

Julia Atilles

Julia Teresa de Lourdes Reguero Colón de Atilles, (no kidding, that is the real name) grew up in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She completed a B.S. degree in Child and Family Development, with specialization in Human Services and a minor in Sociology at Virginia Tech in 1986. In the summer of 1987 she completed a MS degree in Family Development at The Florida State University. In 1991, she earned her PhD in Child and Family Development, from Virginia Tech, and had taught young children 2 years.

Julia began her career at East Carolina University, where she directed the Child Development Laboratory for 3 years and taught classes. Since 1994, she has been a faculty member at the University of Georgia, where she coordinates the undergraduate Pre-K to 2nd Grade Emphasis Teacher Preparation Program. She had a joint appointment for the department of Elementary and Social Studies Education in the College of Education and the department of Child and Family Development in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Julia developed, got approved and is implementing a Master of Arts for Teachers Program, and more recently developed UGA's Birth to 5 Specialization Teacher Preparation Program in collaboration with a colleague in Special Education. She has been fully promoted since 1999. She has been honored to receive several awards, amongst them the Kappa Delta Epsilon Outstanding Faculty Member Award in 2006, Educator of the Year award given by the Georgia Association on Young Children, in 2001, and the Donald O. Schneider Award for Mentoring, given by the University of Georgia College of Education in 2001.

Julia met Jorge in the fall of 1988, at a meeting that she had been persuaded to attend—she is glad she did! For her- it was love at first sight. Jorge had a complicated mess of girls and girlfriends, and after he cleared them up realized Julia was the love of his life. They married in the summer of 1990. Their son Ricardo celebrated his 16th birthday on 9-11, and they also have a 9 year old Georgia peach, Ana Teresa.

Julia is a graduate of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2007. She is active in her community as a volunteer for the St Joseph Catholic School and the Clarke Co School District. She has developed a service learning project to develop educational materials for PreK and kindergarten children aimed at preventing childhood obesity, especially among Latino children. She is very active in several state and national organizations that advocate for young children.

Julia enjoys traveling abroad with her family and often with groups of UGA students. She enjoys cooking, movies, reading and walking. Occasionally, she enjoys kayaking, hiking, zip lining and rappelling. Another favorite activity is attending the monthly meetings of their wine tasting club.