

# Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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# Native son helps fight cancer with screenings, research, education

*DECEMBER 15, 2006*

Karl Peace knows first-hand the devastating effect cancer can have on a family. His mother, Elsie Mae Cloud Peace, had a double mastectomy at age 36 for breast cancer, and his father, Cecil, died of colorectal cancer at the age of 59. His wife, Jiann-Ping Hsu, died at age 56 of metastatic breast cancer.

Peace grew up in Baker County, Georgia, a rural community of 4,000, and graduated from Baker County High School. He graduated from several universities, including Georgia Southern, and built an outstanding career in the research and development of pharmaceuticals. From there he moved to the academic world, where he is a professor of biostatistics, a senior research scientist, and a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar.

For Peace, the fight against cancer is not only personal, it's local. That's why he recently gave \$20,000 to support a study titled 'Baker County, Georgia: Navigating Toward #1 in Cancer Screening.' The study includes a breast and colorectal cancer screening program for the citizens of Baker County. Baker County has recently re-opened its high school, and Peace is already proposing a cancer education program for students there.

'By providing health education to students in Baker County High School, we could study the long-term impacts of health literacy on cancer prevention,' said Peace. 'Results of a long-term study like this could have an impact not only in Baker County, but across the nation.'

Peace is also a familiar face at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga. He does pro bono research for the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, supporting its efforts to eliminate barriers to cancer care in the 33-county region of southwest Georgia.

'Although Karl Peace experienced enormous success applying his mathematical skills to solve complex problems in drug research, he never forgot his roots in south Georgia,' said James Hotz, M.D., medical director of the Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition. 'Karl returned to Georgia as a Distinguished Cancer Scholar and has been an invaluable resource to help our coalition tackle some of the highest cancer rates in the country. He has been incredibly generous with his time, talent and treasure, and I am sure the people of Baker County are proud of the success and generosity of one of their favorite sons.'

Recognizing that education is vital to improving the quality of health, Peace has used his resources, both personal and financial, to improve health education in Baker County and all of Georgia. To

honor his wife, he endowed the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University, but he did not stop there. He also teaches in the college, providing invaluable guidance to students and colleagues through both teaching and research.

Over the years he has established 11 scholarship endowments at Georgia Southern, including five for Baker County students who attend Georgia Southern. The Reeves-Peace Scholarship and the Vines-Peace Scholarship, both in mathematics, computer science, and biostatistics, reflect the positive impact that his Baker County High School math teacher and principal, respectively, had on his life. He also created the Emily Joan Peace Scholarship in nutritional science to honor his sister; the Mitchell E. Peace Scholarship in journalism to honor his brother; and the Christopher K. Peace Scholarship in political science to honor his son. In addition to scholarships, Peace has enabled improvements in intra-campus transportation for handicapped students at Georgia Southern, and he has established a biostatistics library on campus.

Throughout his life, Peace has written books about biostatistics, founded and edited a variety of academic journals, reviewed books, and written grants. He is founder of BASS, the annual Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium. He has traveled the nation and the world, but it's easy to see that his heart has never left South Georgia.

Look closely, and you'll find it nestled firmly in the farms and fields of Baker County.

## **Online courses appeal to wide variety of personal and professional interests**

*DECEMBER 15, 2006*

Georgia Southern University has virtual-reality students.

Without setting foot on the Statesboro campus, people of all ages and interests can take non-credit classes for professional development, personal enrichment or both, through the University's Continuing Education Center.

With around 300 online topics available, the variety of Education-to-Go classes is staggering. A nurse wanting to specialize in elder-care may choose the 30-hour, \$169 'Certificate in Gerontology' course. A teacher may prefer 'Solving Classroom Discipline Problems,' which runs in the standard \$89, 12-lesson format. A potential writer can choose among classes on poetry, mystery writing, getting published, and more.

The most popular offerings include courses that focus on creating web pages, learning computer programming, speed Spanish, basic accounting, grant writing and fiction writing, according to Judy Hendrix, the program specialist in charge of the University's Education-to-Go courses.

'Because there is no physical classroom, courses are never cancelled due to low enrollment,'" Hendrix said. She added that participants can sign on to study or complete assignments at any time of the day or night.

A new section of each course starts on the second or third Wednesday of each month. Courses for the first three months of 2007 will begin on Jan. 17, Feb. 21 and March 21.

Each course runs for six weeks, with a two-week grace period at the end. Two lessons are released each week for the six-week duration of the course. Students must complete each lesson within two weeks of its release.

All class members must have internet access, a web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator) and an e-mail address.

Interested individuals can see a complete listing of classes and register online by visiting <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted> and clicking on the Online Instruction Center.

For more information on Georgia Southern's Education-to-Go courses, contact Hendrix at [jhendrix@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:jhendrix@georgiasouthern.edu) or (912) 681-5993.