



Nov/Dec Feature: Faculty and Students Attend APHA's 135th Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, DC



Dr. Alison Scott, Dr. Mondy Mason, Dean Charlie Hardy, Dr. Anthony Parrillo, and Dr. Stuart Tedders at the JPHCOPH booth at APHA

In early November, the American Public Health Association held its annual meeting, this year held in Washington, DC. This year's meeting theme was: *Politics, Policy, and Public Health*.

As always, the annual meeting provided the College's faculty with the chance to visit with friends and colleagues, network with professional groups, present their research, and attend any one of the 900-plus scientific sessions offered at the conference.

Eight members of the faculty and three graduate students attended this year's meeting. Dr. Charles Hardy, our Founding Dean, spent time connecting with Deans at other Colleges of Public Health, and attending meetings aimed at accreditation; the entire Community Health faculty was also present. Drs. Scott, Mason, and Parrillo spent time recruiting new students, representing the College at our booth (Dr. P. also presented a paper). Dr. Raychowdhury took a leadership role in assisting with the HIV/AIDS Section at its many meetings throughout the conference, and Dr. Woodhouse continued her outstanding service to APHA as a member of the Governing Council, Education Board, and PHEHP Leadership Council; she also presented two papers and was an invited speaker at CEPH's Technical Assistance session for Programs and Schools of Public Health. Drs. Tedders and Arroyo also attended, representing our Epidemiology unit; Dr. Arroyo will serve this coming year on the Epi Section's Program Committee, evaluating and coordinating student abstract submissions for the 2008 Meeting in San Diego.

Dr. Karl E. Peace was also in attendance at the Conference, and received this year's Statistics Section Award for Outstanding Contributions to Industry (see story on p. 2).

Kelley Chester, Amber Erickson, and Toyin Fatogun were also in attendance -- students seeking to actively participate in what APHA has to offer. For example, Kelley is an active member of APHA's Student Assembly, and currently serves on the Student Meeting Committee. This year's student meeting, entitled *Get Ready: Improving Public Health Infrastructure and Infectious Disease Prevention*, was held on the Saturday, November 3rd. Kelley worked with several of her student-peers to help put Saturday's student meeting together for all members of APHA's Student Assembly. Work included recruitment of speakers in the Emergency Preparedness field and reviewing submissions for the student poster presentations at the Annual Meeting.

Amber also attended the "Get Ready" student meeting, as well as several sessions sponsored by the Epidemiology Section; taking full advantage of APHA's Exposition was also something high on Amber's "Things-To-Do" list, along with attending meetings on infectious diseases.

Toyin Fatogun, another Epidemiology student, also attended the Conference. While there, Toyin visited several poster sessions, the student meeting, and took advantage of every opportunity to meet people who might be looking for her professional services (Toyin was to graduate in December). Her efforts were rewarded in that she now works as a Research Analyst for Maryland's Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Hygiene.

Rebecca Wilson, a graduate in Community Health (MPH, 2007) was also in attendance, presenting research she completed while a student at Georgia Southern (see photo below).



Rebecca Wilson (MPH, 2007), current student Toyin Fatogun (foreground, seated), and Dr. Alison Scott (clad in red), discuss Rebecca's poster at APHA.

The 136th Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held October 25-29, 2008 in San Diego, CA. The Conference's theme will be: *Public Health Without Borders*.

Dr. Karl Peace Receives Distinguished APHA Award



Dr. G. David Williamson, ATSDR Director of the Division of Health Studies presents Dr. Peace with APHA's Statistics Section Industry Award

Dr. Karl E. Peace, who is a Senior Research Scientist and Professor of Biostatistics at Georgia Southern University, and currently the Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, was among those recognized by the Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association at its 135th Annual Meeting and Exposition held this past November in Washington, DC.

The Section's Industry Award was presented to Dr. Peace for his contributions in biostatistics to the pharmaceutical industry over the years.

Fourteenth Annual Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (BASS XIV) Held in Savannah

The Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (or BASS), founded in 1994 by Dr. Karl E. Peace, held its fourteenth annual conference November 5-9 at the Mulberry Inn, which is located in Savannah's Historic District. Each year, BASS brings together the world's leading authorities who in an applied format present their research and share their views so that biostatistical methods will reach "state-of-the-art" levels status in the research, development, and regulation of biopharmaceutical products. The pharmaceutical industry, academia, and government are among those settings that are represented by Conference attendees.

Dr. Laura Gunn, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Georgia Southern University, served BASS this year's Chair; Dr. R.K. Elswick, Jr., from VC U, served as Co-Chair.

This year's keynote address was presented by Dr. Mitchell Gail, the current Chief of the Biostatistics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). His address focused on The Gail Model, which takes into account five factors (current age, age at menarche, prior breast biopsies, age at first live birth, and family history of breast cancer) to predict a woman's breast cancer risk.

This year's Conference was attended by over 120 participants.

Dr. Tom Kollars Receives Grant for Research on Invention

Dr. Tom Kollars recently received a grant to conduct research on products to stop the spread of infectious disease from MIT Holding, Inc. Dr. Kollars is the company's Chief Scientific Advisor and the Director of Infectious Disease Laboratory at the JPHCOPH.

"This is a significant partnership for MIT Holding," said William C. Parker, Chief Executive Officer of MIT Holding. "Georgia Southern University has extensive experience in public health research and well documented clinical data that will support our program. We look forward to working with Dr. Kollars and his team of experts to develop a product that could potentially save millions of lives through stopping the spread of infectious diseases, including malaria, dengue fever and West Nile virus."

"We share the same ambition as MIT to stop the spread of infectious diseases," said Dr. Kollars. "The effects of infectious diseases are widespread, and account for millions of death every year. We have worked extensively to understand the epidemiology of these diseases, and are close to finalizing a product that could potentially save millions of lives. MIT has a strong that will help eradicate infectious diseases within geographic areas."

Through its wholly owned subsidiaries, MIT Holding, Inc. distributes wholesale pharmaceuticals both in the United States and overseas, administers intravenous infusions, operates ambulatory centers where therapies are administered and sells, and also rents home medical equipment. MIT is based in Savannah, GA, where it operates an ambulatory care center.

Georgia Southern's classification as a Carnegie Doctoral-Research University promotes the highest level of dedication to the quality of education and research. The partnership with MIT opens new doors for both JPHCOPH and Georgia Southern University to be recognized for its leadership in addressing the multi-dimensional health problems facing many rural and underserved populations in our state and throughout the world.



*Dr. Kollars, setting mosquito traps at the Meldrim Plantation in Brooklet, GA
(photo courtesy of WTOC-TV)*

Dr. Kollars also received some media attention for his work, and was featured on Savannah's WTOC-TV evening news program on November 22nd.

Faculty Spotlight...



Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Ledlow
*Associate Professor, Health Services
Policy & Management*
*Director, Center for Survey Research
and Health Information*
Director, Office of Academic Affairs

Dr. Gerald Ledlow, who joined our faculty during the 2006-2007 academic year, has a PhD in Organizational Leadership and Development (University of Oklahoma), the

Master of Healthcare Administration (MCHA) with an emphasis in operations research (Baylor University), and a BA in Economics (Virginia Military Institute). At VMI he was a three-sport letterman -- football, indoor track, and outdoor track -- in the Southern Conference. He is a board-certified Fellow in healthcare administration in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

He has twenty-two years of healthcare management experience in leadership positions in managed care, supply chain management, operations, and academia. Recently, Dr. Ledlow held the position of Corporate Vice-President for Supply Chain Operations for the Sisters of Mercy Health System within the Genesis Project. He has also been a member of the tenured faculty at Central Michigan University, where he directed the Doctor of Health Administration program. Earlier in his career at CMU, he was Executive Director of corporate services; he was also a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, serving in the Medical Service Corps. While with the Army, Dr. Ledlow worked in hospitals in Europe, in combat zones (within a mobile hospital in the former Yugoslavia); and in combat divisions in Louisiana, California, and Panama.

He has been awarded two ACHE Regent's Awards (1997 & 2003), the Federal Sector Managed Care Executive of the Year Award (in 1998), and the Boone Powell Award (1996). He's served on two ACHE Regents Advisory Councils (over an eight year period).

Dr. Ledlow serves on the Executive Board of the Global Business and Technology Association, on the Editorial Board or as reviewer for several peer reviewed publications, and a grant reviewer (health administration expert) for NIH, NCI, and National Eye Institute.

Dr. Ledlow has been editor and/or author of several books, book chapters, as well as numerous articles and manuscripts. He has either lived in or traveled to twenty-two countries, presented internationally (five nations), nationally, and regionally; this March, he will present at the National Healthcare Congress in Chicago.

Among Dr. Ledlow's many professional interests are leadership and management, healthcare delivery systems, access to care, health needs, utilization and preference assessments, health communications, and a myriad of issues regarding disparities in health, education, and social structure. A member of the Health Services and Policy Management faculty, Dr. Ledlow is also Director of Academic Affairs, as well as Director of the DrPH Program. His service profile to the University draws on his athletic background, as he currently chairs the University Athletics Committee.

Dr. Ledlow is married and the father of three daughters; his hobbies include riding his Harley-Davidson Wide Glide, watching football, and fishing.

Student Spotlight...



David Bazunu
MHSA
2nd Year

David is an international student from Nigeria with a BS in Nursing -- Magna Cum Laude -- from Georgia Southern University in 2007. He is currently an MHA student, and hopes to use his degree to further his pursuit of remaining

cognizant of healthcare issues that affect selected populations, especially those that pertain to the management of appropriate healthcare delivery models and financing; his interests also include the study of various resources along the healthcare continuum, from individual health to public health sectors. David wishes to channel his knowledge into helping develop coordinated and sustained systems of healthcare which are readily accessible, affordable, and of high quality for rural/underserved communities and populations in the developing world.

David is presently employed as an administrative graduate assistant at GSU Health Services, and as a Staff RN at East Georgia Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED). He is also conducting research on community perceptions of quality in healthcare organizations. He enjoys conversing and visiting with extended family and friends, and his interests include playing soccer, biking, racquetball, reading, and religion studies.

After completing his degree, he plans to secure an administrative job in operations, service line, or human resources management/consultation in a tertiary healthcare organization

Alumni Spotlight...



Kaneisha Poole
MPH 2007
Epidemiology

Kaneshia Poole graduated in 2007 from the JPHCOPH with her M.P.H. degree and a concentration in Epidemiology.

She is currently the Database Coordinator for the Analytical Services Unit at Georgia Hospital Association (GHA). As such, she provides consultative assistance and develops programs from in-house databases for a wide range of ad-hoc research, and other research-based projects, for hospitals and health systems in Georgia.

Some of her other interests include providing HIV assistance and educational services to the underprivileged population affected by the disease. She credits her interest in all aspects of public health to the extensive knowledge and hands-on experience she received during her graduate studies at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

In her spare time, Kaneshia enjoys spending time with her daughter, shopping, and watching sports.

Kaneisha is truly missed, but she represents one of the long line of students who has been successful in our graduate program.

News in Brief

- Ayesha Qureshi, a student in Community Health (COHE), was a presenter at the First Annual Live Wellness Fair on November 1st. Her research -- *GSU Students: What Are Your Health Behaviors?* -- provided members of the University community with an update of the prevalence of selected risk behaviors on campus. Sponsored by Drs. Parrillo and Tedders, the study is a follow-up to one that was published a couple of years ago; the completed report is due to be published by year's end.
- Environmental health students Lauren Baker, Tiffany Jackson, and DeAnna Keene presented at the Southeast Regional Collegiate Environmental Science and Health Symposium. The research -- on activated carbons from animal wastes -- was mentored by Dr. Kari Fitzmorris and Dr. Simone Charles, both assistant professors in the environmental health unit of the College.
- JPHCOPH hosted the second annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 15th. Faculty, staff and graduate assistants enjoyed turkey, ham, dressing and all the fixings, including buffalo brought in by Dr. Tom Kollars; it was a great chance for all to take a needed break from the rigors of academia.

Dean's Message

In November, we all enjoyed food and fellowship at the annual College Thanksgiving Feast. This was an amazing time to pause and reflect on our good fortune.

We continue to make great progress toward achieving our goal of "Sustainable Accreditation" for the College. At this point in time, we have revised our values, vision, mission, goals and objectives and look forward to the competency-based revision of our degree programs and curricula.

We had several things to celebrate recently, including: a signed agreement with Phoebe Putney Medical Center in Albany (GA); and a new Center for Addiction Recovery, in collaboration with the Willingway Foundation.

A new year is upon us and our move to Cone Hall is about to take place in earnest. We're all excited about our new home and look forward to hosting an open house soon.

Yours in health,
Charlie

Erratum: In the October issue, the story featuring Deb Blackburn mistakenly identified the number of cumulative cases of AIDS reported in Bulloch County as 200. Deb contacted us and wanted you to know that it is *Amethyst* that has seen 200 AIDS cases, dating back to the 1980's. We regret the error and apologize for any confusion it may have caused our readers.

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.