University of Georgia Faculty Programs

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Launched in 2011, the University of Georgia's (UGA's) Public Service and Outreach Fellowship Program provides support for tenure-track and tenured professors to immerse themselves in the work of one of UGA's Public Service and Outreach units for one semester. The experience provides opportunities for fellows to enhance their academic courses, conduct research (e.g., applied, community-based, policy, program evaluation), and apply their academic expertise to public service and outreach initiatives. An anticipated outcome of the fellowship experience is sustained involvement with public service and outreach units once fellows return to their academic departments. The vice president for public service and outreach provides \$15,000 to a fellow's home department, which may be spent as the department head deems appropriate. As of spring 2012, four tenured faculty members had participated, representing the disciplines of horticulture, social work, microbiology, and photography.

David Berle, Associate Professor, Horticulture, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Berle worked with the UGA Office of Service-Learning, focusing on local food issues. During the fellowship he collaborated with UGA's Carl Vinson Institute of Government on zoning ordinances favoring community gardens and urban food production, with the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in developing an after-school garden-nutrition program, and with the Office of Service-Learning in supporting its initiatives related to food and poverty. Groundwork was laid for future projects related to local food production as economic development.

Michelle Carney, Director and Professor, Institute for Nonprofit Organizations, School of Social Work

Carney completed her fellowship with the Archway Partnership, a public service and outreach unit that works with eight specific communities across the state of Georgia. The experience provided engaged research opportunities for two of her graduate students. It allowed her to apply her expertise in mapping community assets (e.g., schools, churches, nonprofit organizations) over census data to produce visual representations of how communities utilize assets with the goal of helping those communities make better policy and funding decisions.

Anna Karls, Associate Professor, Microbiology, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Karls worked with faculty members in UGA's Fanning Institute, a public service and outreach unit that supports community economic development in Georgia. Karls participated in Fanning Institute programming to foster the local community's understanding of science; developed a summer science-based laboratory experience for participants in a Latino youth program; worked to connect Fanning Institute faculty members to faculty members in the university's academic departments; and developed, proposed, and had approved to start in Fall 2012, a 3-credit hour service-learning graduate course called Approaches in Community Engagement.

Michael Marshall, Associate Professor, and Area Chair for Photography, School of Art

Marshall completed his fellowship in the Fanning Institute. In his final report on the experience, Marshall said that the fellowship gave him "time and space to consider the range of ways that a service-learning structure could be integrated into the program of study for art majors." It had an impact on how he thinks about his scholarship of discovery. He reflected that as a result of this fellowship, he now has "a different way of thinking about and engaging art making, that is based out of an awareness of community." He helped Fanning Institute faculty members think about how to "better document the work that they are already doing, to help them record, report, and publicize that work," and how "photography could be used to enhance the work they are doing for communities."

For more information, contact

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