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Honors Alumna Krys Johnson Publishes Research

October 9, 2013



Krys Johnson presenting her work at the 2013 Hawaii International Conference on Education

Congratulations to University Honors Program alumna Krys Johnson (Health Education and Promotion, 2013) who had her article "Adults' Attitudes toward Teen Pregnancy" published in the *Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, and Dance Journal*. The report was coauthored by Dr. Helen W. Bland, Professor in Community Health and Dr. Bridget F. Melton, Associate Professor of Community Health at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

Ms. Johnson is now an MPH student at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, and the research she conducted for this article was completed during her undergraduate years.

This study sought to fill gaps in the existing research by gathering input from adults in a community affected by a high teen pregnancy rate. The purpose of this study was to determine if adults in a rural community in Georgia thought

about teen pregnancy and if the current sexuality education offered at the local high school was sufficient to prevent teen pregnancy and promote responsible sexual practices.

This study has determined that while abstinence is the main teen pregnancy prevention method taught in a rural Georgia county high school, most adults in the community did not think abstinence programs were sufficient in preventing teen pregnancy or teaching responsible sexual practices. Since the adults did not believe that people waited until marriage to have sex and thought that more people should be aware of the importance of contraceptives, one can assume that the community would largely support the inclusion of comprehensive sexual education. More research should be done on what types of sexual education programs parents would find acceptable to be taught in schools.

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University Honors Program • PO Box 8130 Statesboro, GA 30460 • (912) 478-7926

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

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