Lumpkin Street School celebrates many milestones
The Pulaski County Deacons and Stewards Association recognized key contributors to their efforts in renovating the Lumpkin Street School on Dec. 17. An estimated 50 people gathered in the Pulaski County Annex Auditorium to show their appreciation for the Charles Johnson Foundation, the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, and the Buchan Trust. These organizations contributed $50,000 toward the stabilization of the school. The UGA Archway Partnership and Archway Professional Michelle Elliott were also recognized for their significant role in the project. Future plans include a museum, community center and cultural resource center for the community.

Engineering Presentation to Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership (OWTP)
Natalia Shim, a graduate student in the College of Engineering, made her first presentation to the multi-county Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership on Dec. 18. Shim along with her professor, Dr. Bill Tollner, spoke to representatives of counties along the river about how better understanding the flow of the river can assist in efforts to spur economic development in these communities. Brian Adams, leader of the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative (ONPPI), was also in attendance. He was very impressed with the contributions of UGA students and faculty to the project. ONPPI is a non-profit created to advocate the development of a national park and preserve along the Ocmulgee River from the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon to Hawkinsville. Currently, the federal government has authorized a three year feasibility study on the project. Shim’s work will continue in the spring, assessing flow and conditions from Macon to Hawkinsville.

Pulaski County Hospital Authority Finalizes Nursing Home Deal
The Pulaski County Hospital Authority has completed financing of a bond deal that facilitates the acquisition of the Pinewood Manor Nursing Home by Taylor Regional Hospital. The deal, valued between $5 million and $7 million, will help make the hospital more viable moving forward. The primary focus of Archway’s community health work group in 2014 has been to support efforts that contribute to the survival of our local hospital. Georgia “has lost five rural hospitals since 2012, with at least six others on the brink of collapse (O’Donnell, USA Today 2014).” Archway facilitated technical support from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to assist in the establishment of the Authority; and, locally, Archway performs administrative functions to assist with compliance of legal requirements.