



## Developing our Partnerships: *JPHCOPH Partners with SWGCC*

Much of the research done by students and faculty at Georgia Southern University is applied research involving data collection and studies that may be useful in making our economy, our nation, and our health stronger and better than before. Recognizing that strength in applied research, the University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition (SWGCC) have partnered to fight cancer by strengthening health education and practice.

The Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition (SWGCC) is a collaboration of organizations and individuals in 33 counties working together to advance the understanding of cancer in the region, to mobilize communities, and to build or strengthen the networks needed to provide 100 percent access to state-of-the-art cancer care for everyone in southwest Georgia.

"The incidence of cancer in southwest Georgia is 35 percent higher than for the state overall, so communicating the need for good health practices to the rural population is an important challenge," said Diane Fletcher, CEO of the SWGCC. "One of our first projects with Georgia Southern was a pilot study to test the effectiveness of a proposed health communication tool titled "Ten Commandments of Good Health."

Developed by a group of ministers and health care providers, this faith-based tool is designed to encourage good health practices and healthy lifestyle choices. In addition to providing initial testing and refining, researchers in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health provided the public health evidence necessary to support the "Ten Commandments." Dr. Anthony Parrillo was the lead author on this project. Dr. Karl E. Peace, Ms. Kelley Chester, and Dean Hardy provided assistance with the development and refinement of the project.

A second way Georgia Southern is working with the SWGCC is by developing capacity to serve as a headquarters for the survey research being done by the coalition. "We want to plan programs that meet the health needs of southwest Georgia," said Fletcher, "but some critical county-specific baseline information about the current health status of the population has never been

gathered. We need to collect evidence that shows whether the health care needs of southwest Georgia residents are being met. If there are unmet needs in health care, we need to determine the best ways to address them."

To gather that baseline information, Dr. Robert Vogel, Director of the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, conducted a pilot study in Baker County. Funded by the Georgia Cancer Coalition, Vogel and a group of researchers implemented a telephone-based survey to assess the population's health care practices and needs.

A third way the partners have worked together has been in the development of a grant proposal that brought together the SWGCC, Georgia Southern, and the regional office of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service. With Dr. Karl E. Peace of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health as primary investigator, the partners proposed to bring southwest Georgia free, high-quality cancer information for both professionals and the public through telephone (1-800 lines), Internet, and e-mail service. Two other JPHCOPH faculty members, Dr. Stuart Tedders, Director of the Center for Rural Health and Research, and Dr. Anthony Parrillo, Associate Professor of community health and health behavior, served as co-investigators on this project.

"We are continually seeking effective ways to teach disparate, rural populations about cancer and the ways it can be prevented, or caught and treated early," said Fletcher. "We see great value in partnering our coalition of diverse stakeholders with an academic institution, and we are pleased to be working with the researchers in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern."

**Where Remedies Lie for the Ailing  
U.S. Health Care System**

**Dr. Jim Hotz**

**April 12, 7:00pm**

**Nessmith-Lane Auditorium**

**Georgia Southern University**

**CLEC Lecture Series**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## Faculty Spotlight...



*Dr. Stuart H. Tedders*  
*Associate Professor of Epidemiology*  
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*Rural Health and Research*  
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Stuart H. Tedders is an Associate Professor in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University. He is a native of Georgia, living most of his life in Perry located approximately 125 miles south of Atlanta.

After completing high school, Dr. Tedders attended Georgia Southern College where he majored in Biology. After graduating in 1987, he enrolled at Clemson University and received a Masters degree in Medical Entomology. In 1994, he earned a Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. During his time at USC, Dr. Tedders studied the epidemiology, ecology, and control of vector-borne diseases. Specific areas of research included the surveillance and control of tick populations as vectors of Lyme disease in coastal South Carolina. Additional research experience included assistance with laboratory and field bioassays of vector susceptibility and improved methods of vector control.

From 1994 to 2000, Dr. Tedders was employed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM). Duties at MUSM included the management of all aspects of the community based medical curriculum. This curriculum was designed to introduce students to an evidence-based approach to medicine by emphasizing the basic principles of prevention, public health practice, epidemiology, biostatistics, research design, rural medicine, and health care delivery.

After leaving MUSM, Dr. Tedders accepted a position in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University where he currently serves as the Director for the Center for Rural Health & Research. Dr. Tedders currently teaches in the undergraduate Health Sciences curriculum and in the Master of Public Health—Community Health degree program. Classes taught include Community Health Analysis, Epidemiology, Health Promotion Program Planning/Evaluation, and Health Theory.

Dr. Tedders' research interests involve many elements of population-based health research, and his experience in this area includes the surveillance of health related outcomes, community health assessments, health planning, and rural

health. Recent scholarly endeavors have involved epidemiological investigations of cancer in Georgia, as well as perceptions of breast and cervical cancer risk among women enrolled in a public health cancer screening program.

In 1998, he was awarded the Rural Health Researcher of the Year in Georgia by the Georgia Rural Health Association. He is currently a board member of the Georgia Rural Health Association and the Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center.

Dr. Tedders also enjoys spending time with his family, reading, racquetball, and outdoor sporting activities.

## Student Spotlight...



*Amber Erickson*  
*M.P.H. Epidemiology*  
*1st Year Student*

Amber Erickson was born on March 21, 1984 in Sioux Falls, SD to Jon and Sharon Erickson. She was the first child of 4 in the Erickson household. In 1987, Amber's father joined the United States Air Force and until she was 16 they moved around the country every 2-3 years. In 2000 her family made their last move from Rapid City, SD to Warner Robins, Georgia. In 2002, she graduated from Houston County High School.

Amber started attending Georgia Southern University in August of 2002. She started out wanting to become a veterinarian but after a microbiology class her sophomore year she changed her mind. In this class her professor started telling them about these cases of Hantavirus in New Mexico and how they distinguished what was causing the illnesses. After this class she new that she wanted to do something with diseases and over the next two years of her undergrad she took numerous courses that dealt with emerging and reemerging diseases. In 2006 she graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and in the fall of that year she began working towards a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology.

Currently, Amber is finishing up her second semester in the program. She is a graduate assistant for the Department of Health and Kinesiology teaching the Healthful Living classes that are mandatory for undergraduates. In her spare time she stays busy as the Community Involvement and Marketing Chair for the Public Health Student Association. After graduation, she hopes to continue her education by going on to receive her Dr.P.H. in Epidemiology.

## Alumni Spotlight...



*Amelia Vogel (Bottom Row, Left) 2005  
M.P.H. - Biostatistics*

Like a lot of students, Amelia had no idea what she wanted to be when she “grew up.” Her parents always stressed the importance of education, especially in mathematics and sciences. She became interested in biology while in high school and she went on to study genetics and molecular biology at Georgia Tech...but by graduation, she’d decided that she’d had quite enough of that! After taking some time to reevaluate her goals, she entered the M.P.H program in Biostatistics and was able to find focus and interest in her studies once again.

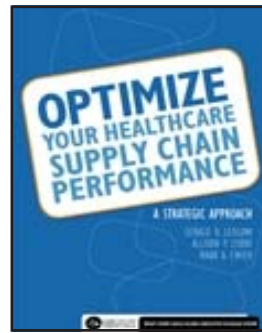
Armed with a statistical background and knowledge of SAS, Amelia joined the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a Mathematical Statistician. Her office publishes the National Compensation Survey, which includes the important economic indicators Employment Cost Index (ECI) and Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC). She finds that she uses daily many of the skills that she developed as a student of the M.P.H. program.

## Public Health Student Association...

Faculty and MPH students in the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) participated in the Ogeechee Community Wellness Fair held March 3, 2007 at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. The annual event provided an opportunity for the PHSA to introduce the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health to the community.

Dean Hardy, Kelley Chester (BIOS), Forrest Robinson (COHE), Amber Erickson (EPID), Kaneshia Poole (EPID) and Beth Graham (HSPM) enjoyed the many positive comments they received about the role that the JPHCOPH can play in helping the community enhance the health of individuals as well as the focus on reducing health disparities in our area.

The students enjoyed seeing how grateful members of our community are to have a College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University and to receive information on proper handwashing techniques.



## Hot Off the Press...

*Gerald R. Ledlow, Ph.D., FACHE,  
Allison P. Corry, and Mark A.  
Cwiek, J.D., FACHE*

*Health Administration Press  
Foundation of the American College  
of Healthcare Executives*

Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Ledlow, JPHCOPH, and his colleagues provide information you need to understand and improve supply chain management at your organization. Written for senior leaders, this book explains how to enable your team to make sound supply chain decisions. Selecting where to make changes, when to use different supply chain approaches, and how to find greater value are at the heart of this book.

This practical resource provides guidelines for ensuring optimal supply chain operations, including how to:

- Minimize supply chain tasks for clinicians
- Increase staff knowledge of supply chain operations
- Develop supply chain metrics for service, quality, and cost
- Develop supply chain goals and objectives by service line
- Focus on the management of billable supplies

Get started right away by implementing one of the supply chain improvement projects described in the book. Each project description includes estimated costs and potential benefits to help you determine the best fit for your organization.

This book also provides tips for managing relationships with various stakeholders, including manufacturers and distributors.

“In the last decade, healthcare CEOs and senior executives have come to recognize that optimal supply chain performance is a necessary ingredient for both quality healthcare and financial performance. This book takes the importance of optimal supply chain management to a new level. This book should be an essential part of every healthcare CEO’s library.” —*Gail L. Warden, President Emeritus, Henry Ford Health System, and Professor, Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan.*

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## JPHCOPH Updates...

Dr. Robert Vogel has been appointed as a member of the Data Safety Monitoring Committee for Clinical Research at Memorial Health University Medical Center. This is a new committee being established to oversee the safety aspect of clinical studies to the patients.

The JPHCOPH PHSA is participating in the 2007 Relay for Life. The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will run from 7:00 pm on April 20th through 7:00 am on April 21st. The JPHCOPH team needs your help. Sign up now with Kelley Chester to walk for JPHCOPH. This is an event you will not want to miss!

National Public Health Week - April 2-8, 2007. The theme this year is Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations. Watch for news about JPHCOPH activities.

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](mailto:kcheste3@georgiasouthern.edu).