

# THE REPORTER

May 15, 2007

Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah

www.garegionalsavannah.com

GRH-S

## Life's a Stage



THE BAREFOOT PRINCESS was written by Behavior Specialist Larry Edge, shown on left with mural by Rick Petrea of Activity Therapy. Below, the Princess is making her transformation from rude ragamuffin to proper princess.



### Treatment Mall

**T** Clients and staff were in for a real treat this month, as the second ever production of the Barefoot Princess by Larry Edge graced the 'stage' in the Building 8 Auditorium. The play took place at 10 am on April 25. The cast was composed of talented clients from Units 4 and 5 and narrated by the author and behavior specialist Larry Edge. The play told the story of a ragamuffin, ill-tempered princess who learned that even though she was a princess, she had to act like one in order to make friends.

The play was produced by the Therapy Mall Program and assisted by Activity Therapy. Special thanks are extended

to Lee Marsh, Gretta Green, Larry Edge, Jimmy Bartley, Joyce Morris, Rick Petrea and the staff on the Recovery Care Unit. Thanks are also extended to Mariah Hay for post show refreshments and photography.

### Features

Annual Egg Hunt	Page 2
Mental Health Month	Page 3
Become a Better Listener	Page 5
Spotlight on Human Resources	Page 6

## Quarterly Attendance Award Program

Laboratory

Hassan Aziz, Ph.D.

The EMS Team, in conjunction with the HR Function Team has developed a Quarterly Attendance Awards Program. The goal of this program is to boost employee morale while making the contest fun and competitive for employees. The program is designed to improve attendance in your work area by decreasing call-ins. Only full-time, non-exempt

staff will be eligible to participate. Teams will be divided into the following categories: Units, Community Programs, and Support/Administrative. Trophies will be presented to the Team with the best percentage based on the least amount of call-ins. Please contact a EMS Team Member with questions regarding this program.

EDITORIAL

To: Jerusha, Lalia, and Beth (Nurse Managers & Nursing Staff)

My leaving Nursing Services is both happy and sad. Although it has only been a short period of time since I began here at GRHS, you all have touched my life in a special way. I just wanted to take the time to thank you for your patience, understanding, teaching, and friendship. Although I will be working with Data Management, all of the Nursing Staff will hold a special place in my heart. You all have taught me a lot and I couldn't have asked for better people to train me and work with. My working environment has been great and if there is ever anything I can do to assist, please do not hesitate to let me know.

From the bottom of my heart, Tasha

Tashaleta M. Scott  
Program Assistant



PET-A-PET volunteers Nan and Bernie Dismukes pose with Fritz, specially dressed for the occasion.

## Easter Egg-citement

Holiday

Over six hundred hardboiled, candy filled, and prize eggs were hidden in the area behind the pavilion for this year's annual egg hunt. At 10 am on April 4, clients from Units 4, 5, and 6 raced for eggs peeping from behind tree limbs, picnic tables and tufts of grass. Egg hunt guests were also treated to drinks, cookies and sno-cones. They also enjoyed dancing to the stereo which was set up in the pavilion. Although Lakeside did not attend, each child received an Easter basket full of goodies.

The day before the egg hunt, clients from Units 4 and 5 participated in decorating a case of hardboiled eggs with traditional egg dyes, crayons and stickers. These brightly colored eggs were also used in the hunt.

Special thanks are extended to all the donors and volunteers which helped make this Easter so special. Thanks are extended to the garden clubs for their donations of felt eggs, and to the local clubs and churches which took the time to donate plastic eggs and candy for the hunt. Thanks are extended to the Elks Club and to Piggly Wiggly for donating the case of eggs to be hardboiled for decorating and hunting. Thanks to Pet-a-Pet for hiding eggs and assisting with the hunt. Thanks to Mistral Hay and Anthony Thornton for donating their time to lend a hand. Special thanks are extended to Maintenance for clearing the pavilion area and to Food Service for hard-boiling the donated eggs. Last but not least, thanks for all the employees who put in the extra effort to help out and make this holiday 'egg-stra' special for our clients.

## Mind Your Health: Mental Health in 07'



NMHA

nmha.org

Welcome to Mental Health Month 2007. For more than fifty years, our country has celebrated May as Mental Health Month to raise awareness about mental illnesses and the importance of mental

wellness for all. Mental Health Month focuses the nation's attention on promoting mental health and improving access to treatment for people with mental illness.

Good mental health is fundamental to overall health and is essential to personal well-being and the ability to lead a healthy, balanced, and productive life. Mental health problems can impair a person's thinking, feelings, and behavior and can be serious and disabling. According to the U.S. Surgeon General's report on mental health, more than half of all Americans with a severe mental illness fail to seek treatment. Many people do

not receive treatment for mental health problems due to a lack of awareness of the problem, fear of stigma, or lack of access to appropriate services. Yet, overall quality of life is greatly improved when a person with a mental health problem gets an early diagnosis and receives appropriate mental health treatment.

For more information on mental health or this year's Mental Health Month theme, call NMHA at 800-969-NMHA (6642), or visit the web site at [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org). For treatment and referral information, contact SAMHSA's National Mental Health Information Center at 800-789-2647.

## Share Your Story

NMHA

nmha.org

This one-of-a-kind project invites people who struggle with mental illnesses to break the silence and share their stories. We all know how empowering human connections are to those seeking wellness and recovery. By speaking out about your experiences, you help give a voice to the 57.7 million American adults—and as many as one in 10 children—who have a mental health disorder.

Your story will help bust the stigma that keeps people from getting care and perpetuates misunderstanding about those affected by mental health disorders. We think there's no better antidote to that misunderstanding than the real lives of real people. And there's no better antidote to silence than speaking out.

Together, we can help others and kick open the door to the truth about mental illness: that it's real, common and treatable.

So tell your story and give a real voice to a great cause. Your story can change a life, and even save one.

<http://www.nmha.org/go/action/share-your-story>

## Medical Lab Professionals Week

NMHA

Dr. Aziz

The National Medical Laboratory Week was April 22–28, 2007. It is an annual event where laboratorians, nationwide, are recognized for their role in the health care arena. Medical Technology is an unseen profession to many. Medical technologists provide essential clinical information to health care providers and are responsible for assuring reliable results that contribute to the prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of physiological and pathological conditions. Many laboratory practitioners assist clinicians in correlating test results with patient data and recommend tests and test sequences in light of known clinical considerations.

On April 22–28, the dedication and expertise of medical technologists was brought out from behind the walls of the lab and into the spotlight with the theme Laboratory Professionals: *Quality Care from Quality Professionals*.

Numerically, laboratory professionals represent the second largest sector among health care workers following nurses. The profession is also rapidly evolving where several billions of dollars are spent each year in over 172,000 clinical laboratories in this country alone. The medical laboratory is a \$101.5 billion dollar business, representing as much as 11¢ of each health care dollar. Laboratory tests are extremely valuable and contribute up to 70% to all medical decisions made by health care providers.

More than one-third of a million laboratory personnel practice in the US today. Baccalaureate level medical technologists comprise the majority of the staffs of clinical laboratories.

Clinical laboratory science offers a great diversity of job opportunities and provides personal satisfaction knowing that laboratorians have a vital role in the diagnosis, treatment, and care of human mankind.

## WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY

### Clinical Department

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Pellicano whose nephew died recently and Dr. Okere on the death of his cousin. Dr. Ligneel is still out due to her mother's illness. We hope she will be back to work soon and wish her mother a speedy recovery.

Good luck to Dr. Pechal on your oral board exams!  
~The Medical Staff

### DD/Community Services

Condolences to Ms. Pauline D. Bryant, Site Manager at Dobson Group Home, in the passing of her mother Mrs. Julia M. Collier.

Also, congratulations to Xavier and Zachary Cooper, grandsons of Anne Marie Grant, DD Community Services for coming in first place at the Step Dance competition in Claxton Ga.

### Dental Clinic

We (Kim, Cathy and Eddie) would like to welcome Dr. Gilkey to the Dental Clinic staff/family. We are all excited to have her.

### Food Service

Congratulations to Mario Harding the son of Marilyn Harding who will be graduating from Robert Groves High School on May 26, 2007. Mario ran track in his junior and senior



## Food for Thought: Humanity



An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

**Retraction;** Judy Duran was accidentally left off the list of Administrative Professionals as published in the April 07 issue of the Reporter. Our Apologies.

# RECOGNITION

**WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Welcome

Sam Appiah	Recovery Care
Freddie Jones	Secure Unit
Saralyn Jones	Environmental Services
Benjamin Moreland	Acute Care
Maurice Singleton	Environmental Services
Ryan Washington	Recovery Care
Jacqueline Gilkey	Dental Clinic
Maureen McCaul	Activity Therapy
Lisa Williams	Recovery Care
Andrew Womack	Behavior Support Team

## Congratulations on your promotion

Tashaleta Scott	Monitoring and Evaluation
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## Congratulations on your retirement

Shelia Boyette	Recovery Care
Judith Duran	Region 5

## Faithful Service Awards

30 YEARS  
Helene B. Small

## Listen Up!

### Tips to Becoming a Better Listener

**By: Bob Bly, Director of the Center for Technical Communication**

1. *Don't talk. Listen.* Why is this so? Because people want a chance to get their own ideas and opinions across. A good listener lets them do it.

2. *Don't jump to conclusions.* Many people tune out a speaker when they think they have the gist of his conversation or know what he's trying to say next. Assumptions can be dangerous.

3. *Listen "between the lines."* Concentrate on what is not being said as well as what is being said. Remember, a lot of clues to meaning come from the speaker's tone of voice, facial expressions, and gestures.

4. *Ask questions.* If you are not sure of what the speaker is saying, ask. It's perfectly acceptable to say, "Do you mean . . . ?" or "Did I understand you to say . . . ?"

5. *Don't let yourself be distracted by the environment or by the speaker's appearance, accent, mannerisms, or word use.* It's sometimes difficult to overlook a strong accent, a twitch, sexist language, a fly buzzing around the speaker's head, and similar distractions. But paying too much attention to these distributions can break your concentration and make you miss the point of the conversation.

6. *Provide feedback.* Make eye contact with the speaker. Show him/her you understand his talk by nodding your head, maintaining an upright posture, and, if appropriate, interjecting an occasional comment such as "I see" or "that's interesting" or "really." The speaker will appreciate your interest and feel that you are really listening.

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## GRH-S REPORTER

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Division of Mental Health  
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## 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

Job Announcements are available online at: [www.gareregionalsavannah.com](http://www.gareregionalsavannah.com). Please visit this site every Friday after 2pm.

#### Job Fair

GRHS held an on-site Job Fair Saturday, April 28, 2007. The fair spotlighted the following positions: HST 1 and 2, Houseparent, LPN, RN and Housekeeper. We had over 70 interested applicants who came to learn about our wonderful hospital. Applicants were screened and interviewed on the spot, and several people were identified to fill current vacancies. The Job Fair is one of many recruitment strategies we are using to attract qualified applicants for our hospital. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the preparation and the staff who worked the Job Fair.

#### 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.

#### Resume Assistance:

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

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

Need resume assistance? Call Human Resources at 912-356-2022 to schedule an appointment for resume assistance. Assistance will be offered on Wednesdays (from 10:00am to 2:00pm), appointments are required.

#### 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.

#### Upcoming Expiration of DHR Debit/MasterCards

In June, 2004, DHR issued the EPPICARD Debit/MasterCard as a method for employees to receive their paychecks. Since the cards have a 3 year expiration date, the first set of cards issued to employees (in June 2004) will expire and be replaced with new Debit Cards, beginning June, 2007.

All employees who currently use the Debit/MasterCard should check the "Valid Thru" date on the front of your card and look for your replacement in the mail the month it is due to expire. ("Valid Thru 06/07" means your card will be valid thru June 30, 2007). IMPORTANT: The expired card will not be accepted at financial institutions or merchants after this date. (It will

# HUMAN RESOURCES

be accepted thru the last day of the month listed). The replacement card must be activated by following the instructions provided with the replacement card.

The replacement card will be mailed to your home address and cannot be forwarded by the US Postal Service. If you are unsure that EPPICARD has your correct address, please call their Customer Service Department at 1-800-656-1347 to verify your address. DHR Payroll/Personnel Offices will not be able to update your address for you or trace a lost or misdirected card.

**Updating Personal Information**  
Hospital Policy #7.108 indicates that "Employees shall maintain up-to-date records of their addresses, telephone numbers or contact numbers with their unit/department of assignment and the hospital's Human Resources Department at all times. Maintaining a current address, telephone number or a reasonable contact number is one of the conditions of employment at Georgia Regional Hospital at Savannah. Employees who fail to abide with this policy are subject to appropriate disciplinary action including possible dismissal."

It is very important that you visit the Human Resource Management Department to complete the necessary paperwork when you change your address and/or telephone number (telephone number must be valid). In addition, your contact number should be given to your supervisor. Please review Hospital Policy #7.108 "Employees Addresses and Telephone Numbers."

## State Employee Discounts

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

## 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).



## Happy Birthday June!

June 2	Johnnie Best	June 20	Richard Blue Gary O'Rear
June 4	Lillie Bennett Kenneth Lamb Deirdra Clarke	June 21	Bernadine Bruen Shauna Dillon Ryan Duhn
June 7	Walter Mallard Sr.	June 25	Tempie Mason
June 8	Rick Pertea	June 26	Freda Bazemore Carmen Howell Patricia Wingster
June 9	Karen Green	June 27	Cynthia Greene Jones
June 10	Pauline Bryant	June 28	Sue Czarnecki Latanya Thompson
June 12	Donna Norris	June 29	Janet Edenfield
June 13	Kelly Gray Janie Williams		
June 14	Lee Flemming		
June 16	Bonnie Smith		
June 17	Gary Dent		

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

MARK YOUR CALENDER  
FOR EMS EVENTS



## Theme Baskets

Raffle Tickets on  
sale now!

Available at the Front desk.

EMPLOYEE  
APPRECIATION  
DAY

JUNE

6



T-Shirts on sale

Visit the front desk  
for order forms  
and samples

Georgia Regional Hospital  
at Savannah

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