

Upstate Forever

Promoting Sensible Growth and
Protecting Special Places in the Upstate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2007

Upstate Forever Adds Seven New Board and Staff Members

*Hartness and Grantham Join Board;
Barrett, Crowe, Garrett, Hallo and Robbins Added to Staff*

Upstate Forever is pleased to announce seven new additions to its Board and staff:

Gina Hartness of Greenville has joined the Board of Directors. Hartness's background in communications, honed during work as a public relations consultant for elected officials in California, makes her a valuable addition to our organization. The University of South Carolina alumna and Bennettsville native is an active community volunteer with diverse interests. Hartness currently serves on the boards of the Carolina Ballet Theatre and the Thornwell Home for Children. She is a former board member of the South Carolina Arts Foundation and AID Upstate, which she served as President.

Jimmy Grantham has also joined the **Upstate Forever** Board of Directors. A native of Pickens County, Grantham retired as Chairman and President of First National Bank in Easley after more than three decades in the banking industry. An active **Upstate Forever** volunteer, he has performed monitoring work for some of our conservation agreements and served on our Land Trust Committee. Grantham also serves on the boards of two schools and is a volunteer at Greenville Rescue Mission. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, he is a former board member of the S.C. Nature Conservancy.

Ned Barrett is the new Program Manager of **Upstate Forever's** Spartanburg office. Barrett has eighteen years of education experience, having taught history, English, and French in secondary schools in New Hampshire, California, Virginia, and South Carolina. He earned his BA from Colgate University and an MA in English from the University of Virginia. A tenth-generation West Virginian, Barrett has lived in Spartanburg since 1992.

Kirbie Crowe brings a diverse liberal arts background to her new role as Membership and Special Events Director at **Upstate Forever**. Her responsibilities include membership acquisition, managing special events, and

grant writing. A Greenville native, Crowe spent eight years in Colorado while attending college and graduate school, and also has lived briefly in the United Kingdom.

Laura Garrett has joined **Upstate Forever's** Clean Air and Water Program staff as Mountain Streams and Rural Waters Project Associate. The Pickens native returned to the Upstate after spending several years teaching environmental education at Barrier Island Environmental Education Center on the South Carolina coast, collecting field data for the Alaska Bird Observatory in Fairbanks, Alaska, and leading a local stream-monitoring group in Tuxedo, North Carolina. She also served as Associate Director at Camp Glen Arden, a girl's summer camp in Tuxedo, NC. Garrett holds a BS in Biology from Furman University and received a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke University in 2007. For her Master's project, she developed an invasive species management plan for Falling Creek Camp, a boy's summer camp also in Tuxedo, NC.

Upstate Forever's Clean Air and Water Program staff has also added **Lisa Scott Hallo** as Urban Rivers Project Associate. Hallo spent the past six years in northern Vermont, most recently serving as the Year-Round Program Director at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, a non-profit conservation organization which employs teams of young adults in the completion of high-priority conservation projects throughout Vermont. She has also worked as a Project Associate with Antioch New England Institute in Keene, New Hampshire, an Environmental Educator at Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and a Student Conservation Association Intern at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. Hallo holds a BS in Magazine Journalism as well as an MS in Environmental Studies.

Shelley Robbins has joined **Upstate Forever's** Spartanburg office as Project Coordinator. She holds a degree in economics from Duke University, where she spent time at the Duke Marine Lab, and an MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Robbins's diverse experience includes studying lemurs at the Duke Primate Center, regulating water and wastewater utilities for the Florida Public Service Commission, advocating for the protection of the Florida coast and outer continental shelf in Governor Lawton Chiles' Environmental Policy Unit, and facilitating technology transfer at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. She and her family have lived in Spartanburg since 1998.

Upstate Forever is a nonprofit, membership-based organization promoting sensible growth and the protection of special places in the Upstate region of South Carolina. Our three program areas are: Land Trust, Sustainable Communities, and Clean Air and Water. Founded in 1998, Upstate Forever now has nearly 1800 members, two offices, and a staff of 16. For more information, see www.upstateforever.org.

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Photos are attached.