

## UGA/RLS News – Fall 2008



### **Seasons Greetings from University of Georgia Recreation & Leisure Studies!**

**We hope this message finds all of you enjoying the season and looking forward to a happy holiday and a promising new year.**

#### *High Ropes Course Experience, Fall 2008*

This report is intended to keep you up to date on what's been happening here with us in UGA's Recreation and



Leisure Studies Program and also on the news of your classmates and others. And, of course, if you yourself have news to share that isn't reflected here, please send it along.

Off the top, the good news is that the program is currently thriving in spite of this economic downturn that is affecting so much around us. While the future is a bit uncertain, severe cuts to the University's budget have not had an adverse affect on RLS. In fact, our indicators – freshly considered in the self-study being prepared for our reaccreditation review this spring – are all strong: good student numbers, strong faculty productivity, important innovations and significant recognition

suggest the we are in good health approaching the new year. Just a bit about that before we get to the update about classmates' activities.

#### **National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress Participation.**

Department faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students were well represented at NRPA conference in October in Baltimore. **Corey Johnson, Doug Kleiber, and Diane Samdahl**, doctoral student **Laurel Richmond**, and recent graduates **Dr. Sunhwan Hwang**, and **Dr. Lisbeth Berbary** were all involved in conference presentations. Diane had her first meeting as a newly-elected member of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators' (SPRE) Board of Directors, and she and Doug were also involved in a meeting of the Academy of Leisure Sciences. Recent master's graduate **Bryan Clift** was recognized as one of four "Lucille & Derby Dustin Future Scholars;" his conference expenses being partially underwritten by the Academy and the Society for Park and Recreation Educators (SPRE). Newly minted "Dr." Rudy Dunlap was also recognized with the SPRE leadership for the future award and the National Recreation and Park Association's Outstanding Graduate Student. Eight undergraduates also made the trip for academic credit, where they learned the ropes of professional networking and involvement by attending educational sessions, interviewing professionals and getting to know their professional organization better. The RLS program also managed a booth and received a substantial number of visitors over the five day period.

## Strong Showing at Georgia Recreation and Parks Conference

More than sixty undergraduate and graduate students attended the Georgia Recreation and Parks Conference held in Athens in November. The new ranks of GRPA leadership are full of UGA alums (Colt Green, Leslie Trier, Jimmy Gisi, and many others). Several current students attended as volunteers in addition to all who learned from the educational sessions, socials and interview opportunities



*Flag football with juniors and seniors...and Historic Figure...Guess Who!! Fall 2008*

## Graduation Events

*August 2008 Graduates include:*

*Bryan Abbott, James Carpenter, Scott Cortese, Kyle Erickson, Owen Hunt, Lindsay Isbell, Jessica Kim, and Wesley Myers*

*December 2008 Graduates will include:*

*Terri Phoenix, Ph.D.; Susan Powell, M.Ed.; and Kathryn Amatrian, Noah Brendel, Erin Brinson, Katie Carmody, Justin Carter, Katherine Cash, Casey Collins, Laura Dimenna, Alison Fritter, Chris Hiers, Marlaina Jacobus, Philip Mitchell, Hallie Parker, Hillary Pearson, Nic Risner, Pharis Roland, Alisha Russell, Sam Sheehan, and Jeremy Smith, B.S.Ed.*



*December 2008 Convocation*

## Alumni involvement with the curriculum

**Special thanks to the following alums who came as guest speakers or hosted us for field trips:** Derrick Floyd, Berkeley Boone, Carly Robinson, Colt Green, Kat Shreve, Dan Matthews, Josh Sweat, and Lisa Davol (technically PE, but we claim her!)

## Other Faculty and Staff News

**Corey Johnson, Gwynn Powell, Rudy Dunlap and Joy James** were recently notified that they have been selected to receive the Society for Park and Recreation Educators Innovation in Teaching Award for the Unified Core Curriculum and will be presented with the award at this year's Teaching Institute in Salt Lake City. This award is given every other year to recognize a teaching innovation developed by faculty members in Parks and Recreation Education. Dr. Powell won this award in 2005; she is the only person to ever receive the award twice.

**Corey Johnson** put forward his materials for promotion and tenure in August, and has received extremely positive support at all levels (Department, College, and University) thus far and simply awaits final word from the Board of Regents this spring. In addition he and alum **Dana (Beth) Kivel** have seen the publication of several co-authored works including: a chapter entitled "Construction of the "other": Leisure and the development of sexual identities" in *Diversity and the Recreational Profession: Organizational Perspectives*; "Consuming media, making men: Using collective memory work to understand leisure and the construction of masculinity" in the *Journal of Leisure Research*.; and "What a man ought to be, he is far from: Exploring collective meanings of masculinity & race in media" in *Leisure/Loisir*. In addition, he also was invited to be a respondent at this year's Leisure Research Symposium's George Butler Lecture on whiteness and (anti) racism. In May, 2009 he hopes to travel to Cambodia to begin the initial stages of starting a study abroad program there focused on youth development and social justice.

Corey has also been working closely with the school counselors in our department to improve the climate for LGBTQ youth in Georgia and they have received some grant funding for their efforts.

**Doug Kleiber's** study of retirement leisure has come to completion, culminating in a recent publication on "Generativity and Civic Engagement" in the *Journal of Adult Development* and another forthcoming on the subject of constraints to leisure in retirement in the British journal, *Leisure Studies*. He also gave presentations on related topics at the Canadian Congress on Leisure Research in Montreal in May and the World Leisure Conference in Quebec City in October. At WLC in Quebec he was also invited to participate on a panel addressing the research needed on leisure in later life. An article with doctoral student Heather Reel and **Susan Hutchinson** (PhD '05) on coping with negative life events entitled "When distress leads to possibility" was recently published in the journal *NeuroRehabilitation* and is the basis of an invitation to Doug to keynote a conference on a related subject in London in March.

**Gwynn Powell** led the fourth group of students to Russia this past summer and is actively recruiting for 2009. She serves on the National Board for the American Camp Association and collaborated with the Instructional Technology program here in the College of Education to develop three on-line training programs for ACA—Crisis Management, Youth Outcomes, and Budget and Finance. In addition there is a new on-line training program to help train students traveling to Russia ([www.uga.edu/russiacamps](http://www.uga.edu/russiacamps)). Special thanks to **John Paul McNeal** who continues to be the webmaster. She had an article that combines the use of cartoons (by Bob Davis) published in *Camping Magazine* ([http://www.acacamps.org/campmag/0805\\_different\\_perspectives.pdf](http://www.acacamps.org/campmag/0805_different_perspectives.pdf)), along with three other articles. She presented two sessions at the Southeastern Section Conference for ACA on the topics of "Catching Staff at their Best" and "Entering the Camp Profession."

Gwynn also collaborated with **TW Cauthen** in the UGA Center for Leadership and Service to offer a new course called "Student Leadership in the First Year" targeted to participants in UGA's outdoor orientation programs such as Dawg Camp started by **Carly Robinson** (MEd). The course explored outdoor leadership skills and how they translate to campus leadership.

**Diane Samdahl** completed her term as President of the College of Education Faculty Senate and now serves on the Administrative Committee of the Graduate School Council. Diane was also elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors of SPRE. She presented two papers at the Canadian Congress on Leisure Research in Montreal, one

analyzing the organizational dilemmas of a dog rescue organization and another, co-authored with **Lisbeth Berbary**, addressing cross-cultural humor. She and Lisbeth also presented a paper at the NRPA conference in Baltimore that illustrated the shifting epistemological stance in qualitative research. An earlier manuscript co-authored with **Brent Wolfe** was selected for inclusion in a recently-published textbook on experiential education. And thanks primarily to Diane's efforts, the College of Education has adopted a new course evaluation form that she helped develop and pilot test. Also, check out her lead article "Celebrating SPRENET: 14 years of Building Community" in the newest issue of *The SPRE Teaching Professor*.



*Fun and Strategy during Programming Lab*

### **Recent Graduates and Current Students**

Doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** defended his dissertation early last summer and is now in a tenure track position at Texas A&M University. Rudy was also awarded the SPRE Leadership for the Future Award & Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year

**Lisbeth Berbary** defended her dissertation in June and is now on the faculty at Indiana University

Recent master's graduate, **Bryan Clift**, was a co-recipient of a grant for \$2500 from the Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation. Bryan wrote the grant for the Holland Park Patriots – for football equipment for low income community residents – as part of a requirement for his course last spring in Applied Research and Development in Leisure Services.

Undergraduate student, **Chris Hiers** received the GRPA District 7 Outstanding Student Award based on his accomplishments during his internship at Oconee Country Park and Rec. He planned and implemented a week long "Zany" Sports Camp that focused on non traditional sports. He also was recognized for his accomplishments in the classroom (strong grades!), planning programs for the Boys and Girls Club and for the Augusta Youth Development Campus.



*Pump It UP Fall 2008*



## Alumni

**Catie Ballieu** (BSEd '07) is now living in Roswell, GA, working with a company called EnAble planning retreats for people with disabilities.

**Leslie Black Trier** (Med '02) is Program Specialist for Special Populations and Senior Adults with the Athens Clarke County Leisure Services. She was recently called for jury duty and was *not* selected because of her position and degree in therapeutic recreation leading her to point out: "I think they did not choose me because it's a civil case related to disability. Now I can truly say that my degree is paying off!"

**Lou Boestfleisch** (BSEd '03) is now Director of Parks & Recreation at White County Parks and Recreation in Cleveland, GA.

**Scott Cortese** (BSEd '08) has been hired by Athens Clarke County Leisure Services as a Park Assistant. He lives in Athens.

**Sharon Peterson Gillespie** (BSEd '98; MEd, '05) is now working in real estate sales with Prudential Network Realty in Atlantic Beach, Florida. Contact her at [sharon.gillespie@prudentialnetworkrealty.com](mailto:sharon.gillespie@prudentialnetworkrealty.com) and check out her website at <http://www.sgillespie.prudentialnetworkrealty.com>.

**Matt Hammons** (Med '05) assumed the position of 4-H Environmental Education Program Coordinator at Rock Eagle this past July

**Heidi Hunt** (BSEd '08) is teaching sixth grade math in St. Helena Central Middle School in St. Helena, South Louisiana. She is teaching there as part of a program called "Teach for America." She adds that the program "recruits anyone with a 4 year degree to teach in low income areas where the educational inequality is obvious." Teach for America was in the Washington Post. Here's the link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/12/05/AR2008120503884.html?hpid=topnews>. Heidi noted further that "It's definitely the toughest work I've ever done. I'm teaching sixth graders who are at best at a fourth grade math level. But I love them; and I love what I'm doing down here. I've started a cheerleading squad at my school, and I go to my student's football games. AND I'm finding my old RLST classes very helpful. As a teacher, I strive to balance the "flow" in my class by making my lessons fun and engaging, balancing the challenge level with the ability level. It's good stuff."

**Aaron Joyner** (BSEd '06) is a Magic Kingdom Tour Administrator and Y.E.S. Global Trainer with Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

**Emily Kennedy**, (CTRS, BSEd, '07) recently completed a master's program at the University of Tennessee in Therapeutic Recreation. She has taken a position as a CTRS at Cottonwood de Tucson, a dual-diagnosis addiction treatment facility in Tucson, AZ. She says she is "VERY excited" about the opportunity.

**Linda Kotowski** (CPRP, MEd '73), Recreation Administrator for the City of Aurora, Colorado, just completed her term as President of the National Recreation and Park Association. Read her reflections on her term, "Perspectives: A Journey Just Begun" in the October issue of *Parks & Recreation*.

**Suzy Keegan Schroyer** (BSEd '98) is an agent for banker residential Real Estate in Park City, Utah

**Becky Kelley** (BSEd '76) serves as Director of the parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia State Department of Natural Resources

**Bill Kemp** (BSEd '06) has been hired as a Group Sales manager for the Lakewood Blue Claws.

**Greg McIntyre**, (BSEd '99 Honors) received a very competitive fellowship from The Fund for Theological Education to begin his first year of study at General Theological Seminary in New York City (Manhattan). He moved to NYC with his wife and two children in August to begin his seminary training.

**David Meropol** (B.S.Ed. '07) has left STA Travel in Boston and writes that "Right now I am working at Starbucks and love it. I get to work with really nice people and interact with customers. I am having a blast and love going to work each day.

**John Paul McNeal** (MEd '05) moved last year to a position as Assistant Director of Camp Broadstone in Valle Crucis, NC. Just outside of Boone, Broadstone is part of Appalachian State University and offers summer enrichment programs for academically gifted youth. JP has also served as an adjunct instructor for App. State, teaching Introduction to Recreation and Leisure.

**Colt Miley** (BSEd '08) is back in Georgia after his year in Colorado. He is in training to be an owner/operator for Chick-fil-A. That fits him...when he returned from Russia, he asked his mom to appear at the airport with a Chick-fil-A sandwich!

**Angie Nicovich (Pihera)** (BSEd. '07) and **Emily Kennedy** (B.S.Ed. '07, see above) presented a poster entitled "Developing Therapeutic Recreation in Public Schools: Project TRiPS" at the Leisure

Research Symposium of NRPA in Baltimore. They are both graduating this month with masters degrees in therapeutic recreation from the University of Tennessee. Angie was also recently married to Corey Pihera in May of last year and is just starting a job as an aquatics specialist with Shepherd Center of Atlanta. She and Corey have moved to Atlanta.

**Anita O'Brien** (MEd. '93) and her partner Mary Anne run the Recreation and Day Services programs of The Center for Disability Rights in Rochester, NY, providing community-based recreation services on a recreation (non-medical) model, managing a Drop in Center and a program called Outdoor Exposure. Anita also taught a Leisure Education course at SUNY at Brockport College last Fall and may do so again. They live in a 105 year old "summer cottage" on the beach of Lake Ontario with their 9 month old, Jake Flynn, and their dog Sam.

**Teresa Pieper** (MEd. '05) is currently serving as aquatics coordinator for UGA's Campus Recreation.

**Craig Potter** (BSEd xx) is the Director of Cusseta-Chattahoochie County Parks and Recreation Department in Cusseta, GA.

**Micah Redden** (BSEd 01) Owner and Cheerleading Coach of Future Extreme.

**Carly Robinson** (MEd '04) is a Program Specialist with Sandy Creek Park of Athens Clarke County Leisure Services.

**Scott Rogers** (MEd '98) is the Director of Recreation at Waycross/Ware County Parks & Recreation in Waycross, GA.

**Paul Schlag** (PhD '06), Assistant Professor of Recreation Management at Western Illinois University in McComb Illinois, was recently appointed as a co-editor of NRPA's teaching journal, *The SPRE Teaching Professor* and is collaborating with Gwynn to recruit students to Russia

**Emily Schrak** (BSEd '07) is Operations Coordinator with the Classic Center in Athens

**Kat Shreve** (BSEd '91). Is Director of Camp Kudzu, a camp program that serves children with Diabetes in the state of Georgia.

**Taylor Smith** (BSEd '03) is the Athletic Supervisor at Hemblee Park of the Rosewell Parks and Recreation Department. He is working on completing a Masters in RLS at UGA

**Chris Scollay** (MEd. '00) has a "truly amazing job" as aquatics supervisor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Amy Woo** (BSEd. '94) is in her 5<sup>th</sup> year working with the US Department of Defense in Seoul South Korea. She has also recently completed her first online Masters course in Sport Management from the United States Sports Academy at the University of South Alabama

**Kathy Wortham** (BSEd '87) is Recreation Manager at Valdosta/Lowndes County (GA) Recreation, Parks and Community Affairs Department.

Email addresses for those listed are available upon request [roselane@uga.edu](mailto:roselane@uga.edu)

### **Final Note**

*By attempting to contact those alums for whom we have email addresses, we will learn about the accuracy/currency of those addresses, but if you get this message and have additions (new information not noted here; email addresses of others) and corrections (year graduating, updates on the information) please respond to [roselane@uga.edu](mailto:roselane@uga.edu). Also, search us out on facebook and myspace. And if you want to make contact with other alumni members, feel free to contact us and we'll do our best to put you in touch.*

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

