

## **Speaker Bios**

### **Keynote Speaker**

**Tom Griffiths, Ed.D.**

**Director of Aquatics**

**Penn State University**

Tom Griffiths, Ed.D., is the Director of Aquatics and Safety Officer for Athletics at Penn State University. He has been involved in all phases of aquatics and water safety for 30 years and has published more than 300 articles.

In February 2005 and again in 2006, Tom Griffiths was profiled by Aquatics International as one of “the 25 most powerful people in the world of aquatics - including superstar gold medallist Michael Phelps.”

He is repeatedly selected by Aquatics International magazine as one of the Top 100 Leaders in the aquatic profession for his work in improving aquatic safety, researching issues affecting the lifeguarding profession, developing new approaches to scanning and attentiveness, and developing systems to maximize vigilance.

Dr. Griffiths is the author of The Complete Swimming Pool Reference, Second Edition, published by Sagamore Publishing LLC, The Swimming Pool by Simon and Schuster and Sport SCUBA Diving in Depth published by the Princeton Book Company. His latest book, Better Beaches, released by the National Recreation and Park Association, is a huge success and has led to the development of NRPA's Better Beach Seminars and Aquatic Safety Research Group's Safe Swimming Beaches program, which Tom teaches throughout the country. He also teaches the Aquatic Facility Operators Course (AFO) for NRPA.

Dr. Griffiths is the lead investigator who has been conducting the National Lifeguard Survey since 1994 and has developed the Five Minute Scanning Strategy © 2000 and accompanying video for lifeguards and other supervisors. Teaming up with Paragon Aquatics, he developed Griff's Guard Station™ a series of lifeguard stations improve safety and allow lifeguards to incorporate his scanning strategies.

Dr. Griffiths serves as an International Water Safety Consultant and, in his individual capacity, has been retained as an expert witness in a variety of personal injury cases including diving injuries and drownings at both pools and beaches. His lectures are known to be dynamic, informative, educational and inspiring.

Dr. Griffiths received his B.S. in 1971, his M.A. in 1973, and his Ed.D. in 1979. He enjoys jogging, fishing, biking, hiking, reading, and Penn State Football.

### **Buster Adams**

**Athletics & Aquatics Superintendent**

**City of Bellaire**

Buster is the Athletics and Aquatics Superintendent for the City of Bellaire. He has held this position for the past twelve years.

He is involved with TRAPS, where he has served as a Chairperson and Committee Chair for conferences and golf tournaments. He is also involved with TAAF, TPPC, and NRPA. He was on the Board of Directors for both the ACA and the Houston Area Aquatics Council (HAAC).

Buster has received many awards from his multiple organization involvements and was named the City of Bellaire Employee of the Year in 2001. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (NRPA), Aquatic Facility Operator (NRPA), Youth Sports Coaches Certification and Instructor (NYSCA), and he is certified in CPR.

Buster received his B.S. in Kinesiology from the University of Houston.

### **Brian Albright**

#### **General Manager**

#### **Western Hills Athletic Club**

Brian Albright has been working in aquatics since 1990, when he started working as a lifeguard. He is currently the General Manager of the Western Hills Athletic Club in Austin. He teaches for the American Red Cross and NASCO. In addition to the Western Hills Athletic Club, Brian is on staff at the UT Swim Center; where he works local, college, and national level swim meets; and volunteers as an assistant instructor for the Lifeguard Training class offered by the Kinesiology Department.

Brian graduated with a B.A. from UT Austin in 1996. He is a Founding Member and on the Board of Directors for the Texas Aquatic Team for Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). He has been a member of TPPC for 10 years and is involved with the American Red Cross LGI, WSI. Brian is a National Aquatic Safety Company Trainer and is on faculty at NASCO International Aquatic Safety School. For vacation, he enjoys traveling to Ireland to drink Guinness and listen to music.

### **Kirsten Barnes**

#### **Director of Management Services**

#### **Lifeguards Unlimited**

Kirsten is the Director of Management Services for Lifeguards Unlimited. A graduate of Missouri State University, she spent four years working in the hotel industry before following her passion into aquatics.

As a Recreation Supervisor for the Springfield-Greene County Parks and Recreation Department, Kirsten oversaw seven outdoor aquatic facilities and opened a state-of-the-art indoor aquatic center in 2003. In addition to recruiting and training part-time team members, Kirsten oversaw all aquatic programming including swimming lessons, water fitness, competitive swimming and a variety of special events. In a move that combines a passion for aquatics and the entrepreneurial spirit, Kirsten now oversees a full-service swimming pool management including the lifeguards and support

staff at over 25 municipal and private facilities including recruiting and hiring, contract sales and retention and a full line of lifeguard apparel.

Kirsten has spoken at Missouri Parks and Recreation Association (2002, 2006 & 2007), National Aquatic Management School (2005, 2006 & 2007) and National Aquatic Conference (2005, 2006 & 2007). She is the 2006 recipient of the Missouri Parks & Recreation Association Outstanding Aquatic Professional and Municipal Program of the Year. Currently, she is the President Elect of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Aquatic Section.

**Andrew Bohl**  
**Commercial Aquatics Services**

**Danny Boykin**  
**Senior Superintendent of Recreation**  
**City of Grand Prairie**

**George Deines**  
**Aquatic Coordinator**  
**City of Garland**

George is the Aquatics and Athletics Manager for the City of Garland and has been involved with TAAF Swimming since 1997. Most recently he has managed and coached the Plano Aquaducks and is currently the TAAF Region VII Swim Commissioner. He has a B.A. from the University of North Texas and an M.A. from Dallas Theological Seminary.

**Jim Drozdowski**  
**Manager of Sales Engineering**  
**Paragon Aquatics; Division of Pentair Water Pool & Spa**

Jim is the Manager of Sales Engineering for Paragon Aquatics. The Paragon Aquatics Division of Pentair Water Pool and Spa, Inc. manufactures KDI Paragon Swimming Pool Equipment and Stark Aquatic Filtration Systems.

Jim, who has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, joined Paragon and the aquatics industry in 1996. Soon after, Paragon acquired the Stark Filtration business. He has worked in many capacities including design and manufacturing engineer, applications engineer, customer service management, and sales management, which has provided a wide perspective on the technology and industry. He has served on NSF joint committees and is a member of several trade organizations for the aquatics and life support industries.

**Matthew D. Griffith**  
**Graduate Assistant; Interim Assistant Director for Aquatics**  
**University of North Texas**

Matthew is a Graduate Assistant and the Interim Assistant Director for Aquatics at the University of North Texas. He has been involved with aquatics since 2004 and is certified by the NPRA, NSPF, American Red Cross, and the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals.

He received a B.A. in Leisure Services Management from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2006 and will attain an M.S. in Recreation Program Management from University of North Texas in 2008.

Matthew is professionally involved with TPPC, Texas Recreation and Parks Society, Professional Pool Operators of America, and National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association.

**Bob Hawkins**  
**Neptune Benson**

**Bob Heldrich**  
**Acu-Trol/Pentair**

**Rick Herold**  
**Director of Parks & Recreation**  
**City of Grand Prairie**

Rick is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Grand Prairie. He received a Masters degree in Recreation Administration from the University of North Texas. Formerly he was a TRAPS regional director and is the emcee for the TRAPS annual awards banquet. He is a member of the DFW Parks and Recreation Directors and is the former President of the UNT Athletic Advisory Committee.

In his free time, Rick enjoys following UNT Mean Green Sports, attending festivals and traveling.

**Larry Holze**  
**Municipal Information Director & Public Information Officer**  
**City of Waco**

Larry is the Municipal Information Officer and Public Information Officer for the City of Waco. He is a lifelong resident of Waco and worked for 35 years in a family owned retail music business. After opening locations in Waco, Temple, Killeen and College Station, Larry sold the business and retired in 1997. The following year he joined the City of Waco as Director of Public Information and Communication.

Larry has also been the Associate Children's Minister since 1998 at his home church, First United Methodist. He served the church for fourteen years as the Director of Television and Radio Ministries.

In the past he has served as President of Waco Rotary Club, and the Waco Better Business Bureau. He has also served as Chairman of the Waco City Plan Commission for seven years from 1982-1989. He served on the Waco City Council in 1992 and 1993

as the District 5 Representative, and he has served on various nonprofit Boards including Waco Symphony Association, Campfire, and American Red Cross. In 1972 he was one of the Founding Officers of the Waco Soccer Association (now the Heart of Texas Soccer Association).

**Jacquelyn Kinton**  
**Special Programs Superintendent**  
**City of San Antonio**

Lyn is the Special Programs Superintendent for the City of San Antonio. She has worked in the Parks and Recreation Department at the City of San Antonio for the past seven years and a total of nine years; she spent four years with the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation in between.

Lyn is involved with TRAPS, with which she has served as a chair and as a speaker at past conferences. She has also been a speaker for the Longhorn Recreation Laboratory. She is involved with NRPA and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor.

Lyn received a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.B.A. at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

**Charles Logan**  
**University of Texas**

**Angie Mattiza**  
**Texas A&M**

**Ted Mendoza**  
**Loss Prevention Representative**  
**Texas Municipal League – Intergovernmental Risk Pool**

Ted has been a Loss Prevention Representative with TML-IRP since February 2007. He has worked in the environmental, health, and safety field for the private, educational, and government sector for 20 years.

Ted attended Dallas County Community College. He has seven years experience in risk management and ten years experience in the Environmental Remediation Industry. He has his Industrial Hygiene Certification and is a Consultant for Texas Mold Assessment.

In the past, he has been an Out Reach Instructor for HUD Approved (Lead Hazards) and for OSHA 500 and 501. He is an EPA and State Approved Asbestos Instructor. He was an Environmental Instructor for Texas A&M University, TEEX, and for the University of Texas at Arlington, Center for Environmental Research and Training.

**Katie Moore**  
**Sanitarian III**

## **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)**

Katie, RS and CPO, is currently employed in the Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Group, Environmental and Consumer Safety Section, Regulatory Services Unit, Department of State Health Services under the Health and Human Services Commission as a Sanitarian III. She is the State's technical expert in swimming pools and spas, hotels/motels, public nuisance complaints, recreational waterborne illnesses and AHERA (a national asbestos related program for public and private schools).

Her employment with the State began in February 2002. Prior to that she was employed with the City of Houston, Department of Health and Human Services, and Public Health Engineering for 13 years. Seven of those 13 years was spent in the Water Sanitation (Swimming Pool) Section where she supervised the pool inspectors. Katie also reviewed public and private swimming pool plans and, when time allowed, performed pre-opening inspections of public pools and spas. She investigated incidents of drowning or injury related to pools and spas in the City of Houston. In addition, Katie was also assigned sections of Houston in which to perform annual pool and spa inspections – at one point her assigned territory was everything north of I10.

Prior to being in the Water Sanitation Section, Katie was in the Field Operations Section where she became involved in everything from Hazardous Materials Management and Incident Response (HAZMAT), wastewater treatment plants, storm water planning and management, indoor air quality, radiation, grease traps, etc.

## **Kevin Post**

### **Councilman-Hunsaker**

Kevin is a Project Manager with Councilman – Hunsaker specializing in feasibility analysis for communities. He assists clients in preparing for the development and capital investment requirements of a new project.

Kevin's studies include identifying and evaluating current aquatic programming, both locally and nationally, and establishes a needs analysis for new aquatic space and programming for future aquatic centers through community outreach. He also provides information to communities desiring to build new aquatic facilities and develops an analysis of how all these issues will impact the operation of the proposed aquatic facility.

Kevin has been involved in aquatics for the past seven years, after beginning as a Pool Manager in 2000. He has a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of North Texas. He has multiple certifications through the American Red Cross, is a member of NIRSA, and is a CPO through NSPF. In June 2007, his article Recipe for Success was published in World Waterpark.

## **Kelli Smith**

### **Recreation Programmer for Fitness & Aquatics**

#### **City of Farmers Branch**

Kelli Smith is the Recreation Programmer for Fitness and Aquatics for the City of Farmers Branch. She has been employed with the City for seven years and has over 17

years experience in aquatics including working with the YMCA for 10 years prior to the City of Farmers Branch.

Kelli is a graduate from the University of North Texas with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She is a Certified Water Fitness Instructor and holds numerous aquatics certifications through the American Red Cross including Lifeguard Instructor, Water Safety Instructor, Aquatic Examiner, and Waterpark Lifeguard Instructor. She holds CPO and AFO certificates and obtained many fitness certifications through the Cooper Institute. Kelli serves on the North Texas Guard Games committee, the TPPC program committee, TRAPS Region 2 and 3 program committee and has previously served as secretary for the North Texas Aquatic Association. Kelli is also involved with NRPA, ACSM, and AAHPERD. She has received the TRAPS Lone Star Programming Award in 2005 and DFW Director's Award for Innovative Programming in 2006. In her free time she enjoys spending time with my family and exercising.

**Terri Smith**  
**Designer & Consultant**  
**Water Design, Inc.**

Terri currently employed by Water Design, Inc. as a Designer and Consultant. She has worked in the field of aquatics for over 20 years. She has held many positions including Lifeguard, Swim Instructor, Swimming and Water Polo Coach, Pool Manager, Aquatic Coordinator and Assistant Director. She holds various certifications from the American Red Cross and teaches many classes for this organization. She is currently a certified AFO and CPO.

Terri has been involved with the NRPA National Aquatic Branch for numerous years, and was the Pacific Southwest Region Representative from 2004-2007. She currently is the At Large member of the NAB Board of Directors, and is the 2008 National Aquatic Conference Chair. She is on the Educational Program Committee, and the Conference Planning Committee and will serve as the National Aquatic Management School Chair in 2009. As well as serving on the national level, Terri serves at the state level, and was the Utah Recreation and Parks Association Aquatic Representative from 2002-2005, and is still heavily involved with the aquatics section in Utah.

Along with her service on several national committees, Terri has presented at numerous conferences, aquatic retreats, and institutes nationally. She is the proprietor of the "Vigilance Voice," a scanning technique for lifeguards that assists with the training and vigilance of lifeguards.

She has trained over 500 lifeguards with this technique and has presented it to many aquatic professionals nationwide. She wrote an article that was published in the NRPA Parks and Recreation magazine in November 2006 and continues to provide training to agencies nationwide.

**Mickey Speck**  
**Siemens Water**

**Tom Vyles**  
**Senior Health Specialist**  
**City of Plano**

Tom Vyles works as a Senior Health Specialist in charge of the swimming pool program for the City of Plano. He has been inspecting commercial swimming pools for seven years. He got his start in the pool industry working as a Lifeguard for a private pool service company in Houston.

Tom has held a CPO from NSPF for six years and a CPO Instructor certification for almost four years. He has served as a Governing Council Member for the North Texas Chapter Texas Environmental Health Association.

Tom is a Registered Sanitarian through the State of Texas and a Registered Environmental Health Specialist through the National Environmental Health Association. He holds a Masters degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. He also received a B.S. in Biology from Stephen F. Austin. In his free time he enjoys scuba diving.

**Joseph T. Walker, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**University of North Texas,**

Dr. Walker is an Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas where he teaches in the KHPR Department. He has been with UNT for the past two years, after many years of varied experience in parks and recreation-associated jobs and in lecturing.

Dr. Walker received a Ph.D. in Park, Recreation and Tourism from Clemson University in 2002. Before this time he received two Master of Arts degrees from the University of Mississippi, one in Higher Education: Student Personnel and one in Leisure Management. He also received his B.A. in Ceramics from the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Walker has provided over 20 lectures and papers for national, regional, state, and local organizations. He has been an invited speaker on planning and development topics, as well as selected to present research on participation behavior. His specialty areas include comprehensive planning and development of recreation systems and facilities, staff development, program development, policy issues and aquatics.

**Kristie Weaver**  
**Recreation Supervisor**  
**City of Weatherford**

Kristie is a Recreation Supervisor over athletics, aquatics, and special events, for the City of Weatherford, Texas. She is a member of TAAF, TRAPS, TPPC, and NRPA. For TAAF, she serves on various committees, is a State Swim Commissioner and was named the TAAF Young Professional for 2003.

Kristie has a B.S. in Recreation Administration from Southwest Texas State University. In her free time she loves to spend time with her three Labrador retrievers: Rebel, Dixie and Maverick.