

CED Student Garden featured in Qingdao International Horticulture Exposition



For Georgians, gardens have always served many purposes. They tell stories, they feed body and mind, they provide escape and delight, and they register change. July 2014 marked the culmination of a multi-year project at the Qingdao International Horticulture Exposition. The exposition features 35 garden exhibits representing dozens of countries and regions, and Georgia was the only U.S. state invited to showcase a garden. According to UGA Provost Pamela Whitten, “Under the direction of Assistant Professor Douglas Pardue, students from our College of Environment and Design created a stunning garden that reflects the unique history and culture of our state.”

CED was initially contacted in April of 2012 by the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) and asked to provide construction documentation for a “Georgia Garden” to represent the state at this event. Assistant Professor Pardue developed the project into a studio to create a learning and service opportunity for CED students and then led the project through concept development, construction documentation, and construction administration.

The Qingdao studio, involving eight BLA and MLA students, took place during summer 2012; however, changes to details and programming continued up until July 2014. During spring 2013, Assistant Professor Pardue travelled to Qingdao to meet with Expo Design Committee, oversee pre-construction coordination, and manage construction administration. In late spring 2013, construction began on the Expo and the Georgia Garden, and in April 2014, the Expo opened to the public.

From summer 2013, until Summer, 2014, Professors Pardue and Brian LaHaie coordinated with GDEcD to develop and oversee “Georgia Day” in the Georgia Garden, which celebrated through programming Georgia’s traditions in agriculture, education, tourism, and film. Georgia Day occurred on July 12th, 2014, and was attended by Dean Nadenicek, Assistant Professor Pardue, and MLA students, Nobuko Ogawa, Shannon Mikus, Jeremy Arnett, and Jessica Higgins.

