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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2007). *Newsroom*. 204.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/204>

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International collaboration develops in Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

MAY 9, 2007

In Karl Peace's classroom in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, international collaboration advanced to a whole new level this semester.

Peace and three graduate students in his 'Statistical Issues in Drug Research and Development' class one from India and two from China along with Saulet Nurtayeva, a visiting medical and radiation oncologist from Kazakhstan, developed a drug trial protocol for *Cordyceps silensis*, a traditional Chinese herbal medicine. Nurtayeva will take the protocol back to Kazakhstan and implement it with breast cancer patients in her country.

'Although the fungus *Cordyceps silensis* is not used here and there are very few studies about it, it is often used in China,' said Peace. 'Cordyceps is known to be an immuno-modulator, so it affects the immune system. Dr. Nurtayeva brought it to the attention of the class, asking if it would be helpful in ameliorating the side effects of chemotherapy treatment.'

Peace asked his students to work with Nurtyeva to design a study that would answer her question. After developing criteria for the Stage II-IV breast cancer patients in chemotherapy who will participate in the study, the group chose to study three groups of patients: those who will be treated with a placebo, those who will be treated with two milliliters of *Cordyceps sinensis*, and those who will be treated with five milliliters of *Cordyceps sinensis*. Two different doses will be tested to assess whether response is dose-related. Patients meeting the criteria will be enrolled in the *Cordyceps silensis* drug trial until there are 50 patients in each of the three treatment groups.

Nurtayeva, who has been at Georgia Southern since January 2007 as a guest of the U.S. Department of State, will return to Kazakhstan at the end of May. She is excited about sharing the protocol and its development with her colleagues.

'In Kazakhstan most doctors don't have experience in how to do clinical trials,' said Nurtayeva. 'Working with Dr. Peace and his class to develop this protocol, I learned how to conduct the trials, and I got experience using an interdisciplinary team approach to solve problems. Instead of seeing drugs that are the end product of clinical trials, now I know how they are developed and tested.'

'Dr. Peace has a lot of practical experience in developing drug trial protocols, and that was a great help to our group,' she said. 'Because of his experience, he was able to help us find ways to save time and minimize costs. He has been an excellent teacher, and he really encouraged me.'

Nurtayeva says that physicians and faculty at West Kazakhstan Medical School, where she is an assistant professor, would like to develop their own drug trial protocols. She plans to share what she has learned, and hopes to encourage her colleagues to develop their own projects.

‘The Chinese have 4,000 years of empirical evidence that *Cordyceps sinensis* has a positive effect on the immune system,’ said Nurtayeva, ‘but this drug protocol will give us the scientific evidence to prove it. I would like to see scientists continue sharing this kind of knowledge and research. I hope my experience is just the beginning.’

For more information about the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, its academic programs, its centers of excellence, and its faculty, visit <http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu/>.

Georgia Southern student awarded Fulbright Grant

MAY 9, 2007

The University Honors Program is proud to announce that Georgia Southern University student Nicole Harper has been awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant to study in Slovenia for 2007-2008. Harper is a doctoral student in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading in the College of Education.

Harper’s research project, ‘Cultural Arts, Intercultural Immersion and Learning Perceptions,’ will explore the role of art in the intercultural immersion process and will involve case studies of expatriate educators during their immersion into Slovenian culture. In Slovenia, Harper will work with the Center for Language and Cultural Communication at the University of Primorska and the American Corner in Koper, a partnership between the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana and the University of Primorska.

Harper holds a Master of Arts degree from Michigan State University in Curriculum and Teaching and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to attending Georgia Southern University, Harper taught art at the Abu Dhabi International School in the United Arab Emirates and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana.

The U.S. Student Fulbright Program, established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to “enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries,” operates in more than 150 countries worldwide and grants are available in all fields of study.

“Nicole put in a great deal of effort on this application and we are confident she will be an excellent ambassador in Slovenia for the United States and Georgia Southern University,” said Steven Engel, director of the University Honors Program and Associate Professor of Political Science. We have a great team of people at Georgia Southern who have helped prepare her for this stage of her education and they deserve congratulations as well.”

In addition to the Honors Program faculty and staff, other faculty and staff involved in helping Harper earn the Fulbright Grant included Ron Jones, international recruitment manager in the Office of Admissions; and Ababayehu Tekleselassie, assistant professor of education. Others who assisted include her doctoral dissertation committee: Delores Liston, professor of curriculum, foundations, and reading; Ming Fang He, associate professor of curriculum, foundations and reading; Sandra Nettles, dean of the College of Graduate Studies; and Julie McGuire, associate professor of art.

“The University Honors Program is committed to providing support for all Georgia Southern University students who wish to apply for nationally competitive awards such as the U.S. Student Fulbright grant,” said Bob Frigo, assistant director, University Honors Program.

“These opportunities have tremendous potential to open up new worlds for our students and, on a broader scale, foster international relationships and advance global understanding. Nicole’s accomplishment is symbolic of Georgia Southern University’s mission to prepare our students to serve as world citizens.”

The U.S. Student Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the Institute of International Education. The Fulbright Program is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide. The Program promotes cross-cultural interaction and mutual understanding through engagement in the community and on a person-to-person basis in an atmosphere of academic integrity and intellectual freedom.

Annual Eagle Cyber Camp set for July 16-20

MAY 9, 2007

Middle and high school students are invited to sign up for a Web development and computer animation camp at Georgia Southern University.

The fourth annual Eagle Cyber Camp will run from Monday, July 16, through Friday, July 20, in the College of Information Technology computer lab.

Professors John O'Malley and Angela Leverett will teach students in grades 6-12 how to create a Web site by incorporating Adobe Dreamweaver, Flash and MS Office Suite. These are the same cutting-edge programs that are taught to first-year information technology students at Georgia Southern.

The campers will also learn how to add dynamic graphics, enhanced images, animation, movies and sound to their Web pages.

At the end of the week, each camper will have their own functional personal Web site. The campers will be able to post their pages at a safe location on the University Web server.

The Eagle Cyber Camp will run from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. Lunch will be provided.

The fee for the camp is \$295 per person through June 18. The fee will increase to \$315 per person after that date. Registration will end on July 2, or whenever the camp is full.

To register, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/campcyber> or call the Continuing Education Center at (912) 681-5551. For more information, email seminars@georgiasouthern.edu or call (912) 871-1763.