

College of Public Health News

April 30, 2012

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Congratulations JPHCOPH Faculty!

April 30, 2012

Dr. James Stephens, Recipient of a 2012 Deen Day Smith Award



Dr. James Stephens is the director of the Ministry for the Sick and Homebound at St. Matthew Catholic Church. In this role, he coordinates 12 Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion who make weekly visits to parishioners who cannot come to mass due to sickness or physical impairment. He has been a Eucharistic minister for 18 years. As more and more Americans experience the challenges and limitations of aging, outreach ministries such as this are becoming increasingly important, both to the aged and to their caregivers. James serves on the faculty of the College of Public Health at Georgia Southern and his track record of service covers just about every stop in his career. He is a member of the Statesboro Rotary Club and has made significant financial contributions to Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio.

Dr. Raymona Lawrence "Top 20 under 40 in Bulloch County"



Dr. Raymona Lawrence was one of the first graduates of Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Her dissertation research abstract, "National Collegiate Athletic Association Mandated Sickle Cell Trait Screening Policy: Implications for the Athlete," was honored with the American Public Health Association Genomics Forum New Investigation award. Lawrence has received interest in her research from the National Institute of Health and other researchers across the country. "Professionally, my career goal is to work as an independently funded social/behavioral genetics researcher with an expertise in sickle cell disease and trait education and transition. This would allow me to be the director of a sickle cell disease research center."