UGA students from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication (Georgia GAZE photography program) and Terry College of Business (MBA student focusing on Economic Development Marketing Plan) are assisting the Grady County Archway Partnership to create a visitor and business recruitment marketing brochure through data collection, economic research, image development, and brochure design. Site visits included: Industrial Parks, Downtown and Hwy 84 Retail Corridors, Community Gateways, and other community landmarks.

Dr. Michelle Carney’s UGA Institute for Nonprofit Organizations grant writing class in the School of Social Work is assisting the Boys & Girls Club of Grady County in identifying funding resources as well as preparing a grant proposal. Students will use the Grady County experience as an opportunity to gain an understanding of the basic theories, skills, and practices involved in grant writing for nonprofit organizations.

**Issue Work Group Progress**

The Community Health and Wellness Issue Work Group hosted Laura Gillman, Archway Partnership Public Health Professional, who presented the Grady County Health Indicators Report and the Grady County Health Snapshot to a diverse group of health, medical, and wellness professionals and interested community members. The reports featured local ranking and comparison of illnesses, disease, and other health related issues to regional and state averages. The group will meet at the end of July to begin identifying priority areas for work projects.

The Education-Business and Industry Issue Work Group identified four key target areas as priorities:

1. Soft Skills Enhancement
2. Specific Training Needs per Employer
3. Collaborative Efforts to Support Education
4. Workplace (On-site) Learning for Students and Faculty

The group also expressed the need to create an Academic & Training Program Showcase for Employers, conduct an inventory of programs offered through Thomas University, Bainbridge College and Southwest Georgia Technical College as well as survey employers for current and future workforce needs.

**New Partners**

The Grady County Archway Partnership is pleased to announce the addition of Bainbridge College and the Ira Higdon Grocery Company as new partners for 2012-2013. They join the City of Cairo, Grady County, Archbold Hospital, Grady County Schools, Koyo Bearings, Performance Food Group, Aaron’s Inc.,
Cairo-Grady Chamber of Commerce, Grady County Joint Development Authority and Southwest Georgia Technical College in their second year of the program.