

# THE REPORTER

February 15, 2006

Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah

www.garegionalsavannah.com

GRH-S

## Lakeside Named Best Maintained



LAKESIDE CENTER named best maintained unit for this quarter

Serendipity

Linda Rowland

Congratulations are in order for Lakeside Center's Nurse Manager, Rosemary Downing RN, and her entire staff for an exceptionally well maintained unit for the last quarter. They are our winners for the "Best Maintained Unit" and greatly deserving of the special honor!

Competition was stiff for the title this quarter! Members of the health care team worked long and hard to create and maintain the unit for each inspection. Inspections are not announced, so everything must remain in order at all times!

On a regular basis, Linda Rowland, RN, makes rounds to all of the Units here are GRH-S and does a quality control

inspection. Some of the things evaluated are refrigerator temperature charts, maintenance of laundry equipment, cleanliness of patient areas and general infection control knowledge of the Health Care Team. Bonus points are awarded for employees receiving the Immunizations for the prevention of Hepatitis B and Influenza.

On February 1, 2007, there were many very happy and excited employees when the presentations were made to Mrs. Downing by the Infection Control Nurse. Lakeside Center now owns the full "**BRAGGING RIGHTS**" for winning this contest. The current quarter ends on March 31, 2007.

Just added to the inspection this quarter is the length and care of each employee's fingernails. According to the Infection Control Policy here at GRH-S, an employee's fingernails may be no longer than the tip of the employee's finger and not extend to greater than 1/8" of actual nail growth. Employees are not permitted to wear acrylic or metal nails. Nail polish is permitted as long as there are no chips in the polish. Employees are observed at random for nail compliance. Any problems noted are discussed with the Unit Manager.

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## Cell Phone Recycling



EMS

Linda Rowland

Last week, we mailed over 30 used cell phones for recycling. We are currently awaiting our payment!

As a reminder to all employees and others involved here at Georgia Regional Hospital-Savannah, the EMS Team is currently sponsoring a recycling program for used cell phones. In return for our old and out dated, worn out, maybe non-working cell phone, *Phoneraise*, the recycling company, will pay money for these items that are usually discarded. We supply the used phones and they supply the postage and payment. It doesn't get better than that! We are basically getting something for nothing!

Discarded cell phones contaminate our water supply and our soil. Using this system, we are helping preserve our natural resources and raise money at the same time. This company will also accept any empty printer (ink) cartridge from your (home) personal printer. *Please* donate these also. Don't throw money in the trash!

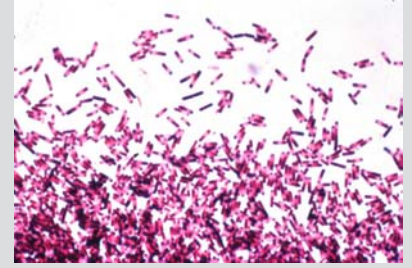
If you would like to donate your old cell phone or empty printer (ink) cartridge to the GRH-S Foundation, someone on the EMS team will be happy to visit your area and pick it up. Donations can also be made in Building One. There is a special box for this purpose, located in the reception area. Currently, we are working to fill our second shipment. ***Come on GRH-S employees, let's work and get this done! The GRH-S Foundation supports you and in turn you can support the GRH-S Foundation.*** Turn your trash into treasure for the Foundation!

## Kudos to IT

If any of you have ever needed the services of Information Technology, you can rest assured that your problem will be solved. Mr. Frank Baran runs a wonderful department, and has excellent staff. I would like to particularly mention Mr. Roger Faust who has personally assisted me numerous times over the years. Mr. Faust is always courteous, kind, understanding, and the consummate professional. Thanks IT for making our job easier!

Rick Petrea, Activity Therapist

## It's Your Health



Infection Control

Linda Rowland

*Clostridium difficile* is a very strange sounding name, but can be a serious illness. The first time I heard of this problem, my four year old Grandson was diagnosed with it. He was scheduled to have tubes in his ears but before the doctor would do the surgery, the doctor wanted to try to clear up a chronic ear infection. He was prescribed a high dose, long term antibiotic. Little did we know that this prescription could cause severe diarrhea in the child.

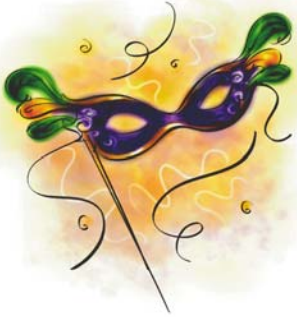
This is what he got, and why it made him so sick.

"*Clostridium Difficile* is an anaerobic spore-forming bacteria, normally found in the digestive tract. When a person takes an antibiotic for an infection, germs everywhere in the body, are killed. This allows remaining germs to multiply out of control. When that happens, loose or watery stools, cramps and fever can result. Persons at highest risk of becoming infected include people on long-term antibiotic therapy, people of advanced age, women, patients undergoing chemotherapy, people with inflammatory bowel disease, patients in areas with high endemic *C. diff* rates and people with renal disease."

This can be spread by hands. Cross contamination can occur with direct or indirect contact with patient and by contact with contaminated surfaces in the patient area. If a person is diagnosed with this problem by the lab, special precautions must be taken by health care providers. Health Care Providers must wear gloves when assisting the patient with bowel movements. Good hand washing with **soap and running water** is a must! The use of waterless hand gel is **not effective** against *Clostridium difficile*.

Please be aware of any changes in a consumer's bowel habits at all times. Report any loose, watery stools to the charge nurse and/or the patient's physician. The problem may be something that the consumer ate, *but* it may be *Clostridium difficile*.

If you have any questions or desire additional information on this subject, please call your Infection Control Nurse at 356-2575.



## EMS Update

EMS

Colleen Hartman

### Enjoy the City Fund Raiser

Time is running out.....Stop by the Business Office (Colleen Hartman) or Environmental Services (Arthur Coleman) to take a look at this awesome book. It is full of coupons for casual dining, fast food, entertainment, recreation retail services and travel. The cost of the books is ONLY \$15 each. Coupons are good through the end of 2007. Need a gift for that person who has

everything? What a great idea for a Secret Pal? Don't procrastinate; get your "Enjoy the City" coupon book today!

### Mardi Gras Parade

The Mardi Gras Parade will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 – this is a fun event for clients and staff alike. All parade participants will meet behind the gym at 10:00am. The parade will start at 10:30am. We will march from behind the gym and around the main parking lot and back.

### Employee of the Quarter

Nominations are being accepted for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter from now through March 15, 2007. Those employees that were previously nominated may be nominated again! Nomination criteria and forms are located on the "J" drive. Winner will be announced at General Staff Meeting in April.

### T-Shirt Sale

We will be selling T-shirts in late February. Watch for updates!

### Theme Basket Raffle

Calling ALL units/departments. Start getting ideas together for your theme basket. The Theme Basket raffle will be held in March.

### EMS Team Members

Linda Rowland  
Albert Holmes  
Colleen Hartman  
Lalia Jackson  
Kevin Bland  
Beth Jones  
Pauline Bryant  
Tom Kurtz  
Janet Edenfield  
Lee Marsh  
Beverly Grant  
Richard Mike  
Marilyn Harding  
Mary Ann Noonan  
Mariah Hay  
LaTanya Thompson  
Dana Holmes  
Bonnie Watson



## Giving When It Counts (Part 5 of 5)

Editorial

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her" As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away". Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

## Celebrate Black History Month



BLACK HISTORY MONTH is celebrated during February of each year.

Holiday

Every February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. This tribute dates back to 1926 and is credited to a Harvard scholar named Carter G. Woodson. The son of former slaves, Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and disseminated.

In an effort to bring national attention to the contributions of black Americans, Woodson organized the first annual Negro History Week in 1926. For more facts and information visit [biography.com](http://biography.com).

**Financial Services**

Best wishes are extended to Rena (Bradham) on her marriage to Terry Middleton on January 19. We wish you and Terry the very best.

We send get-well wishes to Mary Ann Noonan who is out on medical leave. We hope you're feeling better soon. We miss you!

Goodbye and good luck to Melissa Hutton who resigned on December 29. We wish her much success and happiness in her future endeavors.

Congratulations to Carol Sellers who made a lateral move to assume the job duties of Melissa Hutton's position.

Welcome to Tina Wyatt. Tina is filling the Lakeside Patient Accounts Technician position and will begin her new duties on February 16.

**Nursing Services**

Nursing Services extends kudos to Leona Pinkney, HST 2 on her selection as Employee of the Quarter.

Keep up the great work!

~Jerusha Stacey, Beth Jones, Tasha Scott, Lalia Jackson.

We would like to thank the newest member of our team, Tasha Scott, Program Assistant, for being such an asset to our office. We feel blessed to have you as a part of our team.

~Jerusha, Beth, Lalia

**Lost and Found**

Lost and Found items can be dropped off/picked up at the Information Desk in Building One. Please keep checking back for lost items. Items which go unclaimed will eventually be disposed of.

**Staff Development**

AAA Driver Training classes will begin this month. The first class is February 15 and will last approximately 8 hours. Staff is encouraged to begin registering for class by contacting Staff Development and Training.

**Clinical ( continued on page 7)**

Dilraj Mann, M.D. has passed all of her board exams in Internal Medicine.

Congratulations Dr. Mann on this accomplishment. Dr. Mann, who works as an OD, began work at the hospital in 2003 and is a great asset to the medical team.

Congratulations to Ms. Judy Saturday on her promotion to Program Associate at the Juliette House. Their gain will certainly be our loss.

Thank you Donna Norris for all the great work you have done entering data into the patient's master treatment plan for the Acute Care Unit as well as going the extra mile and printing the many reports while the printer in Psychology was down. Your assistance is and has been invaluable. Thanks also to Data Management, Procurement, and IT for ordering the new printers.



## Free Tax Filing Feb. 22

EMS

That's right; tax filing is free this year to state employees and their families. The Georgia Department of Revenue, Special Collection Program Unit will be offering free, full service, electronic filing on location on Thursday, February 22, 2007 between 7 am and 3:15 pm in the Gym.

**Please register in advance!**

Federal and state returns can be prepared and submitted. Bring your social security card, the social security cards of your dependants, your W-2's, 1099's, etc and your 2005 return. Also bring a voided check if a direct deposit refund is desired.

Make an appointment and receive registration forms by calling 356-2103 or e-mailing [mrhay@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:mrhay@dhr.state.ga.us) for an appointment on Thursday, February 22, 2007.



# RECOGNITION

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

### Welcome

Kasey Antonie	Sea Palm
Patricia Bynes	Social Services
Andrea Ellis	Acute Care
LaToyia Groover	Env. Services
Lester Jump	Maintenance
Monica Malone	Sea Palm
Marcia Parker	Lakeside Center
Ashley Parks	Acute Care
Tolonna Pinckney	Houseparent
Waliter Thornton	Env. Services

### Congratulations on your Promotion

Brandon Carter	Dobson House
Judy Saturday	Juliette House
James Stell	Food Service

### Faithful Service Awards

#### 20 YEARS

Suseela Devi Vajrakarur	Admissions and Evaluation
Kenneth Boyd Lamb	Activity Therapy
Victoria R. Tukes	Recovery Care

#### 15 YEARS

John Timothy Smith	Pharmacy
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## Jump Named Maintenance Director



Please welcome Lester Jump to his new position as Maintenance Director at Georgia Regional Hospital @ Savannah effective 16 January 2007.

Mr. Jump began his maintenance career with the Department of Human Resources at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1995 where he most recently served as Assistant Maintenance Director. Prior to joining Central State, he served with several other organizations in various maintenance roles including the United States Navy. He has over 30 years experience in the maintenance and engineering field.

## Congratulations Captain Smith

Congratulations to George E. Smith on his promotion to the position of Facility Police Captain at Georgia Regional Hospital @ Savannah effective 1 January 2007.



Captain Smith began his Facility Police career with us in 1988 and has served in several other positions in that Department prior to his promotion including interim Facility Police Captain. Prior to joining us, he served in the United States Army and with the Travis Field Police

Department. Most recently he completed Chief Executive Training School sponsored by the State of Georgia.

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### GRH-S REPORTER

Editor **Mariah Hay** Asst. Editor **Joyce Fraser**

Regional Hospital Administrator  
**Charles Li, MD**

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## Spotlight On Human Resources

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/Progressive Discipline

HR  
Jamekia T. Powers

### Effective Hiring Process and Job Announcements

Job Announcements are available online at: [www.garegionalsavannah.com](http://www.garegionalsavannah.com).

Effective Friday, February 2, 2007, GRHS will only accept Resumes electronically (MS Word format) from individuals who are interested in positions that are open and posted. Applicants must identify which position title (and position number) they are interested in on their Resume and in the subject line of the e-mail [www.garegionalsavannah.com](http://www.garegionalsavannah.com) for more information). Our official HR Department e-mail address is [grhs\\_hr@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:grhs_hr@dhr.state.ga.us). Positions are advertised at [www.garegionalsavannah.com](http://www.garegionalsavannah.com).

### Places to go for access and/or assistance:

The Live Oak Public Library System offers free computer use and a variety of free computer classes to the public. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.liveoakpl.org/Classes.htm> or call the main branch at 912-652-3600.

### Locations:

Bull Street (Main)- 2002 Bull St. (912) 652-3600  
Oglethorpe Mall Library- 7 Mall Annex (912)925.5432  
Carnegie Branch- 537 E. Henry St. (912) 231.9921  
W.W. Law Branch- 909 E. Bolton St. (912) 236.8040  
Forest City- 1501 Stiles Ave. (912) 238.0614  
Ogeechee Branch- 1820 Ogeechee Rd. (912).232.1339

The St. Joseph/Candler African-American Health Information & Resource Center (AAHIRC) offers free computer access and various free computer courses at their mid-town location. For additional information, please call (912) 447-6605. Georgia Department of Labor- 5520 White Bluff Rd. (912) 356.2773 Savannah Entrepreneurial Center-1801 E. Gwinnett St. (912) 652.3582 Savannah State University Library-P.O. Box 20394, Tompkins Rd. (912) 356.2183 Armstrong Atlantic State University Library-11935 Abercorn St. (912) 927.5332 SCAD Library-201 E Broughton St. (912) 525.4653

### Resume Assistance:

Georgia Department of Labor- 5520 White Bluff Rd. (912) 356.2773

Template Resumes and cover letter available at [www.garegionalsavannah.com](http://www.garegionalsavannah.com)

### 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.

### Employee Self-Service

Please remember to keep a record

of your password and answers to your security questions for Employee Self Service. You can visit to access Employee Self-Service from your work or home computer. If you require any assistance or training, please contact Lakia Maxwell at 912-356-2022 to make an appointment.

### Peach State Reserves 401K and 457 New Website

<http://myGAprs.csplans.com> This Web site is your new resource for all Peach State Reserves (PSR) information. You can now access all account information, make payroll changes, change investment options, update name or address changes, and enroll in a deferred compensation plan using this site.

### Update On Flexible Spending Account Cards

The IRS has issued a “transition relief” for use of the Flexible Spending Account Cards. The account cards may now be used at Wal-mart, Kmart, and other discount and grocery stores until December 31, 2007. Purchases made with your account card may require further documentation; therefore it is very important to save all receipts. If you have any questions, you may contact the Flexible Benefits Program at 1-888-968-0490.

### Workers Compensation

Please remember all injuries should be reported to your supervisor immediately and a claim should be processed with DOAS services. When a workers compensation claim is reported, DOAS is able to have a record of the work-related injury, even if medical treatment is not selected at that time.

## Clinical Update

Clinical Dept.

### Psychiatric Board Exams

Frank Pechal, M.D., Psychiatrist on the Acute Care Unit, has passed his written board exams in Psychiatry. Dr. Pechal scored well above the passing score in both psychiatry and neurology and is to be congratulated on this accomplishment. He is scheduled to take the oral exam in New York in May of 2007.

### Director of Medical Services/VP of Medical Staff

Congratulations to Michael Amburgey, M.D. on his recent promotion to Director of Medical Services. Those reporting to Dr. Amburgey will be all On-Duty Doctors (ODs), Naomi Ryan, NP, and Dr. Suseela Vajrakarur. The Medical Staff voted and Dr. Amburgey was selected and has accepted the position of Vice President of the Medical Staff where he will serve a two year term. Welcome Dr. Amburgey to your new position.

### Secretary/Treasurer of Medical Staff

The Medical Staff voted and Dr. Frank Pechal was selected and has accepted the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Medical Staff; he will serve a two year term. Welcome Dr. Pechal to your new position.

### Right Work/Right Way Award and Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Ms. Tina Butler for being nominated for the Right Work/Right Way Award and nomination for the Employee of the Quarter.

### Feel Better!

Best wishes are extended to Dr. Ligneel and her family for the speedy recovery of her mother.

Welcome back Dr. Negron! Hope you are feeling much better now.

We are glad to have Ms. Janette Washington back after a recent illness. You were missed!!

### New Employees

Welcome Ms. Patricia Bynes to the Social Work Department. Ms. Bynes will work on weekends to provide Social Work coverage and will begin February 1, 2007.



## Happy Birthday March!

Mar.1	Latarish Lovett	Mar. 11	Marcia Hutton-Longwater Strven Thornton
Mar. 2	Bertha Anderson George Cone Paulette Golden Judy Saturday	Mar. 12	Zelma Fripp
Mar. 3	Bonnie Watson	Mar. 13	Sharon Jones
Mar. 4	Marilyn Harding	Mar. 14	In Cheong Tobias Hunter
Mar.5	Laurie Evans Charlesetta Javis	Mar. 18	John Entrekim
Mar. 6	Shabeer Abucker Antionette Ryan	Mar. 19	Fannie Smith
Mar. 7	Derrick Larry Sandra Pullman Gloria Mathis	Mar. 27	Joyce Tyson
Mar. 8	Margaret Mellows	Mar. 28	Wanda Barnes
Mar. 9	Sandra Green Mary Ann Hines Donald Melroy	Mar. 29	Linda Harmon
		Mar. 30	Carolyn Norris

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

— | CHECK IT OUT! | —

# www.gotyourtravel.com

will donate 5% of any booking made by a GRH-S employee to the GRH-S Foundation. (Type GRH-S beside registration name to use promotion)



When you book a cruise, hotel, car rental, send flowers, buy event tickets, golf tee time, and many more.

***Sponsored by the EMS Team. Proceeds Benefit the GRH-S Foundation.***

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1915 Eisenhower Drive  
Savannah, GA 31406