The 2013-14 academic year is well under way, with plans for the 2013 Spotlight on the Arts festival shaping up nicely. Following the format of the successful inaugural festival held last year, numerous events have been planned by the units that comprise the UGA Arts Council to take place over the course of nine days in November – Nov. 7-15. Student Spotlight events also will be staged at locations around campus.

While campus venues provide the setting for most of this year’s festival events, some are planned for off-campus venues such as The Classic Center, Ciné and ATHICA, reflecting partnerships that various units have formed with community organizations.

Furthering community outreach is one of the goals identified by the Arts Council as we began work this summer to develop a five-year strategic plan. We are continuing to work on that document this fall and look forward to sharing it with constituents on and off campus in the near future.

I want to thank President UGA’s Jane and Harry Willson Center for Humanities and Arts has launched a new Faculty Research Clusters initiative to support groups of faculty organized to address large-scale humanities and arts questions in partnership with colleagues from allied departments, colleges, centers and institutes.

“The arts and humanities are a vital component of a well-rounded education,” UGA President Jere Morehead said. “The Willson Center and its new research clusters will play an important role in highlighting these disciplines on the UGA campus and in attracting research funding, a critical goal of my administration.”

The clusters have been organized around interdisciplinary research initiatives that can serve as bridges between the university and off-campus communities. Some of them have been established for years while others are in the planning stages, but

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ties planned by the UGA Arts Council at venues on and off campus. In addition, student groups organized impromptu performances at the Tate Center Plaza, in front of the Fine Arts Building and other campus locations. More Student Spotlight events are planned this year (see photo below).

A complete festival schedule can be found on the Arts at UGA website: http://arts.uga.edu/about/schedule/. Here are some of the highlights and the presenting units:

In addition to Two Man Group, the Performing Arts Center will present a signature event on Nov. 15 as veteran actor Hal Holbrook takes the stage in Hodgson Hall to perform his one-man show, Mark Twain Tonight.

Holbrook, now in his 80s, has been portraying Twain for close to 50 years. The PAC also will present trumpeter Caleb Hudson, the newest member of the Canadian Brass, at Ramsey Hall on Nov. 11. Tickets for PAC events can be purchased online at http://pac.uga.edu/.

University Theatre will present Pride and Prejudice during several evenings of the festival, plus a matinee performance on Sunday, Nov. 10. Directed by theatre department faculty member George Contini, the production features a cast of undergraduate and graduate students. It will be presented in the Fine Arts Theatre and tickets can be purchased through the Performing Arts Center box office.

The Hugh Hodgson School of Music will present a concert version of Bizet’s Carmen by the UGA Opera Theatre on Nov. 14 with an open dress rehearsal ($5 tickets) the previous evening. Other School of Music events include an afternoon concert by the UGA Wind Ensemble on Nov. 10, and an open house that day presented by the Community Music School with performances and an instrument petting zoo. Concert tickets can be purchased through the Performing Arts Center box office.

The Department of Dance will present its annual Young Choreographers Series Dance Concert during the first two evenings of the festival. Tickets for the concert can be purchased through the Performing Arts Center box office. Free performances include a Dance Sampler on Nov. 8 and a sneak preview of an upcoming production by the CORE Contemporary and Aerial Dance Company on Nov. 14. The dance department also will host open classes in ballet, ballroom, folk dance and hip hop.

The UGA Press, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary, will hold its popular “dirty book sale” Nov. 7 and 8 at Tate Plaza featuring slightly damaged merchandise at discounted prices. The Press also will present an exhibition of the best graphic design work from university presses around the country in its offices on the third floor of the Main Library Nov. 11-15, and a film festival featuring movies based on books published by the Press, Nov. 12-15 in the auditorium of the Special Collections Libraries.

The Special Collections Libraries, home to the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, will induct Georgia Poet Laureate Judson Mitcham into the Hall of Fame in a ceremony on
will give a talk on “Poetry and Humor” earlier that day at the Miller Learning Center.

The Lamar Dodd School of Art will hold an open house with special activities in the main building, the ceramics building, and the sculpture and jewelry and metals building on Nov. 7. The school also will present an exhibition by first-year MFA students with an opening reception on Nov. 7, plus a BFA exit show with an opening reception on Nov. 15.

The Georgia Museum of Art will host Student Night at the Museum on Nov. 7, an extended family day on Nov. 10, and Museum Mix on Nov. 14, when the museum will be open from 8 p.m. till midnight. Visitors also will have the opportunity to participate in tours of the museum most afternoons during the festival, including one led by museum director William Eiland on Nov. 13.

The Willson Center for Humanities and Arts has planned several events including a symposium with Willson Center Fellows engaged in arts-related research projects, a special exhibition in conjunction with ATHICA and the Georgia Virtual History Project, a Global Georgia Initiative lecture by author Karima Bennoune, and a film festival focused on the work of Jim McKay in partnership with community organization Whatever It Takes. The four-day film fest begins on the last day of the Spotlight on the Arts festival, bringing home the point that UGA arts programming is year-round.

The 2013-2014 funded research clusters and the faculty for each are listed below.

- Athens Music Project: Susan Thomas, co-director, associate professor, Hugh Hodgson School of Music and Institute for Women’s Studies; Jean Kidula, co-director, associate professor, Hugh Hodgson School of Music and African Studies Institute
- Digital Humanities Lab: Stephen Berry, co-director, Amanda and Greg Gregory Professor in the Civil War Era, history department; Bill Kretzschmar, co-director, Harry and Jane Willson Professor in Humanities, English department; Claudio Saunt, co-director, Richard B. Russell Professor in American History, history department
- EcoFocus Film Initiative: Sara Beresford, director
- Ideas for Creative Exploration

all were selected for their potential to communicate innovative academic research in the humanities and arts at UGA to the general public and peer institutions.

“The research clusters offer a new way to think about the organization, progress and outcomes of humanities and arts research at the university,” said Vice President for Research David Lee. “I am pleased to support this initiative, which involves faculty and students from across departments and colleges. These clusters offer UGA pillars of research activity that will keep us grant-competitive and innovative.”

The research clusters program is funded by the Office of the Vice President for Research through the University of Georgia Research Foundation. Each cluster is funded for a period of up to 36 months, with funding reviewed every 12 months.

“The Willson Center is the hub of humanities and arts research at the university, and the gateway for our faculty and students to the latest innovations in their fields,” said Nicholas Allen, director of the Willson Center. “We are delighted to launch these research clusters as the next stage in establishing the University of Georgia as a globally competitive and intellectually relevant institution.”

The Georgia Review
will host a free screening of That Evening Sun, a film based on a short story published in the Review and starring Hal Holbrook, on Nov. 14, the day before Holbrook’s one-man show at the Performing Arts Center. The Review also will present a Georgia Poetry Circuit reading by Andrew Hudgins on Nov. 11 at Cine, in downtown Athens. Hudgins

From the desk of Libby Morris

Jere Morehead for his continued support of the Arts Council and the Spotlight on the Arts festival. I also want to thank Hugh Ruppersburg, who has stepped into the post of interim vice provost this fall while I am serving as interim provost. He has been meeting with the Arts Council during this time of transition in the senior administration and is working with Sharron Hannon and Sam Fahmy in our office to make sure the festival and other Arts Council projects continue to receive needed support.

To keep up with the latest news about the arts at UGA, visit the website that was launched last fall (arts.uga.edu) or follow UGA Arts on Facebook or Twitter.

Thanks! Thanks to ArtsGeorgia for including an article about the UGA Arts Council and the Spotlight on the Arts festival in the fall issue of their quarterly print newsletter. To find out more about ArtsGeorgia and to sign up for the newsletter, visit artsgeorgia.net.
Faculty plan service-learning projects using the arts as teaching tools

Three faculty members from Arts Council units are among the 12 faculty selected by UGA’s Office of Service-Learning to participate in its yearlong Service-Learning Fellows program. Fellows meet regularly throughout the academic year and receive an award of up to $2,500 to develop a proposed service-learning project.

Carissa DiCindio, curator of education at the Georgia Museum of Art, will work with students at GMOA to promote collaborative involvement and provide practical application for their coursework, including ARED 5260/7230, “Engaging Art Museum Audiences as Student Docents.”

Sujata Iyengar, a professor of English in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, plans to incorporate service-learning into a “Shakespeare in the Classroom” course. Her students will work with local schools to enhance vocabulary development and to incorporate Shakespeare’s work and influence into the curriculum creatively.

Roy Legette, an associate professor in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music, is planning a project that focuses on developing and implementing a robust pre-K field experience practicum into his teaching methods courses for music education majors, in collaboration with the UGA Child Care Center.

“UGA’s Service-Learning Fellows are truly making a difference in the classroom and the community,” said Shannon Wilder, director of the Office of Service-Learning. “Every year, they develop innovative service-learning courses that are really challenging our students to think about the civic responsibility that comes along with the world-class education they are receiving at UGA.”

UGA Arts Council directory

The UGA Arts Council was convened in October 2011 by Interim Provost Libby Morris. Current members are listed below. For more information on any of these units, please see their web sites.