

"The true object of all human life is play."

Gilbert K. Chesterton



October 2011 Newsletter

<http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu>

Message from the Co-Chairs



Fran in a Shanghai "play" park!

As of this month, the US Play Coalition is officially two years in operation! Since 2009 we've grown from less than 200 to more than 1,100 members from all over the world - a number that continues to grow. As a result, we're also seeing the word about the value of play spreading across the globe. Late last month, Fran went to Shanghai, China, to share the mission of the US Play Coalition, and why play is so important for people of all ages. We share more about her visit below.

It was an interesting discussion, primarily because it was great to see other cultures also embracing the value of play. We are hoping to further expand our relationships with our Shanghai counterparts, and hopefully they will attend and possibly speak at the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play: Multi-Generational Actions and Strategies, to be held at Clemson University, South Carolina, between February 26-29, 2012.

Our education committee received nearly 100 presentation submissions for the conference - an exciting number! We would like to thank those of you who submitted your work. We will be busy reviewing those submissions over the coming weeks, and getting back to first authors by mid-November.

In the meantime, have you [registered](#) to attend the conference yet? The early bird deadline of November 18 will be upon us soon!

Be PLAYful,
Fran Mainella & Brett Wright
Coalition Co-Chairs

Great news! Dr. Geoffrey Godbey confirmed as keynote speaker at the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play

The US Play Coalition is a partnership to promote the VALUE OF PLAY throughout life.
In this issue



We are thrilled to announce Dr. Geoffrey Godbey as a keynote speaker at the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play! Dr. Godbey is a consultant, speaker, and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management at Penn State University. He has authored ten books and

over 100 articles concerning leisure, work, time use, aging, recreation and parks, tourism, health and the future, and is a past President of the Academy of Leisure Sciences.

Recently, he conducted research on the impact of ethnic change on outdoor recreation, relations between health and use of leisure, and the impact of changing demographics on the tourism function of the National Park Service.

From 2002-2004, Dr. Godbey helped develop the LifeTrail, a series of stretching and strengthening stations for older adults. He is currently an advisor on the future of leisure for The Next Thousand Years Project. Dr. Godbey also completed a five city study of the relationships between use of leisure and health among older adults.

Interviews with Dr. Godbey and summaries of his writings have appeared in a number of media, including US News and World Report, Newsweek, Time, Reader's Digest, The Economist, The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS Morning Show, New York Times, Glamour, Psychology Today, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Washington Post, Modern Maturity, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Cosmopolitan, Redbook, The Utne Reader, NBC Evening News with Tom Brokaw, CNN News, The ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings and many others.

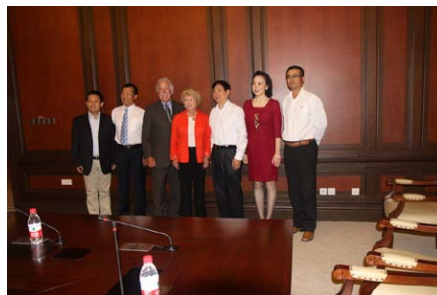
Dr. Godbey will be our keynote speaker on the morning of Monday, February 27 with a presentation entitled, Taking The Benefits of Lifetime Play Seriously. His expertise as a leader in the field of parks and recreation, and his focus on aging, health and the future ties in perfectly with this year's conference theme: Multi-Generational Actions and Strategies.

More keynote speakers are in the works - continue to watch this newsletter for updates! We expect to an outstanding speaker from the medical profession, an expert on inclusive play, as well as, of course, one of our favorites - Dr. Joe Frost, Honorary Program Chair and Parker Centennial Professor Emeritus, University of Texas.

US Play Coalition continues to expand its international relationships through recent Shanghai visit

US Play Coalition Co-Chair Fran Mainella spent almost a week in Shanghai, China, in late September sharing information about the value of play and community sport.

Fran spoke to both government and university officials about the US Play Coalition and the value of play in the lives of people of all ages, including the Deputy Director for Shanghai Sports Administration and the Director of Sports for All. Fran also did a presentation for faculty and students at the Shanghai University of Sport and met with a representative from Fudan University.



Great keynote speaker news!
Visiting Shanghai
Register today!
Reduced hotel rates available
for 2012 conference
Thank you to our sponsors
and partners
Update from the Education
Committee
Contact us!
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Visit our website today!
About the US Play Coalition

October News & Events

There are a number of play-oriented events taking place over the coming weeks:

[October 5: 2011 New Hampshire Children in Nature Conference \(Ossipee Lake\)](#)

[October 6-7: 9th Annual Natural Learning Design Institute \(Chapel Hill\)](#)

[October 16-22: Take it Outside! Week](#)

[October 29: 4th Annual Early Learning Summit \(California\)](#)

[November 1-3: NRPA Congress 2011: Active Minds, Healthy Nation \(Atlanta, GA\)](#)

[November 2-5: NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo \(Orlando, FL\)](#)

Quick links

Important links for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play:

- [Online registration](#)
- [Online conference presentation/poster submission form](#)
- [Become a sponsor of the US Play Coalition!](#)

[US Play Coalition website](#)

[US Play Coalition on Twitter](#)

[US Play Coalition on Facebook](#)

[US Play Coalition YouTube](#)

Fran's trip resulted in some valuable discussion about the importance of play, and it is expected that a number of these individuals will be in attendance at the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play, to be held between February 26-29 at Clemson, South Carolina. We are hoping to entice one of their key leaders to speak - so keep watching our newsletter for updates!

Save 30% - register now for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play!

US Play Coalition members that [register](#) for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play before November 18, 2011 receive a 30% reduction in conference fees. Student rates are also available. Make sure you sign up today!

Reduced room rates available for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play!

A block of rooms at the James F. Martin Inn at Clemson University has been reserved for conference attendees at a special rate of only \$99 per night (including continental breakfast, does not include tax). Please mention Code GF-8536 or The Conference on the Value of Play when you call to reserve your room. Deadline for hotel registration is Dec. 31, 2011.

Space at the Inn is limited, so register as soon as possible. The Martin Inn is attached to the Conference Center, so no in-town transportation will be required to go to the Conference on the Value of Play from your room. Limited shuttle service will also be provided between the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport and the hotel.

Thank you to our sponsors and partners

A hearty thank you to our sponsors and partners for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play. Special thanks to the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, which just came on board as a valued partner.

Sponsors

- Platinum Champion for Play - [Landscape Structures](#)
- Platinum sponsors - [PlayCore/GameTime](#) and [Vortex Aquatic Structures](#)
- Silver sponsors - [Allied Tube & Conduit](#), [BCI Burke](#) and John & Bobbi Nau
- Bronze sponsors - the [International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association \(IPEMA\)](#)

Partners

Coalition partners are non-profit/government organizations that have demonstrated their support of the US Play Coalition and increasing the value of play, including a financial contribution.

- [KaBOOM!](#) is funding one of three \$3,000 research awards at the [2012 Conference on the Value of Play: Multi-Generational Actions and Strategies](#) to a researcher whose creative and innovative work reflects great potential for expanding our knowledge of the value of play.
- The [Marsha Ward Fellowship](#) is provided annually to the US Play Coalition to fund a graduate student to work to assist with play.
- The [Springfield-Greene County Park Board](#) is interested in play from both an educational and parks and recreation point of view, and have provided support to the conference as a whole.

Contribution from our Members

page

Join Our Mailing List!

Contact us!

For more information about the US Play Coalition, including sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Fran Mainella
US Play Coalition Co-Chair
fmaine@clemson.edu

Call for newsletter content

Have some exciting information that furthers the play movement you would like to share? Email it to us, and we will include it in our next newsletter, and may also post it on our website.

Please note that your submission may be edited for clarity, and decisions to include entries in our monthly newsletter or on our website will be based on content and the co-chairs' discretion.

Entries are due by the 23rd of each month, should not exceed 250 words and can be emailed (with a photo, please) to fmaine@clemson.edu.

Visit our website today!

Bookmark the [US Play Coalition website](#) for play news, upcoming events, and other information about the US Play Coalition's efforts.

We update the site regularly, so make sure you visit often!

About the US Play Coalition

The US Play Coalition is an international collective of individuals and organizations that recognize play as a valuable and necessary part of a healthy and productive life. Since our beginnings in

Update from the US Play Coalition Education Committee

The role of the Education Committee is to promote the importance of play throughout the daily lives of children and families. We believe in an integrated approach to sharing information about the value of play and we promote an interdisciplinary perspective: play should be an important part of our lives and we should embrace an educational, health, and lifestyle approach to promoting the value of play.

Another important role of the Education Committee is to recruit quality presenters for the Conference on the Value of Play and to encourage presenters to provide a holistic approach to play. Thus, we are recruiting presenters who will provide research-based information on practice/programs, policy, and play research initiatives.

The third role of the Committee is to provide systematic review of proposals for the Conference on the Value of Play. Our goal is to select presentations that represent a holistic perspective of play and that reflect new ideas on practice, policy, and research.

The makeup of the Education Committee includes the following professionals:

- Dolores Stegelin, Clemson, and Debora Wisneski, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Co-Chairs
- Joan Byrne, Parks & Recreation, City of Largo, Florida
- James M. Poole, MD, Growing Child Pediatrics, North Carolina
- Thomas Reed, University of South Carolina-Upstate
- Audrey Skrupskelis, University of South Carolina-Aiken

The review committee consists of the Education Committee members and the following volunteers:

- Joan Almon, Alliance for Childhood
- Brianna Clark, Temple University
- Helen Dillon, Independent Consultant
- Sheila Geisbrecht, Manitoba Education
- Sarah Griffin, Clemson University
- Patricia Rumbaugh, Washington International School
- Deborah Smith, Clemson University
- Susan Weber, Pinellas County Schools

2009, we have accumulated more than 1,100 members, a number which continues to grow daily. Our membership is diverse - including individuals with a commitment to increasing awareness of the value of play, educators, professionals in the fields of health and parks and recreation, psychologists, landscape architects and many more. Membership is free, and simply requires a declaration of shared commitment to the value of play.

**Save
30%**

Register as a US Play Coalition member for the 2012 Conference on the Value of Play: Multi-Generational Actions and Strategies to save almost 30 percent on your registration fees!

2012 Conference on the Value of Play early bird price for members is available until November 18, 2011.