

UGA/RLS News - Spring 2006

Greetings from Athens! We hope this message finds all of you with a good amount of peace, happiness, and leisure in your lives, while easing into the summer. (With yesterday - June 19th - still in mind, we'll call this a "spring" newsletter and hope to be a little more timely in the future!).

Since the newsletter was sent last fall, 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, we have hired a new faculty member, Corey Johnson, and are excited about the role he will play in the somewhat redesigned program we have created. As you may recall from the last two newsletters, we are now a program in the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services. Though we would have preferred to stay as an independent department, this change was necessitated by the administrative downsizing required in the reorganization of the College of Education. Fortunately, although it may have accelerated the movement of our resource management emphasis to the Warnell School of Forest Resources, "human development services" provides us with a broader context (including some interesting new colleagues and students) within which to shape a forward-thinking mission around utilizing recreation and leisure services to enhance development across the lifespan.

Corey Johnson returns "home" to join UGA/RLS faculty!

Rare is the case anymore for UGA academic departments to hire its own doctoral students, but because he has so effectively established himself elsewhere and because he was clearly the best fit with the emerging mission of the RLS Program, UGA administrators made an exception for **Corey Johnson**. Since completing his doctoral degree here in RLS in 2002, Dr. Johnson has taught at East Carolina University and at California State University, Long Beach, where he had quickly risen to a position of prominence, having recently received the California Parks and Recreation Society's Volunteer Merit award for the service learning work in the Long Beach community. He also had a very successful teaching engagement in Phnom Phen, Cambodia in January 2006, accompanying 25+ students who were participating in a course called Art, Recreation & Social Action. During his time there, he served as guest lecturer at Pannassastra University and supervised the American and Cambodian students in the implementation of art and recreation programs in non-profit youth serving organizations throughout the city. We look for him to do some of the same things here with us and feel that he will have an immediate impact on the integrated core curriculum we are developing.

Alumni Advisory Council Meets Again

Those attending a meeting on May 4th included: **Allan Autry** (M.Ed. '04), Athletic Supervisor for Barrow County Parks and Recreation; **Lou Boestfleisch** (B.S.Ed. '03),

Athletics Coordinator of Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services; **Jimmy Gisi** (B.S.Ed. '86), Director of Cobb County Parks & Recreation; **Colt Green** (B.S.Ed. '02), Assistant Director of Jefferson Parks and Recreation; **Kat Shreve** (B.S.Ed. '90), Director of Camp Meriwether; **Dan Mathews** (M.ED '92), Director of Camp Twin Lakes; and **Joe Skopitz** (M.Ed. '98), Program Coordinator and Special Events Manager for Centennial Olympic Park, as well as RLS students and faculty, including newcomer Corey Johnson who facilitated warm up activities. At the meeting the **Edie Klein Leadership Award** was presented to juniors **Emily Kennedy** and **Kathryn Ulmer**, and Edie Klein was remembered and acknowledged by those who knew her. The alumni were acquainted with the changes in the program, including the progress on the Integrated "Block" Program, and took part in an experiential education workshop organized by RLS masters students.

Dr. Joy James Joins Slippery Rock Faculty

Joy James served exceptionally well as an interim assistant professor this past year, teaching six courses, working with the Block program in the process, and giving a general boost to development of the experiential education focus. We are very grateful for all that she brought to the Program this year and we wish her well in her new position as assistant professor of Parks and Recreation at Slippery Rock State University in Pennsylvania.

Faculty and Students head back to Russia.

Gwynn Powell is returning to Russia to work with summer camp providers, this time by masters student **Luke Franklin**, undergraduates **Michael Burwell** and **David Merapol** and a student from another program. A report on the program, "*Live and Learn: Camp Counselors in Russia*," was featured in a recent issue of *Georgia Magazine*. Gwynn has also reported on last year's experience in an article entitled "Cultural Immersion at its best": At Home in Mari El. Russian Camp" for the *Russian Professional Camping Magazine* and at International Camping Association meeting held in late 2005 in Mexico City.

College Student Affairs Administration Program moves into Ramsey

Five faculty from the College Student Affairs Administration program of the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services ("our department") have moved into Ramsey as our near neighbors. Their proximity augers well for the prospects for collaboration, including the possible development of a campus recreation administration masters program.

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 (Fall '06). 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), 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 the five year program review that is occurring this year. 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 was promoted to full professor this year. She has also been elected president of the UGA College of Education Senate.

Gwynn Powell has coauthored a paper with doctoral student Rudy Dunlap and Joy James on doing classroom discussions around historical figures that is coming out in the journal, *Scholar*. She also joined with **Paul Schlag** and the American Camping Association to create an online training program for camp staff entitled "Camp is for the Camper" and has collaborated with a group on a paper entitled "Illness and Injury among Campers Attending Summer Camp, United States 2005" that is forthcoming in *Pediatrics*. For all of her research and development efforts related to camping, Dr. Powell received the ACA Honor Award at their national convention. She was also promoted to associate professor with tenure.

Doug Kleiber has been selected as the inaugural Visiting Scholar for the College of Health Education and Human Development at Clemson University for the 2006-2007 school year. He was also awarded a research leave by the UGA College of Education for Fall semester to develop research plans on the subject of "Optimizing Later Life Transitions." In the spring semester he will teach a course on "The Social Psychology of Leisure" at Clemson. Since the last newsletter he has coauthored articles that have been accepted for publication on the subjects of "change in older adults' leisure activities," "social psychology of leisure" and "psychological growth from a close brush with death".

Katie Bemisderfer has collaborated with TR student **Suzanne Boyd** to develop a Northeast Georgia "Healthy Grandparent Project" in April 2006. They worked with Council on Aging Project Coordinator and 4 interns from UGA Social Work to incorporate seniors into providing leisure activities for children with mental health issues.

Office manager, **Brenda Arnold**, has been doing yeoman labor in helping the College Student Affairs Administration Program of CHDS move into our end of the hall in Ramsey. We welcome them as new neighbors.

Recent Graduates and Current Students

Katie Bourke, Karina Ricardo and **Bryce Teale** graduated with BS.Ed. degrees in December '05. Bourke, after a stint with Disney in Orlando, is now an activity director with Sterling-on-the-Lake in Flowery Branch, GA. Ricardo is a TR Specialist at Peachford Behavioral Health System in Atlanta; while Teale is working as a UPS supervisor in New Orleans and plans to attend graduate school at LSU-NO in the near future. He recently passed the CTRS exam.

Christina Gartman, Lizzy Hockinson, Heidi Kelly, Andrell Roberts, and Ryan Wyatt are among the students who received their BS.Ed. degrees this May. Gartman is now a TR Specialist at Focus-By-the-Sea in St. Simons, GA; Hockinson is a TR Specialist for the City of Chattanooga in Tennessee; Roberts is a program coordinator with Jefferson Parks and Recreation in Jefferson, GA; and Kelly has been hired as an account coordinator for the Contemporary Events Group in Atlanta.

Suzanne Boyd, who collaborated with Katie Bemisderfer on the Healthy Grandparent Project noted above, will graduate with a B.S.Ed. in August and will begin a masters program in Special Education here at UGA, working with Dr. David Gast on projects related to autism.

Heather Purdin, Kyndra Boudolf-Luce, Katie Bittner and **Matt Weneta** graduated with masters degrees in May. Purdin has begun a Masters of Social Work program at Appalachian State this summer. Boudolf-Luce has taken a position in Asheville, NC with Adventure Treks, a small private adventure tripping company; Bittner continues to work with the Arthritis Foundation in Atlanta; and Weneta is in the hunt for a position. (Any one hiring?)

Current doctoral student, **Lisbeth Berbary**, was awarded a UGA Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. **Sunwhan Hwang**, also an RLS doctoral student, received a competitive out-of-state tuition waiver. President of the UGA Korean Student Association, he also won first place in both singles and doubles competition in the UGA Intramural Table Tennis Tournament held recently.

Paul Schlag has accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Western Illinois University. He expects to finish his doctoral work next May.

Stephen Maynard and **Gregor Kay** are also doctoral students anticipating receiving their degrees in August. Maynard is an assistant professor at UNC Greensboro and Kay is an assistant professor at Southern Mississippi University.

Angela Loucks (Ph.D. '05) has accepted a tenure track assistant professor position at Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland. She has been working this past year in a post-doctoral research position with UGA's Institute of Gerontology. She and Doug Kleiber have had a paper entitled "Constraints to Outdoor Physical Activity: Differences between the Young-Old and Old-Old" accepted for presentation at the upcoming Leisure Research Symposium in Seattle in October.

Doctoral student **Rudy Dunlap** received a travel award to present a poster at The Coalition for Education in the Outdoors National Symposium at Bradford Woods in Indiana in January.

Masters student **Kat Smith** presented a paper on inclusion at the Southeastern Association for Experiential Education in Savannah in March. She and **Crista Myers** each received travel awards to attend the conference

Alumni

Sheree Allgood Scogin (B.S.Ed. '03) gave birth on April 28th to Walker Joe Scogin". She has been attending Piedmont College in pursuit of a masters in early childhood education and will be teaching in a Pre-K program in the fall.

Tommy Bruce (B.S.Ed. '86) is an assistant director with Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department. His email address is trbruce@forsythco.com.

Ike English (B.S. Ed. '95) is in his 13th year as Director of Dausett Trails Nature Center in Jackson, GA. He can be reached at ikeenglish@mindspring.com.

Stacey Farrell (B.S.Ed. '95) is Executive Director of Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful. Check out her website at www.keeppathensbeautiful.org.

Gisele Gaudet Amigo (Ed.D. '02) is Academic Affairs Accreditation Coordinator and Program Development Specialist for MacEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta.

Andi Gutting Fox (B.S.Ed. '04) is living in Germany and can be reached at Andi.fox@gmail.com. Recently married, her husband is an Air Force pilot.

Sharon Jacobson (Ed.D. '97) followed up our Fall newsletter report on her to say that she was "*not* the founding pastor of Tawa Pano Unity Fellowship church in Rochester. I was called by the Unity Fellowship Church Movement to plant a church that did outreach to the LGBT community of color and their families." The church opened on October 30th. Shortly thereafter, the church was chartered and she was ordained: "The Reverend Dr. Sharon Jacobson" (aka "Rev Dr J").

Sharon (Sherry) Malley (Ed.D. '99) is teaching part-time at George Mason University and doing research on assistive technology after spending the previous few years teaching

children with significant disabilities in a public school in the area. She reports that "the students I taught were mostly all immigrants, and, as I would have the same students multiple years, I developed strong ties with their families, even traveling to South Africa as part of a delegation representing developmental disabilities.

Michelle McClendon (B.S.Ed. '90s) recently joined the environmental education team at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA. She recently received an M.S. in Environmental and Outdoor Education from SUNY Cortland and worked for a time in Scotland and at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center. She is the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Coordinator at Rock Eagle

Aly McClure Wade (B.S.Ed. '99) is athletics coordinator with the Roswell Recreation and Parks Department, running all soccer programs and the girl's basketball program and I also oversee of our skate park and another one of our facilities here. Her husband of four years is a former professional soccer player from the UK.

John Newman (B.S.Ed. '05) is a River Ranger with the USDA Forest Service in Colorado, working on the Snake River.

Sharon Peterson Gillespie (B.S.Ed. '98; M.Ed. 05), after working with the Oconnee Country Parks and Recreation Department in 2005, is now an events coordinator with the Conference Department of the UGA Georgia Center for Continuing Education. She can be reached at Sharon.Gillespie@georgiacenter.uga.edu.

Bill Tanner (B.S.Ed. '80s), after many years working at Tallulah George State Park, is now Site Manager for Amicalola Falls State Park.

Amie Woo (B.S.Ed. '94) is currently in her second year with DODDS (Department of Defense Dependent Schools), teaching health and physical education in Seoul, South Korea. After graduating from UGA she worked in Augusta at Walton Rehabilitation Center for a year and a half and then at Camp ASCCA and the Medical College of Georgia (working with BlazeSports, Camp ASCCA, MCG Wee Can Ski, Shepherd Center Adventure Skills Workshop). She then did a master's in physical therapy but then decided to go back to school for health and physical education at Augusta State University. After school she taught for three years at Peachtree Elementary in Gwinnett County and then in Yokosuka, Japan for a year at Sullivan's Elementary School (with DODDS) before moving to her current assignment. Teaching at Seoul American Middle School, she also assists with the high school tennis team and the ski club.

Robin Yaffe Tschumper (Ed.D. '96) reports an update on her plans to attend law school: " ...well, we did sell the cows and head off to law school. Unfortunately, we had a problem with the contract and rather than fight in court and possibly lose the money and the cattle, the cows came home and so did we. And all this time I thought the saying 'til the cows come home' was just proverbial. Oh well." She also reports loving being a grandmother of newborn 'Lily'.

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.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Summer.