



PRESIDENT HEATHER BRUMMEL

Heather Brummel, Director of Marketing at the RiverCenter and Adler Theatre, was recently appointed as president for the Bettendorf Public Library Foundation located in Bettendorf, IA. The non-profit organization, raises money to support, enhance and preserve the Bettendorf Public Library programs and services. Heather has served the organization in several roles including, vice president and co-chair of two of the foundation's signature fundraising events: Quad City Spells, an adult spelling bee and Author and Celebrity Doodle Day, where doodles of known authors, actors, musical stars, political figures and athletes, solicited by the organization, are available for purchase via live and silent auction.

Congratulations Heather!



STORK MAKES TWO VISITS TO GRAND FORKS

It's a Boy! Stephanie Bernstrom, Dir. of Specialty Seating & Advertising at the Alerus Center, and husband John welcomed their first child into the world on Sunday, August 9th. James Kevin Bernstrom was born at 8:50 pm. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. Stephanie, John, James and their yellow lab Bailey are all doing great!



It's a Girl! Ron and Elizabeth Wilkens, welcomed their first grand child, Natalie Elizabeth Peters, into the world May 14, 2009 at 8:31pm weighing in at 7lbs 7 oz 20.5 inches long. Ron's daughter Lindsay and her husband Kevin Peters are the proud parents. Ron is the Business Manager at the Alerus Center. All are fine, and Grandpa is ecstatic!

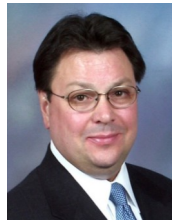
Congratulations to both families!



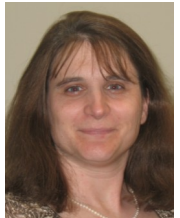
GOOD NEWS FROM VICKSBURG

VenuWorks is proud to recognize four individuals from the Vickburg Convention Center and Auditorium for their recent achievements:

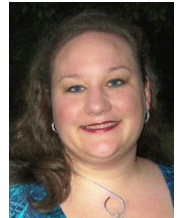
Executive Director, **Larry Gawronski**, attended the IAAM conference in Boston and has been named to the Board of Governor's of the Sr. Executive Symposium of IAAM, as well as Vice Chair for the Certification Board which administers the CFE program.



Business Manager, **Donna Gray**, Celebrated her one year anniversary with VenuWorks, August 11.



Marketing and Events Manager, **Erin Powell**, was nominated and selected as "Top 20 Professionals under 40" by the Vicksburg Post, along with Carterer, **Berry Palmertree**. Both were nominated by members of the community and selected from about 50 nominations.



Erin celebrates her sixth year anniversary September 2.

Congratulations Larry, Donna, Erin and Barry! Happy Anniversary Donna and Erin!



SWIFTEL RECOGNIZES MIKE AHARTZ

Mike Ahartz, was honored for his 5 years of service at the Swiftel Center, in Brookings, SD, during the annual employee party in April. Mike has worked in several capacities at the Swiftel Center including security and bartending. Swiftel Center is fortunate to have Mike as a dedicated employee and they appreciate all his hard work.

Congratulations Mike!



Left to right- Tom Richter (Exec Director) Mike Ahartz; Debbie Neises (Event Coordinator)

NEWS AND NOTES

OGLEBAY SCHOLARSHIP

Gordon Smith Memorial Oglebay Scholarship Application

VenuWorks President, Steve Peters, established an Oglebay Scholarship to honor the late Gordon Smith, who served VenuWorks as a Senior Consultant following an outstanding career in the theater industry. During his many years of service, Gordon gave freely of his time to mentor young professionals starting out in their careers.

The PAFMS at Oglebay is the best professional education program available for public assembly facility managers. Both seasoned managers and people new to the industry find the school to be exceptionally valuable. Held at the famous Oglebay Resort & Conference Center in Wheeling, WV, the program is governed by the IAAM Board of Regents.

Scholarships are fully funded for the 2 year PAFMS. Scholarship covers tuition, room, and board. (Recipients or their employers must pay for travel, and other expenses.) More information on the PAFMS and registration materials are available at www.iaam.org.

Scholarship Applications may be downloaded from the VenuWorks e-library or requested from Dave Olson at dolson@venuworks.com. **Deadline is Nov. 1, 2009** no later than 5:00 p.m. Scholarship recipients will be notified by Dec. 1, 2009.

The Scholarship does not guarantee admission into the Oglebay program. Applications for admission to Oglebay must be submitted to IAAM.

Applicants will be selected according to the following criteria:

-Employed by *Continued page 3*

DODGE, DUCK, DIP, DIVE & DODGE!

These are the five D's of Dodgeball according to movie director and writer, Rawson Marshall Thurber, but Ngina Gibson adds another D to the list-determination.

VenuWorks of Cedar Rapids congratulates **Ngina Gibson** for stepping out of her daily role as Box Office Manager and heading up the first ever Dodgeball Tournament at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena. With 10 registered teams, the event was a success. Those who attended had fun and say they are looking forward to next year's tournament. Ngina was thrilled with the turnout and is excited to make this an annual event.

Ngina began working at the



U.S. Cellular Center in March 1999 as the Operation's Assistant. She soon moved into her current position of Box Office Manager where she enjoys her job, especially building relationships with show promoters and working with the public, helping patrons purchase tickets to their favorite events.

Outside of work, Ngina keeps busy with her three active children, Emoni (18) Evan (17) and Ethan (15).

Ngina says she enjoys watching her boys play high school football and basketball. In her free time, Ngina likes to play sand volleyball, softball and card games.

She's also a devoted *American Idol* fan.

Way to go Ngina!

"Grape Escape" GREAT SUCCESS

The 2009 Grape Escape: "A Toast to the Arts" was held on August 7th at the Topeka Performing Arts Center. This event, now in its 12th year, is TPAC's annual fundraiser. It's a night of food and wine tasting with Live and Silent Auctions. Sponsored by Glazer's of Kansas and many local businesses, TPAC relies on the profits from this event to supplement the operational budget for the Center. New this year was online bidding before the event, a Wheel of Wine, and

a post auction concert with *Midnight Express* featuring *Margo Martinez*. Other entertainment included *True North & Project 11* from Northeast Kansas. By the end of the night nearly 500 attendees sampled over 166 wines from all over the world. TPAC staff along with 50+ volunteers made this another successful year in an economic climate that has been increasingly difficult for Non-profits to raise money.

Congratulations Team Topeka!



Pictured left to right: Ryan Sedden, Leah Swank, Barbara Wiggins, Celeste Rodriguez, Justin Sailor, Linda Nedved, Erin Aldridge, Alex Nedved, Blair Adams and Morgan Doby.

NEW FACES IN OUR FACILI-

KENNEWICK WELCOMES FOUR NEW FACES TO THREE RIVERS CAMPUS

In August, the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA held a reception to welcome three new members of the food and beverage department, Bill Reade, Fritz Smith, Cathy Smith and a new Executive Director, Corey Pearson.

Bill Reade is no stranger to the Tri-Cities area having previously worked at the Tri-City Country Club and the Crazy Horse Casino.

Corey Pearson came to Kennewick directly from Rockford, IL, where he was the director of the Rockford Civic Center.

Fritz and Cathy Smith are newlyweds and moved to Kennewick from Dallas, Texas where Fritz pre-

viously directed food and beverage at the Texas Rangers Stadium and Cathy headed up catering at the Texas Motor Speedway.

About 100 guests attended the reception, including members of the Kennewick Public Facilities District Board, Mayor of Kennewick, Tom Moak, and numerous media members, sponsors, partners and all local VenuWorks Managers.



(Left to right) Bill Reade, Executive Chief, Fritz Smith, Director of Food and Beverage, Corey Pearson, Executive Director, and Cathy Smith, Toyota Center Food and Beverage Manager

Three Rivers Convention Center introduced three new campus house wines by Hyatt Winery, in addition to many new menu items, creating a deliciously enjoyable evening!

Welcome Aboard Bill, Corey, Fritz, and Cathy!

PETERS EXTENDS HIS SOUTHERN TOUR TO DUPLIN

In August, Steve Peters went to Kenansville to meet with Duplin County Events Center staff and to make a presentation to the Duplin County Commission. Steve was proud to inform the Duplin County Commission that within the last three year period, VenuWorks has increased the annual number of events by 117%, annual event attendance by 150% and annual revenue by 335%.

Way to go Team Duplin!



VenuWorks President, Steve Peters and LaVerne Fullwood, Business Manager, Duplin County Events Center

HOYT SHERMAN PLACE WELCOMES MOLLY PINS

Molly Pins recently joined the team at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines, IA, as the new Development & Marketing Director. Her first day of work was August 3, and she has jumped head first into a big project – organizing the donor list and sending out the first big mailing to donors highlighting Hoyt Sherman Place's new membership package. Molly has 13 years of experience in marketing, promotions, and special events, and most recently worked for nine years at Clear Channel Radio in Des Moines. She is excited about her



new job and offers a fresh new perspective and some great ideas about how to market Hoyt Sherman Place and all it has to offer. "I am excited to be involved with an organization that provides fantastic programming in a unique and historic atmosphere," Molly says of her new position. Molly lives in Des Moines with her husband, Mel, and their two cats. When she is not at work, Molly and her husband are very active in their neighborhood association. She also enjoys reading and attending the many community events.

Welcome to the team Molly!

OGLEBAY (Continued)

VenuWorks for a minimum of two years

- Progression of professional development as demonstrated by work history/resume
- Current job responsibilities
- Career objectives
- Submission of one-page typed essay on "Why I Should Be Awarded This Scholarship". Applicants are encouraged to write a good justification of their financial need and how they believe the PAFMS will enhance their career pursuits, along with a letter from their supervisor and Executive Director. E-mail submissions to Dave Olson: dolson@venuworks.com.



EMPLOYEE STORIES

ANSWERS TO JULY "PAUSE FOR THOUGHT": What Was The Best Event You Ever Attended?

Alejandra Campbell
Office Mgr/Art
Gallery Dir.
Burnsville, MN

One of the best events I attended was the preview party for the *Picasso and American Art* exhibit at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. I attended it with one of my best friends, and we had a great time. It was a treat to be one of the first people to see the exhibit. A local band, Digtata, played a great show up on the roof, there was a delicious spread provided by the Wolfgang Puck restaurant in the Walker, they had a fabulous signature drink being served, and very entertaining people watching!



wife, Trudy. Today we've been married for 11 years (mostly good ☺), and we have 4 wonderful children.

Jazmine Huerta
Administrative
Assistant
Racine, WI

The best event I ever attended had to be when we hosted HBO's Alzheimer's disease documentary in our Memorial Hall facilities. I really enjoyed how well our staff came together and got a chance to see the documentary. Everything went smoothly. What made it so memorable was seeing how Jackie Harrell was a stronger woman after she lost her husband due to Alzheimer's. It was inspirational to all of our staff, including myself, Sara Andrews and Rik Edgar's wife (Amy Edgar). We all cried like little babies.



to Sioux City. I was in the theatre on move-in day. (It was very interesting to see how long it took them to unload and get the stage set.) I also worked in the Orpheum Theatre office for a few days preparing the inserts for the show booklets. I saw my work getting used! Finally, I got to attend the show with my college roommate. We had great seats in the balcony, and we got to meet some of the stars of the show afterwards.

Scott Hallgren
Executive Dir.
Spencer, IA

Neil Diamond concert on July 9, 1996 at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. I had gotten two tickets to see Neil Diamond on this date and for whatever reason my guest couldn't go. In the meantime, I discovered there was a young lady who would like to get to know me better so I got up the guts to ask her if she'd go with me. Due to studying for her final oral presentation on her thesis for her master's degree, she just about said no but decided a night out would probably be a good stress reliever. This was the very first date with my



Jill Irlbeck
Marketing &
Events Coord.
Spencer, IA

One of my favorite events I attended was *Mamma Mia* at the Sioux City Orpheum Theatre. I was interning at the time, and it was awesome to attend an event I'd been learning about. I worked with Dennis Gann, director of the Sioux City Convention Center, and he explained how he put the deal together for the show to come



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT:

What advice would you give to someone starting a new career in your field?

(what advice has stuck with you through the years?)

Share your thoughts, write in to: lpeters@venuworks.com
Subject line:
Pause for Thought

EDITOR'S NOTE:

VenuWorkers is dedicated to celebrating the professional and personal stories of you, the **VenuWorkers**. Please help by sending in pictures and stories about **full time and part time employees and volunteers**. Send in your submissions to: lpeters@venuworks.com. Ideal submissions should include a picture and a paragraph.