

## Giann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Hosts JFDP Scholar



*Dr. Bazarbaeva presents lecture on Public Health Issues in Kyrgyzstan to the JPHCOPH Faculty and Staff*

The JPHCOPH welcomed Dr. Chynara Bazarbaeva, an assistant professor of Eye diseases at Kyrgyzstan State Medical Academy (KSMA), as a Junior Faculty Development Program scholar during spring semester 2009. The Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP) is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State, and is administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS. The JFDP provides university instructors with a semester-long opportunity to expand their knowledge and expertise in their academic field by attending classes and working with faculty members at universities in the United States.

Prior to her current position she served as an ophthalmologist at the Hospital of Microsurgery of Eye from 1993-2002 and as an Ophthalmologist of City Polyclinic during 1987-1993.

Dr. Bazarbaeva received her PhD from Novosibirsk Medical Academy of Russia in February 2006. Her areas of research interest includes traumatic optic neuropathy and optimization of treatment. She has numerous publications at regional, national, and international outlets. She has also

made presentations in this field at international congresses of ophthalmology.

As a practicing ophthalmologist she performs medical and surgical treatment of different eye pathologies. She is also involved in the teaching process of ophthalmology for students from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Finally, she coordinates courses in the 2 year residency program in ophthalmology of KSMA.

Dr. Bazarbaeva is an active member of the Society of Ophthalmologists of Kyrgyzstan and the Turkish Society of Ophthalmologists. She holds a leadership role in the International training program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology in Kyrgyzstan.

Chynara enjoys teaching, reading, travel, and spending time with her family. She is excited to be a Fellow in the Junior Faculty Development Program and to spend spring semester 2009 in the Giann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University.



*Dean Hardy presents Dr. Bazarbaeva with "The Southern Century: Georgia Southern University 1906-2006" by Delma E. Presley*

## Dean's Message...



*Charles J. Hardy, Ph.D.  
Professor and Founding Dean*

Greetings from JPHCOPH! As the 2008-09 academic year ends and the summer term begins I am very proud of the progress that we have made as a college.

In this issue of Public Health Matters you will see a sample of the many great things that are happening in JPHCOPH. We have made great progress as a college this year. We are gearing up for the self-study process as a part of the road to accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. The self-study will be followed by a site visit. Our target remains 2011 for accreditation by CEPH.

We continue to grow our faculty and student body. We are currently completing faculty searches and hope to have a total faculty of over 30 and a student enrollment of over 120. This is rather remarkable given that on January 1, 2006 we had six faculty and 48 students. We will continue to expand our faculty, staff and students as we seek to achieve our goal of developing a sustainable college of public health that will make a difference in the health of rural and underserved populations. I would like to offer my congratulations to the JPHCOPH students who are scheduled to graduate this term. You have worked hard and I am sure that you will make a difference in the world of public health!

The Public Health Student Association is thriving under the leadership of President Katie Burkett and Faculty Advisor Laura Gunn. During the National Public Health Week the PHSA provided numerous activities for the campus and community to learn more about public health. The PHSA provides outstanding leadership for the JPHCOPH participation in the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The PHSA is a great mechanism to promote engagement by faculty, staff and students into JPHCOPH and public health.

Our research efforts continue to develop. The faculty submitted 10 Challenge Grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health this spring. I am very proud of our faculty for their work in this important area. In future issues of Public Health Matters we will provide summaries of the faculty funded research activities.

As we continue our journey of developing the JPHCOPH I am mindful that we need your support to be successful in building a sustainable college of public health. The economic landscape has been challenging to negotiate and while I am optimistic that FY 2010 will show improvement we will continue to seek ways to generate external funding for our growth and development. I am pleased to report that our Professional Program Tuition proposal was approved by the Board of Regents. These additional dollars have recently been used to fund several outstanding learning experiences for our students, including, but not limited to, attendance at workshops and conferences.

I thank you for all that you do to help advance JPHCOPH. Please continue to invest yourself in helping us help rural and underserved communities improve their health outcomes.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hardy'.

Charles J. Hardy, Ph.D.  
Professor and Founding Dean

## Spring 2009 JPHCOPH Graduates

**MPH Biostatistics**  
Macaulay Okwuokenye

**MPH Community Health**  
Heather Mayer  
Chandra Rivers  
Angela Peden  
Kimberly Scott  
Clarence Eldridge  
Angela Smith

**MPH Environmental Health Sciences**  
DeAnna Keene  
Matthew Hutcheson

**MPH Epidemiology**  
Lewis Perry  
Cagney Stigger  
Robert Cosgrove

**MHSA**  
Caroline Stilwell  
Shonta Chambers

## Congressman John Barrow Visits JPHCOPH



*Congressman Barrow (2nd from right) joins JPHCOPH Faculty and Students for picture around Cone Hall sign*

On April 16, 2009, Congressman Barrow toured the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and met with faculty, administration, and students.

Congressman Barrow was very pleased with the briefing received during his visit with JPHCOPH and indicated that he and his staff are excited about having Betty Dixon, JPHCOPH Dr.P.H. student (Community Health Behavior and Education) in his office for her doctoral preceptorship.

The Congressman indicated that he and his staff look forward to developing a relationship with JPHCOPH that could address public health concerns in Georgia, particularly among rural and underserved areas.

## JPHCOPH Participates in Georgia Rural Health Day at the Capital

In February, seven MPH students in Community Health attended Georgia Rural Health Day at the Capitol as a part of their *Rural Community Health Issues* taught by Dr. Mondie Mason. Dean Hardy, Dr. Tedders, and Junior Faculty Development Program Visiting Scholar Dr. Chynara Bazarbaeva also attended.

Seeing the legislative process in action was a first time experience for most of the students. During the day, the group was given the royal treatment as Detra Brown, the Associate Director for the Georgia Statewide AHEC (Area Health Education Center), provided tours and critical accounts of what was happening in the House and Senate sessions. Arriving at the Capitol early in the morning, the

students were able to meet dignitaries, and observe the voting process in the House of Representatives. Additionally, they were able to witness the President of the Georgia Rural Health Association, Mary Kate Pung give a brief speech about the need for trauma care and emergency services in rural Georgia on the floor of the Senate before it came up for a vote.

Since the visit, the students have maintained their attention on the legislation being passed and the myriad of structural forces that impact population health in rural areas. The class is grateful to Dr. Mason and Dean Hardy for allowing them the opportunity to represent JPHCOPH at Rural Health Day and help speak out about the health needs of rural Georgia.



*Governor Purdum with members of the Georgia Rural Health Association and Faculty and Students from JPHCOPH on the steps of the Capital Building.*



*Dr. Mason and her students pose in front of the JPHCOPH display in the Capital Building.*

## JPHCOPH Faculty and Students attend Georgia Society for Public Health Education Annual Meeting



*Georgia Southern University students attending the meeting of the Georgia Society for Public Health Education.*

The Georgia Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) Chapter, formerly known as the Georgia Federation of Professional Health Educators, held their annual meeting on February 27, 2009 at the CDC World Center in Atlanta. This meeting entitled, “Becoming a Healthier Nation Through Promoting Health Equity”, featured sessions on “The Healthiest Nation Initiative” and using the series, “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?” in communities in Georgia. The meeting featured Keynote speakers Dr. Camara Jones and Dr. L. Casey Chosewood, both from the Centers From Disease Control and Prevention, and panelists Lizanne Roberts from Health Savannah, and Dr. Gary Nelson, with the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

Attendees represented a number of academic institutions, including 30 individuals from Georgia Southern University. Twenty of these attendees were students and faculty from Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. In addition to students from our college attending the conference in high numbers, two JPHCOPH students were honored during the conference. First year DrPH (Community Health) student, Nandi Marshall, received the GASOPHE/GFPHE Health Education Newcomer Award. Because it takes a number of years to enter a professional field it can take many years to become fully established and widely known. The GFPHE Health Education Newcomer Award recognizes a health educator who is a GFPHE member, is new to the health education profession (up to three years), and has already demonstrated outstanding and promising contributions to the field. Because of Nandi’s work with NACCHO and her volunteer work with National SOPHE, she was nominated and awarded this honor. MPH (Community Health) Student Heather Mayer was selected to present her research, “A

Clinician’s Guide to Exclusive Breastfeeding,” in the student poster session. Although Heather was not able to attend the conference, first year Doctoral Student Rebecca Black was able to present Ms. Mayer’s research in her absence. Dr. Woodhouse, JPHCOPH Associate Dean and Professor of Community Health Education and Behavior is the President of GA SOPHE and JPHCOPH DrPH students, Nandi Marshall and Krista Mincey, are serving as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee for GA SOPHE for 2009-2010.



*Dr. Lynn Woodhouse, Nandi Marshall, JPHCOPH Doctoral Student in Community Health Behavior and Education and Sarah Olson of CDC*

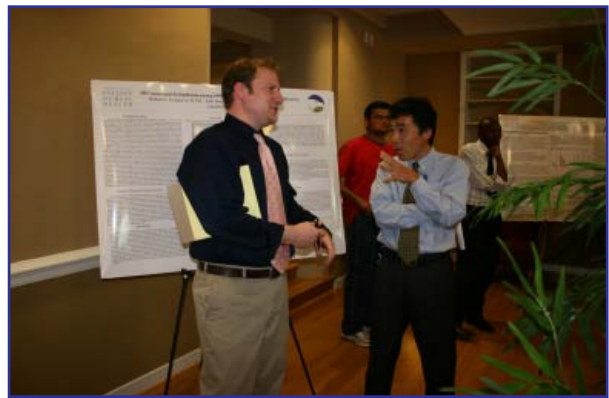
## Dr. Karl E. Peace Editor of new text entitled “Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials with Time-to-Event Endpoints”

Dr. Karl E. Peace, GCC Distinguished Cancer Scholar and Professor of Biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health announces that his book: “Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials with Time-to-Event Endpoints” was recently published by Chapman-Hall in their Biostatistics Series.

Peace is the Editor, and author contributor of three chapters. Dr. Laura Gunn and Dr. Lili Yu, Assistant Professors of Biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health are also author contributors of one chapter each, as are Dr. Tony Segreti, Dr. Mo Huque, and Dr. Ming-Hui Chen, all Adjunct Professors of Biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. In addition, Dr. Mark van der Laan, holder of the JP Hsu/ KE Peace Chair in Biostatistics at UC Berkeley, is author contributor of two chapters.

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## Spring 2009 Student Research Symposium...



*JPHCOPH Faculty and Students enjoy discussing the capstone research projects at the Student Research Symposium for MPH students.*

The Spring 2009 Student Research Symposium for MPH students in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health was held on May 1, 2009 in the Cone Hall Lobby. The JPHCOPH Student Research Symposium was created in 2008 to provide a college wide forum for MPH students to present their Capstone Research Projects. All MPH students are required to participate in the Symposium as part of the Culminating Experience for the MPH degree. Participants at the Spring 2009 Symposium were as follows:

***HIV-associated dyslipidemia among 1999-2006 national samples of household survey***

Robert Cosgrove

MPH Epidemiology

Research Advisor: Dr. Jian Zhang and Dr. Jacob Warren

***Compost Pilot Initiative (CPI): An examination of waste diversion potential, employee attitudes, and cost effectiveness concerning composition processes at Eagle Dining Services***

Clarence W. Eldridge, III

MPH Community Health

Research Advisor: Dr. Mondy Mason

***Maternal and infant characteristics affecting neonatal mortality among Georgia infants between 1995-2004***

Vaibhav Garg

MPH Biostatistics

Research Advisor: Dr. Laura Gunn

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***Barriers to exercise in first time mothers who are less than 18 months postpartum***

Alicia Hobson  
MPH Community Health  
Research Advisor: Dr. Lynn Woodhouse

***Monitoring soil quality of conservation tillage systems used as biomass source***

Matt Hutcheson  
MPH Environmental Health Sciences  
Research Advisor: Dr. Simone Charles

***Do best management practices (BMPs) reduce fecal coliform in Nevils Creek (Rocky Ford, GA)?***

DeAnna Keene  
MPH Environmental Health Sciences  
Research Advisor: Dr. Kari Fitzmorris

***Influences of macrosomia on pediatric obesity: NHANES III, 1988-1994***

Sokny Lim  
MPH Epidemiology  
Research Advisor: Dr. Cassandra Arroyo and Dr. Jian Zhang

***The association between self-reported assets and sexual risk behavior: A retrospective study***

Heather L. Mayer  
MPH Community Health  
Research Advisor: Dr. Lynn Woodhouse

***Sexual behaviors, knowledge, attitudes and perceived risk of acquiring HPV and cervical cancer among undergraduate women in Georgia Southern University***

Macaulay Okwukenye  
MPH Biostatistics  
Research Advisor: Dr. Laura Gunn

***Exploration of birth rates to unwed mothers in Georgia***

Nidhi Patel  
MPH Biostatistics  
Research Advisor: Dr. Karl Peace

***Social and economic determinants of infant ill health in 159 Georgia counties: A comparisons study***

Angela Peden  
MPH Community Health  
Research Advisor: Dr. Alison Scott

***Serum vitamin D and HIV, a false association caused by race difference***

Lewis Perry  
MPH Epidemiology  
Research Advisor: Dr. Jacob Warren and Dr. Jian Zhang

***Disparities on childhood asthma in Georgia in comparison with the other states together***

Chunfeng Ren  
MPH Biostatistics  
Research Advisor: Dr. Hani Samawi

***Human Papillomavirus: College students knowledge, attitudes, sexual behaviors and behavioral intentions about the Gardasil vaccine***

Chandra Rivers  
MPH Community Health  
Research Advisor: Dr. Swati Raychowdhury and Dr. Cassandra Arroyo

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*Association of sexually transmitted infection-related stigma with sexual health care among rural college women*

Kimberly N. Scott

MPH Community Health

Research Advisor: Dr. Swati Raychowdhury

*Perceived racism and CVD health status in Metro Atlanta*

Cagney Stigger

MPH Epidemiology

Research Advisor: Dr. Cassandra Arroyo

*Breast cancer screening among women in five Georgia counties: Bibb, Chatham, Lowndes, Peach, and Terrell*

Priyanka Thumar

MPH Biostatistics

Research Advisor: Dr. Laura Gunn

Special thanks to Dr. Cassandra Arroyo, MPH Program Director and Dr. Stuart Tedders, Director of the Office of Public Health Practice for organizing and hosting the event. In addition, a special thanks to all the Faculty Research Advisors for your mentoring throughout the research projects. Finally, thanks to all the faculty who served as evaluators, without your contribution the culminating experience would not have been successful.

## **JPHCOPH MPH Epidemiology Students attend 26<sup>th</sup> Annual BRFFS Conference - by Linda Ekperi, Robert Cosgrove, and Ekeoma Ogbonna**

During the week of spring break we were given the opportunity to attend the 26th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) conference in Atlanta, GA. This year's theme was "Responding to Changes in the Survey Environment" with the main focus of keeping up with the current technology and finding ways to survey populations more effectively. The plenary sessions that we attended covered a variety of topics including *Local Policy Changes Due to the BRFFSs Data Collection, Utilization of BRFFS Data for Public Health Policy Making, Utilizing BRFFS for System Change and Questionnaire Inclusion Questions*. Various topics were discussed during these sessions which culminated with a question and answer session between the audience and presenter. On one morning Concurrent Seminars I-X were held simultaneously in smaller group sessions, which allowed for us to choose a topic that related to our own interests. The issues covered in the seminars varied from Mental Health Stigma and Psychological Distress to Chronic Disease Prevalence.

Outside of the seminars and plenary sessions there were many opportunities to meet people and network. A meet and greet session was put on one evening which was a great experience to meet professionals from the field. In addition, we were able to sit in and listen to working group lunches which comprised mostly of state coordinators and project officers who were planning for the future direction for surveillance systems. During an awards luncheon a few of the presenters received awards for their contributions to research for improvements for the BRFSS system. In the evenings, there were poster/exhibit presentations for individuals to showcase their research on various topics and answer related questions. The format allowed for one on one interaction with people, making new and future contacts in the field of public health.

The conference was very informative from which we learned many things. Some of the main learning points were: how to accurately compile data for future studies, how to efficiently present the information gained from a study and how to connect with an audience that may or may not be interested in our topic of choice. We spoke to EIS agents who informed us of the classes we needed to register for to make us more competitive. Also, representatives from the CDC offered to mentor us and various other professionals encouraged us to apply for fellowships to gain experience. An important piece of advice that we heard from Dr. Bernard Choi (CDC/Canadian Division) was: "If it takes more than a week of your time, it must be published". This advice was repeated throughout the conference. Attending the conference was an invigorating and life changing experience, one that we will cherish for the rest of our careers. We encourage other students to take advantage of this great opportunity in the future.

## JPHCOPH Students Attend GPHA Future Leaders in Public Health



*JPHCOPH Students and Dean Hardy attend the Future Leaders in Public Health Conference*

Supported by a grant from Healthcare Georgia Foundation, the Georgia Public Health Association hosted the Future Leaders in Public Health Conference at Mercer University on April 3, 2009. The day-long event included a Keynote Presentation by Dr. Kathleen Miner, Associate Dean, Rollins School of Public Health, workshops focusing on resume building, job opportunities in public health and the status of the reorganization of public health in Georgia, and a networking lunch. Students presented their research in both oral and poster sessions to conclude the program. Seventeen students from JPHCOPH were joined by Dean Hardy and Junior Faculty Development Program Scholar Dr. Chynara Bazarbaeva for the conference.

The following students from JPHCOPH participated in the presentations:

**Kelley Chester** – Fostering collaboration: An internal communication survey in a regional community hospital (oral presentation).

**Priyanka Thumar** – Breast cancer screening among women in five Georgia counties: Bibb, Chatham, Lowndes, Peach and Terrell.

**Raymona Lawrence** – Perceptions of electronic medical records and e-prescribing among patients and health care professionals across six safety net clinics.

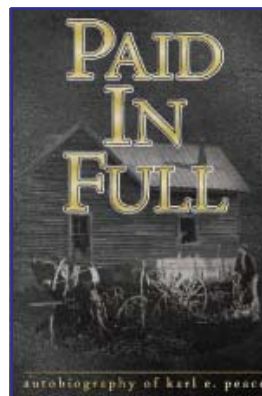
**Macaulay Okwukenye** – Knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding low carbohydrate diets.

Thanks to GPHA and the School of Medicine and the MPH Program at University of Mercer for hosting this event.

## JPHCOPH Faculty Contributing to Public Health Knowledge Base

The JPHCOPH Faculty continues to grow in size and their impact on the knowledge base of public health is growing exponentially! Since January 1, 2007, faculty members have published 56 articles in national or international refereed public health related journals - several of these articles include student authors. Many of these articles reflect collaborations of several faculty members. During the same time period the faculty published 24 books or book chapters.

This growing impact on quality public health by the faculty of JPHCOPH is supported by the ever increasing number of proposals they are submitting for external funding to support their research. In 2007-08 the faculty submitted 22 proposals for research funding. In 2008-09 the number increased to 37. As we continue to grow the size of our faculty, we are looking forward to documenting the impact the expanding number of JPHCOPH faculty members will have on our mission for eliminating health disparities, serving the underserved and supporting best practices for improving rural public health.



### by Karl E. Peace

The Autobiography of Karl E. Peace traces the author's life from his humble beginning in Baker County, Georgia, located in the southwest area of the state. Born to tenant farmer parents with little education, he presents vivid accounts of sharecroppers' existence in the 1940s and 1950s. He became the first in his family to earn a high school diploma and later a college degree.

Upon earning a Ph.D in Biostatistics, he became the first individual from rural Baker County to claim such a lofty educational status. After a career as a classroom instructor at the college and university level, he accrued a long career in the pharmaceutical industry and made major contributions in the areas of research and development of pharmaceutical compounds. PAID IN FULL is an account of a man's life that recognizes achievement under difficult circumstances and the importance of helping others.

In honor and memory of his wife, Dr. Peace endowed the JPHCOPH. He continues to make contributions to the betterment of mankind. Proceeds from the sale of this book go towards funding programs of the JPHCOPH. To order your copy of PAIDE IN FULL go to [www.plowboy-press.com](http://www.plowboy-press.com).

## Faculty Receive University Research Grants

### University Faculty Research Awards

Dr. Lili Yu, Assistant Professor – Biostatistics, received a Georgia Southern University Faculty Research Committee FY09 Competition Award of \$5,0232.00 for her project entitled Efficient Statistical Methods in AFT model for Cancer Data.

Dr. Simone Charles, Assistant Professor – Environmental Health Sciences, received a Georgia Southern University Faculty Research Committee FY09 Competition Award of \$9,996.50 for her project entitled Waste Water Reuse: An Analysis of Sorption Behavior of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment.

### Research And Services Foundation Catalyst Grants

Dr. Renee Hotchkiss, Assistant Professor – Health Policy and Management, received a Georgia Southern University Research and Service Foundation Catalyst Grant of \$13,797.00 for her project entitled Cost-Benefit Analysis of Southeast Health District Perinatal Health Partners.

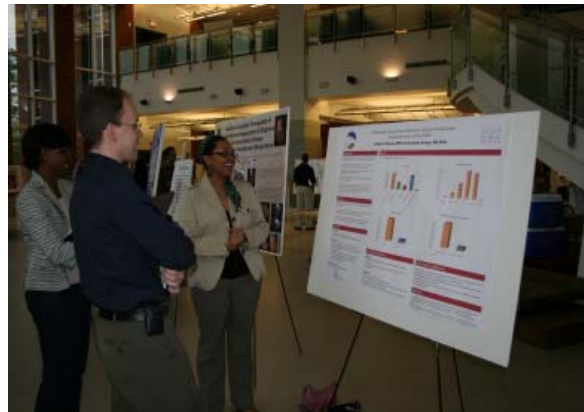
Dr. Hani Samawi, Associate Professor – Biostatistics, received a Georgia Southern University Research and Service Foundation Catalyst Grant of \$12,354.00 for his project entitled Developing More Efficient Tests of Symmetry Based on Ordered Samples and Overlapping Measures: Applications to Public Health Problems.

## Dr. Gunn and DRPH Biostatistics Students attend Bayesian Disease Mapping Course

Ryan Butterfield and Martin Dunbar accompanied Dr. Laura Gunn to attend a two-day (16 hour) short course entitled “Bayesian Disease Mapping” at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, SC on March 10-11. Dr. Andrew Lawson of MUSC’s Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Epidemiology taught the course with a mixture of theory and application, accompanied by approximately one day of ‘hands-on’ examples in public health using the WinBUGS statistical software.

The students attended the short course as a supplement to their second semester of the Bayesian Statistics course. They gained exposure and knowledge in a ‘hot topic’ area (i.e., Bayesian spatial statistics) that is not currently covered in the JPHCOPH Biostatistics curriculum. Butterfield, Dunbar, and Gunn were so enthusiastic about the material that they continued the course discussions at lunches and dinners, in addition to the drive home! Dr. Gunn plans to incorporate some of the topics into next year’s doctoral Bayesian Statistics II course.

## JPHCOPH Students Participate in COGS Research Symposium



*Doctoral Student, Krista Mincey discusses her research with Dr. Simone Charles and Dr. Jacob Warren*

Congratulations to the following JPHCOPH students for having their research accepted to present at the annual COGS graduate research symposium.

### **Parul Acharya**

*The Economic Menace of Diabetes in the 21st Century*

### **Rebecca Black**

*Healthcare Organizational Unity in Self-Efficacy (HOUSE) Model: Conceptualization of a Model for Studying Spirituality-at-Work, the Emergent Workforce and Complexity Leadership in the Postmodern Era*

### **Kelley Chester**

*Fostering Collaboration: An Internal Communication Survey in a Regional Community Hospital*

### **Eliyana Dhakal**

*Taekwondo at Wellness Works: A Community-Campus Initiative to Reduce Childhood Obesity in Rural Georgia*

### **Vaibhav Garg**

*Maternal and Infant Characteristics Affecting Neonatal Mortality Among Georgia Infants between 1995-2004*

### **Heidi Hulsey**

*Health Issues Affecting Rural Georgia*

### **Qurkersseria Jackson**

*Factors Associated with High-Risk Sexual Behavior among Sexually Active Adolescent Females: YRBS 2005*

### **Krista Mincey**

*I Choose You: Racial/Ethnic differences in decision-making factors for graduate study in Public Health*

**Macaulay Okwuokenye**

*Sexual Behaviors, Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceived Risk of Acquired HPV and Cervical Cancer among Undergraduate Women in Georgia Southern University*

**Nidhi Patel**

*Exploration of Birth Rates to Unwed Mothers in Georgia*

**Chunfeng Ren**

*Disparities in Childhood Asthma in Georgia comparing*

*with the Other States Together*

**Priyanka Thumar**

*Breast Cancer Screening Among Women in Five Georgia Counties: Bibb, Chatham, Lowndes, Peach, and Terrell*

**Matthew Walker**

*Community Based Participatory Research and the Institutional Review Process*

*Macauley Okwuokenye was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize and Parul Acharya was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the poster contest.*

## JPHCOPH Participates in American Cancer Society Relay for Life

On April 17, 2009, students, faculty and staff gathered at the Kiwanis Ogeechee Fairgrounds in Statesboro, Georgia to participate in the annual Relay for Life event. All who participated in the event shared laughter, dancing and tears as they walked for a worthy cause. In keeping with the tradition, the JPHCOPH purchased a luminary in honor of Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu, which was displayed on the walking track. As a result of fundraising efforts led by the Public Health Student Association (including public health concentration penny wars, a silent auction and bake sales) the JPHCOPH/PHSA team raised over \$1,100 which surpassed the goal of \$1,000! A special thanks to Relay Captain Sokny Lim and the PHSA executive board for all of their hard work!



*JPHCOPH students, staff and faculty enjoy participation in the Relay for Life - Check out the Team JPHCOPH Shirts!*

## PHSA and National Public Health Week



*The Public Health Student Association in Action during the National Public Health Week Celebration at JPHCOPH*

This year, National Public Health Week, April 6-12, aimed to raise awareness of public health's critical role in improving the U.S. health system. The theme for this year was *Building the Foundation for a Healthy America*. The week is coordinated by the American Public Health Association and supported by the work of more than 500,000 public health workers, as well as scores of national, state and local partner organizations.

“With debate around health reform underway, this year’s theme is particularly timely and relevant,” said Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E), executive director of APHA. “As a nation, we spend far more on health care than any other country, yet we fall short in many of the important measures of what it means to be healthy. Investing in public health, focusing on communities to prevent disease and injury, and promoting healthy behaviors are essential if we hope to succeed in improving health, reducing costs and reforming our health system.”

To celebrate National Public Health Week 2009, the Public Health Student Association in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) hosted events and distributed information that benefited faculty, staff, and students. Special thanks to Kimberly Scott, Nandi Marshall, Krsita Mincey, Katie Burkett and Dr. Laura Gunn (Upper right picture) for their leadership and the many hours they put into making the events of the NPHW a huge success!

On the first day of National Public Health Week, we hosted a viewing and discussion of “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making us Sick?” The following day, information was distributed about the importance of advocacy using information from the American Public Health Association website. On the third day of National Public Health Week, a heart healthy recipe book entitled, “What’s Cookin’” was distributed to JPHCOPH faculty, staff and students. The recipes in this book were submitted by students in the JPHCOPH Public Health Student Association. Recipes were also collected from various organizations that promote healthy eating. On the following day, JPHCOPH held an open house for Georgia Southern University Undergraduate students to come and find out more about the college and the degrees that are offered. Our final event for public health week was entitled, “PHYA: Public Health for Young Adults”. This event was created to teach high school students about public health and its career options. We had 47 students registered to participate in an all day event with interactive sessions that touched on the different aspects of public health.

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## Pathway to Health...

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health would like to extend an invitation to you to secure your permanent place on the Georgia Southern University campus. The *Pathway to Health* is a commemorative brick promenade to honor outstanding faculty, staff, students and friends of Georgia Southern University and the JPHCOPH. The *Pathway to Health* represents a wonderful opportunity for you to show your support to JPHCOPH as well as to support graduate scholarships in public health.

We invite you to engrave your name, a special message or date, or the name of a special friend or loved one on a 4" x 8" brick along the *Pathway*. Your commemorative brick includes an engraved brick installed in the *Pathway to Health* as well as a mini replica as an acknowledgement of your gift. The cost for your personalized brick is \$100.00. Your gift is 100% tax deductible.

The *Pathway to Health* will serve as a permanent reminder to future generations that you care about the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and Georgia Southern University. The *Pathway* will serve as the official welcome to our college in the newly renovated Cone Hall. To make your contribution and to place your engraved brick along the *Pathway* or to receive more information about the *Pathway*, please contact the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at 912.478.2674 or email [jphcoph@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jphcoph@georgiasouthern.edu).

## 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 two times a year (fall and spring) for faculty, students and friends of JPHCOPH. If you would like to contribute to this publication please contact the Office of the Dean.