Georgia Southern students, health officials collaborate for inaugural drive-thru flu clinics

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Georgia Southern University master of public health and doctor of public health students recently partnered with the South Central Health District, the public health authority for 10 counties in middle Georgia, to make getting flu shots a little easier.

“Roll In, Roll Down, Roll Out,” was the slogan for the two inaugural drive-thru flu shot clinics that enabled community members in Wheeler and Treutlen Counties to receive flu shots without leaving their cars.

“Drive-thru clinics are important to the community for many different reasons,” noted Jessica Schwind, Ph.D., epidemiology professor in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH). “These clinics encourage community members to get vaccinated against influenza, which is still a major cause of sickness and death in the winter across the U.S. Additionally, it serves as an emergency preparedness exercise for community members in case the health district needs to rapidly dispense immunizations or medications. Should a public health emergency arise, an informed community is an empowered community.”

Students in a social epidemiology course earned credit hours for participation and created a proposal for the successful development, implementation and evaluation of drive-thru flu clinics. They also learned valuable lessons in public health initiatives, as South Central Health District’s Jodi Bazemore spoke to students about preparing communities for emergency pandemics.

“Participating in the Wheeler County drive-thru clinic opened my eyes to the importance of such clinics in rural counties,” stated doctoral student Brian Buck, who hopes to continue research on these clinics in the future. “It not only helps in developing these important relationships between the community and healthcare providers, but it also provides much-needed access to influenza vaccinations in underserved rural counties.”

The mission of JPHCOPH is to improve health, eliminate health disparities and health inequities of rural communities and underserved populations globally through excellence in teaching, public health workforce development, research, scholarship, professional service and community engagement.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.
Upcoming exhibition on Statesboro Campus to feature work of artist Ken Wood

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Using bold, sweeping gestures and working with a limited palette, artist Ken Wood explores the unfolding relationships of space, shape and color through printmaking. His upcoming exhibition “Argonauts,” on view from Nov. 5 through 30 in the Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art and Theatre on the Georgia Southern University Statesboro Campus, features prints from his Argonauts Quatro series.

Wood will hold an artist talk Thursday, Nov. 6, at 5 p.m. in Arts Building, room 2071. A reception will follow at the Center for Art and Theatre from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher said he’s looking forward to Wood’s talk and exhibition.

“He’s an artist I’ve kept track of for years now,” Hoelscher said. “There’s an interesting tension in his work between the boldness of the shapes and the lively colors on the one hand, versus the sheer repetition of his forms on the other. The result yields a weirdly compelling combination of no-nonsense vivid shapes combined with slight and subtle variations.”

The Argonauts Quatro series integrates Wood’s longstanding interest in iterations of color and shape with various types of temporal and conceptual constraint — a combination that lends the work a powerful urgency. Wood uses DIY tools, a limited number of plates, colors and shapes, and time constraints to create work that is more than the sum of its parts.

Wood’s work has been published in Art in Print, Graphic Impressions and Fresh Paint Magazine, and his paintings and prints have been included in the collections of Twitter, the Cluj-Napoca Museum in Romania, Eastern Standard in Philadelphia, the Guttmacher Institute in Washington, D.C., Rice University, Sun City Tower in Kobe, Japan, and the cruise line The Norwegian. He is also a professor of printmaking at St. Louis Community College. For more information, visit kenwoodstudio.com.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Tags: Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, College of Arts and Humanities
Nursing students get real-world training through experiential simulation

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Students in the pre-licensure Bachelor of Nursing program on Georgia Southern University’s Statesboro Campus had the opportunity to gain real-world experience to care for dementia patients by participating in an experiential simulation called the Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT).

The VDT uses patented sensory tools and instruction based on research conducted by program creator P.K. Beville, M.S., for healthcare professionals and families to build a greater understanding of dementia. The simulation has been facilitated every semester for the past five years by Georgia Southern Assistant Professor and Director of Simulation and Experiential Learning Christy Dubert, Ph.D., RN; Associate Professor Rose Mary Gee, Ph.D., RN; and Instructor DaNell Moore, MSN, M.Ed.

“The simulation prepares them on how to better care for patients with dementia, cognitive problems and sensory impairments,” said Dubert. “While participating in VDT, students are taken from the beginning to late stages of dementia and experience the realities of living with dementia while being faced with the effects of attempting to perform daily living activities.

Students completed a pre-test reflection and were assigned either the color blue or red, which dictated what activities they would complete upon entering the simulated home environment. Popcorn was lodged inside the students’ shoes, gloves were put on their hands and special glasses and headphones were placed on their head to simulate different forms of sensory impairments.

Before entering the simulation environment, students read a set of instructions and were given a list of activities to complete within 10 minutes while their environment had been manipulated with dimmed and flashing lights. Following the exercise, students were escorted out of the simulation environment and asked to complete individual post-test reflections.

Students then regrouped to reflect on their experiences and share what it felt like to have sensory and cognitive impairments. All agreed the VDT was a positive learning experience and they could apply the experience to their clinical practice as nurses.

To learn more about the VDT, please go to www.secondwind.org.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.