



The partnership for Community Learning Centers is a collaborative effort of the Clarke County School District, the University of Georgia, and the Athens-Clarke County Community working together to meet the intellectual, social and cultural needs of all students.

WE WELCOME CLASSIC CITY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER!

The Partnership for Community Learning Centers is expanding! We are so excited to become partners with Classic City High School (PLC) for the next three years School Improvement Process cycle. The faculty at the PLC wrote in their application,

"We are committed to engaging in comprehensive school reform to ensure the success of our students. Our mission is to re-engage the disengaged student. We know that UGA has been one of the secrets to our early success, and because of our positive experiences, we would like to expand this relationship and become a partnership school. We believe that becoming a partnership school will help us meet our AYP goals and give our students more opportunities to be successful and become well rounded citizens."

The Performance Learning Center (PLC) model serves high school students who typically;

- * have dropped out of school,
- * are at least 16 years old or have attempted a year of high school,
- * want a non-traditional school setting, and/or
- * need a flexible scheduling option.

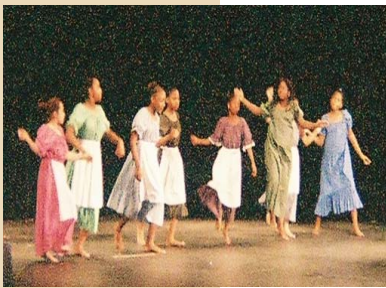
We welcome them as partners!

Gaines Elementary has joined Chase Street Elementary in being a DISTINGUISHED School

The hard work and dedication of Gaines Elementary school faculty, staff, students, volunteers, and partners has paid off. As a result of their substantial gains in math and reading Gaines has been named a School of Distinction, joining Chase Street who initially received this honor last year. Chase Street celebrated their continuing success by hosting the Atlanta Opera Performance of Little Red Riding Hood on February 3rd. Gaines celebrated their success on January 10th with a visit from Ronald McDonald. Congratulations Chase and Gaines!

Black History Month Activities Were Quite a Hit!

Contributors: Lillian Kinsey, Gaines educator & Donna Wilkins, Chase teacher



Members of the Gaines Drama Club and other students performed a play written by teachers, entitled *Moments in Time* to inspire their Black History Month celebration. The drama club, along with teachers, parents, and UGA students worked very hard to prepare for the March 9th theatrical production. Lillian Kinsey directed the play which was based on the lives of African Americans from the 1920s until the present. Everyone agrees -- it was a great success! Mrs. Kinsey writes: "The Drama Club has allowed students to perform on stage in front of their parents, peers and community members.

However, the drama club was not designed only to give students a spotlight on the stage. Members of the Gaines Players learn poise and elocution. They sharpen their memorization skills (study skills), learn about historical events and personalities, gain confidence in themselves and, for some, find a latent talent. In the words of students: "In drama club, I learned how to show my expressions." "I like drama club. Acting gives me confidence." "Drama club teaches me not to be afraid of being in front of people."

At Chase Street students were engaged in a month long learning experience of the contributions of African-Americans in our country. Donna Wilkes writes: "It truly was a collaborative effort of our UGA partners and Chase Street professionals in promoting the Black History Celebration at Chase Street. During the month we had several guests from the University visit with us. Students from Early Childhood Education presented an inspiring skit and song to our Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. Dr. Arvin Scott from the School of Music wooed the First and Second Graders with his drumming performance and nothing was more exciting than listening to over 25 children "beat out" a rhythm along with Dr. Scott. Finally, our Third Grade classes were inspired by Betty Stroud when she shared her experience as an author and how a book is developed for publication. The culminating event was an entertaining assembly presenting both students and teachers. So much of what the students had learned during the month through our school-wide focus on Black History was exhibited at the assembly. A great learning experience was had by all!"



Good Night Intersession! Thanks for the memories!

By: Bridget W. Robbins



For the past 4 years Intersession has been an integral part of the Partnership for Community Learning Center's goal to support student learning toward increasing academic achievement for children at Gaines and Chase. Intersession, the term used to describe the vacation breaks that occur within the school year on a year-round, balanced calendar, has provided a perfect setting to actually put into place our vision of what "true partnering" could be. Representatives from the Clarke County School District (CCSD), University of Georgia (UGA), and the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services (LS) have worked seamlessly to plan low cost, creative, challenging and safe enrichment activities and opportunities for students to learn in new ways. Intersession has been a vehicle through which children were able to take part in enriching experiences that previously many had not had the opportunity to experience, such as visiting the UGA campus, swimming at the UGA Ramsey Center, and participating in activities and events at the ACC community centers, like the Lyndon House. Intersession provided the opportunity for children to see their community from a different perspective.

Julia remarked, "I liked drawing a big flower in Art. I looked at airplanes at the airport. Drama was really funny!"

Intersession: What did it really mean?

Kent Kilpatrick of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services (LS) and one of the primary Intersession leaders commented on the role LS has played: *"Leisure Services has served as both the Administrative and host agency. We coordinate services between UGA, CCSD and the community. This includes promoting and marketing, registration, communication with parents, program planning, staffing, transportation, and food. LS schedules and chairs meetings of Intersession partners throughout the year to ensure all areas are on task. Also, LS hosts all Intersession camps at Lay Park Community*

Center. Staff schedule the facility, and prepares and cleans it daily. In addition, many LS facilities host field trips and/or plan a portion of the Intersession programs. These facilities include: Sandy Creek Nature Center, Sandy Creek Park, Lyndon House Arts Center, Memorial Park, and Southeast Clarke Park. LS is the camp professionals. I like to think that we have been the glue that has held Intersession together.



Gwynn Powell, A College of Education (COE) faculty member who has been a vital part of Intersession from the beginning, describes Intersession as a unique experience for children. An experience she shared was when students were shocked to find out that adults had teachers just like they did! She quoted a child as saying, *"You have a teacher! I thought he was a grown up!"* EJ Carter, COE's graduate student coordinator for Intersession commented that: *Intersession allows children the chance to do things that otherwise are not easily accessible. Through Intersession children have been able to go to Atlanta, take pottery classes at Good Dirt, go to dance concerts with the UGA Dance students and faculty and the UGA Tap Dogs, take tours of the Athens airport and visit the campus of UGA and experience campus life including swimming at the Ramsey Center.*



Rodney Harrison, a teacher from Chase Street Elementary who has worked closely with Intersession, reiterated that some of the children had never been outside of Athens. *"Going to the Zoo Atlanta represented the first visit to Atlanta for many of our students."* He went on to say a student excitedly exclaimed, *"Mr. Harrison, look at the buildings!"* He also said that many students want to go to UGA because of their visit to campus during Intersession. An additional advantage Mr. Kilpatrick sees is that Intersession provided students *"the opportunity to meet, play and learn with children from another school; learn and play with UGA students; get exposed to the many options that exist for their future; and learn more about their community."*

Tangie Billups, an Intersession teacher, said, *"It amazes me that as we rode the bus around Athens, some of the kids had never seen some of the different places around town." A lot of the kids have heard people talk about the Bulldogs, but to see them in the same room with some of those kids.... Those football players really brought smiles and joy to some of the children. Some kids have never been to a camp like atmosphere before, so going to Intersession was great for them."*



These fun and educational activities reinforced what they had previously learned in school! According to Rodney Harrison, *“Intersession gave students the opportunity to learn in an environment free from formal assessment. Freedom to learn! Freedom to experiment!”* The different hands-on activities also broadened their knowledge base. Students were exposed to theatre and the arts. According to Kent Kilpatrick, *“Intersession has given students the opportunity to be exposed to numerous parts of UGA campus, work with and learn from UGA students, take local field trips to places never seen, learn about different cultures directly from the people of that culture and realize that*

learning can be fun and your imagination is your only limitation.” Perhaps the most memorable experience of all for Mr. Kilpatrick was seeing the kids enjoy themselves while not even realizing how much they were learning. He reports *“Several teachers at both schools have expressed to me how much of a difference they have seen in their students academically. Parents have contacted Leisure Services with words of appreciation for the variety of recreational and educational experiences their children have participated in.”*

E.J. Carter, the current Intersession coordinator says, *“I think the most beneficial thing about intersession is that even though these kids are out of school they are still learning and they are still involved in enriching experiences. They learn about things in a more practical way than they do in the classroom. They can read a history book or geography book about different cultures but in Intersession they actually get to talk to and learn from people of different cultures. Another thing I really like about Intersession is that children get the opportunity to learn and play at the same time. For example, they may have a playground time and/or take part in a game or activity facilitated by Recreation & Leisure studies students. It is completely engaging!”*

UGA students benefited as well. Intersession provides a service learning opportunity for UGA students. Some students volunteer through UGA and others just volunteer as part of the community effort. Many students continue to help with Intersession even though it is not part of their coursework because they have enjoyed it so much in the past. According to Dr. Powell, *“UGA students had a way to practically apply what they were learning in the classroom to complex real life situations. Intersession provided a richer teacher-learning environment, unexpected twists, and natural happenings. Students were also exposed to diversity. Economic diversity is something many of the UGA students hadn’t had first hand knowledge of.”*

The UGA Science Education students have organized science fairs for Intersession students where they would go from station to station learning about *“cool science things.”* During one Intersession, the students measured the space for the garden at Gaines Elementary school and later enjoyed the flowers that they had planted. The Food Science students at UGA involved Gaines and Chase Street students in making ice cream.



Jamie added, “We said jokes at lunch and we met UGA students in the art room.”

Dr. Richard Siegesmund from Art Ed tells us that *“judging from UGA student evaluation, the ability to participate in the Intersession program has been one of the most meaningful college experiences for our art education majors. Working with students for extended time slots in the facilities of the Lyndon House Art Center has been magical. Scheduled art education classes would conduct hands-on lessons. In addition, individual art students volunteered to work in this program and taught their own lessons. One art education graduate student conducted her Master applied project at Intersession. Although we will miss the ability to participate in Intersession, Art Education looks forward to continuing participation at both Chase and Gaines through the artist-in schools and the after-school programs.”*



UGA Faculty, Staff, & Students

OutBack Steakhouse
Athens-Clarke County Library
Mobile Dentist
Judge Jones Office
Master Gardeners
Office of Secretary of State
Charmar
Lowe's
Athens Classic Center
Lyndon House
City Hall and Athens Tourism
ACC Recycling
Athens Greenway
Bear Hollow Zoo
Keep ACC Beautiful
Athens Banner Herald
1st Presbyterian Church
SE Archeological Services
ACC Transportation and Public Works
Athens Regional Medical Center
Sandy Creek Nature
Athens-Clarke County Government
Athens Animal Health Center
Washington Farms
Wolfskin Gardens
Canopy Studios
St. Mary's Hospital
ACC Leisure Services
Poultry Research Center
Select Tree Farm
Good Dirt
Classic Center Cultural Foundation
Athens-Clarke Animal Control
Athens Seed and Lawn
Athica
Gold Kist
Athens Creative Theater
Athens Community Council on Aging
Kiwanis Club of Athens
Bombay Café

THANK YOU, our many partners

So many partners helped make Intersession fun and engaging. We could not have been successful in our goals without our Athens-Clarke County business partners, county government partners, civic organizations, and individual citizens who have offered time and support.

While many, many people have helped, a few people really stand out over time for their hard work and dedication to consistently providing enriching experiences for children and we want to especially mention them...

THANK YOU Kent Kilpatrick, Gwynn Powell, Richard Siegesmund and the building principals from Chase and Gaines.

Kent Kilpatrick of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services has been critical to the success of Intersession. We could not have done this without Kent's vision and leadership!

Gwynn Powell of UGA Recreation and Leisure Studies has helped with the planning and coordination of Intersession since its inception and she assumed the role of primary UGA liaison with ACC Leisure Services. She's the best!

Richard Siegesmund of the Art Education Department at UGA and his students have been cornerstones of Intersession. If Intersession happened so did Art Education!

Mrs. Phyllis Stewart has been the principal at Gaines Elementary since the very beginning of the Partnership and has "faithfully and with joy" participated in planning every Intersession. **Dr. Bonnie Jackson**, who has just recently joined us, has expressed and exhibited great enthusiasm and dedication to our vision. And, we can't leave out those principals who came before, who did their part in contributing to the success of Intersession. They are **Dr. Roy Rowe** and **Dr. Bob Bluett**.



Mrs. Phyllis Stewart and E.J. Carter

Kent Kilpatrick shared the following thoughts about Intersession:

Most of the impact was not realized by us until CCSD held community meetings about changing the school calendar for Chase and Gaines. During those meetings, many parents and teachers expressed the importance of Intersession learning and their desire to maintain the program, even if the calendar was changed. That was confirmation to us that our work was worthwhile. This has been a great experience for us as professionals. I know the kids have benefited, but so have the leaders. This community is a better place to live because of the bond formed between the three main government entities - UGA, CCSD and ACC. Thanks to the ground work laid by Intersession, many more initiatives are taking place to improve this community for everyone.



Thank you to the *Partnership for Community Learning Centers'* supporters and volunteers. We appreciate your help in making Intersession great and will continue to look to you for support in helping the Partnership provide students with everything they need to learn and to be successful in life.

CELEBRATING OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH ART EDUCATION

By: Richard Siegesmund



Since 2002, Art Education at the Lamar Dodd School of Art has participated in the UGA-Clarke County School District Partnership by offering programs at both Chase Street and Gaines Elementary Schools. In this time, Art Education has coordinated three different programs: 1) Artist-in-school programs where art students from UGA have taught arts lessons that integrate core-learning skills in general classroom at both Chase Street and Gaines, 2) After-school art programs at both Chase and Gaines that allowed students consider-



ing becoming teachers experience with working with children, and 3) Intercession programs that have provided in-depth arts experiences for students at both schools. These programs have provided unique opportunities for learning and invaluable hands-on classroom experience for art education majors before they reached student teaching.

The artist-in-schools program has allowed the students at Chase and Gaines to study the work of artists like Joseph Norman, Tim Rollins, and Nancy Bookhart. Students responded to the

work of these artists by using similar ideas and themes to create their own art. Students then reflected on their own work through writing. At Chase Street, this program has involved students from UGA who are both Early Childhood majors and Art Education majors. These students work together to teach the art lessons. This provides an important preservice model of the art specialist and classroom teacher planning curriculum together to achieve shared learning outcomes. At Gaines Elementary,



students have worked on a permanent ceramic sculpture outside of the art room that is a reflection on what each child contributes to the success of Gaines as a learning community. For fall 2006, the artist-in-school program will continue at Chase with both the Chase Street literacy coach and art specialist working with UGA faculty to design the program.



The after-school art program was initially supported by an Early Experiences initiative to allow opportunities for undergraduates and local high school students who were considering teaching as a major to work with children. In 2006-2007, the art education area will offer an art after-school program at Gaines in both fall and spring semesters. As Chase Street students will be temporarily relocated at the old Gaines Elementary School building while their own school is reconstructed, Chase Street students will also be able to participate in the Gaines program.

We Welcome Our New UGA Partners

We are pleased that The College of Education Center for Counseling, and Art Education faculty member Tracie Constantino have both decided to join our partnership team!

Dr. Linda Campbell and colleagues from The College of Education's Center for Counseling have joined the Partnership to provide support through small group and individual sessions with students and families as needed and desired. The Center for Counseling is a Training Clinic, working with Master's and Doctoral students under the supervision of a licensed psychologist. Dr. Campbell describes this partnership as a Win-Win for all since the services to children and families will be designed to help meet their individual needs, will be free of charge, and will also provide UGA students opportunities to have school-based experiences. We welcome this new partnership!

New partner Dr. Costantino will work with the Partnership Evaluation Team. Tracie is a perfect fit with the Partnership, as she comes to us from extensive work in several partnerships with the Chicago Public Schools. Tracie expects to concentrate on some qualitative areas, including analyzing data from literacy coach observations in classrooms, Conversation Day summary notes, school based results from district surveys; reviewing outcomes we have from the various assessments like the *My School and Me* project and perhaps proposing expanded uses of this effort; and, using recent data from each school's experiences with Back to the Future protocols. We are all quite excited to have Tracie as a new partner!

Serving the Community while Dishing Out Soup at Chase Street!

By: Jen Aaron's Third Grade Class



Throughout the year Mrs. Aaron's third graders at Chase Street Elementary were involved in an academic service-learning project. Academic service-learning provides the students a chance to identify a need or problem in the community and then, while integrating all academic areas, develop and implement a plan that addresses this need. A large piece of academic service-learning is self-reflection that asks the students to look at themselves and evaluate their learning.

As a way of jump starting the year, the students had several discussions about community, learning, and service. Mayor Davison, Commissioner Kinman, and Commissioner Lynn then came into our class and were interviewed to help us figure out what needs to be worked on in our community.

The students then looked at the data they had collected from the interviews and decided they wanted to do something with and for low income and elderly folks living in Athens. We invited Ms. Appleby from the Athens Housing Authority to help with this idea. It was during this conversation that the students learned about Denney Tower and some of their needs.



After deciding what to do, the class wrote a letter to the residents at Denney Tower outlining their ideas and hopes for raising money for things the residents of Denney Tower would identify that they needed. Mrs. Aaron's class visited Denney Tower in January and were able to interview several residents and learn about how life was when the residents were their age. During our second visit, the students were able to eat lunch and play BINGO with many of the residents. They even invited us back for their annual Spring Picnic. On Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 the class hosted a Soup Dinner to benefit Denney Tower. Over 100 people came. We had three kinds of soup:

Gypsy Soup, Cream of Potato, and Creamy Chicken Stew with Rice. Ms. Dean, our art teacher, helped us make bowls during art and we were able to sell those at the Soup Dinner also. We entertained the crowd with a performance of *Chicken Soup with Rice*. We raised just at \$800.00 for the Denney Tower residents. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

We would like to thank Mrs. Mary Songster, St. James Church, Ms. Bryant, the Partnership, our own families, the AME Missionary Society, all of those who attended the dinner and made it successful, and most of all the residents at Denney Tower!

Next Steps: District Level Partnership – Stay Tuned!

To find out more about the Partnership for Community Learning Centers please visit our website

<http://www.coe.uga.edu/ccsd/>

Got questions?
Want to get
involved?
CONTACT US AT
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