

UGA/RLS News – Fall 2006

Seasons Greetings from Athens! We hope this message finds all of you enjoying the best of crisp fall weather and with good health and happiness as the holidays approach.

Since the newsletter was sent last spring, we have had a number of new developments and have heard from some folks that we hadn't heard from in awhile. With respect to the former, our newest faculty member, **Corey Johnson**, has hit the ground running, having an immediate impact on the RLS program – both graduate and undergraduate – as well as our larger Department of Counseling and Human Development Services. He has become an affiliate faculty member for women's studies, been sought out by other programs in the CHDS, engaged by graduate students for research advice, and has added a boost of new energy to the 12 unit unified course that all of our undergrads take during their first semester. In spite of all the changes RLS has had organizationally in recent years, the addition of Dr. Johnson has completed our faculty in many ways and has put us in good stead for the seven year program review we have undergone this semester.

Undergraduate Program News

This semester juniors in the undergraduate program have done service learning projects with the Boys and Girls Club (with alum **Derick Floyd**), Grandview Nursing Center, Gaines School and the Alternative High School in Athens.

During “critical issue” investigations groups of junior students educated the community through a nutrition exhibit at a local grocery store, a public service announcement about time compression, an information table for UGA students about outdoor use conflict, and participation in the anti-poverty initiative, Partners for a Prosperous Athens.

Seniors in the undergraduate program created case studies to solve real-life issues for a variety of recreation agencies in Georgia, including Savannah Sand Gnats, Sandy Creek Nature Center (with alum **Berkeley Boone**), Georgia Center Special Events (with alum **Sharon Peterson Gillespie**), and more. If you would be interested in being on the potential mentor list for a student in the future, please email Gwynn.gpowell@uga.edu

As participants in the integrated block program, a large contingent of 65 undergrads attended the Georgia Recreation and Park Association in Savannah in November. They were accompanied by faculty members **Gwynn Powell** and **Corey Johnson** and several masters students.

Graduate Program News

The Graduate Program continues to move forward on the curriculum revision begun in 2005-06. All new masters students now take a class in group facilitation, taught in

conjunction with the College Student Affairs Administration Program. This course provides a solid understanding of group structure and dynamics, and will become an important foundation for programming and working with groups of people. In addition, the masters class in leisure education has been modified to focus on theories of experiential education, paralleling the undergraduate move towards experience based education. These two changes in the masters curriculum support our intent to provide masters students with the understanding and skills to create rich, educationally-relevant leisure opportunities.

Other changes in the masters curriculum include renaming RLST 6020 to “Social Foundations of Leisure,” to better reflect the central purpose of that first-year theory class, and reconfiguring the RLST 6990 research-into-practice seminar to make it a 3-credit course called RLST 7950 “Applied Research in Recreation and Leisure Services.” We will continue to focus on research in applied settings but we will use this as a capstone course to help students integrate and apply material from their master's courses to the professional settings in which they will work.

Some new opportunities have opened up for graduate assistantships this year. The PE Program collaborated with GORP to create a new class that allows undergraduate students to fulfill the UGA physical education requirement by participating in GORP activities such as backpacking or canoe trips. While GORP remains staffed by its own volunteers, one of our graduate assistants will oversee this process and monitor the students who participate in those activities for PE credit. Another graduate student, **Ryan Sharp**, has a graduate assistantship that oversees all GORP activities, so we remain closely tied to that program. In addition, the program has contracted with the Department of Juvenile Justice to undertake a recreational needs assessment at the Augusta Youth Development Center. A new doctoral student, **Katherine Kerstetter**, is involved in that project as a graduate assistant.

The Graduate Recreation Organization (GRO) continues to be active. Last spring they purchased a subscription to the *Journal of Experiential Education* to make that journal accessible to our students, and they also purchased a digital voice recorder to aid students who are doing interview-based research. They will co-sponsor a campus visit by alum, **Dr. Beth Kivel**, in January.

Alumni involvement with the curriculum

Several alums took time this semester to come to campus and participate in panel discussions to help students new to the major learn about expectations for entry-level jobs and current trends in the field. Thanks to **Anand Suthar**, **Sharon Gillespie**, **Eve Anthony**, **Colt Green**, **Stacey Farrell**, and **Chris Scollay** for participating. During his visit, **Trevor Childress** (BSEd '06) made it into the news with his hang-gliding demonstration. <http://www.uga.edu/columns/061002/news-hanging.html>

In addition, all 45 juniors participated in career exploration by shadowing professionals in NE Georgia. If you would be interested in being on the potential mentor list for a student in the future, please email Gwynn (gpowell@uga.edu).

2nd year of RLST ‘Study Abroad in Russia’ Program

UGA’s first study abroad program to Russia, *Camp Counselors Russia: Living and Learning*, was featured in the UGA alumni *Georgia Magazine* with a profile of its founder, Gwynn Powell (<http://www.uga.edu/gm/artman/publish/0609camp.html>) The headline in the Russian newspaper captures Gwynn’s involvement, “American Professor speaks kid” <http://www.marpravda.ru/news/society/2006/07/05/professor/>. Master’s student **Luke Franklin** and undergrad **Michael Burwell** received scholarships from the UGA Barbara Rankin Endowment to fund their participation in the adventure.

Visiting Korean Professor

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Dong Jin Kim as a visiting International Research Scholar for this year. He is a Full Professor at Seoul National University in Korea. His academic background is in physical education, sports and recreation. He has also served as the Vice President of Student Affairs for Seoul National University. His wife, Kyung Sook Park is here with him as well. She is an oil painter and especially interested in art and dance. They will be in the United States until July 2007, and will be in Athens, but traveling around as well. We are grateful to doctoral student **Sunwhan Hwang** for interpreting and arranging Dr. Kim’s schedule.

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 '07). In spite of our changes, we believe we can use this forum to improve communications with and among our alumni and enhance networking as a result. 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. Furthermore, this information will help us with our program review process, such as the seven year program review that we are undergoing this semester. So minimally, please confirm or modify your email address that has allowed us to reach you, remind us of your graduation year, and let us know what you are doing and whatever else you would like to share. And do let us know if we can be of any help to you professionally.

Other Faculty and Staff News

Diane Samdahl has begun a term as President-elect of the UGA College of Education Faculty Senate and will become the Senate President for 2007-08. Her recent promotion to Full Professor actually took place with the start of fall semester. As graduate coordinator she was instrumental in establishing a graduate assistantship with the Department of Juvenile Justice to do a needs assessment for the Youth Development Center in Augusta.

In more of the creative leisure category, Diane began taking pictures of a pair of hawks in 2004 that were nesting in the yard of a friend, Letty Fitch. Letty had been a naturalist at Sandy Creek Park and also a middle school science teacher before being diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), and the pictures were simply to let Letty see the miracle of the hawk chicks that was unfolding in her back yard. This year Diane created a book of the best photographs of the hawk chicks and is selling the book to raise money for Letty's medical expenses. The book (*Hawk Chicks: Photo Essay of a Red-Shouldered Family*) sells for \$21.95. It is available in several stores in Athens or contact Diane directly if you'd like to purchase a copy.



Corey Johnson has just finished his stint as a guest editor for *Leisure Sciences* producing a special issue focusing on Creative Analytic Practice in Leisure Research (forthcoming, 2007). In addition, he has been working extensively with fellow alum Dr. Beth Kivel ('98) on two book chapters: Tracing the origins of Queer Theory to advance leisure and sport research in Aitchison's *Gender & Sexuality in Sport*; and the second edition of Construction of the "Other": Leisure and the development of Sexual identities in Allison & Schneider's *Diversity and the Recreational Profession: Organizational Perspectives*. He is also well underway on research endeavors which utilize collective memory work to explore how young men use media to construct their gendered and racial identities and will be presenting on this unique approach with Future Scholar Laurel Richmond at this year's 2007 Qualitative Research Conference here in Athens, GA.

Gwynn Powell, also promoted recently, to the rank of Associate Professor, continues to lead the re-visioning of the undergraduate curriculum. She stays active with American Camp Association as the chair of the national conference, a member of the National Education Council, and writer of staff training briefing papers. She and masters student,

Crista Myers presented a session discussing how to engage staff in risk management training at the Southeastern Section of American Camp Association conference in Charlotte, NC.

Doug Kleiber has been off on a study leave this semester at Clemson University, collaborating with their Park, Recreation and Tourism Management faculty and graduate students. His research and grant writing involves promoting generativity and civic engagement in middle aged and older adults with and without disabilities. Kleiber also presented a paper entitled “Redeeming Leisure in Later Life Adaptation” at the second World Ageing and Generations conference in St. Gallen, Switzerland, another entitled “Constraints to Outdoor Leisure Activity in the Young Old and Old Old” at the NRPA Leisure Research Symposium in Seattle in October and a third entitled “Expressions of Generativity in Recently Retired Adults” at the annual Gerontological Society of America conference in Dallas in November.

Katie Bemisderfer is now working part time in RLST advising and supervising interns. She and **Suzanne Boyd** (TR grad in Summer 2006, and now a graduate student in special education at UGA) volunteer with the Healthy Grandparents Project through the Council on Aging, planning and implementing activities for children being raised by their grandparents. Katie is also a Hospice volunteer and plans activities at a local assisted living facility using that good therapeutic recreation background!

If you call the office you may hear office manager, **Brenda Arnold**, answer “Recreation and College Student Affairs” reflecting the addition to Ramsey of one of the other units of CHDS. She has been extremely effective in making the new folks feel at home there.

Recent Graduates and Current Students

Brian Edwards, Heather Gray, Joseph (Woody) Hughes, Mike Wilcox, and Nick Zatezalo graduated with B.S.Ed. degrees this past August. Edwards is teaching and coaching the football team at a middle school in Newton County. Gray is working at the National Ability Center in Colorado. Wilcox is working at Athens Regional and planning on returning to school as an MIS major, and Hughes has taken a position with Bally Total Fitness at Town Center in Kennesaw, GA..

Students graduating recently with an M.Ed. include **Katie Bitner, Kyndra Boudolf Luce, Heather Purdin, and Mathew Weneta** in May 2006 and **Tonya Butler Collins** in August 2006. Bitner continues to work with the National Arthritis Foundation in Atlanta, but, largely as a result of her recent degree, was promoted to the position of Director of Juvenile Arthritis Programs; Boudolf-Luce was hired as a program director for Adventure Treks in Flat Rock, NC; Purdin has begun a community counseling program at Appalachian State in Boone, NC; and Weneta was recently hired as Director of Blackwater Outdoor Experiences in Midlothian, Virginia. Butler Collins continues to run her business, *de Novo*, in Buford, GA while also teaching required health and wellness "Choices for Life" courses at Georgia Perimeter College. Through her company she will

be offering a "Women in the Woods" program beginning April '07, teaching outdoor education and basic survival techniques to mothers and daughters and women who are otherwise in "transition" in their lives.

Gregor Kay, an assistant professor at Southern Mississippi University, was awarded the Ed.D. degree in August as well. Congratulations *Dr. Kay!*

Daniel Inman, Philip Jurjevich, Candice Morgan, Quentin Moses, and Micah Payton will receive their B.S.Ed. degrees later this. Morgan has accepted a position with Athens Clarke Country Leisure Services. Jurjevich will be working at a camp in Colorado and both Inman and Moses will be preparing for the professional football combines. Masters students expecting to finish this semester include **Jacquelyn Simmons, and Luke Franklin**. While Simmons is actively pursuing several leads, Franklin will assume a new position in January with Vail Resorts at Heavenly Mountain Resort in Lake Tahoe, California. He will be teaching ski school and going for his PSIA Level II teaching certificate.

Philip Jurjevich (currently completing an internship at Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation) was one of three university students in Georgia to receive a scholarship to attend the GRPA Conference in Savannah, GA November 7-9, 2006.

Doctoral student, **Stephen Maynard**, an instructor now at UNC Greensboro, won the Georgia State Chess Championship in September. **Quentin Moses**, a senior defensive end on the UGA football team, was selected one of 11 1-A football players nation wide for inclusion on 2006 American Football Coaches Association National Good Works Team. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity, St. Mary's Hospital, Hurricane Katrina relief and ACCLS Project Reach.

Master's student, **Taylor Smith**, and **Gwynn Powell** presented an interactive session on grant seeking...."Free Money: What does it cost?" at GRPA in Savannah. Taylor has taken a position as Adult Athletics Supervisor for the City of Roswell Parks and Recreation Department.

Jaret Walton, a current doctoral student, has taken an instructor position at Shaw College in Morrisville, NC. She will be teaching therapeutic recreation courses and coordinating the internship program that includes Athletic Training, Kinesiotherapy, Speech Pathology and Audiology, Recreation, and Therapeutic Recreation. She has also obtained a North Carolina recreation therapist license. She expects to complete her Ph.D. work here at UGA sometime in 2007. She can be reached at 919-462-3102.

Alumni

Mel Bolling (B.S.Ed. '01) has moved from a position as staff officer of the Recreation, Lands, & Minerals office of the Camino Real Ranger District of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico to a position as Fillmore District Ranger at Fishlake National Forest in central Utah. Contact him at mfbolling@fs.fed.us or 435-896-101.

Kyndra (Boudolf) Luce (M.Ed. '06) is currently working as Program Director for Adventure Treks in Flat Rock, NC. She and her husband, Bryan, live at the Asheville School, a private boarding school, where he is a math teacher. Her email address is kyndra56@gmail.com.

After leaving Disney World and obtaining Pool Operators and Water Safety Instructor certifications **Katie Bourke** (B.S.Ed '05) has taken a position as activity director for Newland Homes, a community in Flowery branch called "Sterling on the Lake" ... "doing what I love, which is planning day camps, weekend excursions, adult activities; you name it I am trying to plan it."

Melinda Cayton Evanovick (B.S.Ed. '95) is working as the director of the Tucker Recreation Center for Dekalb County Parks and Recreation. She reports that she joined the department "after a hiatus of 3 years to be a mom" and immediately helped to change the Department's special population center into an inclusive center providing children and family programming. She adds that the Tucker Center which she now manages "has a full-time staff of 3 and a part-time staff of about 35 year-round and 70 in the summer... and includes a state-of-the-art gymnastics center, karate studio, pottery studio (both wheel and handbuilding--and we're working on getting a Raku kiln and work area), and a dance studio as well as a strong drama program and a budding athletics program." She is always looking for staff and can be contacted at maevanovick@co.dekalb.ga.us.

Lynne Cory (Ph.D. '04), who has been in a research associate position with the Park, Recreation and Tourism Management Department at Clemson University for nearly two years, will begin a tenure track appointment as an associate professor in that department beginning in January.

Michael J. Dutcher (B.S.Ed. '04) is Intramural Sports Coordinator for Bibb County Parks and Recreation in Macon, GA (<http://www.maconstate.edu/wellness/>) He can be reached at 478-471-5786 or mdutcher@mail.maconstate.edu.

Ashley Evans Thelen (B.S.Ed. '95) lives in Asheville, NC. She taught special education for a few years and continues to work with kids in different capacities. She can be contacted at ashleythelen@bellsouth.net

According to **Stacee Farrell** (B.S.Ed. '05) **Shawn Gartner** (B.S.Ed. ('95) "... is a very successful business owner in San Diego, CA. Although he does not work in the R&L industry, his lifestyle is all about incorporating R&L into his daily routine. He surfs every morning before and after work. Not bad!" He was reached at: shawn@ourhealthagent.com, and since it was such an unusual story, we've posted his response below.

Christina Gartman, CTRS (B.S.Ed. '06) is the Director of Recreation Therapy at Focus by the Sea in St. Simons Island, GA (gartman3@gmail.com).

After receiving teaching certification, **Nathalie Guerin** (Ed.D. '0x) is now teaching social studies, language arts, and social/study/academic preparation skills at Clarke Middle School in Athens.

Tommy Hailey (B.S.Ed. '87) continues as Superintendent of Recreation and Parks at Newton County Parks and Recreation in Conyers, GA. He stopped by the RLS booth at the NRPA conference in Seattle. (thailey@newtonrecreation.com)

Matt Hammons (M.Ed. '04) is currently working in Eatonton, GA on Lake Oconee for an organization called Lake Oconee Outfitters. They do programs on the lake for local hotels, corporate events, etc.. The website is under construction, "but you can get a feel for what we do at www.lakeoconeeoutfitters.com".

Jaime Hirsch, CTRS (B.S.Ed. '06) is now in graduate school in occupational therapy at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Tracey Hooper Tallent (B.S.Ed. '01) is a therapeutic recreation coordinator for Carrollton Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. She recently received an award as the Special Olympics Georgia Outstanding Local Coordinator. She can be reached at ttallent@carrollton-ga.gov.

Sharon Hunt (Ed.D. '77) has served as Department Head of the Department of Health Science, Kinesiology, Recreation and Dance at the University of Arkansas for the past 13 years. Before that she was a faculty member and director of graduate studies in Health, Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Kentucky. As Department head she looks after 500 undergraduates, 200 graduates and the intramural recreation operations at UA.

Sharon Jacobsen (Ed.D. '97) writes that she is still teaching as an adjunct at SUNY Brockport and has been invited to collaborate in rewriting a chapter for a TR collection. "Other than that - just leading a boring existence -- pastoring, preaching, parenting, partnering and professing :-)"

Tino Johnson (B.S.Ed. '04) is Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UGA in charge of recruiting in the South Georgia Region. His office is located in Tifton, GA. He can be reached at johnsontino@gmail.com or 706-340-2132.

Alice Johnston (B.S.Ed. '04) is an events coordinator for the Atlanta Ballet.

Daniel C. Mathews (M.Ed. '94, CTRS) is Camp Director at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA. He was recently elected to a second term with the American Camp Association, Southeastern Section Board. He can be reached at Dan@camptwinlakes.org or (706) 557-9070, extension 403.

John Paul McNeal (M.Ed. '05) has taken a new position as Assistant Director of Camp Broadstone in Boone, NC. The camp is operated by Appalachian State University. He can be reached at jpmcneal@gmail.com.

John Neuman (B.S.Ed. '05) is working at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He can be contacted at johnbneuman@gmail.com.

Mark Perkins (B.S.Ed. '05) has been hired as an assistant program coordinator with Oconee County Parks and Recreation (mperkins@oconee.ga.us).

Laura Pope (B.S.Ed. '06) is working in event management for Interactive Attractions in Atlanta, GA.. She is also the proud owner of a new condo and can be reached at lpope615@gmail.com.

Heather Purdin (M.Ed. '06) is seeking a second masters – a Master of Arts in Community Counseling with a concentration in Expressive Arts Therapy – at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. A performance (as a singer/song writer guitarist) she gave at Nuci's Space in Athens in July was featured in a Fox News special on music and mental health. She continues to write music and perform in Boone and vicinity.

Chris Ravotti (B.S.Ed. '06) is now a sports specialist with Shepherd Center in Atlanta. Chris-Ravotti@shepherd.org.

Carly Robinson (M.Ed. '03) has served as Volunteer Coordinator for the Natural Resources Division (including Sandy Creek Nature Center, Sandy Creek Park, and the North Oconee River Greenway and Riverside Parks) of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services for the last 2 1/2 years..) She can be reached at 706-613-3615, ext. 227

Sally Rodgers (B.S.Ed. '05) is currently attending graduate school at Piedmont College in Athens. Her email address is sallyrodgers@gmail.com.

Kat Shreve (B.S.Ed. '91) received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Camp Association, Southeastern Section for her dedicated work as a board member and standards instructor trainer.

Becky Smith (M.Ed. '05) is working in the camp and outdoor gear division of REI in Atlanta.

Josh Sweat, CTRS (B.S.Ed., '02, CTRS) is a program coordinator at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA. He can be reached at Josh@camptwinlakes.org or 706-557-9070, ext. 403.

Helaine "Laine" Weinstein, CTRS (B.S.Ed. '98) is a program coordinator at Challenge Aspen in Aspen, CO. Their website is www.challengeaspen.com, and she can be reached personally at 970-923-0578 ext. 23 or laine@challengeaspen.com

Robin Yaffe Tschumper (Ed.D. '96) wrote last spring that she was managing her husband Ken's bid for the State house in Minnesota, and was happy to report last month that he won! ...by all of 47 votes! She now refers to herself as "the 'first lady' of MN District 31B." She has also just taken a position as Executive Director of the Houston County Women's Resource Center.

Email message from Shawn Gartner (9/06) [used with permission]

It is really great to hear from you!! I hope all is well in the good ol south. As much as I love living in San Diego, Georgia will always be home. I am long over due for a trip back to Athens. I still keep in touch with several friends that I have made during my time spent at the University. I tell ya I am very fortunate to have the type of friends that I have and I owe a big part of that to my time spent studying Recreation and Leisure studies.

Stacee keeps me posted in regards to old friend's faculty and staff. I hear that all is going well and I am glad to hear it.

After graduating I went on a long camping and Rock Climbing trip across the country. It was amazing to say the least. Anyway after about a month of traveling around my car broke down in San Diego, I looked around and asked myself, "Where am I going?" I was lucky enough to find paradise on earth here in San Diego. I fell into several jobs, some pertaining to what I studied during my time at UGA. I did some challenge course training and some corporate training, but it was very difficult to get steady work that paid.

Currently I have several companies all related to the insurance industry. I have a full retail brokerage agency that sells mass amounts of individual health insurance to individuals on a nation wide basis. I also have a lead generation system where I sell leads to other brokers like myself that sell health insurance, auto insurance, home owners and life insurance. All of my business is done on line over the internet.

I find it imperative to have "Shawn Time" on a daily basis. I usually start my day going to the gym at about 6:00 AM. On my way home I am able to check about 15 very good surf breaks. It is amazing how much you learn about the ocean when you live next to it. Different breaks get waves from different swells. Some breaks are better on high tide, some are better on low tide, some beaches and reefs don't break for several months out of the year due to certain swell directions. It is incredibly interesting and it is the kind of thing that you are always learning. Just like surfing. They people that have a real feel for the sport and who are the most fun to watch are the older guys. You can just see that the years of experience work in their favor. I really love sports that take a while to work at to get good. Surfing is something much more different than any other sport that I have ever been involved with. I know it sounds cliché but it is really a lifestyle. Actually standing up and riding the board is the easiest part. The toughest is the actual paddle. 80% of surfing is paddling. The factors are always different. Unlike Snowboarding, Rock Climbing, Skateboarding or Waterskiing the elements are always different and ever-changing. Sand bars move, the wind plays a major factor and so on.

I am fortunate in my life to be able to live the way that I do. I like to think that I have had some control of my destiny but I have been very lucky. Having friends as special as Stacee and good people to share things with is and has always been very important. It was great to get your email

and I will look you up the next time I am in Athens. Also, if you see Dr. Tarrent please tell him that I say hello and send my best.

Sincerely,

Shawn Gartner, OurHealthAgent.com, Toll Free (866) 581-9481 x 118, eBrokerClub.com

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!