

The Recreation Insider



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first issue of The Recreation Insider! I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Beth Kivel and was elected chair of the department in 2005. I have been a faculty member since 2003 when I moved here from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I worked as a faculty member for five years. A native of Texas, I have an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, a Master's degree in Recreation Administration from San Francisco State University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Georgia. I have worked primarily in the non-profit sector, co-founding the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), a social-recreational program for lesbian/gay youth in San Fran-

cisco in 1988. LYRIC will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2008. In addition to teaching and administrative work, I am an active researcher and writer in the field, focusing on issues of leisure and identity formation. I am also a member of the California Foundation for Parks and Recreation, a funding entity that distributes more than \$20,000 in scholarships to Recreation and Leisure Studies students from across the state; I am an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Leisure Research*; and I am very actively involved in the Oak Park Neighborhood Association.

I am very proud to be associated with this department which has a long history of educating students who have been instrumental in the development of parks, open space, and recreational opportunities in the Sacra-

mento Region, throughout California and across the United States. I am also very honored to be working with such a dedicated and committed faculty and staff. We have created this newsletter as an opportunity to inform you about the department and to ask that we hear from you — let us know how you're doing and what you're doing. We look forward to hearing from you.



Beth Kivel, Associate professor and Chair (bkivel@csus.edu, 916-278-6429)

What do we do?

As you know, we offer **two** degrees: a **B.S.** in Recreation Administration with two concentrations: Therapeutic Recreation and Recreation and Park Management; and an **M.S.** in Recreation Administration. Within the Recreation and Park Management concentration, students are required to take electives in one of the following areas: Community

Recreation Management, Commercial Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Management and Park and Recreation Resource Management. **Dr. Kath Pinch is our graduate coordinator** (pinch@csus.edu). Currently, there are approximately 150 undergraduate and 40 graduate students in our department. In addition to offering these two

degree programs, we teach more than 1,000 students each semester through General Education Courses. Faculty teach students about the value (social, economic, political, health, etc.) of recreation and leisure in our society and encourage them to be advocates for our profession in their local communities.

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Reflections on Leisure or "Where did all of our time go?"

- *October 24, 2006 was "Take Back Your Time Day"*
- *One in four workers plans to work while on vacation this year (CareerBuilder.com)*
- *Workers are expected to give back 574 million vacation days this year (Expedia.com's annual vacation deprivation survey).*

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Department Name Change — To more accurately reflect who we are and what we do, we are currently in the process of changing our name from "Recreation and Leisure Studies" to: "Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration." The change will go into effect beginning in Fall, 2007.

What are our current students up to?

During the summer of 2006, four of our students (three undergraduates and one graduate) had internships with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the Crystal Basin Recreation Area, approximately 50 miles north of Sacramento off of Highway 50. Our students also had internships with: Resort Quest in Florida; the Sacramento Rivercats; Raley Field; the Oregon Zoo; the City of Roseville; the City of San Mateo; Sacramento City College; Sacramento County Regional Parks, TR services; Sacramento County Mental Health; the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Roseville; and the Yolo County YMCA.

In October, several of our TR students participated in the ACT games held at Sacramento State. The games provide children with physical disabilities an opportunity to participate in several competitive sport venues.

Junior Gabby McGrath was elected to be the HHS representative to the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Board.

Last fall, graduate student Shakira Blasingame worked with residents of New Orleans following



Students working at the ACT games

hurricane Katrina. During the 2005-2006 academic year, many of our students received district and statewide scholarships. California Foundation for Parks and Recreation Scholarships recipients included:

Amy First, graduate student

Allejandra Gallardo, graduate student

Mike Merritt, undergraduate student

What are our recent grads up to?

Recent graduates are doing well working in a variety of agencies and settings. Here's a sampling of what a few are doing these days:

Melanie Keir '06 was hired on with the Crystal Basin District of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service as a Recreation Staff Officer; **Alex Stehl '05** is an Associate Recreation and Park Specialist with California State Parks in the Planning Division; **Alyssa Rose '06** is working as a Recreation Therapist for Kaiser in Sacramento; **James Taylor '06** passed his CTRS exam and is working at Sierra Vista Hospital in Sacramento; **Dante Curtola '06** completed his MWR internship in



Melanie Keir

Cuba in the spring of 2006 and was recently hired on with the City of Davis, Department of Parks and Recreation; **Jill Thorndyke '04** is working as a Fund Development Associate at Sierra College Foundation; **Tad Mackey '06** is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration at Valdosta State University in Georgia; and **Josh Mandel Sonner '06** is pursuing a Master's Degree at San Diego State University. **Eric Foemel '02** and **Pavlina Latkova '04** are both pursuing doctorates, Eric at Penn State and Pavlina at Michigan State University.

RLS Advisory Committee Reconvenes

In the spring of 2006, the Department reconvened its Advisory Committee composed of representatives from various sectors of the parks and recreation profession. The goal of the Advisory Committee is to support the department — faculty, students and staff — in accomplishing its mission and goals. The committee met again in August and will be working with the department on four main goals for the 2006-2007 academic year. The four goals include:

1. **Clarifying and articulating the "vision" of the department;**

2. **Recruiting new majors;**
3. **Strengthening Alumni relations; and**
4. **Reviewing and strengthening the graduate and undergraduate curricula**

Current members of the Advisory Committee include: **Jane Adams**, Executive Director of California Park and Recreation Society; **Ken Bailey**, retired, Roseville Parks and Recreation; **Stephen Dowling**, retired, City of Cupertino, Department of Parks and Recreation; **Kelly Gonzalez**, President, District II, CPRS; **Steve Hornsey**, Program Coordinator, Access

Leisure; **Jeff Marsolais**, Recreation Officer, El Dorado National Forest; **Ken Morton**, Coordinator, Recreational Sports, Sacramento State; **Andre Pichly**, Recreation Superintendent, City of West Sacramento; **Doug Pringle**, Disabled Sports U.S.A.; **Judy Quattrin**, retired lecturer, Sacramento State; **Marcy Spina**, Director, City of Roseville Adaptive Recreation Program; **Heather Thompson**, Assistant Director, Girl Scouts of America (Rancho Cordova); and **Jael Young**, Director, Peak Adventures.

Meet the faculty and the staff

We have an outstanding department composed of faculty and lecturers who bring with them a tremendous amount of professional expertise, education and a desire to share their knowledge with students. For the past five years, Sacramento State has experienced a shift in terms of large numbers of faculty retiring and new faculty coming onto campus. Our department, too, has seen a major shift in personnel. **Dr. Ernie Olson**, who has been on the faculty for 30 years, began phased retirement this fall and will teach his RLS 100, Recreation and Leisure Lifestyle course, in the spring semester for the next five years. In addition, several **new** faculty have joined the department over the past few years:

2002 — Dr. Kath Pinch (Ph.D., Minnesota) — Experiential Education; and **Dr. David Rolloff** (Ph.D., Oregon State University) —

Park and Recreation Resource Management

2003 — Dr. Beth Kivel (Ed.D., The University of Georgia) — *Community Recreation Management*

2005 — Dr. Jen Piatt (Ph.D., the University of Utah) — *Therapeutic Recreation*; and **Greg Shaw** (M.S. '01 and ABD, the University of California, Davis) — *Commercial Recreation, Tourism and Hospitality Management*

2006 — Dr. Beth Erickson (Ph.D., the University of West Virginia) — *Community Recreation Management*

2007 — Dr. Lisa Jorgensen (Ph.D., the University of Utah) — *Generalist and Community Recreation Management*

Dr. Steve Gray is serving as the Vice-Chair of the Department; **Dr. Tony Sheppard** is an

associate professor; and **Kathy Martinez** (M.S. Sacramento State) is a full-time lecturer. We rely very heavily on the support of part-time lecturers who include: **Arlene Krause, Sal Arrigo, Ken Morton, Dr. Hien Pham, Heather Kinsey, Hunter Merritt, Jael Young, Ken Bailey, Steve Dowling, Michael Thomas, and Cindi Dular.**

Another key component of the department is our **administrative staff**. We depend upon the support and expertise of these folks to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the department. Our staff include: **Geraldine Nicholson**, Administrative Support Coordinator, **278-FUNN (3866)**; **Cindy Brandon**, Administrative Support Assistant (**278-6752**); and **Chainey Brown (278-6752)**, student assistant. These folks greet you when you call or when you stop by to visit the department.

Recreation Alumni Chapter

The recreation alumni chapter met recently and identified four goals for the coming year, in addition to recruiting more alumni. These goals include:

1. To create a speakers' bureau composed of practitioners in the region to visit recreation classes at Sacramento State;
2. To recruit high school students and seasonal, summer staff (through presentations at seasonal staff trainings) to increase the number of recreation majors at Sacramento State;

3. To create a \$10,000 endowment to fund scholarships for college-bound, high school students interested in majoring in recreation;

4. To host alumni social events, **5:30-7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month beginning in May**. Please send an e-mail to Barry Trute [btrute@parks.ca.gov], incoming president of the alumni chapter, to receive a copy of the schedule for social events or call him: **(916) 653-3495**.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH: We would like to stay in touch with you. Please send an e-mail to me at: bkivel@csus.edu with the following information:

Your Name
Work Title/Agency
Mailing address
E-mail address
Phone number

THANKS!

Recruiting Students and RPMA

(Watch for our new tag line — *The Discovery Major* — and a Department Name Change)

We know from talking with many of you that there's a need for more employees at all levels of our profession. So, we're looking for ideas and ways to expand the major and we hope that you might be able to help. If you live and/or work in the Sacramento Region, might you be able to help by: posting flyers about our program at your agency; are you willing to visit high schools to talk about the profession and about our university program? Would

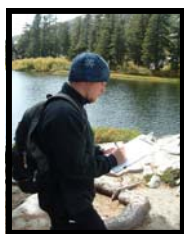
you be willing to come on to campus to visit with students who are "undeclared" as majors? What other ideas do you have for how to recruit the next generation of professionals into our field? **Please e-mail your willingness to assist and your ideas to Dr. Beth Erickson: Erickson@csus.edu or call her, (916) 278-2816.** Dr. Erickson is also the faculty liaison to the student organization, Recreation and Park Majors Association

(RPMA). As part of our effort to recruit new students and to be better understood by the university and the public at large, we will be changing our department name to: **Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration**. We are also developing marketing and recruitment materials using this tag line — "The Discovery Major" — to attract high school and community college students.

Making a difference in the world, making a world of difference

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Here are some windows onto what we do . . .



Our students have, for many years, benefited by the generosity of alumni and emeriti faculty. Two of the main scholarships that we award every year honor our former distinguished Chair, **J.R. “Schocky” Needy**; and alum and former distinguished lecturer in our department, **Judy Quattrin (The Judy Quattrin Scholarship)**. We are grateful for these scholarships and for the ongoing support that Judy Quattrin, Keith Demetrak, Debby Walker, and Pat Fenwick (members of the J.R. Needy Foundation) have provided to our department. We would also like to thank the J.R. Needy Foundation for their sponsorship of our “Major Recruitment Fair” in March.

If you would like more information about how to endow a scholarship, please contact: Beth Kivel at (916) 278-6429 or via e-mail: bkivel@csus.edu.

We're on the web: www.hhs.csus.edu/rls/

*The mission of the **Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies** is to enrich the lives of students through scholarship, research and creative activity, as well as to make a positive contribution to the various communities of which we are a part. We seek to promote among our students an appreciation of collaboration, cultural awareness, and social and environmental responsibility. We strive to provide our students with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful careers in their particular areas of specialization. To these ends, the Department fosters an environment of intellectual curiosity and challenge that promotes the development of our future recreation and leisure professionals.*



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