

## *UGA/RLS News - Spring 2008*

***Belated Spring Greetings from Athens!*** As was the case last year at this time when we contacted you the weather around here lately has been amazingly beautiful. Of course, a year ago we didn't have the drought to quite the extent that we do now, so we're happy when the blue skies give way to rain as well. In good UGA sporting news, the gymnasts took their 4<sup>th</sup> straight national crown (with the help of RLS senior **Tiffany Tolnay**), the tennis teams are national champs for the second year in a row and the Bulldog baseball team is far improved over last year...leading the SEC in fact as we speak. But closer to RLS business, we experienced both highs and lows this year, with the deaths of two students on one hand and a banner year for awards on the other. Read on and then let us hear your news.

### **RLS Program News**

Having reported the December death of undergraduate **Michael Hendrikson** in the fall newsletter, it is with further sadness that we report the loss of graduate student **Katherine Kerstetter**. Katherine was a daughter, sister, teacher, colleague and friend. As a lover of the outdoors, Katherine felt most at peace when she was backpacking and mountain biking. While here at UGA, she taught backpacking and was able to share her knowledge to allow others to enjoy her passion. As an avid sports fan and native New Englander, she relished the Red Sox's win this fall, and enjoyed all but one game of the NFL season. She was making progress on her doctoral studies and contributing to our learning community. We miss her presence in our lives.

As for Michael, his family and friends have arranged to remember him by establishing the ***Michael J. Hendrickson Academic Fund***. News of the scholarship was reported in a story on WJBF ABC in Augusta earlier this spring. The scholarship is intended for a student in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Program at UGA. As part of an effort to raise money for the scholarship, students organized a 3 on 3 basketball tournament. Students, and a few faculty, joined the effort. In the photo graduate students **Susan Powell, Chip Woodward** and **Denny Teason** joined **Doug Kleiber** and **Big Bird** (CWJ) to form a very competitive (and colorful) team. The competition raised \$700.



To donate to the Michael J. Hendrickson Academic Fund, you can call the University at (706) 542-2267. You can also find more information by visiting <http://www.coe.uga.edu/>.

The Camp Administration and Youth Development in the Camp Setting courses hosted a summer camp job fair that was held in Ramsey in January. Several hundred students were connected with camps seeking staff for the summer. Proceeds from the event went to support the Michael Hendrickson Scholarship Fund. In addition, those participating in the lab associated with the course, conducted programs for the Boys and Girls Club to help children feel more confident in the outdoors.

The Maymester "road trip," with students traveling around the state to learn about facility design, was led by **Gwynn Powell** again. The group traveled 632 miles and were graciously hosted by alumni **Paul Whitworth, Colt Green, Jeff Wreyford, Michal Dellas, Tracey Tallent,** and **Katherine Cash** among others **Angela Rouse** volunteered as the official tour guide and "Knower of Everyone in the State."

## **Banner Year for RLS People**

**Gwynn Powell** received the College of Education's *D. Keith Osborn Award for Teaching Excellence*.

**Kent Kilpatrick** (Adjunct Faculty in RLST) received the College of Education *Donald M. Schneider Mentoring Award*.

**Corey Johnson** received the COE *Outstanding Teaching Award* and was recognized at the University Honors Day celebration in early April.

**Doug Kleiber** was awarded the College of Education's *Russell Yeany Award for Outstanding Cumulative Research*.

Alumnus **Derrick Floyd** (B.S.Ed. 05) received the University of Georgia *MLK Freedom Award* given to honor his Athens Boys and Girls Club program, "The Power of a Dream: Transforming One Life at a Time." If you'd like to be in touch with him, his email is [Floy8888@aol.com](mailto:Floy8888@aol.com).

Alumna **Kat Shreve** (B.S.Ed. '91) was selected to receive the College of Education's *Professional Achievement Alumni Award!*

Doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** received the University's *Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award*. He was recognized at the Honors Day program. The award "documents the fact that [his] teaching performance ranks in the top ten percent of all TAs serving the University."

## **Other Faculty and Staff News**

**Gwynn Powell** will be taking her fourth student group to Russia this summer with the Study Abroad Program, Camp Counselors Russia ([www.uga.edu/russiacamps](http://www.uga.edu/russiacamps)). RLST undergrads Jacob Miller and Taylor Davis, and graduate students Susan Powell and Denny Teason will join other UGA students on the adventure. She has remained active with the American Camp Association serving on the National Board, speaking at the National conference, having two articles published in *Camping Magazine*. She served as a speaker for the Georgia State parks conferences (rangers, managers and interpreters) and ran into several alums who are out serving the state. She spoke at the NRPA Executive Development Program hosted by Clemson.

**Corey Johnson** had a busy and productive Spring traveling to the University of Waterloo to give a keynote address at the International Graduate Student Leisure Research Symposium. His address, "Writing Ourselves at Risk: Using Self-Narrative in Working for Social Justice" was well received and he followed it up with a presentation at the Canadian Congress for Leisure Research with doctoral student Laurel Richmond titled "A Prisoner of One's Race: Racially Organized Prison Politics." He also recently received a grant from the Office of the Vice President for Outreach and Service to use collective memory work and digital storytelling to explore the positive and negative high school experiences of LGBT youth. Finally, he has been asked to be a respondent at the George Butler Lecture at the upcoming Leisure Research Symposium in Baltimore.

**Doug Kleiber** also traveled to the Canadian Congress this month to present a paper entitled "Not a Bad Thing - Constraint and Adaptation in Members of a 'Learning in Retirement' Group" based on his collaboration with an Israeli scholar.. Two other papers from that retirement study project have been accepted for publication in *Leisure Studies* and the *Journal of Adult Development* and collaborations with other colleagues on the subject of aging have resulted in articles appearing (or to appear) this year in *Women and Aging*, *Journal of Leisure Research*, *World Leisure* and *Activities, Adaptation and Aging*. He is also proud to report the entry into this world of his 5th grandchild in March.

**Diane Samdahl** completed her term as College of Education Senate President. Among the Senate's accomplishments during her watch were revising and pilot testing a new course evaluation form to be used college-wide, leading a faculty retreat devoted to faculty development, and creating forums for faculty input as the College selects a new dean. .... She also presented a paper at the CCLR conference this month and was the coauthor of another. Her paper was entitled "Pulling Together/Pulling Apart: The Social World of Grassroots Volunteers" and the paper with her doctoral student, **Lisbeth Berbary**, was entitled "Do I laugh? White Participation in African American Humor"

### **More news about Recent Graduates and Current Students**

As usual, our students were very active in using experiential approaches to learning to make a difference in the community. Guided by Corey Johnson, graduate students in RLST 7130: Experiential Education supervised undergraduates in RLST 5130: Advanced Program and Event Management as they implemented major community programs and events such as: a Kartwheelathon that raised over \$3000 for Interplast; a program on constructing community for the 100 adjudicated youth at the Augusta Youth Detention Center; a camp counselor training program for Camp Hope, a facility that serves fostered youth; The Michael Hendrickson 3 on 3 Memorial Basketball Tournament; the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Eco-Adventure Challenge; and a social justice training program for juvenile correctional officers in Georgia.

The ***Rotaract Student Service Award*** was given to a student who has served the campus through leadership, a strong GPA and clear goals for the future. We are so proud of this soon to be alum and glad to keep him as a part of our department family as he will be starting his Masters in School Counseling in Fall, 08. Congratulations to **Cory Peppers** who was honored with the Rotaract Student Service Award for the College of Education

The ***Edie Klein Leadership Award*** is given to honor the person who most embodies the spirit and character of our former colleague Edie Klein. Edie was best known for attracting students from across campus. Education is not compulsory for this award winner; she takes advantage of every learning opportunity and teachable moment she can get out of you. This year alone she has attended two professional conferences, presented at one, and is a student in the UGA Honors Program. You can also find her roaming the halls in a chicken suit. We are pleased to honor and trust **Janice Rinaldo** with the ***Edie Klein Award***

We were very lucky to recognize three outstanding seniors who are graduating this year who are receiving the award for *Outstanding Senior*. These awards are significant because the nominations come from their peers in their learning community. It is a testament to their character, professionalism and leadership for the future. **Drew Ward, Heidi Hunt** and **Michael Hendrickson**.

**Susan Powell** and **Denny Teason** received the *Dean's Award for International Study*. They will be putting these funds to good use to support the Study Abroad Program where RLST students spend time as camp counselors in Russia.

If you intend to learn about Environmental and Cultural Interpretation in the State Park System of Georgia, then you will learn it from RLST alum **Ellen McConnell Graham** (B.S.Ed. '96). Seriously, when you start in the State Park system, you are likely to start at Unicoi so she can train you and send you off to one of the other state parks in Georgia. She is our alumni training machine and we are proud to call her our **2007-2008 RLST Alumni Award** winner.

Doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** was offered, and has accepted, a tenure track assistant professor position with Texas A&M University. The position focuses on community development.

## **Alumni**

[Note Bene: If you are a *Facebook* or *MySpace* user, please search for the group University of Georgia RLST alum and join the fun! Special thanks to current masters student **Brian Clift** for bringing us to the new world :) ]

**Maria Beggs Bowie** (B.S.Ed. '98) is a Marketing Specialist in the Office of Communications of UGA's College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. She has been responsible for establishing Walk Georgia, a Statewide initiative to get more people walking in more places across the state (see [www.walkgeorgia.org](http://www.walkgeorgia.org)) She can be reached at [mbowie@uga.edu](mailto:mbowie@uga.edu).

**Kellee Brown Beach** (B.S.Ed. '99), who has been serving as Marketing Administrator, supervising Marketing/Corporate Leisure Services division for Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department, recently received a Master's Degree in Organizational Communication from NC State. She is looking to recruit interns and can be reached at [parks.raleighnc.gov](http://parks.raleighnc.gov)

**Gisele Gaudet** Amigo (Ed.D. '02) continues in her role as Academic Affairs Accreditation Coordinator and Program Development Specialist for McEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta, and recently taught a course there on adolescent development.

**Jimmy Gisi** ( B.S. Ed. '86). Is currently serving as Executive Director of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association.

**Anne Jacobs** ([ajindixie@aol.com](mailto:ajindixie@aol.com)) (M.Ed. '97), formerly a recreation therapist with the National Institutes of Health, has assumed the position of Director of Lifestyle & Leisure at The Jefferson, a retirement community in Arlington, VA. She is still involved with the TR field, however, serving as co-chair of ATRA's General Medicine & Oncology Treatment Network.

**Bill Kemp** (B.S.Ed '06) is the Group Sales Manager for the Lakewood Blue Claws...a single A minor league team affiliate of the Philly's. His first promotional project will be to get others involved in his "Locks of Love" endeavor [www.lockslove.org/](http://www.lockslove.org/). His new email address is [williamkempIII@gmail.com](mailto:williamkempIII@gmail.com).

**Linda Kotowski** (B.S. Ed. ; M.Ed. ) is currently serving as President of the National Recreation and Park Association. Check out the May issue of *Parks and Recreation* for a presidential message entitled "The Reasons Why".

**Andrew Lentini** (M.Ed. '04) has moved from his position as Program Education Specialist with the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division to a similar position with the University of Georgia. Contact him at [alentini@uga.edu](mailto:alentini@uga.edu).

**Michelle McClendon** (B.S.ED. '01) is an extension agent with Putnam County Extension working especially on 4-H & Youth matters. Contact her at [mmcclend@uga.edu](mailto:mmcclend@uga.edu).

**David Meropol** (B.S.Ed. '07) reports that he is now a Travel Advisor for STA Travel in Boston. If you need his advice he can be reached at 617-517-0486 and through email at [NEU@statravel.com](mailto:NEU@statravel.com).

**Joy Polkabila Byers** (M.Ed. '02) continues as the Assistant Director of Programs and Special events for the Department of Campus Recreation and Student Programming. She reports still loving the work and even having the opportunity to teach a graduate level class in Higher Education, "Foundations and Functions in Higher Education". Joy also took on the role as the Ohio Recreational Sports Association (ORSA) State Director this fall and hosted the NIRSA Region III Student Lean On conference at Youngstown State University this past January. She and her husband Jerry had their second child, Kathleen Anne, on March 3rd. She can be reached at [jlbyers@ysu.edu](mailto:jlbyers@ysu.edu).

**Heather Purdin** (M. Ed. '06) has made important strides both professionally and artistically. Her band had the distinct privilege and pleasure of opening for **The Wailers** in April. Heather sings and plays guitar and keyboard. She also recently passed the licensure exam to practice as a recreation therapist in North Carolina and completed all the requirements for my post-Master's Certificate in Expressive Arts Therapy this semester, as well as her comprehensive exams for an M.A. in Community Counseling. She'll be co-teaching a course this summer at Appalachian State entitled "Expressive Arts Therapy with Children & Adolescents" and in August will begin a year long internship placement as "Counselor-in-Residence" at Lees-McRae College.

Heather also was nominated for the highly competitive Southern Association of Counselor Education & Supervision's "Individual Achievement for a Masters Student" award. She reports keeping in touch with former UGA student and faculty member **Joy James** (B.S.Ed. '88) and alum **John Paul McNeal** (M.Ed, '05).

**Micah Redden** (B.S.Ed. '01) still works in training cheerleaders with his wife and now owns a new gym in Loganville, GA.

**Donny Roberson**, M.Ed. 00 ' (Ph.D. in Adult Ed – 03) reports enjoying being a part of a "fakulty" of the Department of Recreology at Palacky University in the Czech Republic, teaching recreation and leisure philosophy, recreation for older adults, travel and tourism, and a class for doctoral students on methodology. He can be reached at [dnrjr99@yahoo.com](mailto:dnrjr99@yahoo.com).

**Jacquelyn Simmons** (M.Ed. '05) is currently Sales Manager at Hilton's Northeast Hotel in Atlanta. She can be contacted at [jazzyliltip@yahoo.com](mailto:jazzyliltip@yahoo.com).

**Send us *your* news!!**

**AND BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT SUMMER**