



JIANN-PING HSU  
COLLEGE  
OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
徐建萍公共卫生学院

# Public Health Matters

<http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu>

August 2007

## JPHCOPH Welcomes New Faculty

The JPHCOPH continues its growth and development, adding 8 new faculty for the Academic Year 2007-08.



*JPHCOPH Faculty and Staff AY 2007-08*

Below we are excited to introduce our new faculty: Dr. Simone Charles, Dr. Renee Hotchkiss, Dr. Thomas Kollars, Dr. Lili Yu, Dr. Mondì Mason, Dr. Hani Samawi, Dr. James Stephens, and Dr. Lynn Woodhouse. We are very pleased to welcome this group of very talented teacher/scholars to JPHCOPH and to the Georgia Southern University community.



*Dr. Simone Charles  
Environmental Health*



*Dr. Renee Hotchkiss  
Health Services Policy  
& Management*



*Dr. Thomas Kollars  
Epidemiology*



*Dr. Lynn Woodhouse  
Community Health/  
Behavior*



*Dr. Mondì Mason  
Community Health/  
Behavior*



*Dr. Hani Samawi  
Biostatistics*



*Dr. James Stephens  
Health Services Policy &  
Management*



*Dr. Lili Yu  
Biostatistics*

To read more about our new faculty members, please visit our website <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu/Faculty.php>

## 2007 JPHCOPH Fall Convocation Held August 8, 2007

The 2007 JPHCOPH Fall Convocation was held August 8, 2007 in Hollis 1120.



*Dr. Stephens, Dr. Hotchkiss, & Dr. Ledlow*

The JPHCOPH Convocation followed the University Convocation featuring the State of the University Address by President Bruce Grube. This being our Centennial year, Dr. Grube unveiled a video that told the story of our first 100 years. Following a luncheon hosted by the President, the JPHCOPH faculty and staff gathered at the Builders' Wall for collective and individual photos.

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## Faculty/Students Conduct Research at USDA, New Orleans, Louisiana

This summer three environmental health students from JPHCOPH accompanied Dr. Kari Fitzmorris to New Orleans to assist in a research project on the development of activated carbon from animal residuals. The joint project between JPHCOPH and the Agriculture Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture in New Orleans, Louisiana was developed to address the rising production rates of animal residuals in the U.S. The key to this problem is finding reuse options for the wastes that are valuable to the producer. The use of manures as fertilizer sources high in nitrogen and phosphorus is beneficial, but the production rates generally exceed the amount necessary for application and do not meet plant requirements. The agricultural community is currently struggling to provide adequate management for manures due to the high cost of treatment processes and the restrictions on reuse. Research conducted by Dr. Fitzmorris and Dr. Isabel M. Lima of USDA-ARS show the potential of activated carbons from animal residuals to remove potentially toxic metal cations from water and also remove ammonia from ambient air. The issue of removal of these metals from diverse water sources has taken on greater importance over the last decade because of the documented link between their presence and adverse effects on human health. Also, the removal of ammonia is key as it represents a true environmental solution – using the manure to treat the manure. Activated carbons from poultry waste can be used to treat the ammonia emissions from the poultry litter in the barns thereby significantly improving bird health and reducing the emissions into the surrounding communities.



Back row: Tiffany Jackson (JPHCOPH student), Renee Bigner (USDA lab technician), Kari Fitzmorris (JPHCOPH Asst. Professor)  
Front row: DeAnna Keene (JPHCOPH student) & Lauren Baker (JPHCOPH student)



DeAnna and Tiffany observing the ammonia adsorption experiment. The purpose of this experiment is to determine the ability of the carbon from swine waste to adsorb ammonia, a typical emission from poultry houses.

The students, Lauren Baker, Tiffany Jackson and DeAnna Keene, worked on three different aspects of the project during their week in New Orleans. Lauren worked on the acid digestion of the residuals to determine their chemical composition and aid in determining why the carbons are able to adsorb pollutants so effectively. Tiffany's goal was to determine the efficacy of activated carbons from poultry waste for the adsorption of ammonia gas. DeAnna's project was to further study the capability of activated carbons from animal waste with regard to metal cation, specifically copper adsorption.

The students are currently writing up their results and hope to give presentations on their work through either the Water Environment Federation or the American Public Health Association.



Tiffany Jackson is working on analyzing samples to determine the activated carbons' capacity to adsorb ammonia



Lauren is preparing her samples analyzing samples to determine for analysis using ICP technology to determine the chemical composition to adsorb ammonia.



DeAnna is preparing the copper solution for carbon adsorption. DeAnna's study was to evaluate the carbon from poultry waste and its capacity to adsorb copper from drinking water.

## David Bostick, MPH - Biostatistics Awarded GPHA Scholarship

David Bostick, a second year MPH student in Biostatistics was recently awarded a scholarship to attend the 78th annual Georgia Public Health Association Meeting and Conference to be held at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront from September 4-7, 2007.

The scholarship, made available by the Georgia Public Health Association Career Development Committee, was open to currently enrolled, full-time second-year Master of Public Health students. One award was given to each institution in the state offering an MPH program. The scholarship included: conference registration, hotel accommodations, meals, and GPHA student membership dues for 1 year.



*David works the crowd at the Eat, Meet & Greet.*

David's hometown is Cairo, GA. His future plans are to continue his education in hopes that he may one day make a significant contribution to the advancement of public health in this country and abroad.

David has been on the President's List, Dean's List, and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges (2002, 2006).

David has given 3 presentations: Biodiversity of *Spiroplasma* Bacteria at Georgia Southern University's McNair Summer Research Symposium June 30-July 1, 2005; Glucose Fermentation and Biodiversity of *Spiroplasma* Bacteria at the University of Tennessee's 11th Annual SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Scholars Research Conference July 7-10, 2005; and Arginine Hydrolysis of *Spiroplasma* Bacteria at Georgia Southern University's Student Research Symposium.

Currently, David is the President of the Public Health Student Organization. He also served on the Dean's Student Advisory Committee, and he holds membership in American Statistical Association, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Golden Key Honor Society.

**Congratulations David!**

## Student Spotlight...



*DeAnna Keene  
M.P.H.  
Environmental  
Health Science  
2nd year student*

DeAnna was born and raised in Brooklet, GA. She graduated from Southeast Bulloch High School in 2002 while also attending GSU as a joint-enrolled student. She graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Health Science degree.

DeAnna is currently pursuing her M.P.H. degree in Environmental Health Science. She recently returned from New Orleans, Louisiana where she conducted research at the Southern Regional Research Center at USDA under Dr. Fitzmorris. She is a graduate assistant for the JPHCOPH.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband, John, and daughter Ally. Her future plans include continuing current research, and eventually pursuing her Dr.PH at GSU. One of her main interests is SIDS.

## Eat, Meet & Greet

JPHCOPH students, faculty, and staff met under the pavilion at the Wildlife Center on campus on Friday, August 24th to kick off the 2007-08 academic year. Lunch included wraps, salad and cookies along with some southern sweet tea, soft drinks and water, catered by Wrapsody Grill. It was a great time for the students, faculty, and staff to get to know each other!



*Students and faculty  
enjoying lunch and  
conversation.*

*Faculty and  
students alike take  
advantage of the  
food and great  
outdoors.*



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At the JPHCOPH Convocation, Dean Hardy welcomed the members of the JPHCOPH and provided comments regarding the development of the new college. Dean Hardy also provided a review of 2006-07 AY accomplishments and presented the 2007-08 AY agenda. A spirit of action and teamwork was evident as faculty and staff set forth an ambitious agenda for the upcoming year. A great start to the new year!



*Dr. Kollars and Dr. Fitzmorris get to know each other*



*Dr. Woodhouse and Dr. Adu-Oopong share ideas*



*Dean Hardy presented the State of College Address*

## Give to JPHCOPH...

Public health touches every aspect of our life. Our nation's economy, security, environment and the quality of our daily lives depend on the strength of the public's health and on the systems that support it. You can do your part to prevent disease, protect the public from harm, and promote the health of communities throughout the state, the nation, and the world by making a gift to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH).

Every gift to the JPHCOPH plays a vital role in improving the public's health by supporting:

***Excellence in Public Health Education.*** Provides scholarships and fellowships to highly qualified, committed, and diverse students, many of whom cannot attend the JPHCOPH without financial help. Gifts will also support curriculum development, innovations, and linkages with public health practice.

***Excellence in Public Health Research.*** Supports distinguished faculty in their work to find answers and solutions to public health problems.

***Excellence in Public Health Service and Outreach.*** Supports programs that focus upon the development of community-based participatory programs and research.

Gifts to the JPHCOPH are critical to our development. Private financial support provides the margin of excellence that distinguishes good universities from great ones. As a Doctoral Research University, Georgia Southern University is proud to be a public university. But direct public support accounts for less than half of Georgia Southern University's annual operating budget. We rely on the generous support of our alumni, friends, and the research grant support of our faculty to make up the difference.

Please consider making a gift to JPHCOPH today. For more information contact Charles J. Hardy, Founding Dean, JPHCOPH at 912-681-5653 or check out our website at <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu>

## Public Health Matters...

Public Health Matters is a publication of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University. Public Health Matters is published monthly for faculty, students and friends of JPHCOPH. If you would like to contribute to this publication please contact the office of the Dean.