



Economic Impact Study of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Over the next 15 years, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will have a major impact on southeast Georgia's regional economy, according to the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) at Georgia Southern University. By 2020, the college—one of eight at Georgia Southern—will support 146 new jobs, resulting in an estimated \$7.3 million in additional goods and services produced. It will create an additional \$10.7 million in personal income.

“Needless to say, this is good news,” said Charles Hardy, founding dean of the J.P. Hsu College of Public Health. “We continue to build toward accreditation by recruiting new faculty and staff each year, and look forward to reaching our enrollment goal of about 200 students.” “Because the College of Public Health serves only graduate-level students, 200 is a reasonable target number,” Hardy added.

Linda Bleicken, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, was encouraged by another aspect of the report. “This report indicates that the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will bring innovation in the form of new ideas, products, and processes to the economy,” she said. “That innovation will raise awareness of Georgia Southern University's positive impact, as a research university, on the quality of life in south Georgia.”

The BBRED economic forecast was commissioned by Karl Peace, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, professor of biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH), and a Georgia Southern alumnus who has given both his time and money to benefit the University. Peace endowed the College to honor the memory of his wife, Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu, and has created 11 scholarship endowments at Georgia Southern.

“As a major investor in Georgia Southern, I was curious about the economic dynamics of my investments for the greater good of the University, the region, and the state,” Peace said. “I believed the results of this study would be positive, and would lead to a positive impression of the work being done by the entire faculty and staff of JPHCOPH to move the college forward.”

In considering the college's economic impact, researchers looked at three main areas of direct economic impact: student spending; payroll and operating expenditures; and the annual BASS (Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium) Conference. They used Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI), a dynamic economic impact model that can analyze multiple impacts geographically and over time.

“Taking a conservative approach, this study did not attempt to measure some of the other very real economic benefits the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health will have on state and local economies,” said Jeremy Hill, assistant director of BBRED, who prepared the report. “For example, this type of graduate program will directly benefit labor productivity and the labor supply in southeast Georgia. With increased labor productivity and output, the region can expect to see increased profits.”

JPHCOPH Sponsors Rural Health Day 2007



Governor Perdue and Rural Health Day Sponsors

Rural Health Day was held on Tuesday, February 13 in the South Wing of the Capitol. This event, hosted by the Georgia Rural Health Association, is held every year during the annual General Assembly session. Rural Health Day is an opportunity to network with rural health advocates and legislators throughout the State of Georgia for the purpose of promoting awareness with respect to rural health concerns in the state. Drs. Tedders, Nurtayeva, and Hardy participated in this event and were afforded an opportunity to talk about the progression of the JPHCOPH and the role that the College will play in reshaping the health status of rural and underserved populations in Georgia. For more on the GRHA Legislative Agenda for 2007 please see <http://www.garuralhealth.org/legislation.html>.

Faculty Spotlight...



Dr. Swati Raychowdhury
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Dr. Swati Raychowdhury began her professional career at Minnesota State University in 2005-2006. After a year of braving the cold weather, she has joined the Georgia Southern community. With her doctorate in health behavior and her masters of public health degrees from Indiana University, Swati is excited to continue her research in the area of HIV/AIDS, STI's, and underrepresented populations. She has published and presented her research and work at regional, national, and international venues. Swati has several years of teaching experience as a graduate assistant throughout her years at IU and as an assistant professor at MSU.

Prior to beginning her teaching position, Swati was involved in multiple health promotion practice, research and teaching initiatives in academic, governmental and community-based settings over a period of several years.

Swati is a member of the American Public Health Association, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, and the Society of Public Health Education.

Student Spotlight...



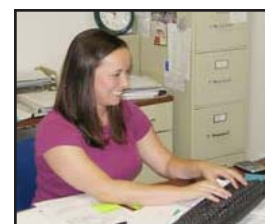
Forrest Robinson
***M.P.H. Community Health
Education Program***
Second Year Student

On May 4th, 1981, Forrest Robinson was born in Augusta, Georgia to Forrest and Melinda Robinson. He was the third child of 5 in the Robinson household. In 1995, his family moved to Savannah, GA when his parents began working as house parents at Bethesda Home for Boys. It was in Savannah that Forrest began playing football and developed his attraction to physical fitness. In 1998, his family returned to Augusta, GA where he graduated from Glenn Hills High School.

He entered Georgia Southern University in August of 1999. At Georgia Southern he battled with hypertension, weight issues, and asthma. It was then that he used his knowledge of fitness to take control of his health. He later passed the Ace Certified Personal Trainer Examination and began educating others in wellness principles. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Kinesiology (Exercise Science major) and began working towards a Masters in Public Health in Community Health Education.

Currently, Forrest is completing his practicum at Amethyst Project. Inc. in Statesboro, GA. He is assisting Amethyst with HIV prevention education and office administration. He is also enjoying his recent marriage to Latisa Robinson and looking forward to the birth of their first child in November of this year. Some of his long term goals are to publish a Christian wellness book and to create a non-profit organization to educate individuals in wellness principles. After Graduation, he plans on staying in Statesboro, GA until his wife graduates from Georgia Southern.

Alumni Spotlight...



Mary Ball (2006)
***M.P.H. - Community
Health Education***

When Mary Ball began volunteering with the Bulloch County chapter of the American Red Cross as a CPR instructor in 2001, she had no idea that one day she would become its executive director. But on September 15, 2006 Ball took over leadership of the agency, replacing the outgoing Cindy Nevil. Mary is a 2006 graduate of the M.P.H. program in Community Health Education.

"I can't even begin to explain how excited I am," said Ball. "I'm so excited to get in the community and to keep providing the same services and hopefully expand and build upon what we already have here." Ball has actually been working with the Red Cross since 2004 when she was hired as the Health and Safety Program Coordinator though a graduate assistantship at Georgia Southern.

David Beaubien, chairman of the board of directors, said he is confident Ball will continue to improve the local Red Cross. "Our expectations are that she'll continue to do the great job that has been done this past year," Beaubien said.

“She’s done an outstanding job for us already raising funds and teaching the community CPR and other classes.” Nevil, who took over in the summer of 2005, said she believes Ball can continue to enhance the services provided by the Red Cross. Ball said she doesn’t foresee any major changes during her first six months on the job. “Hopefully we can keep boosting the health and safety programs and bring in more programs,” she said. “I’d like to see us get more volunteers trained so if a disaster does arise, we’ll be prepared to mobilize as quickly as possible.”

Dean’s Student Advisory Committee...



Dean’s Student Advisory Committee

The Dean’s Student Advisory Committee (DSAC) was formed during fall semester to serve as a mechanism to provide students input into the management and leadership functions of the college. The DSAC meets on a monthly basis with the Dean to discuss issues related to student welfare, provided information about activities within the college, and allowed input into curriculum, research and practice mission and activities of the college. Members by Program Concentration include Biostatistics: David Bostick and Jiehui Zhu, Community Health Behavior and Education: Ayesha Qureshi and Holly Karlman, Environmental Health Science: Lauren Baker and Tiffany Jackson, Epidemiology: Sarah Jones and Kaneshia Poole, Health Services Policy and Management: Elizabeth Graham and Kristin Westphal.

Kelley Chester, Coordinator of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management serves as the staff representative and Dr. Stuart Tedders serves as the Faculty Advisor.

According to Kelley, the group is honored to have been selected to be on the DSAC. “While all were a bit unclear and apprehensive about the purpose and role of such a group, after the meeting all felt very focused and excited about serving as a member. I believe that this group will be a very effective group to keep the Dean, faculty and staff informed as to issues related to the welfare of our students as well as good communicators of JPHCOPH information to the students within their respective program areas.”

Dean Hardy indicated that the students are very impressed with our faculty and staff and very much appreciate the atmosphere/culture that exists in JPHCOPH. All student representatives were very appreciative that we have formed such a committee so that students can have a voice. Dr. Tedders, the faculty representative adds that it is obvious that the issues that the faculty are picking up on are consistent with the challenge areas that are being expressed by our student leaders.

Public Health Student Association...



David Bostick - Vice President, Dr. Swati Raychowdhury - Faculty Advisor and Kelley Chester, President

Founded in the fall of 2006, the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) is an organization developed to bring together the students of JPHCOPH to, most importantly, provide public health education, research and community service that will positively impact the quality of life in rural and underserved populations. According to Dr. Swati Raychowdhury, Faculty Advisor, the PHSA strives to promote the interests of the students through networking, fostering a strong student-faculty relationship, and building and sustaining a strong network of graduates of the MPH and DrPH and the surrounding community. PHSA provides such networking and student-faculty relationships through social events, community service opportunities, and guest lecturers. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month or on an as needed basis.

The PHSA is currently working on two big events. One is a health fair at East Georgia Regional Medical Center on March 3, 2007. PHSA plans to promote hand washing to patrons to help prevent the spread of flu and other communicable diseases. The other big event the PHSA is working towards is Relay for Life on April 20, 2007 which will be held at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. At this event PHSA will have a booth decorated to represent the health status of the state of Mississippi. The members of PHSA are raising money for the event to help fund research towards the eventual cure for cancer.

JPHCOPH Updates...

Laura Gunn, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, attended the American Statistical Association-Georgia Chapter semi-annual meeting in Augusta, GA on Wednesday, January 24. She took seven Biostatistics students with her to the event: Vineet Gupta, Wilson Koech, Macaulay Okwuokenye, Sunil Sharma, Shri Shroff, Ruth Whitworth, and Jiehui Zhu.

Laura Gunn, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, was invited as a guest speaker for Georgia Southern's Tri Beta National Biology Honor Society meeting on Tuesday evening, February 6. She presented "Biomedical & Public Health Problems Call for Biostatistical Solutions" to the organization and discussed the Master of Public Health degree with students. Although many students found biostatistics interesting, several students expressed a greater interest in our emerging Epidemiology program.

James A. Hotz, M.D., a Board Certified Internist, will present a lecture entitled *Where Remedies Lie for the Ailing U.S. Health Care System* on April 12, 7:00pm in the Nessmith-Lane Auditorium on the Georgia Southern University campus. Dr. Hotz was selected for the prestigious Community Health Leadership Award by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for his outstanding leadership promoting grass-roots health care reform. He has been the author of numerous scientific articles and has published a novel, *Where Remedies Lie*, about his experiences as a rural doctor. According to the author, Neil Shuman, M.D., Hotz was an inspiration for the novel and movie *Doc Hollywood*. The event is sponsored by the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and the Campus Life Enrichment Committee. **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

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 Kelley Chester, Coordinator of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, at 912-681-5603, or at kcheste3@georgiasouthern.edu.