the Promotion of Teaching
-Geology		7710)	Science & Technology, Thailand
College of Business		Leadership in Public Health (HPAM 8800)	Maryknoll Little Folks, Phnom Penh,
-Institute for Leadership Advancement		Leadership in the Global Marketplace	Cambodia
College of Education		(ILAD 4990)	Media Council of Tanzania
-Mathematics and Science Education		C-ll-bti A U-it-	MS Training Centre for Development
College of Family & Consumer Sciences		Collaborations Across Units	Co-operation, Arusha, Tanzania
-Child and Family Development		Child and Family Development Elementary	Office of the Tanzanian Embassy
-Foods and Nutrition		and Social Studies Education Food and	Pinewood Estates Community
-Child and Family Development		Nutrition	Princess Marie Louis Children's Hospital
College of Journalism & Mass Communication		Child and Family Development Marriage and	Accra, Ghana
-Cox Center for International Mass		Family Therapy Program Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences	Refugee Family Services, Stone Mountain,
-Journalism		Health Policy and Management Carl	Georgia The Global Text Project, Athens, Georgia
-Journalism College of Public Health		Vincent Institute of Government	The Global Text Project, Athens, Georgia
-Health Policy and Management		International Center for Democratic	K-12 Schools Involved
-Health Administration, Biostatistics		Governance International Affairs	Dar Es Salaam University, Dar Es Salaam,
and Epidemiology		Cox Center for International Mass	Tanzania
-Health Policy and Management		Communication Social Work	Duke University
Marine Extension Service		Intstitute for Leadership Advancement	Elementary schools in Changmei and Nakoi
-Fisheries Section, Brunswick Station		African Studies Institute Agricultural	Si Thamarat
School of Public & International Affairs		and Applied Economics Small Business	Elementary schools in Metro district of
-International Affairs		Development Center	Bangkok
School of Social Work		Journalism African Studies Institute	Elon University
		Mathematics and Science Education	Glynn Academy High School, Brunswick,
UGA Student Involvement		Elementary and Social Studies Education	Georgia
Undergraduate students	53	•	Hanoi School of Public Health, Vietnam
Masters students	14	<b>Cooperators and Contacts</b>	Jardin de Ninos "Experimental", Xalapa,
Doctoral students	23	Akuapim-North District Health Services,	Mexico
TOTAL	90	Eastern Region, Ghana	Kasetsart Laboratory School, Thailand
		American Language Center, Marrakech,	Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand
Courses Connected to Projects		Morocco	New York University
International Agribusiness Marketing &		Argentinian Geological Survey	Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Management (AAEC 4910/6910)		Birim-South District Health Services,	St. Augustine University, Mwanza, Tanzani
Directed Study in Business (BUSN 7990)		Eastern Region, Ghana	Tumaini College of Arts & Sciences, Arusha
Directed Study in Child and Family		CHILILAB, Vietnam Demographic	Tanzania
Development (CHFD 3010/7010/9010)		Epidemiologic Surveillance System	Universite Cadi Ayyad, Marrakech, Morocc
Study Tour in Child and Family Development		Commercial Crabbers	University of British Columbia
(CHFD 5710/7710))		Community Connection	University of Denver Daniels College of
International Science Education (ESCI 8100)		Department of Nutrition, Hospital Civil "Dr	Business
Special Problems in Foods and Nutrition		Luis F Nachon", Xalapa, Mexico	University of Veracruz, Xalapa, Mexico
(FDNS 3010)		Gainesville-Hall County Community Service	

Center

# Affirming Families in Cambodia

In recent years, Cambodia has experienced extreme turmoil and hardship. Approximately 3 million people died from violence, illness, or starvation during the 1975-1979 rule of the Khmer Rouge. The United Nations responded by establishing a temporary government in Cambodia. While this helped to stabilize the nation, the associated influx of international workers there led to a significant increase in sex workers, and consequently, a rise in HIV/AIDS-related fatalities. Today there are an estimated 300,000 orphans living in Cambodia, many of whom are being raised by grandparents.

During the summer of 2008, Denise Lewis, a family gerontologist in the Department of Child and Family Development, and Desiree Seponski, a doctoral student in Marriage and Family Therapy enrolled in CHFD 9010, traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to meet with faculty and students from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP). Their task was to determine how both universities might work together to address some of the social issues affecting families in Cambodia.

Through collaboration with RUPP faculty members, students and Maryknoll Little Folks, a local non-governmental organization (NGO), Lewis and Seponski developed a booklet, My Grandmother and Me, to address the stigmatization of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The booklet project employed Narrative Therapy and Solution Focused Therapy, to place special emphasis on the positive aspects of grandparent/grandchild relationships. Ultimately, the project helped grandparents and grandchildren rewrite their life stories using positive, as opposed to stigmatized, narratives. In sharing these stories, it is hoped that the grandparent-grandchild roles may be affirmed. Lewis and Seponski additionally worked hand-in-hand with five RUPP students and the NGO to provide therapy for more than 45 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Working with RUPP and the local NGO provided valuable cultural knowledge for Lewis and Seponski to create a sustainable therapy program for orphaned children affected by HIV/AIDS-related deaths. The collaboration allows for cross-cultural service-learning and research projects that will involve more UGA students in the summer of 2009.



For more information:
Denise Lewis
College of Family and Consumer Sciences
dlewis@fcs.uga.edu



### **Nourishing Ghana**

In Ghana, malnutrition in children under 5 years of age is a major concern and significant public health challenge. Efforts to solve juvenile health problems have included interventions such as vaccination against preventable childhood diseases, malaria control, maternal and newborn care, and pneumonia and diarrhea management. Because critical healthy practices are frequently unaddressed, many Ghanaian children suffer nutritional inadequacies.

Alex Kojo Anderson from the Department of Foods and Nutrition partnered with Ghanaian public health directors, Sofia A. Winful and John Yabani from the Akuapim-North district of Ghana to help address the existing health concerns of its citizens. The resulting project engaged 11 graduate and undergraduate students in a service-learning project as a part of their food and nutrition courses (FDNS 3010/4580/5710/6580/7710) to conduct one-on-one health assessments for women and children in the Princess Marie Louis Children's Hospital. Students focused their efforts on providing educational information that would serve to improve patients' health and nutrition practices. They continued their work by collecting data from community members in Mampong, Ghana. Students interviewed local mothers regarding their at-home health practices, and then assessed the health condition of their children. They were then able to identify the most vital areas of educational need.

Through this project, students learned the ways in which healthcare provision in developing nations differ from those in the United States. The data they collected is intended to inform future community health interventions as well as academic research. Moreover, the unique case studies observed will be essential teaching tools for curriculums that focus on issues related to childhood malnutrition.

For more information: Alex Kojo Anderson Deptartment of Foods and Nutrition 706-542-7614

# **Building Healthy Relationships**

# **University and Community Partners Supporting Healthy Marriages**

Each year one out of every two couples that marry in Georgia file for divorce. A recent report estimated that the cost of divorce to Georgia taxpayers is nearly \$1.5 billion. Fortunately, skills needed to develop and maintain a healthy marriage can be learned through educational programs focusing on relationship-strengthening strategies.

Ted Futris of the UGA Cooperative Extension partnered with the Marriage and Family Therapy Program (College of Family and Consumer Sciences) to promote premarital education and offer programs for couples that were planning to marry in the Clarke, Oconee, Oglethorpe and Hall County areas. They also joined the Gainesville-Hall County Community Service Center and the Georgia Family Council to coordinate the establishment of the Hall County Healthy Marriage Initiative (HCHMI). This community-based initiative brought together representatives from the school system, faith-based and social service organizations, as well as local city government to explore strategies for creating marriage-strengthening services and resources.

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in CHFD 3010/7010 directed studies were involved in developing brochures, websites, and other promotional materials to create awareness about premarital education. Students played a critical role in coordinating, delivering and evaluating the marriage educational programs.

These collective efforts facilitated the development of community awareness regarding premarital education by means of distributing brochures through marriage licensing offices, bridal show exhibits, and local area churches. Additionally, the local newspaper featured articles about the program, and an informational website (www.gamarriages.org) was developed. To date, both the premarital programming and the HCHMI effort continue to prosper. One participant commented, "Before attending this program I was unsure my relationship would work. However, after attending, I found that my partner and I have a strong relationship that seems to be growing and getting stronger. I feel comfortable getting married, and I believe that because of this program, I will be successful in my marriage."

For more information:
Ted Futris
Child and Family Development
tfutris@uga.edu
www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/families/adults\_families

# Child Support Arrears in Georgia: Taking Care of Georgia's Children

Child support is an important source of income for many children in single-parent households. These children are more disadvantaged when compared to children from two-parent households, as they are more likely to experience poverty and economic insecurity. In Georgia, the Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) monitors child support cases for more than one-quarter of all children under the age of 18. Recent reports have found that despite efforts by both federal and state agencies, only 48 percent of parents required to pay child support actually meet their obligations.

Angie Fertig, a faculty member who maintains a joint-staffed appointment with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the College of Public Health, partnered with the OCSS in Atlanta to create detailed profiles of families with child support arrears. Six masters-level UGA students, Elmira Amatahunova, Hannah Cowart, Armine Hovsepyan, Megan Gosch, An Nguyen, and Hester Nguyen, participated in this service-learning project as a requirement for Monica Gaughan's Leadership in Public Health (HPAM 8800) course. The students evaluated Georgia and other states' policies with respect to establishing child support court orders, setting payment amounts, and instituting consequences of nonpayment. They also compared national-and state-specific statistics on arrear rates, expenditures, and caseloads to those in Georgia.

In 2007, Fertig along with Sharri Byron, a doctoral student in the economics department, worked to analyze the data obtained from OCSS and completed the final report. They found that from 2000-2006, the average annual arrears growth rate in Georgia was 5.5 percent compared to the national average of 4.1 percent. The study found the majority of arrears accounts (80 percent) are owed to the custodial parent and not to the state. This collaborative research effort provided the OCSS with evidence to inform their policy and procedure decisions.

For more information: Angie Fertig Carl Vinson Institute of Government afertig@uga.edu

### **Unlocking Secrets of the Earth:**

#### Preparing Science Teacher Leaders in Thailand

The devastating impact of the 2007 Southeast Asia tsunami on Thailand and neighboring countries raised Thai science teachers' awareness of the need for earth science and natural disaster education. Immediately following the tsunami, interviews with community members in Phucket and in surrounding areas revealed the beliefs many people held regarding the cause of the tsunami. Supernatural and non-scientific explanations were often used to make sense of both the earthquake and subsequent tidal wave. This prompted Thai science educators' interest in strengthening the earth science content knowledge of elementary school teachers and in creating a cadre of lead teachers with particular expertise in this area.

Deborah Tippins, from the Department of Mathematics and Science Education, and the Department of Elementary and Social Studies Education collaborated with science educators at Kasetsart University in Bangkok to design a three-day earth science and natural disaster awareness workshop. Forty elementary school teachers from across Thailand participated in the event at Kasetsart University.

Tippins and four science education doctoral students joined two faculty members from Kasetsart in facilitating the workshop. Participants engaged in hands-on activities to learn about plate tectonics, mountain building, volcanism, erosion, global warming, and weather phenomena. Moreover, the science teachers discussed principals of service-learning, and planned natural disaster awareness service-learning projects for students in their respective regions.

As an extension of the workshop, a tsunami simulation inquiry lab based on the data collected from the Southeast Asia was the developed. This lab activity has been incorporated into the UGA International Science Education (ESCI 8100) course. Overall, this project represents a model of what earth science education might look like for the next generation of citizens in a rapidly globalizing world.



For more information: Deborah Tippins College of Education Science Education (706) 542-1763 dtippins@uga.edu

## **Testing the Waters of Glynn County**

In coastal Glynn County, Georgia, seafood is not only a healthy and inexpensive source of protein, but it is also an important economic resource for commercial fishing families. The area, however, has been plagued by decades of industrial pollution. Toxins such as Mercury and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl) found in Glynn County seafood pose serious health risks for consumers. Today, Glynn County is home to four EPA Superfund sites, a federal government program to improve uncontrolled hazardous waste areas. Although strict seafood consumption advisories in coastal Glynn County exist, many county residents do not have access to the information, do not trust science, and have limited food alternatives. As a result, warnings to limit consumption of crabs and fish in Glynn County are often ignored.

Lisa Liguori, the Fisheries Section Leader at the Marine Extension Service, Brunswick station, responded to the concerns of local families. She developed a collaborative research project with the Glynn Environmental Coalition, and Ben Varnedoe, a Glynn Academy high school student whose family harvests seafood near a Superfund site. The team worked together to learn about local perceptions of consumption advisories, and to test blue crabs for contaminants. Varnedoe was involved in all stages of the project including fieldwork, sample processing and outreach.

When the research revealed that removing the crabs' liver-like organ removes virtually all risk of consuming PCBs, the Marine Extension Service visited Varnedoe's high school to offer a hands-on crab-cleaning workshop. In addition to learning how to prepare crabs safely, 40 students in an advanced placement science class volunteered to prepare samples for laboratory testing. More than 100 high school students participated in the hands-on and service-learning components of the project.

Liguori later worked with professional commercial crabbers to design outreach materials for fishing families like the Varnedoes. This type of collaborative research offers an innovative approach to the study of contaminated seafood and may serve as a potential model for other communities. By involving local youths, the program served to train the potential future managers and scientists who will be responsible for protecting both Georgia's coastal resources and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

For more information: Lisa Liguori Marine Extension Service liguori@uga.edu

# Refugee Programs: Gaps in Georgia

Njeri Marekia Cleaveland, a faculty member in the International Center of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government joined Refugee Family Services of Stone Mountain in efforts to address gaps in refugee programs and policies in Georgia. To this end, they created a workshop that brought together participants from the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Agnes Scott College, the State of Illinois New Americans Policy Project, refugee resettlement organizations, members of the refugee community, media professionals, and UGA. The event, held at the Maloof Auditorium in Decatur, Georgia attracted more than 80 attendees.

UGA students from the schools of Public and International Affairs, and Social Work, and the College of Journalism and Mass Communications provided background information and research on a number of refugee-related issues including ethnic media, health, education, transportation, employment, and immigration policies. They also played a primary role in organizing frequent campus roundtable discussions concerning refugee issues.

This project represented a multi-institutional collaboration among various stakeholders, and addressed issues of immigrant and refugee resettlement in Georgia. It generated data on immigrants and refugees in the state, and helped increase the International Center's refugee project's visibility by involving local media and state decision makers. In addition, the project continues to create research opportunities for UGA students, faculty, and staff.

For more information: Njeri Marekia Cleaveland Carl Vinson Institute of Government njeri@cviog.uga.edu

#### **Business in Tanzania**

The Global Text Project (GTP) is an organization that aims to create a library of 1,000 electronic textbooks that are freely accessible to students in developing countries. In an effort to contribute to the project, students enrolled in Leadership in the Global Marketplace (ILAD 4990), International Agribusiness Marketing and Management (AAEC 4910), and Agribusiness Marketing: Development in East Africa (AFST 6910), completed a textbook chapter for the project titled, "Business in Tanzania."

In order to effectively write the chapter, Dale Gauthreaux, director of the Institute for Leadership Advancement (ILA), partnered with the African Studies Institute and the Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics to develop the 2008 Maymester program in Tanzania that focused on business activities of international organizations. The itinerary exposed students to local industries such as coffee, spices, tourism, and media. The program included cultural experiences and site visits to the University of Dar es Salaam as well as other local businesses. In class, students were introduced to speakers representing government, business, and nonprofit sectors. Presentations centered on global leadership issues in the developing nation.

Ultimately, the students were able to apply their specific business disciplines and create a 42-page electronic textbook chapter addressing aspects of business in Tanzania, including history, culture, economics, government regulations, infrastructure, communication, and marketing. This service-learning project provided students with a framework to investigate business practices in Tanzania, and to explore the role of politics and leadership in an authentic context. Through the development of the electronic textbook chapter on "Business in Tanzania," the students gained a broadened perspective of the global society, and were afforded the opportunity to influence practices of future business professionals through their contribution to business education.



For more information: Dale Gauthreaux Institute for Leadership Advancement dgauthre@uga.edu

#### Roundtables in Morocco

In May and June of 2007, Alan Godlas and Yunus Wesley of the Department of Religion traveled to Morocco with a group of American students to moderate a series of roundtable discussions called "engagement circles." This five-week forum allowed University of Georgia, New York University, and Elon University students to connect with Moroccan students from the American Language Center (ALC) in Marrakech and to discuss identity, culture, and life expectations.

The directors of the program introduced the discussion format under the paradigm of dialogue and debate with the intention of facilitating progressive communication between people of differing cultures. The sessions dealt largely with issues regarding dating practices and arranged marriages; high school and university education systems; the role of the media in a globalized market; and the concept of American privilege. Students' attitudes about crime, stereotypes, and tobacco, drug and alcohol regulations were also emphasized in these discussions.

Due to Morocco's heritage of Arabic and Berber culture, its history of French occupation, and its current dependence on foreign tourism, the nation is multi-lingual. For this reason, the facilitator asked students to discuss attitudes regarding language within the culture. Participants shared their views on racial and ethnic differences, as well as the reality of discrimination in Morocco. Toward the final sessions, students liberally debated with one another, and enjoyed candid discussions that continued privately even after the sessions ended.

Ultimately, each group became more aware of the other's worldview. The students valued the opportunity to speak with people from a much-seen, yet seldom-encountered culture. At the end of the program, students experienced an increased sense of responsibility to counter tendencies to stereotype people of predominantly Arab or Muslim nations.

For more information: Alan Godlas Department of Religion godlas@uga.edu

#### Journalism in Tanzania

Leara Rhodes of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication (Grady College) traveled to Arusha, Tanzania to explore ways in which the Grady College and the UGA African Studies Institute might develop an international cooperative with Tanzania's St. Augustine University, Dar Es Salaam University, Tumaini College of Arts and Sciences, and the Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke-Training Centre for Development Co-operation (MS-TCDC).

The idea of establishing a journalism education program in Tanzania began with a prior agreement with St. Augustine University in Mwanza. The university offers training in environmental journalism; however, its location on Lake Victoria (an area with unpaved roads and limited access to Internet and media outlets) creates a significant challenge for both air and ground travel. During her site visit, Rhodes was able to assess that developing a center in Arusha where local media associations, journalism institutions, and the UN Tribunal are located might be ideal for providing professional journalism training at all levels. At this central site, UGA students could work alongside Tanzanian students in the classroom or in internships, with collaborative research projects, and through community service projects related to health and environmental issues.

In general, this project laid the groundwork for future collaboration between UGA and Tanzania. With adequate resources, the center could attract seasoned mid-career journalists interested in spending two to nine months teaching, developing research, trading professional expertise, and engaging in a cultural exchange with their counterparts in Tanzania.

For more information: Leara Rhodes Journalism Department Idrhodes@uga.edu

### **Economic Development in**

#### Antofagasta de la Sierra--Catamarca, Argentina

In terms of both nature and culture, Antofagasta de la Sierra in Catamarca, Argentina is one of the last remaining, uncultivated locations in the country. Antofagasta de la Sierra lies in the southern Puna, which is the second highest plateau in the world, after Tibet. The plateau is dominated by some of the largest and most varied volcanoes on earth, including Cerro Galán, an incredibly well preserved super volcanic eruption. Although Cerro Galán's cataclysmic eruption occurred 2.2 million years ago, its remains are still apparent today.

Many of the area's local people are descendants of Antofagasta de la Sierra's pre-Columbian inhabitants, and are deeply committed to preserving the natural resources and ancient traditions there. Alberto E. Patiño Douce and Michael Roden from the Department of Geology made a site visit to Antofagasta de la Sierra to investigate ways in which they may contribute to the development of the remote area. Their aim was to assist the local population in establishing a locally-owned, scientific- and adventure-tourism industry.

In order to open communication with the local population, representatives from cross-sections of the Antofagasta de la Sierra community were invited to a series of town hall meetings. The community members were enthusiastic about the possibility of developing locally owned and operated tourism. Moreover, they looked forward to potentially receiving training in how to protect the area's unique natural and cultural heritage.

The researchers' findings in Antofagasta de la Sierra opened a wide range of possibilities for developing service-learning projects related to land preservation and tourism. Additionally, they identified opportunities for student geological research programs that would focus on the societal impact of catastrophic volcanic eruptions.



Pre-European petroglyph in Antofagasta de la Sierra.

For more information: Alberto E. Patiño-Douce Department of Geology alpatino@uga.edu

## Reviving Cultural Competency: Bringing a Taste of Mexico Back Home to Athens

The number of Latinos living in Georgia is rising dramatically, and Georgia's social workers need to be especially acculturated to the needs and customs of this population. In the 1990's, the School of Social Work held a study abroad program in Veracruz, Mexico that served UGA student and faculty participants in deepening their cultural competency and developing relationships with University of Veracruz (Jalapa, Mexico) educators.

In an effort to revive the project, two professors from UGA's School of Social Work, Nancy Williams and Kimberly Clay, engaged in a cultural immersion experience in Jalapa. Along with the program's original coordinator, David Boyle, a former UGA faculty member who now serves as the Dean of the School of Social Work at Dalton State College, the group began reestablishing social work relationships with University of Veracruz faculty members. They identified community needs in Jalapa, and began developing a viable cultural literacy program. They visited local social service organizations, museums, municipal buildings, and other cultural sites to be considered for future student excursions. Such program components would encourage participating students to apply the knowledge gained from the experience to a service-learning project in Athens, Georgia. The program would help social work students to better serve the Latino population in UGA's surrounding communities.

There continues to be a significant expansion of learning opportunities for students in Jalapa. Arrangements for re-establishing this service-learning program are still underway.



For more information: Nancy Williams School of Social Work nwilliam@uga.edu



Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach Treanor House 1234 South Lumpkin Street Athens, GA 30602-3690 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Pernit No. 165 Athens, GA