

Okay, I'm sure that everyone on the island knows Chef Todd. He, of course, is the fabulous executive chef at Sea Island who wows us all with delectable dishes at all the great events and is recognized by his stylish handlebar mustache. Behind the scenes at the Rogers household, however, is a lovely lady with talents of her own: Shonda Rogers.

Shonda and Todd have lived on St. Simons Island for eight years -- much to the delight of their neighbors in The Commons who regularly get to sample Todd's culinary delights. Their two sons, 5 year-old Ian and 7 year-old Tyson, and two big gorgeous dogs round out the household and make life interesting. Shonda is quick to admit that she loves St. Simons Island, and is pleased to note that "this is the longest she has lived anywhere."

Shonda was born in Texas. When she was 3, her father worked for a French manufacturing company, so her family moved to Paris where they lived for seven years. She spent two years in London, moved on to Vermont studied in Italy, and has been on the move ever since, until settling here. Shonda worked in the hotel industry and met Todd in



Shonda was born in Texas

Texas at a Ritz-Carlton. They married after tiring of long-distance romance and moved here when Todd took the job at Sea Island.

Two years ago, Shonda decided to put her mostly dormant French speaking skills back to work. She started teaching French classes to Pre-K and Elementary children over at Wesley United Methodist. Now she has two classes of 15 students each; a group of 2-4 year-olds meets on Tuesday mornings and the older kids meet after school. The program she calls "Petits-Pas" uses La Jolie Ronde language teaching curriculum geared toward 3-11 year-old children. She

Spotlight on Shonda Rogers

by Kathi Williams



holds Spring and Christmas programs with the kids as well to demonstrate their progress.

Shonda says she gets a kick out of seeing how much children learn at that age. "Kids are so much fun! Some of them just sit there without saying a word; then, suddenly, they just start rattling it all off perfectly, and you realize they've been absorbing it the whole time!" She thinks that exposure to languages at a young age is important in fostering fluency in a language. Fluent herself in French and Italian, Shonda explains, "Kids develop an ear for the language, and that really helps with pronunciation and language skill later on."



Shonda has a vivacious, yet gentle personality, with an easy smile. She is eager to see her students do well and is proud of the fact that many of the children that started with her in 2006 are still taking classes with her today. Her boys are also students with "Petits-Pas" both in class and at home. Shonda says with a grin, "What's great is that you can watch most DVDs in French now because of the language choice options. When we're at home putting in a movie to watch, the boys will say, 'Mom, can we watch Star Wars?', and I'll say, 'Only if you watch it in French!'" Clearly Shonda has lots of ideas about how to make French fun for kids and this comes out in her classes.

Shonda is now hoping that someday soon she will get to go back to Europe to visit with her family so they too can experience the rich culture there. Anyone interested in contacting Shonda about "Petits-Pas" is welcome to e-mail her at shonda_rogers@bellsouth.net. It is wonderful to see another individual who is enriching our community by exposing our children to the culture of the world. **U**

Que la force soit avec vous!



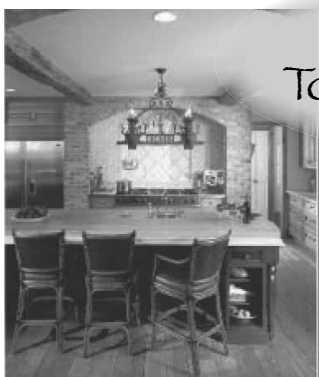
Jere Bowden, CKD
Bowden Design Group, LLC

Personalized Service
Specializing in
Interior Space Planning

- Kitchen & Bath Design
- Consultation
- Outdoor Kitchen Design



As Featured in
Town & Country Magazine



912-634-0093
Call for Appointment
jere@jerebowden.com

Cartise

*Adding
New Lines
Every Day*

Moncrieff's
OF FREDERICA

3415 Frederica Rd.
St. Simons Island
634-1234

