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# A statement from President Kyle Marrero about the passing of Betty Foy Sanders

May 31, 2022



*The former First Lady of Georgia Betty  
Ford Sanders*

I join with many, many others in the Georgia Southern community who are mourning the passing of Betty Foy Sanders.

Many know her as a former first lady to Georgia's 74th governor, Carl Edward Sanders Sr., but I knew her as a friend, longtime supporter, and namesake to the Georgia Southern Department of Art.

I was blessed to meet with her several times, and as many around her know, once you spend some time with Betty Foy Sanders, you never forget her spark, passion and love for art. My wife, Jane, joined me on our visit last summer and sang for her...it was a very special afternoon that we will never forget.

A self-described "homegrown" Statesboro, Ga., native, Sanders' paintings are found in museums, corporations, and private collections around the South, including the Georgia Governor's Mansion. Though Sanders is certainly well known for her accomplishments, she is equally recognized for her devotion to the advancement of the arts and art education.

When her husband was in the governor's office, Sanders dedicated her efforts toward the construction of several fine arts buildings in the University System of Georgia. One of those was the Foy Fine Arts Building on Georgia Southern's campus, named for her father, J.P. Foy.

In 1967, Sanders established the Betty Foy Sanders Georgia Artists Collection, which features the works of various accomplished Georgia artists and is on permanent display at the Center for Art & Theatre on Georgia Southern's Statesboro Campus.

I'm proud to have known her, and more proud that Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern University will forever be a testament to her legacy and impact on this great state.

Kyle Marrero  
President  
Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern faculty secure \$1.8 million federal grant to promote inclusive excellence in health informatics

May 31, 2022



Faculty from Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) have secured a federal grant totaling more than \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to promote inclusive excellence in health informatics and health equity.

With the goal of empowering minority students through education, JPHCOPH's Professor and Department Chair Gulzar Shah, Ph.D., as principal investigator, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Nandi Marshall, DrPH, as co-investigator, received the grant as part of the \$7.98 million award for the TRIUMPH (Training in Informatics for Underrepresented Minorities in Public Health) consortium, which included three other universities and four public health organizations.

“This initiative will help our college foster collaborations and community engagement involving influential public health agencies, academic institutions, community organizations and public health agencies,” stated Shah. “It will assist with paid practical experience for students and the practicum sites, and better prospects of job placements for the graduates. The grant will also involve health informatics capacity-building in the current public health workforce in Georgia.”

In addition, the grant will help facilitate a new fully online concentration in public health informatics within the University's existing Master of Public Health (MPH) program. This concentration will feature new courses focused on health information systems, data analytics and public health data visualization for evidenced-based practice. The courses will also be available as elective options for students in the Doctor of Public Health program. As well, the award also provides several graduate assistant opportunities to support students enrolled in the new MPH concentration.

JPHCOPH faculty members Hani Samawi, Ph.D., Jeff Jones, Ph.D., Linda Kimsey, Ph.D., Joanne Chopak-Foss, Ph.D., Katie Mercer, DrPH, and Bobbie Jo Newell also significantly contributed to securing the grant.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT provided support for the grant. The federal award number is 90PH0005/01-00.

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