

## **Paula Morrison, KYA President**

Paula moved to Bel Air in 1990 to marry Scott Morrison, a Bel Air native who attended Clemson University where he met Paula in 1887 at a small gym called Upstate Gymnastics. She was a competitive gymnast at Upstate, in Pendelton, SC, and Scott needed a part-time job to fund his college exploits. From his first day at Upstate, Scott's fun attitude and dare-devil stunts caught her eye, and even caused Maureen Williamson, Paula's long-time coach to remark, "Paula, I think we've found the man for you!"

Upon her move to Maryland, Paula secured a full-time position at Harford Gymnastics Center, coaching the competitive team and teaching recreational classes for children aged 1 to 18 yrs. Paula and Scott were married in August 1991, on the grounds of Millstad, where they also lived for 9 years in a house on the property. Just one year after they married, the couple added their oldest son, Conner Morrison, to their family. Three years later, Brendan Morrison was born.

From the beginning of their relationship in a gym, both Paula and Scott dreamed of someday opening a business where children could enjoy physical fitness, explore movement, and challenge themselves in a fun environment. During the early years of their marriage, Paula coached Harford Gymnastics' competitive team, and Scott created furniture at David Edward Company in Baltimore. The couple focused on raising their young sons, and enjoyed spending as much time as possible at their family cottage on Broad Creek.

In 1999, when Brendan entered Kindergarten, Paula returned to school at Harford Community College to study Business Management. The goal of opening their own business began to take shape more fully, though it would be 7 more years before the couple would be ready to incorporate. Paula specialized in coaching optional competitive gymnasts at the highest level while completing her degree, leading her athletes to achieving 6 straight berths to Junior Olympic Nationals, and 5 full athletic scholarships to Division I universities.

In 2003, Paula retired from competitive coaching, deciding to focus more on teaching recreational physical fitness classes so she could be home more with her own children, who were growing up very quickly! She took on a managerial position at Harford Gymnastics, becoming Summer Camp Director. More and more, she yearned for the opportunity to open her own school, with a stronger focus on structured programs designed to incorporate physical activity with character building. Years as a competitive coach had given her expertise in building confidence, self-discipline, and positive motivational techniques in young competitive gymnasts, and she saw a need for all children to be able to experience an environment which fostered these traits.

With their youngest son going into middle school, Paula and Scott saw an opportunity in 2006 to make their dream a reality. In January, Paula began consultations with a SCORE counselor, and started attending courses at the Small Business Development Center at Harford Community College. With the support and advice of their excellent business team to guide them, Paula and Scott incorporated Kinetic Youth Academy on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. GO FOR IT!

## Professional History: Paula Morrison, KYA President

### Summary

- 19 years of leadership expertise and experience in children's fitness, ranging from general physical fitness to specialized training for competitive gymnasts at the highest levels of competition.
- Director of Summer Camp for youth, managed a staff of 14, and responsible for 200+ youth enrolled in summer camp program.
- Director of Kidsports at Bel Air Athletic Club, responsible for 300+ youth enrolled in physical fitness programs.
- Recipient of the Alfred C. O'Connell Honors Scholarship at Harford Community College in February of 2000. Full tuition scholarship for 3 semesters at Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland.
- Associate of Science in Business Administration, with high honors.
- Key Skills: Leadership, administration, organization, enthusiastic, positive motivational techniques, responsible, dependable, adaptable, dedicated to excellence, self-motivated.

### Professional Experience

#### Present

#### **Co-Owner and President : Kinetic Youth Academy**

September 2003 - June 2006

#### **Assistant Manager : Harford Gymnastics Training Center**

*Responsible for training, teaching, and guiding the physical development of youth (aged 1 - 18 yrs). Oversee all operations of the facility, including staff management, database management, and program management. Personally responsible for 161 students, while supervising staff who assisted in the training of 950+ students.*

Summer 2003 - 2005

#### **Director : Harford Gymnastics Summer Camp Programs**

*Responsible for directing all aspects of summer camp programs for 200+ campers. Oversee all operations, including facility, organization, and management. Responsible for curriculum development, implementation of safety procedures, and compliance with Maryland Department of Health regulations. Managed a staff of 14 junior instructors, including scheduling, training, and general management.*

Summer 2004 & 2005

#### **Director : GymAcro**

*Provided a 6-week physical fitness program to Fallston Child Care Center at Fallston United Methodist Church for the benefit of 35+ children enrolled in their summer care program.*

1995 - May 2003

**Head Coach : Harford Gymnastics Optional Competitive Team**

*Responsible for the training of competitive gymnasts at USA Gymnastics Levels 7 - 10. Managed a coaching staff of 5 gymnastics professionals who coached a team of up to 30 athletes. Designed and implemented a training program which lead athletes to achieve 30+ Maryland State Championship titles, 3 Regional Championships titles, and 6 berths to Junior Olympic National Championships, where 4 athletes achieved top 10 finishes. Guided 5 athletes to accomplish full athletic scholarships to Division I universities.*

1994 - 1995

**Director : Kidsports at Bel Air Athletic Club**

*Responsible for directing all aspects of the Kidsports program, including curriculum development, managing a staff of 14+ instructors, scheduling of classes, and financial reports. Provided a yearly business plan to senior managers for the direction of the children's programs.*

January 1994 - May 1994

**Instructor : Kidsports at Bel Air Athletic Club**

*Responsible for instructing physical fitness classes for 300+ youth enrolled in Kidsports. Promoted within 5 months to Director of the program.*

1990 - 1993

**Coach and Instructor : Harford Gymnastics Training Center**

*Responsible for coaching competitive gymnasts at USA Gymnastics Levels 4 - 10, as well as instructing general physical fitness classes for youth aged 1 - 18 yrs.*

1986 - 1990

**Coach and Instructor : Upstate Gymnastics Center Pendelton, SC**

*Responsible for coaching competitive gymnasts at USA Gymnastics Levels 4 - 10, as well as instructing general physical fitness classes for youth aged 1 - 18 yrs.*

***Education and Professional Training***

- Recipient of Alfred C. O'Connell Honors Scholarship in February of 2000
- Associate of Science Degree in Business Administration, Harford Community College, Phi Theta Kappa, High Honors
- CPR Certified
- First Aid Certified
- USA Gymnastics Safety Certified
- USA Gymnastics Meet Director Certified
- USA Gymnastics Professional Development Program I Certified
- Member of USA Gymnastics Maryland State Board, 2000 - 2004