

# Reflections on the GaMPI Family of 2004-05



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**A**t the beginning of last year, we accepted the challenge of continuing to be part of the nationally award-winning communications team. In July 2004, GaMPI lauded its 2004-2005 theme of "We are Family!" In the fall issue, Natalie outlined what **FAMILY** meant to her.

- F...Forming partnerships.
- A...Action
- M...My return on investment
- I...Involvement
- L...Live. Laugh. Love. Family
- Y...Your network. Your family.

While **FAMILY** still means those things to us, over the past year, the meaning of this word has evolved for us both. Through professional and personal successes, failures, challenges and changes, *We are Family* rang loud and clear in our actions as GaMPI members... and beyond. What does **FAMILY** mean to us now? Well, glad you asked!

**Friends. Flip flops.** Friendships and relationships are the life-blood of the meetings industry. Without our friends and partnerships through organizations such as GaMPI, our professional careers would likely be much different. It is through these industry friends and colleagues that we further challenge ourselves. And of course, who can forget Michael Hall's leadership and sense of humor as we all slip into our flip flops for the Phoenix Awards, June 16?

**Attitude. Acceptance. Award-winning team.** Let's face it... attitude and acceptance can be misconstrued as opposites in our business. After the past year, we feel they go hand in hand. It is important to stand up for your beliefs, but also be accepting of other ideas, opinions and options. The GaMPI *BreakOut* team has functioned well this year by demonstrating both little attitude and acceptance. We can't begin to tell

you about a wonderful group of volunteers take hours and hours out of their schedule to write articles, gather information and edit *BreakOut*. They are all GaMPI stars in our book and deserve all the praise for this award-winning publication.

**Milestones.** We were talking the other day, and 2004 has been quite the year of milestones for ourselves, as well as so many others that we know. There are many changes happening within the industry. A new GaMPI leadership team takes the reins in July, with new and veteran faces. Quite a few folks are heading out to test the meeting industry waters on their own and still others are just moving their talents to other organizations. No matter what the change, we hope that your personal and professional milestones this year are just what the doctor ordered!

**Innovation. Involvement.** Innovation is a simple word. It is something we all have to use a little to be successful these days. Innovative ideas get noticed and win awards. Thinking outside the box is required more and more, at least in the meetings we touch. And who can get away from involvement? It is the only way to truly experience an organization like GaMPI.

**Live life. You.** Personally speaking, it is important to live life for yourself once in a while. No, not just inhale and exhale. But also step back from the hustle and bustle and take a look at the big picture once in a while. Take that day for yourself now and again. Reconnect. Recharge. Make sure the way you are spending your time and the actions you are taking are satisfying your personal and professional goals. For us, 2004 has been about living life.

To this year's *BreakOut* team, you are all winners. To GaMPI members and board, thank you for the opportunity to serve in our roles this year on the communications team. We look forward to next year! ○

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Eddie Theiler