Summer field school excavates Archaic-age points, avoids alligators

Summer field schools are a tradition for archaeologists—an opportunity to teach methods of archaeological inquiry while meticulously searching for, documenting, and often celebrating finds.

The 15 dedicated anthropology students that enrolled in the 2013 summer course eagerly anticipated their weeks of work in the field. Led by Anthropology faculty Dr. Ashley Smallwood and Dr. Tom Jennings, the field school team hiked two miles through swamps carrying gear, including shovels that often doubled as protection against snakes and alligators.

“Field schools always come with a certain level of expectation and excitement. This summer’s adventures are something I expect the students will remember for years to come—discovering artifacts and dodging alligators,” said Jennings.

Despite the conditions, students excavated 5 centimeter levels of dirt, unearthing seven Archaic-age projectile points in addition to several other artifacts.

“As they dug down, they recovered clues of human presence at the site,” said Smallwood. “The students found debris from American Indians making stone tools, pieces of steatite, ochre—which is a red pigment and thought to be considered a sacred item, and fire-cracked rocks possibly from ancient hearths or campfires.”

Dr. N Jane McCandless, dean of the College of Social Sciences, and Dr. Lisa Gezon, chair of the Department of Anthropology, joined the team along the Savannah River.

The Georgia Department of Transportation and the Division of Natural Resources partnered to make the UWG archaeology field school possible.
Consider making a gift to the UWG College of Social Sciences.

Suggested levels of support:
$250
$500
$1,000

Please contact Erin Brannon, Administrative Manager, for more information.

678-839-5172 or ebrannon@westga.edu

*Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

ALL-COLLEGE SERVICE DAY
Connects students with local nonprofits

Over 70 students, faculty and staff from across the College of Social Sciences fanned out into the community for the first all-College service day.

On a crisp fall Friday morning, volunteers met for coffee and a briefing session before boarding UWG busses bound for the service projects with Carroll County Humane Society, Hope Center, Manna House and Keep Carroll Beautiful.

The Community Foundation of West Georgia helped couple volunteer teams with local nonprofits for this “event for impact.” Before the end of the day, volunteers were already asking when the next COSS service day is scheduled.

“This event was so significant. I look forward to participating in the next service project,” shared first-year student Jia Jia Chen. Criminology major April Tatum agreed, “Doing community service is something I have always loved to do. I like to think of it as me, one person in this huge world, making a difference one small task at a time.”

Why are you passionate about the Carroll community?

Jonathan Dockery
The Carrollton Menu

“Because of a true community commitment within the heart of each person that lives here.”

Doyle Akins
Retired

“Because there are so many ways for our family to participate, serve and enjoy.”

Community Relations Council

Vicki Anderson
Amanda Camp ’96
Dr. Brad Lapham ’91
Chad Houck ’01 ’03
Dr. Howard Seeman
Dr. Jack Birge
Jan Gibbs
Chief Joel Richards
Leonard Woolsey
Sheriff Terry Langley
Timothy J. MacMillan
Trent North ’91
Kisha Mitchell ’04
Kim Jones
Jonathan Dockery
Doyle Akins ’62

Newsletter Staff

Dr. Soo Moon,
Mass Communications
Dr. Amber Smallwood,
Dean’s office
Law enforcement themed tree raises awareness & funds

Dr. Elizabeth Stupi, assistant professor and interim director of the Survey Research Center, led the Criminology department’s efforts in decorating a tree for the annual Night In Lights event that raises awareness of rape and sexual assault.

“Night In Lights is a fun way to raise money for a great cause. We chose to do a ‘law enforcement’ themed tree this year. This reflects one aspect of our department and also allows us to show our support for an amazing group of people in our community,” said Stupi.

Decorated and donated trees are auctioned at Night In Lights to benefit programs and services provided by the West Georgia Rape Crisis Center.

“The last tree we sponsored had more toys than a tree could hold and raised over $500 that year;” said Dr. David Jenks, department chair.

Criminology is in conversation with other nonprofits about partnership opportunities that reflect the mission of the department and benefit the community.

Planning students examine sustainability of community

Students enrolled in Planning courses explore theories and practices of what makes communities livable and sustainable. Under Assistant Professor Dr. Hee-Jung Jun’s direction, planning students recently examined the UWG campus to evaluate sustainability.

This fall, Jun’s class analyzed how well the University promotes sustainable development in the areas of water, energy, and recycling. Students found various barriers preventing sustainability and resources to facilitate sustainable behaviors on campus.

The class set goals and objectives, including improving efficiency and quality and enhancing awareness in the three areas. Various strategies were proposed for achieving the goals and objectives and examples strategies include: installing occupancy sensors for energy efficiency; installing rain gardens for water efficiency; strategically locating recycling bins for effective recycling; and displaying signage and posters for sustainability awareness.

The class will submit the final plan to the Campus Planning & Facilities at UWG.

“Many of the students are in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program, so this type of research, analysis and counsel is exactly what they will bring to their future positions as city planners, urban developers, and other,” said Jun, pictured below, far left.

In semesters past, students have examined the pedestrian-friendliness of campus and made recommendations to the City of Newnan regarding restoration of the historic Chalk Level neighborhood.

Community psychology connection builds research partnership

Over the summer, Tanner Health System hosted community psychologist Dr. Carl A. Hammerschlag as the keynote speaker for their second annual Community Health Summit.

Several UWG faculty and staff attended, including Dr. Jeannette Diaz, assistant professor.

Diaz teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in community psychology and has a passion for connecting classroom to community through service learning.

“It was exciting to learn that Tanner has an interest in community psychology. Psychology students are involved with two projects for Tanner’s Get Healthy, Live Well community initiative,” said Diaz.

Students in Diaz’s classes are conducting original research, including focus groups, exploring questions surrounding food insecure households. Findings of the research will be used by Diaz and Tanner to inform future health programs.
Senior PR students create website, video and newsletter for local nonprofit

Students in the capstone public relations course in Mass Communications partnered with the West Georgia Rape Crisis Center to update and create communication strategies and vehicles.

Jan Gibbs, executive director of the WGRCC, worked closely with student teams throughout the public relations process. Students created and implemented surveys, led focus groups, conducted interviews and reviewed existing documents to offer insight before developing a communication plan for implementation and evaluation.

“Jan is a member of the College’s Community Relations Council. She and I had chatted about the Center’s desire to update several aspects of their communication,” said course instructor Dr. Amber Smallwood.

The collaboration resulted in an updated WGRCC website, new promotional video and the launch of a quarterly newsletter.

“Constructing this campaign for WGRCC has helped me gain an invaluable understanding of what it means to work in PR. Working with a real client that has real concerns truly inspires me to turn my class knowledge into real life strategies that make a difference,” said Briana Crawford, senior mass communications major.

Real-world data analysis and visualization collaboration shows trends trends

Students learn better when they are connected to organizations that provide real-world data and research opportunities, according to research by Dr. Winston Tripp, assistant professor. So when Kelly Bainbridge, community health project coordinator for Tanner Health System, met with several College of Social Sciences faculty about research collaborations, Tripp found a way to involve students.

Tripp’s undergraduate Analyzing Social Science Data class helped analyze and visualize baseline data from Tanner’s Get Healthy West Georgia weight loss challenge. Students analyzed the data set focusing on several variables including participants’ BMI, city and county of residence and demographics including employment status and sex.

“For Tanner, they need to know if Get Healthy West Georgia participants actually lost weight, how much, whether that’s significant and what other variables may have been at play. You have to have solid baseline data to draw any of those conclusions,” said Tripp.

In addition to data analysis, students are also learning how to visualize results. The class created an interactive, animated chart of state BMI trends over time. On one screen, as the percentage of obesity within the state increases, the Georgia bubble moves toward the top of the chart.

“Quantitative literacy is important across all disciplines and industries, especially those in the social sciences. We are all increasingly asked to provide quantitative evidence to justify programs,” said Tripp.