

*Institute for Leadership Advancement*

# Leadership Scholars Volunteer for Service

By Melenie Lankau

One of the four major programs of the Institute for Leadership Advancement is the Bebe and Earl Leonard Undergraduate Leadership Scholars Program. This program's mission is to prepare future business leaders with the leadership skills needed to bring added value to their organizations and communities.

The inaugural class of Leonard Leadership Scholars was launched last fall. The educational focus of the program's first year is to increase self-awareness and knowledge about personal leadership. Students participated in a wide variety of activities, including one-on-one interactions with faculty mentors, a specialized course in leadership, class participation in a ropes course, individual personality and leadership assessments, networking events and inclusion in guest lectures with such notable leaders as Warren Buffett and Primerica Co-CEO John Addison.

The purposes of these activities were to strengthen the students' interpersonal communication and networking skills, improve their poise when speaking in public, practice teamwork skills and improve their understanding of leadership models and theories.

Another major objective of the Leadership Scholars Program is to elevate students' awareness of civic and social issues and increase their commitment to volunteerism. Scholars commit a minimum of four hours each semester to community service activities through the program. They far exceeded this requirement. Here's a list of just some of the schools, agencies and community groups that the students assisted this past fall.

*Adopt-a-Grandparent Program*

*Alps Road Elementary School*

*American Red Cross*

*Bishop Park Recreation, YMCA soccer program*

*Boys & Girls Club of Athens, tutoring program*

*Clarke County School District, golf program for underprivileged children*

*Gaines School Road Elementary School, National Gandhi Day*

*Habitat for Humanity*

*Magnolia Estates Retirement Community*

*Morningside of Athens, assisted living residence*

*Timothy Road Elementary School*

In addition to these, two other community service projects described here resulted in new services being offered in the Athens community.

## The Fun & Learning Center

Leadership Scholar Guy Milhalter of Dunwoody, Ga., began a tutoring program called the Fun & Learning Center for grade school children living in a public housing project on Baxter Street across from UGA's residence halls. Milhalter worked with the



SPECIAL

Athens Housing Authority to request permission to use the community center in the Baxter Street neighborhood and to obtain funding for school supplies. He received both and created flyers to attract children in the neighborhood and student tutors on campus. Last fall, Milhalter supervised eight tutors and 12 children during the program's first semester of operation. He hopes to continue building the program.

## Intercambio

Leadership Scholar Stella Sullivan of Marietta, Ga., worked with Catholic Social Services of Athens to coordinate an exchange, or "intercambio," between local Hispanics and Spanish-speaking volunteers. The intercambio took place every Tuesday evening from 8-9 p.m. at a local restaurant. The program creates a comfortable setting for Hispanic community members to practice their English and offers participants the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures. Sullivan printed business cards in English and Spanish to recruit volunteers and advertise the program to the Hispanic community. She has had as many as 20 Hispanic community members participate in a meeting.

Overall, the Leonard Leadership Scholars Program is off to a great start with exceptional students who are dedicated to giving back to the community. ■

— Melenie Lankau is director of the Leonard Leadership Scholars Program.

Leadership scholars volunteered with community organizations and even started new programs, like this "intercambio," or cultural exchange, with local Hispanics.