

HACE Faculty Research Recognition – State, National, and International, 2003-2008

2003

International:

- Dr. Jorge Atilas and Dr. Sharon Y. Nickols visited the Ecolodge San Luis in Costa Rica to determine suitability of this site for expanding the College's study abroad opportunities through the auspices of Associate Provost for International Affairs, Mark Lusk. They also had discussions with the Monte Verde Institute, Habitat for Humanity, and the Bilingual School in Santa Elena, Costa Rica, as part of their site visit.

- Dr. Jorge Atilas provided leadership for a June 2002 public service and outreach professional seminar on understanding Mexican and Hispanic culture. The seminar was held at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa and participants lived with Mexican families. As one program participant wrote, "The study tours and lectures provided an insight into the employment and economic factors which influence the standard of living and lifestyle of Hispanic families, in Mexico and Georgia. The culture and Spanish classes and our stay with host families highlighted the importance of developing cultural competency within our university."

- Drs. Sharon Y. Nickols, Anne L. Sweaney and Teresa A. Mauldin presented papers at the International Household and Family Research Conference in Helsinki, Finland, July 2002.

- Dr. Sharon Y. Nickols represented the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and the University of Georgia at the Council Meeting of the International Federation of Home Economics in Helsinki, Finland, July 2002.

State:

- Mr. Rupured also launched the Consumer Financial Literacy Program with funding from the Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs. The counties that are the focus of the grant-funded educational programming are: Bleckley, Dodge, Candler, Emanuel, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Telfair, Treutlen, and Toombs. The primary initiative of CFLP staff this year was tax preparation. Staff participated in training provided by the Internal Revenue Service and were certified as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers. The IRS provided staff with two laptop computers, five desktop computers, tax preparation software, and promotional materials. CFLP staff offered free tax assistance by appointment and at pre-arranged sites throughout the project area including Lithonia Lighting, Walmart and other large employers in the service area. More than 275 returns were prepared and filed by CFLP staff. Filers were asked if they paid to have their taxes prepared in the previous year, and if so, how much they paid. Based on their responses the CFLP program saved more than 180 filers a total of nearly \$20,000 in preparation fees they paid last year. CFLP staff prepared returns

resulting in more than \$400,000 in refunds. The IRS considers the CFLP VITA program to be a very successful and self-sufficient first-year project.

- Dr. Jorge Atilas secured funding from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to offer education related to radon gas to homeowners in Georgia. Homeowners will learn to test for radon gas in their homes to reduce their exposure to the carcinogenic effects of radon. Four part-time educators have been hired with grant funds.

2004

International:

- Dr. Teresa Mauldin was Director of FACS London Study Abroad Summer 2004.
- Dr. Sharon Nickols traveled to Kyoto, Japan in August 2004 to attend the Congress of the International Federation for Home Economics and present a paper.
- Dean Sharon Nickols along with Dr. Julia Atilas taught a Maymester course in Costa Rica. Twenty-five students studied in Costa Rica from May 12th to June 3rd. These students received credit for HACE 4900: Leadership Development: A cross-cultural Perspective.
- Dr. Yoko Mimura traveled to Kyoto, Japan in August 2004 to attend the Congress of the International Federation for Home Economics and present a paper.

National:

- Dr. Rodgers was a member of a team that worked with the Southern Rural Development Center to plan a regional Community Economic Development Conference for May 19-21, 2004 in Tampa, Florida. He also made a presentation on workforce housing at the conference.
- Mr. Rupured provided leadership to a multi-state Extension effort focused on increasing the availability of free tax assistance in rural areas and linking rural filers to financial literacy education programs. Expanded team from seven states to 12 states (Georgia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, California, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Missouri). Sites in all 12 states are using an impact assessment tool developed at UGA.

State:

- The HDRC has partnered with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Municipal Association in initiating a housing education and technical assistance program for cities in Georgia, the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. The goal of the Initiative is to simultaneously improve the housing quality of Georgia's residents and enhance community economic development. By enabling local leaders to fashion solutions to their community's housing needs, the three collaborating organizations will lead and assist

communities in creating and launching a locally based comprehensive housing action plan. The centerpiece of the Initiative is a series of facilitated retreats. The Initiative is primarily supported through in-kind time contributions of faculty and staff from the three partnering organizations. But, in addition to a \$17,000 start-up grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the HDRC has secured an additional \$75,000 in support of this program: \$50,000 from the Georgia Power Company and \$25,000 from The Wachovia Foundation.

- Dr. Atilas, Associate Dean for Outreach and Service, continues to develop and support programs to teach Georgians how to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants in the home, enable consumers to acquire and maintain affordable housing, and the most efficient ways to manage household demands on natural resources. Some of these programs include: Housing Education, Indoor Air Education and Water, Energy and Waste Education. On February 27, 2004, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension Service was approved as a Housing Counseling Agency by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- The Georgia County Guide, co-edited by Dr. Doug Bachtel, continues to be one of the most used resources in the state. It includes over 1000 variables of current and historical demographic, educational, agricultural and economic data for all of the state's counties. These data are also now available on the Georgia Facts website: <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/gafacts/index.html>
- Dr. Cude assumed leadership for Extension for Georgia Saves and Georgia Youth Saves pilot. She also participated in strategic planning discussions related to Georgia Saves on October 15, November 29, and January 7; lead information gathering and strategic planning discussions among FACS agents November 10. She worked extensively with Mandy Marable to help her plan and implement a 4-H Youth Financial Literacy effort that includes Georgia Saves, identified potential curriculum for their use and facilitated Peer Financial Counseling Program volunteers as the presenters for 4-H Fall Forum December 5, 2004.

2005

International:

- Julia Marlowe led the Study Tour in Housing and Consumer Economics: The Global Marketplace - Mexico (HACE 5710/7710). Students begin and end the course with seminars on The University of Georgia campus, and spend approximately three weeks in Xalapa, Mexico and surrounding areas studying Spanish and learning about Mexican culture, consumer economics and housing issues. Students attend classes, seminars and field trips. Students live with a local family, an experience that is often the most rewarding part of the course.
- Nickols, S.Y. (2005, March). Proud past and vision for the future. Keynote speech, First International Conference of Home Economics. Lahore, Pakistan: Government College of Home Economics.

- Sweaney, A. (2005, October). Consumer Demand for Urban Housing in the United States. Invited paper presented at the US-India Joint Symposium on Urban Housing and Supporting Infrastructure at the Eighth Convention on Construction, New Delhi, India.
- Vanderford, S.E. (2005, October). Overview of private and public housing financing and policies in the United States. Invited paper presented at the US-India Joint Symposium on Urban Housing and Supporting Infrastructure at the Eighth Convention on Construction, New Delhi, India.

National:

- Dr. Cude assumed leadership for Extension for Georgia Saves and Georgia Youth Saves pilot program. She has met with numerous people throughout 2005 to identify potential members of a statewide coalition that would run the program. In addition, she analyzed data evaluating the Cleveland Saves program under contract with the Consumer Federation of America and presented the results at the National Savers Forum.
- Dr. Cude participated in two national conference calls to track what's happening with the High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP). She also planned, promoted, conducted and evaluated a HSFPP training held May 12, 2005 at the Georgia Center.
- Jorge Atiles' FACS Extension Housing & Environment Program was the 2005 recipient of two 2004 Children's Environmental Health (CEH) "Program of Excellence" awards by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The recognition is for the Children's Environmental Health Partnership (a collaborative with eight southern states) and the radon education program in Georgia.
- In June, the Housing and Demographics Research Center and the work of Drs. Tom Rodgers and Karen Tinsley was awarded a 2005 Regional Innovator Award by the Southern Growth Policies Board at the Rising Together: The Summit on the Rural South conference. This award recognized the Latino Home Ownership Partnership in Ellijay, GA as an exemplary initiative in rural development.

State:

- The HDRC is continuing to partner with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) in offering the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), a three-year housing education and technical assistance program for cities in Georgia. In the second year of the program, GICH is helping eleven communities (six in the second year of the program and five in the first year) to fashion solutions to their community's housing needs. The centerpiece of the Initiative is a series of facilitated retreats. In 2005 two retreats were held, in which community housing teams came together

for facilitated work sessions and targeted assistance. The Initiative is primarily supported through in-kind time contributions of faculty and staff from the three partnering organizations. The Georgia Power Company is the main financial sponsor of this program, contributing \$75,000 over three years. Matching these funds, HDRC has received a three-year (FY 2006 – FY 2008) USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant, totaling \$75,000. The Wachovia Foundation has previously donated financial resources for GICH.

- Dr. Atilas, the Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension, and his team continue to dedicate a portion of their time to developing and supporting programs to teach Georgians how to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants in the home. Dr. Pamela Turner, the new Extension Housing Specialist, is working with Dr. Atilas on indoor air quality, as well as developing educational and informational resources and programs to help consumers purchase and maintain housing. Programs include Housing Education, Indoor Air Quality and Managing Water, Energy and Waste. On April 7, 2004, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension received approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Housing Counseling Agency. Currently eleven County Extension offices provide housing education, mostly in rural Georgia communities. In 2005, 100 individuals attended housing seminars on money management, credit or homeownership.
- The Georgia County Guide, co-edited by Dr. Doug Bachtel, continues to be one of the most used resources in the state. It includes over 1000 variables of current and historical demographic, educational, agricultural and economic data for all of the state's counties. These data are also now available on the Georgia Facts website: <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/gafacts/index.html>
- Dr. Moss presented five Georgia Saves Workshops, to a variety of groups, in the Athens area during 2005. She also gave eight other presentations to various organizations on topics ranging from financial planning and income tax assistance to starting and running a small business, along with motivational speeches for disadvantaged groups.

2006

International:

- Sharon Nickols traveled to Tanzania as part of an exploratory team representing the UGA African Studies Institute to determine the feasibility of outreach programs or service learning experiences in the Ukerewe area and other parts of Tanzania. The invitation to the group came from Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament and creator of the NGO Advocacy for Women in Africa.
- Sharon Nickols was invited to participate in the Reframing Home Economics for Future Progress “think tank” hosted by the Department of Home Economics and Crafts Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland. Invitational meeting of

18 representatives from 8 countries. Only three individuals from the U.S. were invited. She prepared “Reflections from the United States” background paper and contributed to the review of IFHE statement regarding the future of home economics, as well as engaging in discussion with international leaders.

State:

- The HDRC is continuing to partner with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Municipal Association in offering the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), a three-year housing education and technical assistance program for cities in Georgia. In the second year of the program, GICH is helping sixteen communities (six in the third year of the program and five in each of the first and second years) to fashion solutions to their community’s housing needs. The centerpiece of the Initiative is a series of facilitated retreats. In 2006 two retreats were held, in which community housing teams came together for facilitated work sessions and targeted assistance. The Initiative is primarily supported through in-kind time contributions of faculty and staff from the three partnering organizations. The Georgia Power Company is the main financial sponsor of this program, contributing \$75,000 over three years and is expected to continue donating \$25,000 annually. Matching these funds, HDRC continues to administer a three-year (FY 2006 – FY 2008) USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant, totaling \$75,000. The Wachovia Foundation donated \$15,000 in 2006 for GICH.
- Housing and energy education programs expanded in 2006. Working with community partners, FACS Extension Agents provided counseling and education for potential home buyers in ten counties across the state. In some counties, home buyer education is provided in both English and Spanish. For the first time, a HUD housing counseling grant was received to support pre-purchase, renting and home maintenance education. Several new publications and materials on energy use and conservation were developed in 2006. This program area is expanding in the area of natural gas education through funding support from the Georgia Public Service Commission and Atlanta Gas Light. These Extension programs along with programs on radon, indoor air quality, water quality, waste management and lead, provide thousands of Georgia consumers with the information and resources to make informed decisions.
- The Georgia County Guide, co-edited by Dr. Doug Bachtel, continues to be one of the most used resources in the state. It includes over 1000 variables of current and historical demographic, educational, agricultural and economic data for all of the state’s counties. These data are also now available on the Georgia Facts website: <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/gafacts/index.html>
- Jorge Atilas continues his extensive outreach programs with grants focusing on radon education, healthy homes and energy. He continues to educate the public on how to maintain a healthy home environment through numerous outreach activities. Programs offered by Dr. Atilas as well as those who work with him on

his grants have reached thousands of Georgians. For example, radon threats to human health can be avoided by testing homes for radon and mitigating if a high level of radon is detected. Many Georgians have little or no knowledge about the radon threat. The College of Family and Consumer Sciences presents extension programs to educate the public on radon issues and take necessary actions. The radon education program reached approximately 8,518 Georgians in 2006.

2007

International:

- Dr. Joe Sabia attended the Health Economic World Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Dr. Brenda Cude participated in the Home Economics Institute of Australia Conference, Sydney, Australia.
- Dr. Russell was invited to present his research at the European Network of Housing Researchers International Conference on Sustainable Urban Areas in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

National:

- Brenda Cude was appointed as the public member of the American National Standards Institute–Conference for Food Protection Accreditation Committee; reviews accreditation procedures for certified food managers.

State:

- The HDRC is continuing to partner with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Municipal Association in offering the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), a three-year housing education and technical assistance program for cities in Georgia. In the third year of the program, GICH is helping fifteen communities to fashion solutions to their community's housing needs. The centerpiece of the Initiative is a series of facilitated retreats. In 2007 two retreats were held, in which community housing teams came together for facilitated work sessions and targeted assistance. The Initiative is primarily supported through in-kind time contributions of faculty and staff from the three partnering organizations. The Georgia Power Company is the main financial sponsor of this program, contributing \$100,000 over four years and is expected to continue donating \$25,000 annually. Matching these funds, HDRC continues to administer a three-year (FY 2006 – FY 2008) USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grant, totaling \$75,000. The Wachovia Foundation and Atlanta Gas Light Resources have donated funds for next year.
- Housing education programs expanded in 2007. Working with community partners, FACS Extension Agents provided counseling and education for potential home buyers in ten counties across the state. In some counties, home buyer education is provided in both English and Spanish. For the second year in a row, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing counseling grant was received to provide ongoing support of education efforts. New materials related to housing, environmental health, and energy were

developed in 2007. Specifically, the Water, Energy, and Waste program area has expanded natural gas education through funding support from the Georgia Public Service Commission and Atlanta Gas Light. These Extension programs along with programs on radon, indoor air quality, water quality, waste management and lead, provide thousands of Georgia consumers with the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions.

- The *Georgia County Guide*, co-edited by Dr. Doug Bachtel, continues to be one of the most used resources in the state. It includes over 1000 variables of current and historical demographic, educational, agricultural and economic data for all of the state's counties. These data are also now available on the Georgia Facts website: <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/gafacts/index.html>. The *2007 Georgia County Guide (25th edition)* was published in February.
- The HDRC partnered with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to convene Housing for All Georgians: A Call to Action Conference on Sept. 25th, 2007. UGA is the only institution of higher education that has signed on to HUD's Call to Action and with the success of this conference, will be cited as a national leader in the effort to remove regulatory barriers to the development of affordable housing. The conference featured three panel sessions, 20 speakers and moderators, and 221 attendees. The information shared has been made public by a website developed by the HDRC staff: <http://www.fcs.uga.edu/newfacs/hace/hdrc/symposium.html>.

2008

International:

- Jorge Atilas traveled to Brisbane, Australia (May 11-16, 2008) to present at the Australian Institute of Environmental Health and the International Federation of Environmental Health 10th World Congress on Environmental Health.
- Jorge Atilas traveled to Xalapa, Mexico (May 19-30, 2008) to speak as a guest lecturer in Agricultural Economics, Professor Daniel Romero, Universidad Veracruzana. He also was a panelist for the Agribusiness in the U.S. Mexico-commerce International Conference, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa.
- Jorge Atilas traveled to San Juan, PR (July 19-24, 2008) to present for Extension Committee on Organization and Policy.
- Russell James traveled to Dublin, Ireland (January 21-22, 2008) to present a paper at the European Network of Housing Researchers Workshop on Private Rented Markets program.
- Russell James traveled to Dublin (July 4-10, 2008) to present at the European Network of Housing Researchers International Conference.

- Sharon Nickols traveled to Lucerne, Switzerland (July 24-August 1, 2008) to present at the International Federation for Home Economics Congress and to represent FACS at the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) Council Meeting.

Sharon Nickols traveled to Moshi, Tanzania (May 24-June 15, 2008) for the Ukwere Service Learning Program.

- Anne Sweaney traveled to London (June 10-July 25, 2008) for the London Study Abroad study tour.
- Anne Sweaney traveled to Dublin (July 4-10, 2008) to present at the European Network of Housing Researchers International Conference.
- Velma Zahirovic-Herbert traveled to Dublin, Ireland (July 4-10, 2008) to attend and present at the European Network of Housing Researchers International Conference.

National:

- Tinsley, K. (2008, October). The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing won a national award - National Council State Housing Agencies Special Achievement. This award recognizes a Housing Finance Agency (Georgia Department of Community Affairs) program that responds in an outstanding manner to an important state need; have a significant impact on a population, geographic area, or economy; and cut across traditional program lines.
- Anne L. Sweaney, Professor and Head of the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics, proudly represented the University of Georgia at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Affordable Communities Initiative: National Call to Action Symposium, Washington, DC. She was one of two faculty from a University that gave a presentation at this important event on October 17, 2008. The discussion, lead by academicians and national organizations, was entitled "Where do we go from here?" Roundtable at the Department of Housing and Urban Development America's

State:

- The HDRC is continuing to partner with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Municipal Association in offering the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH), a three-year housing education and technical assistance program for cities in Georgia. In the fourth year of the program, GICH is helping fifteen communities to fashion solutions to their community's housing needs. The centerpiece of the Initiative is a series of facilitated retreats, in which community housing teams came together for facilitated work sessions and targeted assistance. In 2008 retreats were held, in Tifton on the UGA Tifton Campus and the other on the main UGA campus in

Athens. The program has eleven “alumni” communities and increased networking opportunities through the GICH listserv, which has 270 subscribers. The Initiative is primarily supported through in-kind time contributions of faculty and staff from the three partnering organizations. The Georgia Power Company is the main financial sponsor of this program, contributing \$130,000 over five years and is expected to continue donating \$30,000 annually. Matching these funds, HDRC received a new, three-year (FY 2008 – FY 2011) from USDA Rural Development, the Rural Community Development Initiative grant, totaling \$85,000. The Wachovia Foundation has also donated funds for next year, \$20,000.

- The Georgia Initiative for Community Housing won a national award - National Council State Housing Agencies Special Achievement. This award recognizes a Housing Finance Agency (Georgia Department of Community Affairs) program that responds in an outstanding manner to an important state need; have a significant impact on a population, geographic area, or economy; and cut across traditional program lines. October 27, 2008.
<http://www.fcs.uga.edu/hace/hdrc/gich.html>