Gainesville, FL -- Jennifer Jones was a former student in the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Department at the University of Florida and is now CEO of the Great Smoky Mountain Institute of Tremont. She received her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Recreation Management in the late 1990’s and later on received her Masters of Science and Ph.D. from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She was a former student of Dr. Stephen Holland.

Jennifer has spent the last 8 years working for a study abroad program that took college students on fully accredited programs around the world. The program’s focus was on environmental and social justice and only went to the developing world. She began as faculty on the program, and eventually migrated up the ladder to director. Over the years, Jennifer was also a visiting professor at Williams College in Massachusetts, and maintains a professorship through Virginia Tech University.

When she was not somewhere half way around the world, Jennifer has called Knoxville, TN her home. She decided to leave her study abroad organization and was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, as of March 1st of this year. “Dr. Jones has the combination of experience, passion, and partnership development that will make her an excellent leader for Tremont. She has great vision and the ability to inspire staff and visitors alike” said Board Search Committee Chair, Elizabeth Estill.

The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is a non-profit that operates an institute on a campus inside the national park, in agreement with the National Park Service. Many of the programs focus on middle schoolers, but they do host 12 different colleges as part of their consortium, as well as many other programs for adults. When asked about her new position, Jennifer stated: “Tremont has a wonderful strong history of 40 years and I look forward to lots of ideas to help make it a world-class institute.”

The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management is committed to national and international excellence in the generation, dissemination, and communication of knowledge in tourism, recreation and sport management. The Department is also
dedicated to excellence in the preparation and training of future industry and academic professionals, and providing relevant outreach to stakeholders.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Stephen Holland (Professor) at sholland@hhp.ufl.edu (352.294.1669) or Arielle Gousse (Marketing and Public Relations) at agousse@ufl.edu (352.392.3992).