

## Camping Pioneer

THE "CAMP BUG" bit Kevin Gordon '91 in college, when the psychology concentrator took a summer job as a tennis pro at a Wisconsin girls' camp. He had never camped as a boy, and was impressed by the "growth of the kids, the intensity of the camp experience." But while learning the ropes as a counselor, activities leader, and assistant camp director in subsequent years, he noticed how homogeneous camp populations tended to be, and resolved one day to start a multicultural camp of his own.

It took more than a decade, during which Gordon earned a J.D. at Berkeley and juggled law and camp jobs, as well as luck: there is no open market for residential camps, he says. In 2006, after two years of negotiating, he and his wife, Natasha Jackson, an elementary-school teacher and fellow veteran camp counselor, bought Camp White Eagle, two hours west of Chicago. They believe they are the only black owners of a private, residential, accredited summer camp in this country.

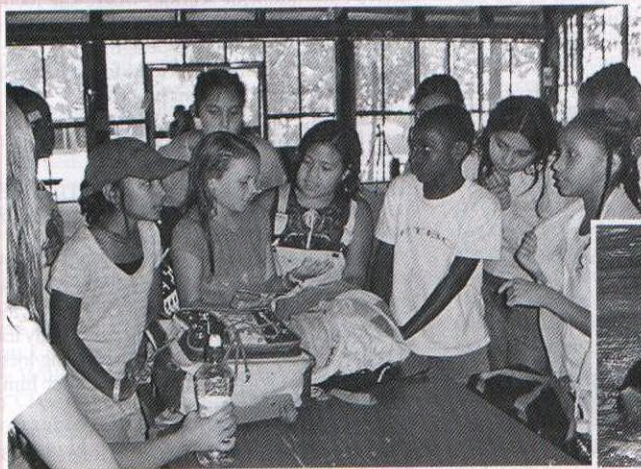
Now they are launching their next innovation. "Camp Kupugani" ([www.campkupugani.com](http://www.campkupugani.com)) is a multicultural session that aims to offer 7- to 12-year-old girls a challenging and

enjoyable two-week program within which they can build self-confidence and community, free of the "sometimes limiting restrictions of school and other social hierarchies," in Gordon's words. He and Jackson have recruited a diverse set of counselors ("Mostly people we've worked with in the past") and have fine-tuned the shorter, specialized trial session that they ran last year.

*Kupugani*, Gordon explains, is a Zulu concept meaning "to raise oneself up." There hasn't been a summer-camp tradition for girls of color in this country, he says, so one long-term goal is to educate their families about the benefits of camp. That way, he hopes, "we won't have to specially search out minority counselors in the future: they will have grown up with camps," and the camp movement itself will have become diverse. ~J.M.



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF KEVIN GORDON



**Top:** camp owners and directors Gordon and Jackson with their son, director-in-training Mico. **At left:** snapshots from Camp Kupugani's trial run last year

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**Todd White** completed his Ph.D. at the University of Florida (UF) in August 2006. "My dissertation title was 'Developmental Dynamics and Neural Stem Cell Characteristics of Embryonic Central Nervous System Tissue Transplants to the Injured Adult Spinal Cord.' I am currently pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at UF, during which I intend to further my research on spinal-cord injury repair and the molecular mechanisms controlling the development of neural tissue transplants."

### 1990

Secretary: **Mark C. Solakian**, 56 Peakham Rd., Sudbury, Mass. 01776; [marksolakian@comcast.net](mailto:marksolakian@comcast.net). Class website: [www.harvard90.org](http://www.harvard90.org).

**Sharon Epperson** writes, "I have been a corre-

spondent at CNBC for the past 10 years and have written on personal finance for *Time*, *USA Weekend*, *Essence*, and *Self*. My new book, *The Big Payoff: 8 Steps Couples Can Take to Make the Most of Their Money—And Live Richly Ever After*, will hit stores in May. In the book, I talk about how my husband, Christopher John Farley '88, and I have juggled our work, family, and finances. We have two children, ages five and two. With guidance from dozens of financial experts, as well as anecdotes, the book offers an eight-step plan to help couples get a handle on their finances and meet their financial goals. Check it out at [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/006074488X/harpercollinspub/](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/006074488X/harpercollinspub/)."

**Kate Ford Laird** has finished her first season in the South Atlantic aboard the 56-foot expedition sailboat *Seal* that she built with her husband, Hamish Laird, in Canada and New Hampshire. Leaving Britain in August 2006, they sailed to Ar-

gentina—a two-month voyage that included the traditional "pollywog" ceremony upon crossing the equator. *Seal's* first charter was to Cape Horn and the Beagle Channel in January, followed by a month-long trip to the Antarctic Peninsula and a second Cape Horn tour. The next southern summer will begin in October with a cruise to South Georgia. Kate and Hamish believe that their two daughters are the first children ever to sail both to the Arctic (Greenland, 2005) and the Antarctic. See Kate's website at [www.expeditionsail.com](http://www.expeditionsail.com).

### 1991

Secretary: **Dianne Borges**, 1812 Kenwood Ave., Austin, Tex. 78704; [borgesd@aol.com](mailto:borgesd@aol.com). Class website: <http://classes.harvard.edu/college/1991>.

Born: to **Anil Adyanthaya** and his wife, Amy, a daughter, Mary Ella Adyanthaya, on December 7,