

THE RECREATOR

INFORMING ALUMNI ON GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Appalachian State University - Recreation Management Program

Volume 2 Issue 1

ARICA HARO

*RM Graduate
named President of*

RCRA

Carolina BalloonFest

Drs. West & Weddell work with Rec Mgmt students to determine the economic impact of the 41st year of this festival

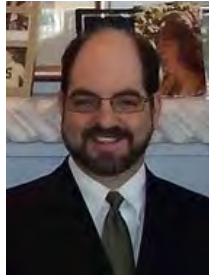


PLUS

Wayne
Williams
Scholarship
fully funded!

A Note from the Program Director

As we close the books on our 40th year as a program, the future of the Recreation Management program looks electrifying. The program boasts its largest numbers in its history: 276 majors and a faculty consisting of two Full Professors, five Associate Professors, one Assistant Professor, two Senior Instructors and over 15 Adjunct Professors. The newest addition to the faculty comes to the program all the way from the Ukraine: Assistant Professor Dr. Iryna Sharaievska. While the name looks difficult to pronounce it is exactly as spelled. Dr. Sharaievska's research interests are on the influence technology has on family and individual leisure behaviors and the recreation management implications, making her a wonderful addition to our group. Another addition is the Interim Department of RMPE Chair Dr. Derek Mohr.



Sincerely,
Dr. Erik Rabinowitz

\$25K Wayne Williams Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that the Wayne Williams Scholarship Fund has been officially endowed! In just two short years, Recreation Management alumni raised approximately \$10,000 to match the money raised by the program through the RMA Black Saturday 5Ks, several Outdoor Jobs Fairs, the raffle held at the 40th anniversary party, the BalloonFest research project conducted by Dr. West and Weddell and the first annual Cocktails and Croquet event hosted by our very own Dr. Williams.

Internship Spotlight

Olivia Ellington: Daniel Island Club

- Planned and executed annual events
- Helped develop a new paddle board program for members of the club
- Wrote waivers and liabilities for the program
- Created brochures and flyers

RM's 40th Anniversary Party & Its Success

By: Breanna Wills '15, Lindsey Hynes '15

Appalachian State is one of only six accredited schools in North Carolina that offers a recreation management program. Established in 1974, the program began in Varsity Gym with only three professors and was one of sixty majors offered at Appalachian State. As of this past year, the department is now titled Recreation Management and Physical Education (RMPE) and is one of over 177 undergraduate majors available at the university. The program has grown tremendously over the years and has come a long way from its start in Varsity Gym.

On Wednesday, October 15, 2014, Recreation Management students and alumni gathered to celebrate 40 years of the Recreation Management program at Appalachian State. The social was held at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Charlotte, North Carolina at the same time as the National Recreation and Park Association Conference. A great crowd of alumni came from several different states and many current students were in attendance as well. The 40th anniversary celebration offered a unique networking opportunity for alumni and current students alike. Most of the Recreation Management professors were also present at the social and a great raffle was conducted to raise money for the Wayne Williams Scholarship Fund. Raffle items included vintage items from the recreation management program, old t-shirts from Dr. Williams' collection, and other fun items that had been donated for the function. Dr. Williams' t-shirt auction provided quality entertainment throughout the night and the raffle raised over \$1,400 for the scholarship fund. Stories were shared by much of the faculty as everyone reflected on the last 40 years, and even a few tears were shed throughout the emotional evening. The event was a great success and was enjoyed by all in attendance.





Alumni Spotlight

By: Alex Jonker '14

Arica Haro, a graduate of the Recreation Management program at Appalachian State University is becoming the president of the Resort and Commercial Recreation Association. She has been a Recreation Manager at Kiawah Island Golf Resort as well as the Recreation Director at Innisbrook. She has started her own company, H&A Productions LLC.

Arica was inducted as president on November 11, 2014 on the final day of the RCRA Annual National Conference held in Dubuque, Iowa. She is taking over the presidency from Dan Preston. Arica also held a session, with the help of Emily Savko and Lisa Linden, at the 2014 RCRA Annual National Conference about achieving excellence in programming. An inspirational session, Arica shared brainstorming tactics for creating award-winning programs. We wish Arica great success in her new position in the RCRA!

Internship Spotlight

Kevin Westrich: Town of Matthews

- Helped organize and run unique camp programs
- Created flyers and worked on social media accounts
- Developed a partnership with Food Truck Friday vendors
- Supervised community events such as Moth Night

New Certification Offered at ASU

By: Rob Carter '14, Greg Anderson '14, Michael Nelson '14

For the first time ever, in Spring 2015, ASU's Recreation Management Program offered a Wildland Firefighting Certification course. Students enrolled in the course had the opportunity to learn the basics of firefighting and were able to gain a new perspective on environmental education. Scott Stuart, a North Carolina Forest Ranger, taught the course and explained that it is a prerequisite for all other firefighting courses offered throughout the state. Upon completion, students received their Red Card certification under the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System. Because the course is federally regulated, anyone with the certification will be recognized as having the credit anywhere in the country. For a list of all the certifications currently being offered, visit the ASU Recreation Management and Physical Education webpage at <http://rmpe.appstate.edu/academics/recreation-management/certifications> or ASU's Outdoor Programs webpage at <http://op.appstate.edu/certifications--trainings>.

Carolina BalloonFest:

Helping ASU Students Learn the Value of Research

By: David Putnam '15, Lindsey Hynes '15

The annual Carolina Balloon Festival takes place in Iredell County, North Carolina every fall. For 41 years the BalloonFest has been a major tourist attraction for local businesses in the area. The Carolina BalloonFest is an annual hot air balloon festival that celebrates a highly weather dependent sport. Four students from the RMPE program (Hayley Upton, Brent Rayfield, David Putnam, and John Brundick) attended the festival this past year and collected data on visitor satisfaction, visitor spending habits, and general festival demographics. This research was conducted with the help of Drs. Melissa Weddell and Stephanie West with funding through the festival.

The president of the Balloon Festival Charities, Robb Collier, said that the BalloonFest draws in big business. The purpose of this research project was to ascertain just how much of an impact the festival really has on Iredell County. This research project also provided a unique opportunity for recreation management students to present their findings at the 37th annual Southeastern Recreation Research Conference in March.

Upon completion of the research, the Carolina BalloonFest will be donating \$3,000 to the Wayne Williams Scholarship Fund. This donation will be among the many that the non-profit makes each year. In 2014 alone, the Carolina BalloonFest donated over \$82,000 to different charities.



Left to Right: Brent Rayfield, Hayley Upton, David Putnam, John Brundick

Keep Connected!

By: Lindsey Hynes '15

The Recreation Management program has a brand new promotional video created by recent alumni Sara Beeken. The video can be found on the Recreation Management Facebook page or on the new RMPE website. It showcases the current concentrations offered through the major and the exciting daily lives of recreation management students on campus. Feel free to share it with your friends and boast about how awesome your major is!

Appalachian State and the Recreation Management program would love to hear from you, alumni. While the creation of this newsletter, The Recreator, has been a great platform for getting program happenings out to you all, we want you to know there are multiple ways for you to stay in touch with us. Share with us your current careers, personal endeavors, and any information you feel could be beneficial to current students in the program. Listed below are the many places you can check in or reach out... We'd love to hear from you!



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APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
RECREATION MANAGEMENT

40th
ANNIVERSARY
1974 - 2014

Recreation Symposium

By: Emily Harris '15, Lindsey Hynes '15

The Recreation Symposium is a unique event offered by the RM Program in which students have an opportunity to hear different recreation professionals speak about their professional careers. Each year, between 9-12 rec professionals from various backgrounds share their professional wisdom with students and often times these professionals are ASU alumni. The symposium is a great platform for students to get a broad idea of the different career options that are available upon graduation. It is also a unique opportunity to network with professionals in specific areas of recreation that may interest a student.



Drs. Stephanie West and Melissa Weddell with ASU Alum Anna Smathers.

Left to Right: Erik Rabinowitz, Jerry Cantwell, Mandy Harrison, Eric Frauman, Tracy Minton (winner of the 2015 Outstanding Alumnus Award), and Wayne Williams.

Internship Spotlight

Kelsey Fidis: The Whole Shebang

- Helped plan and implement 15 high country weddings
- Developed and enhanced social media accounts for her company
- Networked with multiple venues in the Blowing Rock area
- Has been hired on as full planner for next season

Eric Johnston: NC Outward Bound

- Learned specific trainings during a 14 day wilderness immersion
- Focused on crew logistics in the field and professional development
- Taught swim lessons and worked with the Kids Camp
- Scheduled Stand-Up Paddle Boarding classes



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