

## **JAMES WAITE (Cont')**

### **Partner/Family:**

My wife Laurie and I have been married for four years, and we have two children aged 3 and 18 months: Talbot and Lucia.

### **Pets:** None

### **Sports/Hobbies:**

My hobbies include woodworking, reading and music. Whether in an organized league or an impromptu game with friends, I enjoy playing tennis, squash, football and volleyball.

### **Favourite Foods:**

Chicken cordon bleu, shrimp (any kind).

### **What my ideal weekend would be...**

a lot of quality family time, but with some time "off" to do some structural or aesthetic maintenance on our 107-year-old home. A babysitter at night, so my wife and I could enjoy a movie out or an evening with friends playing cards.

### **If I could be anything at all (besides a SAS programmer), I would be...**

a teacher of...anything at all. Teaching is my passion; what I teach is simply the vehicle. Ultimately, I plan to retire and be continuously enrolled in courses to learn (the right way) to do carpentry, electrical, plumbing, automotive, etc. I find manual labour and working with my hands extremely relaxing and gratifying.

### **When I'm not programming in SAS, I like to ...**

program in other languages, collect music, paint, read historical nonfiction or psychology/sociology books.

### **One thing every SAS programmer should know...**

the benefits of XML. While predominantly used for communication of data between businesses (and therefore often overlooked as a beneficial tool for internal data), outputting data as XML provides the opportunity for on the fly rendering customized based on need. Where is it going? To a browser? PDF? Blackberry? Cell phone? How data is rendered goes a long way toward determining how it can be consumed, and since XML has no inherent formatting, it is the perfect way to output data.

There is a great article from NESUG 18 that illustrates how the Nova Scotia Department of Health has leveraged SAS and XML to achieve significant reporting objectives:

*Our organization wanted to produce an 80-page report that we could publish in print, and on our Web site, in a format other than*

*Microsoft Word. This would allow us to reach a wider audience and avoid Visual Basic.*

*Content for the report included graphs and tables generated in SAS, as well as narrative text: preamble, commentary and appendix material. We wanted a push-button process to automatically assemble these elements into a professional-looking report complete with table of contents, running headers and footers, and a consistent look and feel throughout.*

*To develop this process, we combined output from SAS, with the XML-based technologies: XSL (XML Stylesheet Language), XSLT (XSL Transformations), and XSL-FO (XSL Formatting Objects).*

To read the entire article, visit the following URL:

<http://www.nesug.org/html/Proceedings/nesug05/dp/dp11.pdf>