

Karl E. Peace Biography

Karl E. Peace was born into a family of southwest Georgia sharecroppers in Baker County, Georgia, on July 28, 1941. He overcame an impoverished background to become immensely successful, both academically and professionally.

In 1959, with a loan of \$532 from a businessman in a neighboring county, he enrolled at Georgia Southern University, prepaying his tuition for the first two quarters. In the third quarter, he obtained a Georgia State Teacher's scholarship that, in addition to his seven part-time jobs, helped him complete his bachelor's degree in chemistry while supporting his siblings and cancer-stricken mother. He went on to earn a master's degree in mathematics from Clemson University, teach at several colleges and universities, and earn a PhD in biostatistics from the Medical College of Virginia (MCV).

Peace began to pursue a career in biostatistics in the pharmaceutical industry in 1978. After rising from an entry-level biostatistician position at Burroughs-Wellcome to vice president of worldwide technical operations at Parke-Davis/Warner Lambert, he started Biopharmaceutical Research Consultants Inc. in 1989. Dozens of international biotech and pharmaceutical companies relied on his expertise and he played a key role in the development and regulatory approval of dozens of medicines, including drugs used to treat Alzheimer's disease, hypertension, arthritis, anxiety, depression and panic attacks, and gastrointestinal ulcers. At the same time, Peace kept one foot in the classroom, serving as an adjunct faculty member at Duke University, the MCV, the University of Michigan, The University of North Carolina, Temple University, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Peace approached Georgia Southern University officials in 1998 with a plan to establish a biostatistics center at the university, a corresponding program of study in biostatistics at the graduate level, and a school of public health. He returned to the Statesboro, Georgia, campus in the fall of 2000, when Georgia Southern began to offer the masters of public health degree in biostatistics that he and Charles Hardy developed. In 2004, his endowment to honor his late wife led to the creation of the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health (JPHSOPH), the first school of public health in the University System of Georgia (USG). In creating the JPHSOPH, the board of regents also named the center for biostatistics the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics.

Peace made many contributions to the literature, publishing 10 books and more than 150 articles. As much as anyone, he embodied the philosophy of Helvetius: "Education makes us what we are."

Peace was the recipient of dozens of honors, awards, and citations, and he was internationally known as an educator, researcher, author, humanitarian, and philanthropist. For example, he was the 1998 Distinguished Alumnus of GSU; the 2003 GSU Alumnus of the Year in private enterprise; the first recipient of the President's Medal at GSU in 2005; the 2009 recipient of the GSU Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarly Activity; the Georgia Cancer Coalition's Distinguished Cancer Scholar at GSU (a first for GSU) from 2002–2007; the first recipient at GSU of a grant from the Georgia Research Alliance; the endower of the first Eminent Scholar Chair at GSU; the endower of the Karl E. Peace/JP Hsu Eminent Scholar Chair in Public Health at GSU; the endower of 13 scholarships at GSU; and a benefactor of the GSU library, Center for

Disabled Students, and the music and art departments. He was cited as Georgia Southern University's greatest benefactor in the 2004 Campaign for National Distinction.

Peace received the Deen Day Smith Award for Service to Mankind in 2008. On March 26, 2008, he received a standing ovation from the Georgia House of Representatives as they acknowledged his contributions to furthering biostatistics and public health in Georgia. Following his recognition by the House of Representatives, Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern, said, "Few have made such a major impact on their state, and this is a fitting recognition of someone who has not only made a significant difference in our state, but in our university. Dr. Peace is an alumnus, faculty member, and a friend and we are pleased that the state of Georgia has recognized him in such a fitting way."

In April of 2008, the Georgia House of Representatives passed HR #2118, honoring Peace for his contributions to the medical field, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Georgia Southern University, and the citizens of Georgia. In September of 2009, Peace was cited by the U.S. House of Representatives for his contributions to drug research and development, public health education, philanthropy, and professional service. About this honor, ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein said, "What a wonderful, unique, and well-deserved honor! Thank you for representing our profession and our association in such extraordinary ways. Indeed, you represent the very best of what it means to be a citizen."

Additionally, Peace was the 1991 Star Alumnus of the MCV; the 2005 recipient of the MCV Founder's Society Award; the 2007 recipient of the American Public Health Association (APHA) Statistics Section Award for his contributions to the pharmaceutical industry in drug research and development, the founder and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Biopharmaceutical Statistics*; the founder of the Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistical Symposium (BASS); and the recipient of meritorious service awards from the American Society for Quality Control, Drug Information Association, BASS, Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, and Georgia Cancer Coalition.

Peace endowed two scholarships at the University of California at Berkeley, including the Jiann-Ping Hsu/Karl E. Peace Chair in Biostatistics; three scholarships in biostatistics at MCV; one scholarship at Randolph-Macon College; and the Jiann-Ping Hsu Biopharmaceutical and Regulatory Sciences Session at the annual meeting of the International Chinese Statistical Association. He was also a major contributor to the growth of the Philippine Statistical Association and responsible for creating the Office of the International Chinese Statistical Association within the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

While living, Peace donated millions to education and health-related activities, enabling hundreds of students to obtain their BS, MS, MPH, PhD, Dr. PH, or MD degrees. In addition, he gave up an annual salary of \$1.5 million with his company in 2000 to return to teaching at his undergraduate alma mater.

As the inaugural recipient of the first President's Medal for outstanding contributions to Georgia Southern University in April of 2005, Bruce F. Grube said, "Karl's work in a noble profession has provided him with not only personal gain, but a sense of fulfillment as he has contributed to the greater good as a scientist and as a scholar. He has figuratively and literally paved his own road, and through his efforts, has made it easier for others to travel. The President's Medal is an

honor that will be conferred rarely and only in extraordinary circumstances. Investing his reputation as a scholar and scientist, Karl's academic and monetary contributions will help shape the future of Georgia Southern. His desire to help his alma mater in its quest for academic distinction parallels his desire to make a difference in his discipline."

Peace was elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1991 and was the 2008 recipient of the Tito Mijarjes Lifetime Achievement Award from the Philippine Statistical Association. He was chair of the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section and its work group activity, as well as chair of the biostatistics subsection of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and its training committee and the Statistics Section of the APHA.

Although he was proud of his many academic, professional, business, philanthropic, and educational accomplishments, Peace was most proud of his efforts to uplift others, particularly his mother, siblings, wife, son, uncle, and numerous friends and students. He also was proud of his efforts within his native Baker County (endowing five scholarships at GSU for students from Baker County and providing monetary contributions so citizens could undergo cancer screenings); the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County, Georgia; and various other organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Georgia Cancer Coalition, Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance, Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition, Komen for the Cure, and American Heart Association. In 2011, the center for academic achievement at the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County was named in honor of Peace.