

For over 20 years, Roderick Bayliss and Dr. Jocelyn Bayliss have been a cornerstone of Atlanta Track Club's volunteer community. Their journey began in 2004 at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race, when they arrived early and were encouraged by longtime volunteer Bill Costantino to lend a hand. That simple moment sparked a family tradition of service that has grown stronger each year.

What started as a one-time opportunity quickly turned into leadership.

"We started volunteering and eventually moved up to being crew chiefs," Roderick Bayliss said. "One year, Bill called me and said, 'Hey, we need a crew chief' and we've been leading together ever since."

Their passion for the Peachtree is undeniable. Over the years, they've worked various start line positions from Wave K to Wave D, always bringing a loyal group of volunteers along.

"We make it fun—even at 4:30 in the morning and our volunteers stick with us," he said.

That love for Peachtree runs through the entire family. Dr. Bayliss has participated in the race nearly every year since 2004, only missing it once due to an achilles tear and again during the COVID-19 pandemic. She often runs in honor of loved ones, including her beloved father, who recently passed away.

"This year, running was a way to honor him and everything he's done for our family.

Their sons, Roderick III and Benjamin have grown up around the race and have also joined the volunteer tradition. Roderick III, a doctoral student at UC-Berkely and a graduate of MIT with a BS and MS in electrical engineering has volunteered for the Peachtree alongside his college friends. Benjamin began volunteering and running the Peachtree when he was 12 years old. This year instead of going to New York, he was asked mid-event to step in as a crew chief, immediately looking to his parents for guidance, which he received.

"I called my mom and dad right away for tips," Benjamin said.

He guided runners for hours, helping navigate one of the race's busiest waves before jumping in to run himself, crew chief bag in hand.

"My goal is to help make everything run efficiently, especially for the waves like D, where people are serious about their times. You want people to enjoy it—regardless of

their wave. It's hot, it's crowded and there are thousands of runners. However, we lean on each other and on Atlanta's finest to help keep everyone safe."

"It makes it fun when runners and first responders thank you for making it a safe space. That energy matters," Rodrick Bayliss said in addition to his son's sentiment.

The family admires Benjamin not just for his leadership, but for his attitude.

"He has such a positive mindset—it truly sets the tone," says Dr. Bayliss. "We biked a 25-mile ride together around the Augusta Canal and his energy carried us. That kind of spirit is contagious. The runners respond to it."

Outside of volunteering, the Bayliss family has built an impressive career rooted in service, leadership and technical expertise. Rodrick Bayliss, a U.S. Marine Corps and US Navy veteran, served as an Surface Warfare Officer aboard the USS Chosin (CG-65). He earned his mechanical engineering degree from Auburn University on a Navy scholarship and later completed his MBA at Syracuse University. Professionally, Roderick began his career at Corning Incorporated before joining Eaton Corporation, where he is currently a Senior Program Manager in Global Finance and has spent more than 22 years with Eaton, including a short-term assignment at Eaton's headquarters in Dublin, Ireland.

Dr. Bayliss earned both her bachelor's in chemical engineering (University of Tennessee) and master's in Mechanical Engineering (University of Hawaii), then made a major career pivot after Benjamin was born. "I decided not to return to engineering and instead attended medical school to become a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist," she said.

She opened her own private practice: Ivy Collaborative Healthcare. Dr. Bayliss is one of only 250 Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists in the state of Georgia.

Benjamin completed his Bachelor's in Applied Physics at Morehouse College and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering at Purdue University with plans to earn a Ph.D. and research diseases that disproportionately affect the African American community. He's also volunteered with the Boys & Girls Club and AUC Love. His brother Roderick III continues to lead and inspire through his academic journey and service.

The Bayliss family shares meaningful advice for those thinking of getting involved. Rodrick Bayliss encourages others to "take a leap of faith and try it out—you'll make great friends along the way."

Dr. Bayliss says, "Just do it. You'll discover a joy in volunteering and form lifelong friendships."

Benjamin adds, "A cheerful attitude and positive mindset go a long way—even when it's raining." Reflecting on her own journey, Dr. Bayliss adds, "I went to medical school with two kids and no regrets. If you're thinking about doing something—volunteering, chasing a dream—just do it."

From Hawaii to Germany, Dublin to Atlanta, the Bayliss family has carried their spirit of service around the world. We are proud to recognize them as our August Volunteers of the Month. Thank you, Bayliss family, for showing us the power of dedication, positivity and community.