



# JABU'S JOURNAL

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### 1. Greetings from Jim & Rich

Welcome to Jabu's Journal -- we're hoping to make the most of this newsletter by looking for your input. Here you'll find profiles on members' lives, associates' jobs, and associates' charitable activities. We also feature some of the more interesting member comments and stories (there were too many in July to list them all) - and yes, there is even a Member Bear Story in here! You'll learn about a new employee discount on computers as well as employee milestones and announcements, including August birthdays and work anniversaries (I'm told this is one of your favorite features in this newsletter).

Overall, the combination of Ultimate Resort and Private Escapes is proving to be a truly great benefit for our company, members, and employees -- we have many more resources, additional incredible properties, and an enhanced team with added skills and experience. Thanks for all your hard work, and enjoy your August newsletter.

Ultimate Regards,  
Jim Tousignant & Rich Keith  
Co-CEO

### 2. Associate Spotlights

#### Honora Mastriacovo - Kissimmee, FL

Honora was an intern when she started working for Ultimate. She was hired full-time to help plan events. "I couldn't believe I found the exact area I had been dreaming about since high school!" she said.

Her interests include traveling, music, and especially singing --her cubicle mates can vouch for that! Honora has traveled the world. When asked to pick her favorite place that she has visited, she said, "That's impossible....can I pick my top five?" But she finally decided that Australia, Greece, Italy, Ireland, and France were at the top of her list. When she



travels she likes to get involved with the culture, meet the locals, and sample the local food and wine.

"I like to be spontaneous and take a lot of adventures. One day I would like to buy a yacht, move to an island, and host excursions," she said. "And maybe even meet a few pirates along the way." Honora is all about travel, so it is no surprise that her favorite part of working at Ultimate Escapes is the fact that she gets to do just that -- travel throughout the United States.

Erin Grummert - Fort Collins, CO

Erin Grummert is a Property Services Specialist with Ultimate. Erin is dedicated to quality assurance in all of our properties and at all of our destinations. She is responsible for the distribution and tracking of SMART tasks and working with the local hosts on property maintenance issues. She goes over each and every survey that is sent in by members, and handles all of the complaints and suggestions on home décor, broken appliances, fixtures, needed items etc. in our homes.

Erin currently lives in Wellington, Colorado and has been married for almost 11 years. She also has a 10-year-old daughter who really keeps her on her toes. When she's not at the office, you might find her at the gym or spending time with her family in the great outdoors of Colorado, or at the Colorado National Speedway -- filling her need for speed!



### 3. Charitable Outreach

Jenny Carrithers

Jenny does the purchasing for Ultimate Escapes in the Kansas City office. She is very involved in a charity called Wayside Waifs, a rescue center for animals. Jenny and her family -- husband Doug and son Seth -- mostly volunteer with the cats, their favorite animals. They help out with the cleaning and maintenance of the facility, as well as in the vet clinic. Jenny's son has learned to give shots, insert microchips, process samples, and even read test results.

The Carrithers also act as a foster home to these animals. "When kittens come in that are smaller than two pounds, they are placed with a foster family until they've grown enough. This allows the kittens to learn to be around people, keeps them healthy, and frees up space for other cats in the meantime. If they come in with a momma cat, we take her in as well," she explained.

Some of the cats that the family fosters are shy, timid, and can even be mean-tempered, which is understandable if they have never had a family before. Jenny tends to gear towards the problem children, because "there is no purr sweeter than the one you get from a cat that's spent the last three weeks hissing at you."



an visit their website at

s the Escape Planners in the Fort Collins

promotion, she has been busy raising money for a good cause -- the fight against breast cancer.

After collecting and donating over \$1,800, Michele joined thousands of other women in the midst of the beautiful Rocky Mountains for the Annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. After walking 17 miles on Saturday, and 13.1 miles on Sunday, Michele ended her weekend on June 29th with new some friends.

"The weekend was amazing! There were lots of inspirational women, laughter, sore feet, and tons of fun! The scenery was beautiful and I will no doubt continue to participate on an annual basis," said Michele. Although Michele is not a breast cancer survivor, she supports the women and their families who have struggled with this ailment, including our very own Escape Planner, Carol Parrilli.

Michele has lots of reasons for participating. She lists her reasons on the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer website: 1) I have 7 nieces (and hopefully my own daughter someday!), and a weekend of walking is more than worth it if it I can prevent them from ever dealing with breast cancer. 2) Something to focus on will help me get to the gym every day! 3) Helping people and being involved feels good. 4) The Rocky Mountains are beautiful in the summer, so the walk will be very scenic."



## 4. Member Profiles

### Robin Josephs

Robin Josephs is our featured Member Profile of the month. She and her husband Patrick McGarvey have two young boys named Sam and Danny, and a Wheaton Terrier named Odie. They lead a typical busy life going to work and school, and relish their free time.

Robin was born in Massachusetts but now resides in the beautiful city of Chicago. She enjoys spending time with her family and working at her job as a corporate director. Robin joined the Club back in 2002 and loves to travel to beach destinations. She and her family will be traveling to Los Cabos next April. They like to be active and enjoy such outdoor activities as skiing, biking, hiking, and fishing.

Robin's favorite destination -- which is no longer with the club -- was Cayo Espanto in Belize. She says, "It was by far the best destination." But she looks forward to trying some of the new destinations that are constantly being added by Ultimate Escapes. As a longtime member, she and her family look forward to many more great Ultimate Escape vacations in the coming years...

### John T. Taylor

John Taylor has been an Ultimate Escapes member since March of 2007—starting as a preview member and upgrading to a full individual premiere member by January of 2008. He and his soul mate, Pat, have only been to Ultimate Escape's properties in Stowe and Belize so far, but they are scheduled to go to Steamboat Springs in August, Los Cabos in November, and Turks and Caicos in January.

John got his private pilot's rating two years ago and he enjoys flying his Cessna 172 all around Florida. He flies to Miami every month to visit his son, daughter and the grand kids. He and Pat plan to get their scuba certification for their future UE ocean visits.

John is a member of The Tampa Club, participates in various civic organizations, on the Board for

the Easter Seals and Treasurer of his condo. John walks every morning and evening, swims and loves great food and wine. He never misses a cigar and bourbon event. John follows the philosophy of "living his dash" (feel free to ask him about this by going to taylorconsult@juno.com).

## 5. Employee Benefit – A Computer Discount!

### Dell Employee Purchase Program

Dell Employee Purchase Program is offering Ultimate Escapes employees an extra 5% off as an incremental Back-to-School promotion on select Inspiron & XPS systems over \$799. This savings is IN ADDITION TO the standard 2-12% Employee Program Discount.

Offer to Administaff Clients/Employees:

Administaff employees and their family members receive from 2% up to 12% discounts off the complete Dimension and Inspiron product line for home.

Through Administaff, you are eligible to participate in Dell's Employee Purchase Program for personal/home purchases. Featured benefits include:

- From 2% up to 12% discount off the complete Inspiron and XPS product line.
- 12% discount on Inspiron and XPS systems with a total price of \$1,600 or more and a 3 or 4 year on-site warranty upgrade.
- Frequent promotions in addition to your standard discounts.
- A wide variety of software and peripherals also available at discounted prices.
- Discounted shipping.
- Dedicated Employee Purchase Program Sales, Customer Service, and Technical Support staff.
- Dell's Employee Purchase Program is also offered to Administaff friends and family members.

How to get your discount:

Contact the EPP Sales Team directly at 800-695-8133 and reference member ID# PS17371476.

## 6. Member Comments

Members had so many great comments this month; it was hard to keep up! Here are just a few – and continue to send me any good comments -- funny, quirky comments & stories are good too:

From Jerome Lienhard to Lynnette Talge, Escape Planner –Kansas City, MO:

*"Our escape planner was wonderful and extremely helpful. She was available whenever we needed her and helped plan many activities for us. We love working with Lynnette and know that she'll do everything possible to make our escape fantastic."*



Here is one from Rhonda Mordy to Lynnette Talge regarding her recent trip to Telluride:

*Lynette! Huge thank you! We had a spectacular vacation & the extra special surprise/reunion/celebration was due to all your efforts! Jim was so surprised & loved every minute of it!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!! Have a great holiday! Rhonda*

From Darcy Rose to Melissa Widhalm, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO:

*"This was a big family gathering for us since many family members have been returning back to New Orleans and live in Atlanta. Melissa was very helpful in working with us to plan, coordinate, and set up this trip especially with the scheduling of two properties. She kept us informed and assisted us along the way to make this a great experience and wonderful event. THANK YOU so much Melissa. 5+ +."*

From Jeff Johnston to Robin LeClair, Local Host-Kiawah Island, SC:

*"One thing we members can count on is exemplary service as an ordinary course of our travels and planning. But Robin LeClair went above and beyond and I wanted to share with you.*

*While staying in Charleston (I still am in mourning over that house going away) my brother visited and brought with him a late graduation gift for my daughter Erica. It was one of my mother's antique small crystal candelabras. It was disassembled and individually wrapped in packing paper, which he had put in a liquor box. We left Charleston for Kiawah picking up Erica at the airport along the way and my brother left for Orlando. The next morning, Kris and I said we should get out the gift and let Erica unwrap it. That's when we both said that neither of us had packed it up at Charleston, nor unpacked it from the car on arriving at Kiawah. A frantic search of everything confirmed this and I called my brother to confirm that he hadn't taken it either. He suggested the cleaning crew probably threw it away the day before we left!!! (It's possible given it was in the liquor box, wrapped in paper and sitting next to the refrigerator). Quick call to Robin who immediately said she would run right over and search the house as well as the trash. Less than 30 minutes later, Robin calls to report her dumpster diving was a success.*

*I trust this is not an unusual occurrence for Robin. She seems acutely in tune with our needs. In this case, it wasn't the value of the gift, but the family history of the gift and the thought of its loss that magnified the occasion. Sensing our urgency, Robin doubled her urgency and assured us she would do whatever it took to try and save it. We can't thank her enough!*

*Just wanted you to know that we appreciated Robin's efforts and for that matter all the folks at UE that work on making our travels special."*

## 7. The Ultimate Story

Members Jean and Jerry Fair had a bear experience on an Ultimate visit to Telluride. Here is their story:

"We saw lots of wildlife on our hikes. Deer, elk, moose and flowers. We saw another bear near Telluride from afar, but encounter at Arrowhead Mountain was different. It was near 10 miles. Coming downhill, near a creek and in a valley, we saw that was about 15 feet to our uphill side and slightly in front

We did all the things we have been taught, stand tall, make noise, then we saw a new born cub (that we had not previously seen) and the monkey and the mama bear moved to cut off our path. Next animal-- and their young. Retreat was the better part of valour. 2 miles and 2500 feet of altitude. No damage done that the



## 8. Milestones & Announcements

### Happy Birthday!

7/17 Erika Princz, Concierge Services-Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

7/26 Deborah Grafals, Local Host-Lake George, NY

7/27 Robin Le Clair, Local Host-Kiawah Island, SC

8/2 Karla Jones, Vice President of Sales-Fort Collins, CO

8/5 Carol Parrilli, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

8/7 John Eagen, Membership Director-Kissimmee, FL

8/8 Kathy Binney, Travel Services-Kansas City, MO

8/12 Billie Mennecke, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

8/13 Karla Gruis, Accounts Payable Specialist-Kansas City, MO

8/17 Lynnette Talge, Escape Planner-Kansas City, MO

8/19 Sharon Bowles, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

8/21 Jenise Mckee, Administrative Assistant Member Relations-Kansas City, MO

8/23 Jerilynn Hallett, Stewardess-La Buscadora

8/24 Kathy Spellman, Escape Planner-Kansas City, MO

8/29 Adam Doty, IT Manager-Fort Collins, CO

8/31 Jean Sisson, Local Host-Palm Beach, FL



### Work Anniversaries - Milestones!

#### *5 Years since 2003*

8/12 April Seiden, Escape Planner-Kansas City, MO

#### *3 Years since 2005*

8/22 Beth Canole, Escape Planner-Kansas City, MO

#### *2 Years since 2006*

8/1 Jeanette Errett, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

8/1 Julie Wittus, Local Host-Miami, FL

8/1 Gregg Amonette, SVP Business Development-Kissimmee, FL

8/15 Kathy D'Olimpio, Local Host-Deer Valley, UT

8/15 Kelly Rogers, Local Host-Deer Valley, UT

#### *1 Year since 2007*

8/1 Billie Mennecke, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

### New Arrivals – Welcome!

Tom Calvin, Membership Director-Indianapolis, IN

Jim Ward, Membership Director-Fort Collins, CO

Klay Curry, Membership Director-Fort Collins, CO

Katelyn Oliver, Finance/Accounting Intern-Fort Collins, CO

### Promotions – Congratulations!

6/16 Rachael Martin, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

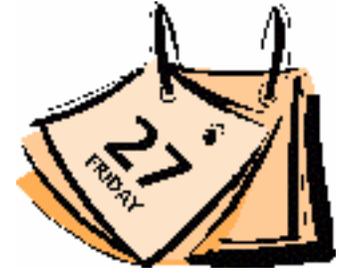
6/16 Alex Powell, Escape Planner-Fort Collins, CO

7/7 Belinda Abreu-Diaz, Office Manager-Kissimmee, FL



## 9. Key Dates

- 8/5 American Family Day (Tuesday)
- 8/16 Kansas City Office Picnic, Longview Lake (Saturday)
- 8/19 National Aviation Day (Tuesday)
- 8/29 Fort Collins Office BBQ Potluck (Friday)
- 9/1 Labor Day (Monday) – Work Holiday!
- 9/13 Kissimmee Office Picnic, Keene's Pointe, Windermere (Saturday)



**About Jabu's Journal:** *This is your newsletter – feel free to us if you have something to contribute or questions about the stories. You can send an email to Lauren Keyson at [Lauren.Keyson@ultimateescapes.com](mailto:Lauren.Keyson@ultimateescapes.com).*

*And special thanks goes to:*

*Contributing writers Samantha Fillette, Rachael Martin and Matt Callaghan*

*Contributing artist Steve Davis*

*Contributing producer Craig Gummer, Agency CG*

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