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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2006). *Newsroom*. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/2>

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Georgia Southern psychology clinic holds kick-off event Aug. 3

AUGUST 2, 2006

The Georgia Southern Psychology Clinic will hold an open house and kick-off event Thursday, Aug. 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Clinic, located in the Carroll Building on the Georgia Southern campus.

The event is free and open to the public, and nearby parking is available. From Forest Drive, turn east at the Child Care Center and park in the commuter lot located there.

Faculty who will oversee the clinic will be on hand to discuss the counseling services available for adult clients.

“The department has been working toward offering this clinic for several years,” said John Murray, Ph.D., chair of the psychology department. “It allows us to connect with the community by offering much-needed psychological services, and at the same time provides a training laboratory for our graduate students.” The masters-level students who provide services in the Clinic will offer social and emotional assessment and psychotherapy. As students, their work will be supervised by licensed, clinical faculty.

To learn more about the Georgia Southern Psychology Clinic or to request an appointment, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/psychology/clinic2.html> or call 912-871-1685.

Course for human resource professionals will be offered in Savannah and Bluffton

AUGUST 2, 2006

Regional human resource practitioners and company managers can study the entire body of human resource knowledge in a non-credit course offered in Savannah, Ga., and Bluffton, S.C.

Sponsored by Georgia Southern University, the "Certificate in Professional Human Resource Management" course will also serve as a study guide for people who plan to take the national (Senior) Professional in Human Resources certification exam this winter.

The Savannah course will be held at the Coastal Georgia Center. The class will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5, but all subsequent classes will be held on 11 consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 11 through Nov. 20. Each session will meet 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The Bluffton course will be held every other Saturday from Sept. 9 through Nov. 18 at the New River campus of the Technical College of the Lowcountry. Each session will meet from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., with a one-hour break for lunch.

The course materials will feature the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Learning System, which includes six modules and a CD-ROM that are valued at \$600.

Everyone who signs up for the course must attend a one-hour orientation session at the Coastal Georgia Center on either Monday, Aug. 21, or Monday, Aug. 28. All course materials will be distributed at these sessions.

The registration fee for the course, including the SHRM Learning System, is \$925 per person. The fee will be reduced to \$875 per person for SHRM members, and \$850 per person for groups of three or more employees from the same firm. The fee will increase to \$950 per person who those who register after Friday, Aug. 18. The registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 28.

To sign up for the "Certificate in Professional Human Resource Management" course, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/HRcertificate.html> or call (912) 681-5551.

For more on any of the professional development courses offered by Georgia Southern, email seminars@georgiasouthern.edu or call (912) 871-1763.

Washington County gets its youth moving with grants and a great idea

AUGUST 2, 2006

In its 2005 data summary of physical activity among Georgia's youth, the Division of Public Health reported that too many children do not get enough regular physical activity. Only 68 percent of middle school students and 59 percent of high schools students reported being vigorously active, and only three in 10 middle and high school students in Georgia attend daily physical education classes. Growing physical inactivity has resulted in increased obesity and a rising incidence of diabetes, which in turn results in greater health care costs.

Washington County Regional Medical Center, located in Sandersville, Ga., already knew that. What WCRMC needed was a way to reverse the growing trend toward childhood inactivity, and that answer came from Greg Rossidivito, a 2003 Community Health graduate of Georgia Southern University. With a little help from friends at the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development at Georgia Southern, Rossidivito has developed a federally-funded physical fitness program that is getting Washington County kids on their feet and having fun.

'In the beginning, I borrowed an idea from TV and created the 'Survivor' Kids Camp for children ages 8-12," said Rossidivito, who manages WCRMC's fitness facility, Wellness Works. 'The first year we concentrated on weight loss, and the program failed. The second year we focused on prevention of health problems, and it improved. This is the third year for the 'Survivor' Kids Camp, and the participants are pumped.'

This year's camp emphasizes fitness and nutrition. Students will be required to work as a team to meet fitness challenges, and part of their experience will be learning to make healthy snacks. At the end of the two-week camp, the 'Survivors' will spend a day at Six Flags as a reward for their teamwork.

While 'Survivor' Kids Camp works well, it covers only two weeks out of the year. Rossidivito approached Dr. Phyllis Isley, Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Development (BBRED), to see if the state's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) funds managed by her organization would help create a program that would take place every week throughout the year. Part of BBRED's mission is to assist small regional hospitals like WCRMC, so Isley agreed to assist. She also suggested adding taekwondo to the mix.

'I suggested adding martial arts to Greg's program," said Isley, 'because it is a comprehensive approach to exercise and includes benefits such as increased self-esteem, a positive body image,

goal-setting, and reduced aggression. Another reason for selecting the curriculum used by the American Taekwondo Association (ATA) as a basis for this project is the potential for replication. ATA has a fully documented, performance-based standards for training and certification for all belt levels. It offers a written curriculum for students ages 3 and up."

BBRED brought together a consortium of Washington County agencies to serve as a board of directors for the project. The consortium includes WCRMC; Ana Mishaan, a location pediatrician; Washington County Board of Education; Washington County Department of Health; Washington County Extension Service; Family Connections, Inc.; Washington County Recreation Department; Main Street, City of Sandersville; Washington County Community Health Care Center; and Georgia Southern University.

Taekwondo at Wellness Works opened its doors in July 2005 as a pilot study funded by ICAPP. The program, which enrolls school age students, their parents, and other adult role models showed positive results, so Rossivito and Isley began work on a proposal asking the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) for help to keep it going. Their proposal, titled 'The Washington County Multidisciplinary Martial Arts Fitness Project: A Response to Childhood Obesity,' was successful, and they were granted \$375,000 to continue the program for three years. Funding began May 1 of this year and will continue to April 30, 2009.

'At this point we have 53 participants," said Rossidivito, 'with more inquiring every day. Based on regular assessments, the children and adults in the program are seeing regular improvement in every physical and psychosocial category."

Those who enroll in Taekwondo at Wellness Works begin with a physical and psycho-social examination that includes age-appropriate assessments, including diet and exercise knowledge and habits. Participants are periodically re-tested by graduate students in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Georgia Southern, and students will use the data to conduct ongoing research as part of their program of study. The Center for Rural Health and Research at Georgia Southern will be the evaluator for the overall project.

Washington County Regional Medical Center, a 116-bed hospital serving a county with 21,000 residents, has played an important part in getting Taekwondo at Wellness Works under way. They provided space for the program free of charge, refurbishing a separate laundry building into two classrooms, offices, and changing rooms. They also put down a new floor suitable for taekwondo classes.

'The most important part of this ongoing program will be getting continuous feedback from the participants about their fears and concerns," said Isley. 'When a student begins to appear discouraged, frustrated, or disinterested, the staff can address the problem quickly. We'll also offer a

student workbook with weekly activities designed to promote a positive attitude.” Over the course of the study, children are expected to decreased their weight by 10 percent and be able to discern healthy foods that promote weight reduction.

‘Down the road, this grant will bring long-term benefits for the hospital,” said Rossidivito. ‘It costs an average of \$2,300 each year to treat a diabetic patient, and that cost will only rise. But the real benefits from this federal grant will go to the children and adults who, because of Taekwondo at Wellness Works, change their lifestyles and habits, live longer, and make positive contributions to their families, their employers, and their communities. That’s my goal for this program.”