A Note from the Program Director

Greetings from my office in Holmes Convocation Center. We are excited to present the Recreation Management Program’s first Alumni Newsletter, “The Creator.” This semester we welcome a new department, the Department of Recreation Management and Physical Education and a new college, the College of Health Sciences. We also have a new scholarship: the Wayne Williams Scholarship for which we are accepting donations, and Recreation Management Program has a new Director: me, Dr. Erik Rabinowitz. Most importantly, this year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary as a Program. We hope that you will celebrate with us at the Alumni event in Charlotte, NC. If you would like to make a donation to the program, donate to one of our scholarships, or just stay in touch 828-262-2540 or email at rabinowitz@appstate.edu.

Sincerely,
Erik Rabinowitz

RM’s 40th Anniversary

Have you ever considered donating rubies to the Recreation Management Program at ASU? Well this is definitely the year to do it. We are having our 40th Anniversary this year, and rubies are the gift to give for a 40th Anniversary. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is holding its annual congress October 14-16, at the Charlotte Convention Center. The Recreation Management Program will be celebrating their 40th anniversary at this congress on Wednesday, October 15 at the annual Alumni Social. This event will be held from 6:30pm-9pm at Buffalo Wild Wings. We will have appetizers and a silent auction (donated items welcomed). Come and learn what is new in the program and share some of your memories from the past 40 years. We welcome all Alumni to this event to meet current students, new faculty, and to catch up with current professionals (you do not have to be registered for the conference to attend). We hope to see you there!

[ Buffalo Wild Wings: 400 E. Martin Luther King Blvd ]
Faculty Achievements

By: Chris Shore and Hayley Upton

Both Dr. Joy James and Dr. Stephanie West were awarded the 2013 (James) and 2014 (West) Board of Governors Appalachian State University Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Health Sciences. Both are Associate Professors of Recreation Management in the Department of Recreation Management and Physical Education. One professor from each college is recognized each year for their outstanding commitment to instruction. Recipients must have taught a minimum of five years at Appalachian and must be nominated by fellow faculty and students.

Dr. Stephanie West was also elected to the position of Director at Large of the Academy of Leisure Sciences. The Academy of Leisure Sciences is one of the top organizations in the world in the fields of Recreation Management and Leisure Sciences. West’s election to Director at Large places her on the 13-member board governing the Academy.

Dr. Melissa Weddell received two summer research grants working with the National Park Service and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). She worked with the Moses Cone Memorial Park measuring visitors using the System for Observing Play and Activity and Recreation in Communities instrument (SOPARC) and electronic trail counters. These methods objectively measure both user and environmental variables on recreation trails to provide useful information for visitor monitoring and management. The second grant was a collaboration with local firm Destination by Design and the ARC in a partnership on a project designed to boost tourism throughout the 13-state Appalachia region by focusing on distinctive food destinations from Alabama to New York. The map has seven categories: craft distilleries, farm tours, farm-to-fork restaurants, farmers markets, vineyards and wineries, craft breweries and festivals and events. The purpose of the project is to increase tourism in the Appalachian region by showcasing food heritage and agritourism offerings. Check out the web-site at: http://visitappalachia.com/bonappetitappalachia/

Kristian Jackson is currently the Rocky Knob Park volunteer coordinator. The park was designated a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of Interior this past June. Jackson was also awarded the 2014 Non-Tenure Track Teaching Award from the College of Health Sciences.

Involvement and Job Postings

With new graduates each year comes new additions to the job search pool. To aid Recreation Management students in their search for jobs, the faculty has created a number of ways for alumni to connect with both current and future graduates. A great opportunity for you to recruit fellow Appalachian State Alumni is to participate in the University’s Outdoor Jobs Fair, hosted by the Recreation Management Program. This year’s job fair event is on February 18, 2015 and has upwards of 500 students attending annually. If your organization is interested in participating in this year’s Outdoor Job’s Fair, please contact Jerry Cantwell at cantwellgp@appstate.edu. In addition, if you have a specific job posting feel free to pass along to any of the RM faculty.

Congrats to Dr. Frauman for receiving the AORE 2013 research award with former student Francesca Shaffer!
Scholars and Scholarships

By: Claire Von Khale ’14, Katlyn Hally , and Hunter Jones

Since 1985, the Recreation Management Association has been successful in providing financial assistance to exceptional recreation management undergraduate students at ASU. The RMA scholarship was the first ever student created and student funded scholarship at Appalachian State University. Hannah Schneider was the 2014 winner of the RMA scholarship.

The North Carolina Recreation & Park Scholarship Foundation (NCRPSF), created in 1973 by NCRPA members, to help undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in parks and recreation. This year two students from Appalachian States Recreation Management program received scholarships, Kate Akerman received $1,000 and Hunter Jones received $2,500.

In November 2013, The Appalachian State Recreation Management program was able to surprise Dr. Wayne Williams with a scholarship in his name in honor of his phased retirement. Without Williams knowing, the program sought to raise $25,000 in order to establish an endowed scholarship which would allow Recreation Management to give out nearly $1250 in funding each year.

If Dr. Williams was a significant part of your education and enjoyment at Appalachian, please consider donating to this scholarship through the Recreation Management Fund for Excellence. Alumni are being asked to donate in the amount of the year that they graduated (i.e. graduates of 2014 are being asked to donate $20.14). These scholarships are created to help future recreation management students and could not be done without the time of students and generosity of alumni.

Internship Spotlight

By: Ross Pixley

Hannah Schneider, a Recreation Management senior, is completing her internship this summer and fall in Germany. Hannah grew up with a father who served in the United States Marine Corps, so military life is something that she has been around for the majority of her life. Due to the exposure and networking she had, her previous employer recommended she look into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) program in Germany. She researched it and immediately applied. In May she flew to Grafenwoehr, which is in the mountainous region of Bavaria, Germany. Hannah has been working as the Outdoor Recreation Assistant for the Army. While there, she has been helping instruct and lead rafting, rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, and challenge course for a variety of military personnel. We will welcome Hannah back to America in October.
6th Annual Black Saturday 5K

By: Zachary Morgan

Recreation Management Association's 6th Annual Black Saturday 5K/Run is Saturday, November 8, 8:00 a.m., starting and ending at Holmes Convocation Center. Whether or not you plan to attend ASU vs. UL Monroe football game, what better way to start your morning than with a 3.1 mile run or walk. Help us raise $1,300 towards the Dr. Wayne Williams Scholarship Fund. Registration opens Monday, October 13. Early registration (on, or before Wednesday, November 5) is $20, while late registration is $25. Certificates will be presented to the Overall Male and Female runner, plus the top two male and females from the following categories will be awarded certificates: High School, College Freshman, College Sophomore, College Junior, College Senior, Graduate Student, Alumni, and Other. Additionally, all participants are eligible for door prizes. Refreshments will be available to enjoy during post-race entertainment, and Black Saturday 5K t-shirts are available on a first come, first served basis. For more information about the Black Saturday 5K, go to 5k.appstate.edu.

Learning Through Travel

Throughout this past year, students and faculty have been on the go and earned some more stamps in their passports. For a group of 15 students, the new year was started out in Costa Rica where students studied eco and sustainable tourism. While on this trip, students toured multiple organic farms and eco lodges, meet with tourism professionals, and experienced the local culture, as well as Costa Rica’s abundant biodiversity. This upcoming January will mark the 16th year for this trip.

Then in May, a group of students and two faculty boarded one of Royal Caribbean’s most luxurious ships for the Cruise Course. Last year’s ports of call included St. Thomas and St. Martin, making for an exciting sail in the sun. Also in May, Dr. Frauman and his group of students headed to Charleston, SC for the Coastal Tourism Course. Highlights included kayaking, resort touring, and exploring the historical towns. Our department is proud of our students and staff for their willingness to learn and explore new areas of our profession!

Going the Extra Mile

Over the fall and spring semesters many of our staff and students have had the opportunity to connect with professionals all over the country by both attending and presenting at a variety of conferences within the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Industry. This past spring, at the Southeastern Recreation Research Conference, our students were the only undergraduate students making presentations at a conference primarily for graduate students. In Amelia Island Florida, a group of students attended The Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Conference where many landed jobs and internships. Dr. Joy James, took 8 students to the American Camping Association Conference in Orlando, Florida where they attended workshops, and met other students with shared interests. Dr. Weddell, along with two other students, represented Appalachian at the North Carolina Governor’s Conference on Tourism where they had the opportunity to hear Governor, Pat McCroy, speak. We are happy to have so many opportunities to network throughout the country with noteworthy professionals.