

# *UGA/RLS News – Fall 2007*

## *Seasons Greetings from RLS Athens!*

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

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.

Overall for us, we are happy to report that our responses to the program review provided last spring were well received, and no changes were required of us that were not already in the making. The principle change has been the installation of Corey Johnson as Program Coordinator, over both undergraduate and graduate programs, thereby freeing up Gwynn Powell and Diane Samdahl to focus on their teaching and research programs.

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

All four department faculty, several graduate students and one undergraduate student traveled to Indianapolis for the NRPA Congress in September. **Corey Johnson, Doug Kleiber**, and doctoral students **Rudy Dunlap, Laurel Richmond** and **Sunhwan Hwang** were all involved in conference presentations, and **Diane Samdahl** and Doug Kleiber had roles to play in the Academy of Leisure Sciences meetings. The RLS program managed a booth and received a substantial number of visitors over the five day period. **Gwynn Powell** and **Kat Shreve** (B.S.Ed. '90) led two sessions for professionals exploring Designing Programs around Youth Development Outcomes and Day Camp Staff Training strengthened through the Accreditation Process.

## **Strong Showing at Georgia Recreation and Parks Conference**

More than fifty undergraduate and graduate students attended the Georgia Recreation and Parks Conference held at Jekyll Island in November. Undergraduate students **Allison Fritter, Drew**



**Ward, Caleb Nicholson**, and UGA faculty **Corey Johnson** and **Gwynn Powell** contributed in various ways to the conference, and UGA Alum **Brent Wolfe** offered a session on Collaborating with College Students. In addition **Gwynn Powell** lead a session on Day Camp Staff Training build on Outcome Targets. Roswell Athletics Supervisor and current masters student, **Taylor Smith** and Jefferson Park and Recreation's **Colt Green**, another UGA/RLS alum, served on the GRPA Leadership I team that met at the conference.

## Other Undergraduate Program News

August graduates included Michael Burwell, Ashley Clark, Kelly Fields, Stacy Foc, Shelly Freed, Brandon Fujihira, Rob Kral, Jessica Lusher, David Merepol, Stephanie Phillips, Patrick Rosevear, Elaine Tucker, Kathryn Ulmer and Vincent Vaughn.

The juniors implemented community projects at the Boys & Girls Club, Hope Haven, and Grandview Nursing Home this fall.



Michael Butzen, Taylor Davis, Heidi Hunt, Allison Fritter, Alisha Russell, Lee Smith served on a panel exploring Recruiting and Training the Next Generation of Recreation Professionals at the GRPA District 7 meeting.

## Graduation Events



Smiles and congratulations are in order for our graduates! We were well-represented at the college of Education convocation with Josh Little, Colt Miley, Drew Ward, Anne Tully and Eddie Solisberry in attendance....with Corey amazing the audience by reciting from memory the students first, middle and last names. The tassels were moved at UGA ceremony by Greg Mays, Lindsay Graham, Steven Carter, Jessie Pollett, Colt Miley, Josh Little and Eddie Solisberry.

## A Passing



Friends, classmates and teachers of University of Georgia Recreation and leisure studies student mourn the loss of **Michael Hendrickson** (shown on the left), a leader, a role model, a mentor, a friend and a committed Christian. Michael died on Saturday, December 1, 2007 from a strain of Bacterial Meningitis. He was due to graduate this coming May after completing his internship with Mistletoe State Park near his home in Augusta. Michael loved to hunt, playing guitar, and playing golf. He had a special love for his dog "Bandit". He was active in several youth ministries in the State of Georgia and was particularly fond of serving on the "River of Life" in Lincolnton, Georgia.

His classmates and professors at UGA know him as being extraordinarily outgoing and always making people laugh. To quote his friends, "He had one of the most magnetic personalities that drew people to him and to God." Many of his peers and professors attended his memorial service in Martinez, GA. Hendrickson became a leader in his learning community, and served as a leader and role model for his peers. Michael said his dream job would be to run a youth camp, and, as a mentor for younger students in the major, he would have been good at that. He had an affinity for working with youth and we are really going to miss him.

His degree will be conferred to his parents posthumously, during the May commencement ceremony.

### **Graduate Program News**

Now that the revised undergraduate curriculum is in place and approved at all university levels, we have been focusing on strengthening our core graduate curriculum and recruiting efforts. As a result, we have revised our former Leisure Education course to become Experiential Education, more accurately reflecting on the goals and mission of our program. In this course, graduate students learn the theory of experiential education and, along with a community partner, apply that knowledge in the supervision of undergraduate in Advanced Program and Event Management

In addition, we have revived and update some old favorites such as: Gender & Leisure (formerly Women & Leisure) and Optimal Experience, Adaptation & Aging (formerly Leisure & Aging). Corey now teaches research methods to our department's graduate students in recreation, college student affairs administration and school/mental health counseling. Diane has developed a new course for advanced doctoral students on Questionnaire Design and SPSS Analysis and Doug is teaching a course on Social Psychology for the larger department. If you know of any good students looking for a graduate program, please put them in touch. Corey would be happy to talk with them and schedule a visit.

### **Alumni involvement with the curriculum**

The following alums took time out of their schedule to come speak to RLS classes or host faculty and students on tours of their agencies: **Colt Green**, Jefferson Parks & Recreation, **Karin Litchey Usery**, Event Planner for UGA's Georgia Center, **Derrick Floyd**, Athens Boys and Girls Club, **Berkeley Boone**, **Sandy Creek Nature Center** **Dan Mathews**, Director of Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA, and **Carly Robinson**, Volunteer Coordinator for the Natural Resources Division, Athens Clarke County Leisure Services

The RLST program hosted a delegation of Russian camp directors and teachers for two weeks in October. The guests spoke in classes, held study abroad information sessions and toured camps and youth programs in the southeast. They were generously hosted by alumni friends: **Christy Fulford** at Girl Scout Camp Timber Ridge (canoeing, archery), **Dan Mathews** and **Josh Sweat** at Camp Twin Lakes (kickball, paddle boats, zip line, fishing, mini-golf, tennis, golf cart driving, snoring ), **Josh Rood** at Blue Ridge Outdoor Center at Camp Mikell (snakes, turtles, owls, group initiatives), **Derrick Floyd** at Boys and Girls Club in Athens (games and singing). We finished the two week adventure in Florida over Fall Break at a marine-biology camp, hosted by RLST alum **Rebecca McWorter** at Seacamp (snorkeling, algae lab,

emergency search and rescue, fresh grilled fish) and Oleta River State Park (mangrove kayaking, grilling out, raccoons)

### **3rd year of RLST ‘Study Abroad in Russia’ Program**

Детский праздник под американским флагом

#### **Children’s Holiday under American flag**

12 июля 2007



#### **Children’s Holiday under American flag**

*It’s not the first year that American students come to work in summer camps of our republic. Here they acquire skills of working with children speaking a different language and get acquainted with a country completely new to them. The situation sometimes requires communication through gestures and mimics only, and the severe (to American standards) living conditions seem at first too hard to the guests from another side of the Ocean. But according to their own words, Russian children, so friendly, sincere and eager to communicate, compensate all the difficulties. For **Gwynn Powell**, professor of the University of Georgia, it is the third summer in “Lesnaya Skazka”. As she says, “I come here and feel absolutely at home”. She has a lot of friends among children. It is not at all surprising as the heart of the American woman is open to any child. When she walks through the camp she can hardly answer the numerous greetings “Hello, Gwynn!”— each child going by wants to shake hands with her. It so happened this year that four American students and their supervisor celebrated their national holiday – The Independence Day – in Mari-El. For the citizens of the US the holiday symbolizes freedom and independence. Traditionally Americans spend this day with their families; they usually go to the countryside or have picnics in the park.*

*This time the holiday was quite different for our foreign guests. They tried to organize a holiday for children in two camps – “Lesnaya Skazka” and “Kooperator”. What we can learn from Americans is their patriotic attitude towards their country. In the morning of July, 4<sup>th</sup> the children had an assembly with an American flag and a short performance from the history of the USA. Every camper was given a little American flag as a souvenir (the guests prepared the presents beforehand), at breakfast all the tables were decorated with American patriotic napkins. And then during the whole day Gwynn and her students were playing American games – sports, educational and entertaining games - with Russian children... Traditional American treat – roasted marshmallows– crowned the hilarity of the holiday. These white tasteless cylinders blazed up in the fire and got their inimitable delicate taste.*

*By evening the holiday organizers (**Cory Peppers, Colt Miley, Renee Stander, Meggin Roberts**) were exhausted, but it could be seen clearly by their faces that they would remember this Independence Day for a very long time.*

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*Following is a bit more news about our faculty and staff, some of the directions of our current students, both graduate and undergraduate, and a few pieces we can report about our alums. But we hope to hear back from you. When we do, we will make your news and whereabouts known to other alums in our next issue (Spring '08).*

*Of course, we are always happy to have help in the form of contributions to our alumni association (payable through the Arch Foundation) or to the Edie Klein Fund which honors an outstanding undergraduate student, but it is more important that we simply find out where you are and what you have been doing. And do let us know if we can be of any help to you professionally.*

## **Other Faculty and Staff News**

**Corey W. Johnson** and **Gwynn M. Powell**, faculty members in counseling and human development services, have been elected new co-editors for *Schole: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education*.

**Corey Johnson's** article, "Tracing the origins of Queer Theory to advance leisure and sport research," written with Beth Kivel) was recently published in *Gender & Sexuality in Sport* (C. Aitchison [Ed.] New York, NY: Routledge, 2007), and he Laurel Richmond and Beth Kivel combined to write " *What a man ought to be, he is far from: Exploring Collective Meanings of Masculinity & Race in Media*" which was presented at the National Park and Recreation Association's Leisure Research Symposium in Indianapolis and will be out in *Leisure* early in 2008. Also, Corey was accompanied by doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** to the University of Utah in September to teach a 1 credit hour class on Qualitative Research for the doctoral students in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism there.

**Doug Kleiber** has continued to collaborate with Galit Nimrod from Ben Gurion University in Israel and Megan Janke from the University of Illinois in a series of articles on leisure and subjective well being in relation to retirement and widowhood. The three authors have articles on widowhood in press with *Women & Aging, Journal of Leisure Research*, and *Activities Adaptation and Aging*, and on retirement with *World Leisure*. Nimrod and Kleiber have also combined to write "Reconsidering change and continuity in later life: Toward an innovation theory of successful aging," published this past summer in the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*. Kleiber is also collaborating with colleagues at Clemson University of issues related to adjusting to disability and aging. His new course, "Leisure, Health and Human Development" was offered to undergraduates for the first time this fall.

**Gwynn Powell** began her term on the National Board for the American Camp Association and collaborated with ACA staff to write three chapters of the new book *Outcomes Tools for Positive Youth Development*. She presented educational sessions at ACA Regional Conference, GRPA, NRPA National Conference, NRPA Executive Development Program, and NRPA Health and

Livability Summit. She co-authored two articles: 1) Staff Burn-out Prevention and Stress Management, 2) Risk Perceptions versus Legal Realities in Campus Recreational Sport Programs.

**Diane Samdahl** completed her term as President-elect and is now President of the College of Education Faculty Senate. Given a six-week notice that our Dean would be stepping down, Diane actively organized the faculty to provide input into selection of the interim dean and the dean search committee. Also through the Senate, she has developed and is pilot testing an improved course evaluation form. Last summer Diane presented at the British Leisure Studies Association conference. Her well-attended session was titled "When government fails: Leisure and collective action in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," and addressed the volunteer animal rescue efforts in New Orleans. She is continuing research in the area of voluntary dog rescue organizations.

**Katie Bemisderfer** is now an advisor in the University's Honors Program. Doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** has now taken over many of Katie's undergraduate advising responsibilities. We wish Katie well in her new position.

## **Recent Graduates and Current Students**

Doctoral student **Heather Reel** is now teaching in the Therapeutic Recreation Program at Western Carolina University.

**Susan Powell**, a masters student in RLS, hiked the Appalachian Trail this past summer.

Masters student **Bryan Clift** served as an assistant coach with the UGA Soccer Team this fall. The team won more games than ever in the past and reached the conference championship series.

Undergrad **Janice Rinaldo** received a scholarship from the American Camp Association, Southeastern Section to attend the Student Camp Leadership Academy (SCLA) held in Illinois during November. SCLA is a weekend retreat that brings together students, camp professionals, national ACA staff and leadership to explore, learn, and understand what the camp professional of the future must be and the leadership opportunities within the ACA structure at the local and National levels to impact the development of youth and others. Ms. Rinaldo will report about her experiences at the next section board meeting.

RLS doctoral student **Ben Dillard**, Director of Parks and Recreation in Jefferson, GA has led the department in an innovative initiative to start its own radio station, Radio Jefferson (1620 AM). The following is a report on the experiment that appears in the GRPA.

*JEFFERSON - Cities all over Georgia are trying to find new sources of revenue to pay for government services, but this Jackson County town is going where no one has gone before. Jefferson is starting its own community radio station, Radio Jefferson, which may be the only city-owned radio station in the United States - and a kind of high-tech return to the past. The man spearheading the city's radio station, **Ben Dillard**, says it's mainly going to be old-style talk radio, with neighbors talking to neighbors about gardens, recipes and community goings-on. Not least, it's going to make money for the city of Jefferson, said Dillard, who heads the Jefferson Parks and Recreation Department.*

*"We have a potential to rely less on property taxes when we find alternative means of funding," said Jefferson City Manager **John Ward** [BS.Ed '9x]. Dillard projects annual advertising sales of at least \$250,000 and operating costs of about \$110,000, added to the initial \$80,000 to set up the station. Profits will go to the city's parks and recreation department. Radio Jefferson already is streaming over the Internet at [www.radiojeffersonga.com](http://www.radiojeffersonga.com). On Aug. 1, it will be on the actual radio airwaves at 1620 AM. By linking up a series of low-power antennas, none more than 10 feet high, the station's signal will cover 65 square miles, Ward said. Dillard said he got the idea for the station as he looked for a way to broadcast Jefferson High School football games. As he looked, he discovered a low-power station in Fulton County called Radio Sandy Springs. Started by advertising professional and former radio broadcaster David Moxley in 2005, Radio Sandy Springs broadcasts dozens of regular live talk shows on gardening, healthy living, cooking and a wide variety of other topics. There's even a commentary hosted by a former international president of CNN. All are unpaid volunteers, said Moxley, who collected a consulting fee to set up Jefferson's station. In fact, some companies pay for the whole show for the privilege of having a slot. Jefferson is copying Moxley's format, both in the technological setup and programming, Dillard said. Now, most of the content streaming from Radio Jefferson's Internet feed is borrowed from Radio Sandy Springs, but that's quickly changing, said Dillard, who on Thursday launched his own morning talk show. Dillard's goal is to have 50 percent local programming at first, eventually going 100 percent. "Every day we're having people who are interested in creating their own show contact the city," Ward said. Advertisers also are lining up, Dillard told the Jefferson City Council recently. A weekly talk show with the head football coach at Jefferson High School already is sold out, he said. Jefferson Mayor Jim Joiner said he was skeptical when Ward and Dillard proposed the radio station in April. But after talking to people at the Sandy Springs station, Joiner changed his mind. "If it works for them, why couldn't it work for us?" Joiner said. Cities all over Georgia are trying to diversify their income, but Gwin Hall of the Georgia Municipal Association said this is the first she's heard of a city trying to make money with a radio station. "I think that's pretty inventive and entrepreneurial of the city," Hall said. "I commend their creativity." The station not only can make money for Jefferson and provide listeners with emergency information, but can build a sense of community, according to Moxley. "We're sort of stepping back into the future, if that makes any sense," Moxley said. "What we're doing, on a very small scale, is giving the community a chance to express themselves." But the city-owned station might raise some thorny issues for Jefferson, said Ann Hollifield, a telecommunications professor at the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. "If it operates as true community radio, it's hard to argue it's a bad thing," Hollifield said. A station like Radio Jefferson can foster community discussion and provide "critical emergency communication" for a small town, she said - if the station is staffed during the crisis. But government control of media can be abused, she said. Governments in the U.S. historically have avoided owning media like radio or newspapers. The United States often criticizes governments in other countries for using state-owned media as a propaganda tool, she noted. Another issue is financing, she said - whether the station truly takes in more money than it costs. "Radio faces some real financial challenges right now, particularly small radio stations," she said. Jefferson has no radio station, but it does have a weekly newspaper. The two may be trying to sell advertising to the same businesses, Hollifield said. "Is this going to be an instance of a city engaged in taxpayer-subsidized competition against private enterprise?" she asked.*

Current masters student and Athletic Supervisor for the City of Roswell Recreation and Parks Department, **Taylor Smith** (B.S.Ed. '02) was on the GRPA Leadership team that put on the silent auction that raised \$6500 dollars this year.

## Alumni

**Allan Autry** (M.Ed. 04) has taken the position of Athletic Program Coordinator position for the Town of Erwin, NC. Before that he was an intramural supervisor Lee University.

**Janna Blasingame Custer** (BS.Ed '94) graduated 6th in her class and *Magna Cum Laude* from UGA Law last May. She is now a practicing attorney with The Jordan Firm on St Simons Island, GA. She received an M.S. in Recreation Resources Management from Utah State University in Logan, Utah in 2000. She specializes in civil litigation and environmental law and policy. ([jcuster@thejordanfirmssi.com](mailto:jcuster@thejordanfirmssi.com)).

**Lou Boestfleisch**, CPRP (B.S. Ed. '03) is now Director of Recreation in White County, GA. He is also happy to announce that he and his wife are expecting twins in February! He and be reached at 706- 865-5275 x. 222 or [lboest@whitecounty.net](mailto:lboest@whitecounty.net)

**Chris Brown**, (M.Ed '06), Internship Coordinator for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Department of Recreation and Sport Management, writes, *"Things are going great in Las Vegas, hard to believe I have been here 6 years already. Work and school are great. The PGM program is going good, we had our first graduating class last fall and our second will be this fall, we currently have around 70 students in the program. As of Jan. 1 the RLS program became its own department, we are now the Department of Recreation and Sport Management. We hired Dan McLean from Indiana State as our new department chair and he officially started yesterday. I am the internship coordinator for both PGM and RSM, so my summers are busy. I also teach in the RSM core, which I really enjoy. I am currently in my 3rd year of my Ph.D program, I am a part time student so it will take me a little longer. I am not able to earn my degree in the Hotel College so I am in the College of Education, specifically in Educational Leadership. I enjoy it.*

*Personally, I got married a couple of years ago to another professor in the Hotel College. Ironically she was born in Athens and both her parents went to UGA and she went to law school at Mercer, small world. We have a 14 month old and another one due August 9th, should be interesting. Other than that, things are going great. Las Vegas is fun, although a little warm in the summer months, working in the Hotel College is great and I am very excited about our new department. I still have my football season tickets and try to make it back at least once a fall semester for a game. I frequent the RLS website and it looks like things are going well and the move into Counseling worked out good for everyone."* Chris can be reached at 702- 895-4837.

**Steven Carter** (BSEd '07) has accepted a youth pastor position in Camilla, Georgia.

**Tonya Butler Collins** (M.Ed. '05), writes that she has "just bought a new house, business is growing, Maddie is healthy and doing well and things are just good all the way around." She has been teaching part time in the Department of Education, Health and Wellness at Gainesville State College and at Georgia Perimeter College. She is also working with Hall County Parks and Recreation and Panola State Conservation Park providing outdoor recreation, fitness, and survival skills programs, and scouts winter sites for **Matt Weneta's** program (see below). Tonya is the creator and president of De Novo Fitness Systems, which was recently featured in an article in the *Gwinnett Daily Post* entitled "Wild Women: Course Teaches Survival Basics":

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05/05/2007

By Anna Ferguson

Staff Writer

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*Tonya Collins is the instigator of many love-hate relationships. As the founder of De Novo Fitness Systems' outdoor women's program, Collins leads packs of women through survival-skill weekends. To be clear, these aren't some leisurely strolls through the woods. Collins is hardcore. Participants sleep on the ground. They make their own shelter and forage for their own water. Most importantly, they walk away with a renewed sense of self confidence. "Women come on these trips and are challenged and exposed to challenges they might not normally face," Collins said. "After they overcome them, though, they feel empowered. We have a debriefing*



meeting about a week after the trip, and hands down, women always say they feel like they can do anything now. They also say they hated doing it at the time, though." The Flowery Branch fitness center's outdoor women's program will kick off on May 19 with an overnight course in wilderness survival skills. Participants will face outdoor obstacles, but in a safe environment. The course is meant to teach women how to survive in any situation, from a family camping trip gone wrong to being stranded in the middle of nowhere. "There are too many stories about family vacations gone wrong," said Collins, who spent six years in the military and is trained in survival skills. "My goal is to teach women the skills they need to keep their family and themselves safe. Would you know how to find water or build a shelter if you had to? Would you know how to fix a broken windshield wiper if it was pouring down rain and you were stranded? I'll teach them all of that." Learning to breath, assessing the situation and being able to fend for yourself top the list of skills Collins hopes to instill in participants. These skills of survival, she said, can also be applied to overcoming barriers in everyday life. "That's another big part of the weekend," she said. "You use the skills we learn and apply them to any situation." After teaching survival courses at Georgia Perimeter College, Collins saw how the trips affected the women in her class. She witnessed timid females and mid-life mothers who took the class leave with an understanding of their own strength. Seeing her students walk away feeling this boost in confidence, she knew she was on to something. "I saw all these women feeling better about themselves after this course, and I wanted to expand it," she said. "This is something all women need to feel." Being well-acquainted with the natural world isn't a must for participants. In fact, Collins said, most of the women who take her trips are the antithesis of tree-huggers and have never even been camping. "We get all kinds of women and all kinds of ages, from 19 to 50 years old," she said. "I have been pretty surprised by the response that we've gotten all these different types of women who want to be involved. It's really very exciting." In the modern rush-rush world, it's rare for females to have time alone to connect and rejuvenate in the company of other women. For Collins, female bonding is also a major goal on the journey. "Women are taking care of their families, working all the time and never really have a chance to just be alone with other women. Women are the heart of the family and they need to be around other women to regain themselves," she said. "It's so important." While the women's program is, of course, for ladies only, Collins has various other programs that reach out the male demographic, with several all-male survival skills trips planned for the fall, she said. A family program is also in the works. These trips will include activities to bring family members closer together and reconnect with one another, she said. The women's program will continue throughout the year, with various trips planned. The first venture will be to Trey Mountain for the survival weekend May 19-20. A Women on the Water kayaking and camping program will be held June 16-17 and Aug. 18-19, and a sea kayaking trip is planned for July 27-29. A rock-climbing program is scheduled for the fall. Trips cost between \$35 and \$325, depending on the location. If weekend trips are too difficult to schedule, Collins also offers family and individual hiking programs. "It's really important for people to be outside and appreciate nature," she said. "When you're outside, in the woods, the rest of the world just melts away. At least, for a few hours." For more information about the programs, call 770-831-7929 or visit [www.denovofs.com](http://www.denovofs.com).

**Lynne Cory** (Ph.D. '04), formerly a post doctoral research associate with the Parks Recreation and Tourism Department at Clemson University, is now a tenure track assistant professor in that department.

**Tim Gaines** (B.S.Ed. '87) continues as Park Administrator for the South Gwinnett Athletic Association in Snellville. He lives in Loganville with his wife of 18 years and three sons, ages 6, 9 and 13. He can be reached at: [tgaines@sgaasports.com](mailto:tgaines@sgaasports.com).

**Gisele Gaudet-Amigo** (Ed.D. '04) presented at a paper at Clute Institute on Higher Education conference in Padova, Italy in June, while her husband Pablo presented at the European Palliative Care Congress in Budapest. They combined their conference business with a cruise through the Greek Islands and then visits to Spain and France ([gaudetamigog@macewan.ca](mailto:gaudetamigog@macewan.ca)).

**Jimmy Gisi** (B.S.Ed.'86), Director of Cobb County Parks & Recreation, was selected to succeed Tom Martin as the Executive Director of the Georgia Recreation and Park Association.

**Colt Green** (B.S.Ed. '0x), served as part of the Leadership I team at the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Conference at Jekyll Island in November.

**Annie Hagberg** (M.Ed. '0x) is now working for Easter Seals in Oakland, California. She is doing home-based early intervention (similar to what she was doing in GA) and hopes to "push them to get an aquatic therapy program going in the Berkeley area [especially] with the younger populations." (hollowiris@yahoo.com).

**Beans Kelly** (B.S. Ed. '90), former UGA Women's Golf coach, now operates her own business, "Body Wise Golf with Beans," in Pawley's Island, SC. She also works with USANA Health Sciences. Contact her at beans.kelly@yahoo.com or 843-251-3491, or check out her website: www.bodywisegolfwithbeans.com.

**Andrew Lentini** (M.Ed. '05) works with ACC's Recycling Division (doing graphic/web design, outreach, etc. and recently had his second child: He writes: *"Things my way are pretty busy these days. We are a family of four since last March. : ) People kept saying 'two is not any harder than one.' Unfortunately, I think most of the people who said that either did not have children or were against people taking naps!"* He adds that, *"I feel so "un-academic" these days. The closest I get to academia any more is looking at nutritional information labels and determining percentages of daily requirements."* Andrew can be reached at: playthebanjo@gmail.com.

**Michelle McClendon** (B.S.Ed. '97) is now a County Extension Agent (4-H & Youth) for Putnam County, GA. She can be reached at: mmcclelland@uga.edu)

**Theresa Peiper** (M.Ed. '05) is now the aquatics director at Bogan Park in Gwinnett County, GA.

**Stephanie Phillips** (BSEd 07) is assistant athletic director at Ansley Golf Club in Atlanta.

**Jessie Pollet** (BSEd '07) will be attending the Focus on the Family Institute for the next year.

**Donny Roberson** (M.Ed. '03) is a member of the Faculty of Physical Culture in the Department of Recreationology at Palacky University in the Czech Republic.

**Andrell ('Drel') Roberts** (B.S.Ed. '05) is coaching track with Athens Academy and Jefferson Park and Recreation while teaching middle school history at Rutland Academy in Athens.

**Jacquelyn Simmons** (M.Ed. '06) now works with the Hilton Atlanta Northeast hotel. She can be reached at: jazzyliltip@yahoo.com.

**Chris Scollay** (M.Ed '00) recently took a new position as the Director of Aquatics with the University of Tennessee. She is also recently engaged to be married.

**John Ward** (BS.Ed. '96) is now City Manager in Jefferson, GA

**Laine Weinstein** (BS.Ed. '98) continues to work for Challenge Aspen. She has been instrumental in setting up a new "Individualized Therapeutic Recreation" program for this resort/community setting ([laine@challengeaspen.com](mailto:laine@challengeaspen.com); 970-923-0578).

**Matt Weneta** (M.Ed. '06) continues as Program Director for Blackwater Outdoor Experiences in Midlothian, VA. Some of the activities of the program were featured in the following story in the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* (Bill Lohman 8/14/07):

### *Camping for confidence*

#### *Blackwater wilderness expeditions help kids learn teamwork, trust*

*They survived eight days of backpacking in the wilderness and all that goes with it: sunburn, bug bites and blisters on their feet. They also endured meals of Spam, tolerated sleeping on the ground and, at the end, navigated a stretch of rapids on the meandering Shenandoah River that left them exhilarated. "It was awesome!" said Chelsey Shaw, 14, of Chesterfield County. Asked to describe his feelings about the trip, Taylor Jackson, 17, of South Hill said, "Pretty much joy." This was your typical summer camping experience - and it wasn't. Each of the eight teens on this expedition had some sort of learning disability, developmental delay or social awkwardness. For them, the woods were not only a playground, but a classroom where they discovered a great deal about themselves and each other. "We use wilderness and experience as our context," said **Matthew Weneta**, program director of Blackwater Outdoor Experiences in Midlothian. "They think they're playing and having a big old time and goofing off, which they are, but at the same time they learn from it." The mission? To build the teens' confidence and to improve their ability to work within a group, a skill that does not necessarily come easy to kids with ADHD (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder) or developmental issues such as mild forms of autism. Blackwater, an offshoot of Adolescent Health Center, has been in the business of therapeutic outdoor adventure for more than 25 years, focused primarily in the past on youth in crisis and basing its work on research that says "three weeks in the woods has as much effect as six to nine months in a rehab facility," said Sara Alguire, Blackwater's clinical director. "We know that being outdoors and learning to be self-sufficient and working in a group is good for kids," she said. This most recent eight-day outing along the Shenandoah River, for kids not in crisis but dealing with long-term issues, represents an expansion in Blackwater's scope to reach out to what clinical director Sara Alguire calls "an underserved" population of children. "There are some summer camps out there that cater to kids with learning differences, but most of the expedition-type programs are geared more towards those kids who are having more severe family problems, behavioral problems, that kind of thing," she said. For younger children with learning disabilities, Blackwater offers a shorter camping trip with weekly sessions of similar activities in a local park. Staff members who coordinate and lead the trips have specialized backgrounds in social work, special education and recreation experiential therapy. On the eight-day trip, the kids rock-climbed, backpacked in the woods north of Luray and paddled the Shenandoah. They pitched tents, performed chores and sat around the campfire every night, talking and playing games. The atmosphere is "not at all boot-campish," Weneta said, but more nurturing. He described many of the activities as "prescriptive," meaning they addressed issues such as teamwork and trust. "A lot of these kids have trust issues because they've been mistreated by other kids," Weneta said. On the next-to-last day of their adventure, the kids said their favorite parts included swimming, encountering a family of otters and, as 16-year-old Yuri Weinberg of Richmond put it, "Getting to hang out with all of y'all." Perhaps the highlight for most was paddling their canoes and kayaks through the Class 2 rapids near Compton, an achievement some punctuated with arms raised triumphantly and all finished with smiles. Even having their canoe get stuck temporarily on rocks at the top of the rapids didn't dampen the experience for Lydia Valentine and Yuri. During a game afterward called two roses and a thorn - in which the campers described two good things and one bad that happened to them - Lydia, of Richmond, who turned 15 during the trip, said of her time in the woods: "The whole experience was a rose."*

Matt can be reached at 804-378-9006.

**Brent Wolfe** (M.A. '02, Ph.D. '04) assistant professor of recreation program at Georgia Southern University reports that his wife Becky gave birth to their first child - Austyn Grace - in July.

Last December, **Robin (Yaffe) Tschumper** (Ed.D. '96) recently became the Executive Director of the Houston County Women's Resources. She wrote this past June that, "*We provide advocacy and crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and homelessness. It is a small non-profit with 6 staff and about a \$400,000 annual budget--most of which comes from grants. About all I have done since January is write grants. Now we are headlong into our fund-raising season. We are planning our 4th annual Motorcycle and Classic Car Rally, This is something that was a bit of a struggle for me to want to plan, but I am having fun with it. My recreation skills are coming into play as we prepare for our children's summer day camp. I am serving as an expert witness in a battery and acquaintance rape case in Wisconsin beginning tomorrow. And was requested by Olmstead County (Rochester--home to Mayo Clinic) to submit an alternative sentencing plan for a former client of ours that will use recreational therapy in lieu of a prison sentence (I will supervise with my staff taking the lead in her interventions). I am definitely using my education in a way that I love! Life is good. It is fun being at the heart of the Minnesota political scene. Ken got some very important legislation passed related to monitoring Atrazine and other chemicals in our drinking water, and some other stuff as well. He is the chief author on the House side of the Universal Health Care bill in the State. We went from living pretty quietly here on our farm to living in the fast lane pretty quickly! We both love it!*" (ryaffe@acegroup.cc)

### **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. 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!