

# THE REPORTER

August 15, 2007

Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah

www.garegionalsavannah.com

GRH-S

## Tetanus Shots Free to Employees



wound. Diphtheria spreads when germs pass from an infected person and enters another person's nose or throat." The CDC also states that "Tetanus causes serious, painful spasms of all muscles and can lead to the "locking" of the jaw so the person cannot open his/her mouth to swallow. Diphtheria causes a thick coating in the nose, throat or airway and can lead to breathing problems, heart failure, paralysis and even death."

The Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccine needs repeating every ten years and is available here at GRH-S, the Chatham County Health Department and through your primary physician. If you have any questions, please call Linda Rowland, RN, at 356-2575.

### Infection Control

Linda Rowland

**T**he Tetanus-Diphtheria Vaccine is now available to employees of Georgia Regional Hospital-Savannah and will be offered when employees have their yearly screening. This vaccine is provided at no charge to employees of GRH-S.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) explains that "Tetanus (lockjaw) and Diphtheria are serious diseases. "Tetanus is caused by a germ that enters the body through a cut or

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Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.

**William James**

*US Pragmatist philosopher & psychologist (1842 - 1910)*

EDITORIAL

To my GRHS Family:

I want to sincerely thank you all for your gifts, cards and many kind wishes for my retirement, and especially for the lovely party held in my honor.

It was an emotional struggle for me to finally make the decision to retire after 30 years of service at the hospital, but I will take with me many great memories of the wonderful folks who have worked here and who became my second family. It has been an educational journey for me to learn about mental illness over the years and I have the greatest respect for the staff who give so much of themselves to serve our patients, especially those in direct care. I firmly believe that *everyone* here has an important job no matter what position is held. Each department, unit, office and employee is connected to another in some form or fashion, and it takes everyone working together as a team to provide the best care and services to our consumers, and by doing that will ultimately result in the success of the hospital.

The staff at Georgia Regional will always hold a special place in my heart for the dedication given to an often forgotten population with such a great need. Continue to keep up the good work and I wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie Watson (formerly known as the "Pencil Guard," "Pool Master," "Queen of Policies," and "Administrative Assistant to the RHA and COO")



## Thanks for a Job Well Done

Recovery Care

*The following letter was sent to Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah on June 28.*

I would like to tell you how thoughtful, considerate, and kind the employees of Unit 5 at GRH-S are.

My son has been in the unit for several months being treated for acute schizophrenia. To complicate things further, he has HIV and even refuses to take his medication.

Dr. Negron keeps me informed as to my son's needs and progress on a weekly basis. Both he and Dr. Johnson take the time to conference with me and other guardians on a weekly basis.

Social Worker Robert Carter is often in contact with me several times a week explaining to me how to cope with my sorrow of over son's sickness and preparing me for the eventual release of my son from GRH-S.

Nurse Thompson always greets me in a considerate and understanding way. She also keeps me informed as to the progress of my son, and explains to me the complications of schizophrenia.

My thanks are extended to all the trustworthy employees at Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah.

Most Sincerely,  
The Father of a Client on Unit 5



**BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS** can be held at bay by following some simple, yet effective procedures for avoiding contact.

## Bloodborne Pathogens, Protecting Yourself At Work

### Infection Control

Linda Rowland

As a health care worker, you can be exposed to many different sources of infection during your daily tasks. Infections can be transmitted by blood or body fluids, by air or respiratory secretions, or by direct contact with other infectious materials. You can protect yourself from infection by following the GRH-S infection control guidelines and by using personal protective equipment (PPE) and by handling all blood and body fluids as though they are infectious.

What are blood-borne pathogens, and how can I protect myself from getting infected? Many infections can be spread by blood or body fluids. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the Hepatitis B and C virus are common examples. Here are some simple guidelines that can be effectively used in protecting yourself here at work. Consider every consumer to be infected. Avoid contact with their blood or body fluids. You cannot look at someone and know their personal health history! Use extreme caution when handling needles and other sharp instruments, including scissors,

and razors. Never recap needles or break needles. Always dispose of sharp instruments in appropriate containers. Do not “shake down” the sharps container to add more. When the container reaches the fill mark, replace it promptly.

Wear protective equipment (PPE), including gloves and face shields, to avoid getting blood on your skin or in your eyes when you’re performing procedures that may cause splashes or spills. Wear as much PPE as you think you are going to need for the task. Wash your hands before and after

wearing gloves. Be certain you are immunized against Hepatitis B. This vaccine is offered to you here at the Employee Health office at no charge. Place all items contaminated with blood and/or body fluids in a red biohazard bag. These bags are disposed of properly here at GRH-S to avoid injury to consumers and employees.

A note about red biohazard bags: These bags are for infectious waste only. Please do place lunch trash and drink containers in these bags. Report all injuries immediately to your supervisor. Don’t “assume” that the injury is “probably nothing”. Your reporting of all injuries is a requirement and a potential safeguard for your health. Remember, time is of the essence in infection control! Early detection and treatment can prevent many potential health related problems. After all, it is your health that you are protecting.

**IT**

The DHR Office of Information Technology said goodbye to Jim Bowen on July 31st. Jim was recently ordained as an Elder in the Primitive Baptist Church and resigned his position as a Micro Systems Support Specialist to work full time in the ministry in Glennville, Ga. Jim's hard work and dedication will be greatly missed. We wish him God's many blessings as he begins a new chapter in his life.

**CEO's Office**

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Pamela Duncan has been appointed the new Administrative Assistant. Pam comes to our hospital with strong background in administrative support services. Please welcome Pam to the hospital and give her your full support and cooperation. Thanks.

Our thoughts are with the friends and family of Rod Nebel who recently lost his battle with cancer. Rod's positive attitude, kind spirit and sense of humor will be missed here at GRH-S.

Dr. John Prather has accepted the forensic psychiatrist position on the new forensic unit. He was drafted to the Clinical Director's position about four years ago and has done an excellent job in leading the department. We appreciate the service and leadership he has provided over the last four years. Dr. Prather has been enjoying his administrative work, but his first love has always been working directly with consumers. I am sad to lose a strong director, but happy for our consumers to have a good psychiatrist.

Dr. Prather will continue assuming Clinical Director's responsibilities while we are recruiting a new director.

Charles Li, MD  
Regional Hospital Administrator

**Staff Development**

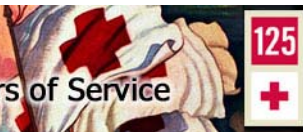
I am pleased to announce that Staff Development and Training has a new Training Specialist, Sonia Anderson. Her phone number is 356-2647. Sonia will become a certified Mandt Instructor and she'll be assisting with new employee orientation as well as the other training needs. Please join me in welcoming Sonia to our organization.

Janet Welch, TPA  
SD&T/Coordinator, TJC

## Blood Drive August 29



American Red Cross  
Celebrating 125 Years of Service



EMS

Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah will host a community blood drive for the American Red Cross on Wednesday, August 29 from Noon to 5PM. The drive will be held in the Gymnasium. This drive is open to anyone in the Savannah area who would like to

participate, in addition to GRH-S employees.

To give blood for transfusion to another person, you must be healthy, be at least 17 years old or 16 years old if allowed by state law, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not have donated blood in the last

8 weeks (56 days). "Healthy" means that you feel well and can perform normal activities. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure, "healthy" also means that you are being treated and the condition is under control.

**To learn more about blood donation opportunities, visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org)**

# RECOGNITION

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

### Welcome

Sonia Anderson	Staff Development
Katherine Byrd	Forensic Unit #2
Glenn Dixon	Recovery Care
Peggy Dickey	Forensic Unit #2
Pamela Duncan	RHA Office
Shirley Dunham	Secure Unit #4
Sarah Dunham	Secure Unit #4
Donna Gonnesen	Forensic Unit #2
Miriam Heyward	Lakeside Center
Aneida Henry	Recovery Care
Shlayia Kennedy	Recovery Care
Christian Ndeti	Activity Therapy
Debra Norman	Recovery Care
Elizabeth Rahn	Acute Care
Dana Rice	Sea Palm Circle
Delores Richardson	Lakeside Center
Latonya Rawles	Dobson House
Anna Shuman	Lakeside Center
Helen Tyler	Secure Unit #4
Frankie Williams	Forensic Unit #2
Kareen Williams	23 Hour Unit
Kimberly Williams	Mobil Crisis Services

### Congratulations on your promotion

Joyce Tyson	Secure Unit #4
James Kinsaul Jr.	Nursing Administration
Stacey Richard	Food Service



ENGLISH thought fast to help a man choking on Unit 4 recover

## Shatovini English Recognised for Quick Thinking

### Secure Unit

Shatovini English was commended by co-workers and supervisors alike for her quick thinking on the job. It was just another day for Ms. English on Unit 4 when she noticed one of the male consumers choking. "I could see something in his throat" related Ms. English, who performed the Heimlich maneuver

to remove the object, allowing the consumer to breath. "It was like an automatic reaction," explained Ms. English, "And I'm just glad that I could help."

Congratulations are extended to Ms. English, on a job well done!

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### GRH-S REPORTER

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**Charles Li, MD**

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Developmental Disabilities  
and Addictive Diseases  
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**HURRICANES** can be deadly for people and pets who are not prepared for the oncoming storm.

## Hurricane Tips

### Safety

David Newton

The 2007 Hurricane Season will be at its peak from August 01-October 01, 2007. Below are some tips to help you insure that you're ready in the event a hurricane impacts the Savannah area.

**If you are under a hurricane watch or warning, here are some basic steps to take to prepare for the storm:** Learn about your community's emergency plans and review Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah's Emergency Preparedness Plan. Be sure you are aware of the warning signals, evacuation routes, and locations of emergency shelters. Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before the hurricane strikes. Be prepared to turn off electrical power when there is standing water, fallen power lines,

or before you evacuate. Turn off gas and water supplies before you evacuate. Secure structurally unstable building materials. Buy a fire extinguisher and make sure your family knows where to find it and how to use it. Locate and secure your important papers, such as insurance policies, wills, licenses, stocks, etc. Post emergency phone numbers at every phone. Inform local authorities about any special needs, i.e., elderly or bedridden people, or anyone with a disability. Make plans to ensure your pets' safety. Because most emergency shelters do not admit pets, local animal shelters may be able to offer advice, such as what to do with your pets if you are asked to evacuate your home. For more information visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/petprotect.asp>.

**You should stock your home with supplies that may be needed**

**during the emergency period. At a minimum, these supplies should include:** Several clean containers for water, large enough for a 3-5 day supply of water (about five gallons for each person), a 3-5 day supply of non-perishable food, a first aid kit and manual, a battery-powered radio, flashlights, and extra batteries, sleeping bags or extra blankets, water-purifying supplies, such as chlorine or iodine tablets or unscented, ordinary household chlorine bleach, prescription medicines and special medical needs. You can find more information on emergency plans and supply kits at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

**Expect the need to evacuate and prepare for it:** The National Weather Service will issue a hurricane watch when there is a threat to coastal areas of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours. Remember that Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah evacuates 48 hours before the anticipated landfall.

I strongly urge nursing staff to start now to develop a list of employees who will be evacuating with consumers to Central State Hospital. Preparation is the best response.

**When a hurricane watch is issued you should:** When a hurricane watch is issued you should fill your automobile's gas tank. If no vehicle is available, make arrangements with friends or family for transportation. Fill your clean water containers. Review your emergency plans and supplies, checking to see if any items are missing. Tune in the radio or television for weather updates. Listen for disaster sirens and warning signals. Prepare an emergency kit for your car with food, flares, booster cables, maps, tools, a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, sleeping bags, etc.

Secure any items outside which may damage property in a storm, such as bicycles, grills, propane tanks, etc. Cover windows and doors with plywood or boards or place large strips of masking tape or adhesive tape on the windows to reduce the risk of breakage and flying glass. Put livestock and family pets in a safe area. Due to food and sanitation requirements, emergency shelters cannot accept animals. Place vehicles under cover, if at all possible. Fill sinks and bathtubs with water as an extra supply for washing. Adjust the thermostat on refrigerators and freezers to the coolest possible temperature.

**If you are ordered to evacuate:** Because of the destructive power of a hurricane, you should never ignore an evacuation order. Authorities will be most likely to direct you to leave if you are in a low-lying area, or within the greatest potential path of the storm. Take only essential items with you. If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water. Disconnect appliances to reduce the likelihood of electrical shock when power is restored. Make sure your automobile's emergency kit is ready. Follow the designated evacuation routes (others may be blocked) and expect heavy traffic. To get through the storm in the safest possible manner do the following: Monitor the radio or television for weather conditions, if possible. Stay indoors until the authorities declare the storm is over. Stay away from all windows and exterior doors, seeking shelter in a bathroom or basement. Bathtubs can provide some shelter if you cover yourself with plywood or other materials. Prepare to evacuate to a shelter or to a neighbor's home if your home is damaged, or if you are instructed to do so by emergency personnel.

## Clinical Update

Clinical Dept.

Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Thombley on the birth of their first child!

Lillie Sophia Thombley was born May 26, 2007. All are doing fine with one exception – you guessed it - Sophia has her days and nights mixed up!!

Congratulations to Dr. Prather on his new job as Forensic Psychiatrist. The patients just don't know what they are getting. Dr. Prather has always loved to work with the patients and volunteered to put his name in the weekend rotation list. He did this to assist the Psychiatrist with weekend duty but it also provided him a chance to work with the patients. No other Clinical Director at this facility has ever done this. Dr. Prather has always gone the extra mile to assist with patient care and to be fair to those reporting to him. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work for Dr. Prather for the last four years. Dr. Prather will be missed in the Clinical Director's office but the service and dedication he will provide to each and every patient will truly make him one of this hospital's greatest assets.....Tina Butler

Welcome Pamela Duncan to Georgia Regional Hospital and the RHA's office.

## Parking Offenders May Be Towed

Facility Police  
Captain Smith, G.E.

It is important that employees refrain from parking in the visitor parking spaces. These need to be left open for visitors. Despite the recent reduction in parking spots available in the main lot there are many spaces available on the back road. Please note Facility Police will start towing vehicles that are



not following hospital policies and procedures at the owner's expense.

It is also important for staff to follow campus speed limits. This is for everyone's protection, as this is a pedestrian campus.



A WARM WELCOME to Jennifer Anderson (above left), Christie Massalon (above right) and to Peggy Dickley.

## Social Workers Welcomed

Social Work  
John Rechtzigel

The Social Work Department would like to welcome three new Social Service Providers to our staff. The first is Christie Massalon who has her M.S.W. from Savannah State University '03 and has come to us from the Costal Prison where she was a Mental Health Counselor II. Ms Massalon will be working on our new Forensic Unit, Building #2. Jennifer

Anderson who has her M.S.W. from the University of Georgia '07, will be working on our Recovery Care Unit, Building #5. Peggy Dickey who has an M.S.W. from the University on Nebraska '04, has also joined our team. She has worked at Larned State Hospital in Kansas and is a Licensed Masters Social Worker. She will also be working on our new Forensic Unit #2.

## Spotlight On Human Resources

### Human Resource Department Contact Information

For HR questions and/or assistance please see below for the contact person:

912-356-2022 (Phone)  
912-356-2740 (Fax)

Dana Holmes, Personnel Technician 2—Employee Benefits, Deferred Compensation, Workers Compensation, Leaves of Absences, Faithful Service Awards, and Retirement

Chon Jernigan, Personnel Technician 2 and Selena Shepard-Gaylor, Personnel Technician 1—Recruitment/Selection, New Hire Processing, ID Badges, and Employee Exit/Clearance Process

Lakia Maxwell, Personnel Technician 2—Payroll/Transactions, DHR Debit Cards, Payroll/Transactions Reports, Employee Self-Serve, and Verifications of Employment

Lori Riddle, Personnel Transactions Manager—Payroll/Transactions, Accrued Leave Issues, Unemployment, DHR Debit Cards, Manager Self-Serve, Verifications of Employment and Wages, Garnishments/Bankruptcy, Child Support Orders, and Direct Deposit

Tiffani Booth, Office Assistant

Jamekia Powers, Personnel Officer—HR Operations/Management, DHR Policies and Procedures, Allocations/Reallocations, Advance Hire, Salary Adjustments, Grievance Process, and Employee Relations/Progressive Discipline

HR

HR Dept

### Nominate your co-workers

**The Smart Government Award—** Please visit the Team Georgia Connection website at [www.team.georgia.gov](http://www.team.georgia.gov) for instructions on how to nominate your co-worker or contact your supervisor if you do not have computer access.

**Right Work/Right Way Award—** Please visit the employee intranet at <https://intranet.dhr.state.ga.us> for more information or contact your supervisor if you do not have computer access.

**GRHS Employee of the Quarter Award—** contact any member of the EMS Team for more information.

### Workers' Compensation Fraud Notice Under Georgia Law [O.C.G.A. 34-9-19]

Any person, firm, or corporation who willfully makes any false or misleading statement or representation for the purpose of obtaining or denying any benefit or payment under this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 or more than \$10,000.00 or by imprisonment not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Additionally, any person, firm, or corporation who violates this Code section may also be assessed the cost of investigation or prosecution, or both, in accordance with Chapter 11 of Title 17, relating to the assessment and payment of costs of criminal proceedings.

### Licensure

(DHR Human Resource/Personnel Policy #2001)  
All employees in positions which require licenses (including driver's licenses), certificates or registrations are responsible for ensuring these documents are current. Employees are responsible for renewing required licenses, certificates or registrations, as necessary. Failure to obtain or maintain valid licenses, certificates or registrations is a basis for separation of employment. For more information on this policy and other policies, please refer to <http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/ohrmd/Policies/index.html>

### Criminal History Record Checks

(Reference: DHR HR/Personnel Policy #504)  
Employees are required to notify their supervisor or human resource personnel representative of any arrests and/or convictions within five (5) calendar days of the date of the arrest or conviction. For more information on this policy and other policies, please refer to <http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/ohrmd/Policies/index.html>

### State Employee Discounts

To learn more, visit <http://team.georgia.gov/portal/site>

### Revision to DHR Policy # 1005, Family and Medical Leave

Previously, employees on Family and Medical Leave were required to use the appropriate paid leave they had available prior to taking leave without pay. Effective July 16, 2007, the DHR Leadership Team has approved that

employees may choose whether to use accrued leave or authorized leave without pay concurrent with Family and Medical Leave. Although, these options are the employees decision it is strongly recommended employees utilize accrued leave before being placed in a leave without pay status. Please visit <http://www2.state.ga.us/departments/dhr/ohrmd/Policies/index.html> Family and Medical Leave Policy #1005 and Leave of Absence Without Pay Policy # 1007 for further information.

### Please submit your questions and/or topic suggestions!!

Please submit questions and suggestions via e-mail or interoffice mail to Dana Holmes in the Human Resource Management Department before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the each month. We will discuss the suggested topic or answer your question in the next issue of the Reporter (no names will be used).



## WHAT IS A CLIENT?

A Client is not an outsider to our business.  
A Client is the reason for our existence.

A Client is not an interruption of our work.  
A Client is the purpose for our work.  
We are not doing them a favor.

They are doing us a favor by letting us serve them.

A Client is not a cold statistic.  
A Client is flesh and bone, a human being  
with feelings and aspirations, exactly like our own.

A Client is not someone with who to argue or match wits.  
A Client deserves courteous, attentive and sympathetic  
treatment.

A Client is here to be served, not tolerated. It is our job  
to help clients reach their highest level of health and  
attainment of skills.

A Client's needs make it possible that our jobs exist.  
This is true whether we are clerks, care providers,  
department heads, housekeepers, maintenance workers,  
nurses, physicians, service directors, etc.

**REMEMBER, A CLIENT IS THE MOST  
IMPORTANT PERSON IN OUR BUSINESS.**



## Happy Birthday September !

Sept. 2	Denenna Rhodes	Sept. 12	Gladys Jones Alonzo Lofton Phyllis Jones
Sept. 3	Jacob Schwartz	Sept. 14	Edward Heyward
Sept. 4	Mary Anna Boyette Eni Ofong Jacqueline Potter George Smith Debra Thompson	Sept. 15	Jason Thornton Delores Mason Okere Kennedy
Sept. 5	Stephen Lewis	Sept. 16	Harriett Blazer
Sept. 6	Melvin Reeves	Sept. 20	Shalayia Kennedy Betty Miles Richard Pauly Sheri Rawlison Dana Rice
Sept. 7	Willaim Stokes	Sept. 22	Jennitra Waters
Sept. 8	Evelyn Mallory	Sept. 25	Elloweese Coleman
Sept. 9	Milagros Hertling	Sept. 27	Ronald Brantley Selena Shepard-
Sept. 10	Curtis Carter	Gaylor	
Sept. 11	Irene Albert Rosemary Downing Carolyn Emerick	Sept. 29	Jamila Grant

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR BIRTHDAY  
INCLUDED IN THE REPORTER PLEASE NOTIFY  
EDITOR TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO PUBLISHING.  
THANK YOU.



*Tybee Island at Dusk*

Georgia Regional Hospital  
at Savannah

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Savannah, GA 31406