



JPHCOPH Year in Review



JPHCOPH Faculty and Staff 2006-2007

The Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health was established on January 14, 2004 by the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia (USG). The first School of Public Health in the USG was initially housed in the College of Health and Human Sciences. On January 1, 2006, the School was elevated to College status and became known as the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH), a free standing college. Five faculty (3 in Biostatistics, 1 in Epidemiology, and 1 in Social and Behavioral Health) 2 staff and a dean served the college during spring semester 2006. Much has happened since we became the JPHCOPH. This "Year in Review" will provide a summary of the progress made to date by the outstanding faculty, staff, and students in JPHCOPH. While we have accomplished much, most of our efforts have been focused upon: (1) developing our public health education, research, and service roles, (2) recruiting faculty, (3) expanding and developing the curriculum, (4) recruiting students, and (5) creating the infrastructure, policy and procedures for the college. Below is a summary of the progress made during the AY 2006-07.

Education, Research and Service. The three roles central to our mission as a COPH were significantly advanced. Student ratings of instruction for overall effectiveness of the faculty demonstrated a mean of 4.7 on a 5.0 scale, with 95% of the students enrolled rating faculty as good (4) to very good (5). Faculty utilized public health professionals and technology to augment course delivery. Faculty and students presented 61 papers at professional conferences, published 42 refereed abstracts, articles and book chapters and 2 books, and 3 technical reports. Faculty delivered presentations at international meetings in the following countries: Albania, Canada, Korea, and United States of American, Taiwan. Sponsored Program awards totaled \$404,126.64, with submissions exceeding \$3,443,525.00. This represents an increase over AY 2005-06 in sponsored program funding of \$156,643.94 or 63.29%. Faculty and students provided service to the University and the field of public health in local, state, regional, nationally and international agencies. Finally, faculty have also provided professional service to association/agencies as officers, editors, peer-reviewers, and consultants.

Faculty. Since January 2006 JPHCOPH has successfully recruited 14 new faculty. Current total full-time faculty headcount = 20. Adjunct and Joint Faculty appointments have been offered and appointments have been and will continue to be finalized. Dr. Saulet Nurtayeva, from West Kazakhstan State Medical Academy, Aktobe City, Republic of Kazakhstan was a visiting scholar during Spring 2007, sponsored by the Junior Faculty Development Program (JFDP), a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Dr. Jim "Doc Hollywood" Hotz, Adjunct Professor, delivered the first JPHCOPH Campus Life Enrichment Committee (CLEC) lecture entitled "Where Remedies Lie for the Ailing U.S. Health Care System."

Curriculum. The MPH degree program concentrations were expanded to cover the five core knowledge areas of public health: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, Health Services Administration and Social and Behavioral Health. The expanded program was operational Fall 2006, with students enrolled in each program concentration.. The Dr.P.H. proposal developed and approved by USG/BOR January 16, 2007- will be operational this fall. Program concentrations will be offered in Biostatistics, Community Health Behavior and Education, and Public Health Leadership. Faculty has been developing the MPH core (6 courses 16 credit hours) for online delivery and a Certificate Program in Public Health.

Students. Total applications = 58, 43 acceptances 55 enrolled students and 23 degrees conferred during the AY 2006/07. AY 2006-07 student profile: 60% female, 57% Full-time, 52% attended GSU as undergraduates, 30% international students, 40% Caucasian, 28% Asian Pacific Islander, and 26% African American. Recruiting activity during AY 2006-2007 has yielded 80 applicants for Fall 2007 - with 26 acceptances into the MPH programs and 12 acceptances into the Dr.P.H. programs.

Infrastructure, Policy and Procedures.. Highlights include the creation of: organizational documents, bylaws, policies and procedures, a student association, a student handbook, a strategic blueprint, an economic impact study, a draft of the CEPH accreditation self study, research centers, identification of a building to house the college - renovation is underway with expected occupancy Fall 2007, a college website, marketing materials, an evidence based decision making model, and an proposed organizational structure for the college.

The 2007-08 AY promises to be another exciting year in the JPHCOPH. We remain committed to making a difference in the health of rural and underserved populations and achieving accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. See Page 4 for the the 2007-08 Agenda. Please continue to invest yourself in our journey!

Faculty Spotlight...



Dr. Laura Gunn
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Laura Gunn is beginning her fourth year as an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics. Laura completed her Ph.D. and M.S. in Statistics and Decision Sciences from Duke University and her undergraduate B.A. in Mathematics from Jacksonville University. She is enthusiastic about making contributions to biomedical and public health areas through teaching and collaborative research.

Laura has several years of teaching experience at the graduate and undergraduate levels at Duke University's Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences, and her research areas include applications in reproductive health, dose response studies, and HIV/AIDS. She has consulting experience with medical doctors and researchers from the Duke Urology Clinic and Department of Health Policy, Law, and Management. Her fellowship with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences also provided invaluable experience toward collaborative research. Laura is a member of the American Statistical Association and the International Biometric Society and serves as the Co-Chair of the Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium.

JPHCOPH Hosts Dr. Genc Burazeri



Dr. Genc Burazeri

Genc Burazeri, a physician and researcher from Albania, visited the JPHCOPH in June to share his research and to continue the collaborative efforts between JPHCOPH and The Department of Public Health at the University of Tirana initiated by JFD Fellow Dr. Enver Rohsi.

Dr. Burazeri is head of the epidemiology unit and academic coordinator for the Master of Public Health program in the Department of Public Health at the University of Tirana.

His research presentation entitled "Intimate Partner Violence in Albania" addressed the various factors that

contribute to the high rate of spousal abuse in Albania. In conducting research on spousal abuse, Burazeri surveyed more than 1,000 married women between the ages of 25 and 65 in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Thirty-seven percent of the women surveyed said that they had been physically abused by their husbands on at least one occasion in the previous year. The study also revealed that the risk of abuse was greatest for women who were well-educated, who were employed in high-status occupations and who had obtained more education than their spouses. Following the lecture the faculty gathered at Dean Hardy's house for a cook-out and great fellowship.

Student Spotlight...



David Bostick
2nd Year M.P.H.
Biostatistics

David Bostick was born and raised by his grandmother in southwest Georgia. He graduated from Cairo High School in the small town of Cairo, GA in May of 2002.

He began his studies at Georgia Southern University in the fall of 2002. While pursuing his degree in Biology he took part in a project to identify a number of novel strains of bacteria that have been a problem for farmers in various parts of the world. Through this work David developed an interest in health and disease. After completing his undergraduate degree in December of 2005 he took a couple of classes trying to decide what it was exactly that he wanted to do. After some thinking, he decided to apply to the newly formed Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health in the area of Biostatistics.

Currently David is in his second year of the M.P.H. program in Biostatistics. He is a graduate assistant in the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics where he works with Dr. Robert Vogel. David is a founding member of the Public Health Student Organization and served as its first Vice-President. He is also a member of the Dean's Student Advisory Committee.

David's future plans are to continue his education in public health and he hopes to research health problems in rural areas and wants to expand his research to include third world countries in Africa and Asia. In his spare time David enjoys playing flag football, going to Georgia Southern sporting events and playing the occasional video game with his friends.

Alumni Spotlight...



Rebecca Wilson, M.P.H. 2007 Community Health, shares her research with Dean Charles Hardy at the Graduate Student Scholarship Day.

Rebecca F. Wilson, a graduate of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, was selected as one of 10 student research winners in the Public Health Education and Health Promotion (PHEHP) Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

She received an invitation to present her research project “Perceived barriers to community health and health promotion for African American member of a rural community” at the PHEHP student awards poster session during the APHA annual conference being held in Washington, D.C., in November. During the conference, Wilson, who is from Tifton, Ga., will receive a stipend to join the association’s PHEHP Section and receive a formal award certificate at the PHEHP Section awards lunch.

“I congratulate Rebecca and her faculty advisor, Alison Scott, on this recognition,” said Charles Hardy, dean of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. “Like Rebecca, many of our students are addressing important public health issues in their research and looking for ways to promote health for everyone.” Rebecca received her M.P.H. in 2007.

Dr. Arroyo Serves as Research Mentor for McNair Scholar Program

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement programs are designed to encourage low-income students and minority undergraduates to consider careers in college teaching as well as prepare for doctoral study. Students who participate in this program are provided with research opportunities and faculty mentors. The program was named in honor of the astronaut that died in the 1986 space-shuttle explosion. Currently, there are 179 programs, serving 4,100 students across the country.

Georgia Southern’s McNair Program has actively sought talented undergraduate students since 1999. The purpose of

the McNair Program is to increase graduate degree attainment for students from segments of society that are underrepresented in certain academic disciplines. Each academic year, our program prepares fifteen participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities.

Dr. Cassandra Arroyo, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, served as a faculty research mentor this summer for Ms. Qurkeresseria Jackson. Qurkeresseria, a native of Macon, GA, is a Psychology major entering her junior year at Georgia Southern. Her research focused on racial differences in the determinants of high-risk sexual behavior among Caucasian and African-American adolescent females. On July 2nd, she presented her research findings to faculty and students at the annual Ronald E. McNair Research Symposium in the Nesmith-Lane Ballroom. We look forward to seeing Qurkeresseria pursue her MPH and DrPH degrees in the not too distant future.



Ms. Qurkeresseria Jackson and Dr. Cassandra Arroyo

Dean Hardy Appointed Chair of USG Administrative Committee on Public Health (ACOPH)

Dean Charles Hardy has been appointed chair of the University System of Georgia - USG - Administrative Committee on Public Health - ACOPH. The ACOPH is a standing USG committee that serves to advise the USG on the status of public health education, research and service within the system institutions.

Member institutions of the ACOPH include Armstrong Atlantic State University, Fort Valley State University, The Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia. The ACOPH reports through the USG Academic Planning and Programs organization, with Vice Chancellor Stone serving as a key member of the group.

The JPHCOPH 2007-2008 Agenda ...

- Recruit Faculty – Searches, Joint Appointments, and Adjuncts**
- Recruit Students – M.P.H. M.H.S.A., and Dr.P.H.**
- Implement Organizational Structure and By-Laws to Develop Process Sustainability**
- Develop CEPH Self-Study Project and achieve Candidate Status from CEPH**
- Increase Sponsored Program and Development Funding – Demonstrate Return on Investment**
- Initiate Transdisciplinary Research Teams**
- Expand our Partnerships/Collaborations both Locally and Globally**
- Continue to Market JPHCOPH**

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 (August - April) during the academic year and once during the summer (May-June-July) for faculty, students and friends of JPHCOPH. If you would like to contribute to this publication please contact Kelley Chester, at 912-681-5603, or at kcheste3@georgiasouthern.edu.

The JPHCOPH decal is here! Help us advertise the college by displaying our decal. To obtain your decal please contact Kelley (See above).