

# Leisure Notes

## We are going green!

We are trying something new with the Alumni Newsletter. This issue is now available online and will not be sent as a print version. We have strived to create a format that is dynamic, accessible, and usable for all our readers while reducing our environmental impact.



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### A Year in Review - Report from the Chair

By Dr. Lynn Anderson

*This year, we completed a Strategic Planning Process in the RPLS Department using Appreciative Inquiry*

#### Discover

The first phase of strategic planning was to discover our strengths and contributions. We identified the common themes behind our areas of excellence: core practices, structures, assets, values, technology, and capacities. During this process, all faculty members completed the Strengths-Finder and shared their results with each other. We also completed interviews with the President, Provost, Dean, Associate Dean, students, and other groups on campus (e.g., library, international studies). We held a two-day retreat, where we summarized what we learned about ourselves as a department, using a SOAR approach (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, results). From this discovery phase, we moved to the "Dream" stage.

#### Dream

In the dream phase of our planning process, we focused on what our vision is for the future of the department. We revised our mission statement and developed a new vision statement. We articulated our core values more clearly. See the sidebar for our revised mission, our new vision, and our core values.

#### Design

In the design phase of planning, we developed goals, strategies, and action plans. The plan is in draft form until the College's strategic plan is finalized so that we can ensure that our plan supports the college's overall goals and aligns well in all areas. We shared the plan with students for their feedback at the end of spring semester and with the Alumni Advisory Committee. We will be aligning our department plan closely with the college strategic plan currently in development. I serve on the college-wide strategic planning steering committee.

#### Deliver

Our departmental strategic plan is being implemented in the Fall 2009. We look forward to more good work on the part of our faculty and students!



**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (cont.)**

***RPLS Department was Chosen by the Council on Accreditation as a Pilot School***

The Council on Accreditation, sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association, invited SUNY Cortland to serve as one of seven universities nationally to be a pilot school for the new accreditation standards being developed this year

by the Council. The other six schools chosen are: Texas A & M University, University of Illinois, University of North Carolina at Greensborough, Ithaca College, University of California at Chico, and Arkansas Tech University.

The department is completing our accreditation self-study this fall, using the new outcomes-based learning standards, and our self-study materials will become part of the Council's training for other universities the following year. We will have a team of visitors on campus in April 2010, and our accreditation hearing will be October 2010 at NRPA in Minneapolis, MN.

***RPLS Department Received an Assessment Grant to Explore the CPRP Exam as an Outcome Measure of Student Learning***

We applied for and received a College Assessment Grant to assist the department in exploring the use of the national Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) as an examination that all students will take (except TR students, who will take the CTRS exam) during their internship semester. Faculty will sit for the exam themselves, and then we will discuss if and how we will implement this requirement into the curriculum. Besides exploring the use of the exam, the grant allows the majority of the faculty to gain certification as a CPRP (6 of 8 faculty will be certified; 2 Of 8 are CTRS's as well). The students in Senior Seminar were interviewed on their opinion of this potential requirement, and there was a highly positive response.

Students returning from internship for their final internship seminar also showed strong support but were concerned about the cost. If the exam is determined to be feasible, we will work to implement its use over the next year.



We had many other accomplishments over the course of the year, as you will read in this newsletter, and which are outlined in detail in our departmental annual report. If you would like to view our annual report, just drop an email to the RPLS Department: [rpls@cortland.edu](mailto:rpls@cortland.edu).

As we enter the new academic year, 2009-2010, I feel proud of the accomplishments of this department and grateful for the support of alumni and friends. I am entering my 12<sup>th</sup> year as chair and am completing my fourth term. I have decided to make this my last! I intend to savor every bit of my remaining time leading this truly amazing department and help to mentor our new chair, once selected. I have genuinely enjoyed my tenure as chair but am eager to focus my energy on research, writing, and teaching. Directing the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center has pulled me in new and exciting directions, and there is much work to be done! In our next Alumni Newsletter, we will let you know who our new chair is and what we are looking forward to in the future of the department.

**Mission**

Through learning, teaching, scholarship, and service, we promote the value of play, leisure, recreation, and parks for individuals, society, and the environment, enabling and inspiring students to become engaged citizens and effective professionals



Approved 3/19/09

**Values**

- FREEDOM and self-determination, striving for balance and quality of life
  - POSITIVE HUMANISM, celebrating diversity and equity for all people
  - RESPECT for the field of recreation, parks and leisure studies
  - GROWTH, quality and excellence in our work; this is a calling
  - Love of and appreciation for LEARNING
  - GLOBAL perspective
  - CARING for each other and the environment; social and environmental responsibility
  - INTEGRITY and authenticity
- We are, and we educate students to be, AGENTS OF CHANGE

**Vision**

We make a difference in the world. Our alumni continue to be outstanding leaders in the field of parks, recreation and leisure services. We have bright, passionate, and diverse students who think critically and are motivated to join our alumni ranks and contribute to the field and to their communities. We are a model at the national, state, and local level for excellence in teaching, research, and service in the recreation, parks and leisure studies field, and we are leaders in effecting positive social change and sustainable living. We are essential to the future of the profession and the mission of the college.



## Dr. Amy Shellman and Dr. Eddie Hill's first year as new faculty in the RPLS Department:



# The Top 10 Things We Learned our First Year at SUNY Cortland



### Being "Down the Hill" is not so bad

Being on lower campus is often frowned upon from folks not in Park or Studio West. After all, no one much cares to walk *that far*. However, we find it perfect to head up the hill on a nice brisk morning to visit...well, every part of campus except Park and Studio West. Then we walk or very quickly coast if riding a Yellow Bike (see number seven) back down the hill. Who cares if going up the hill is a massive 19% grade...did we mention how fun it was to do this in the winter?

### The impact of Gold Metcalf

We had the benefit of learning about the impact of a gentleman named Dr. Harlan "Gold" Metcalf. Prior to us joining the faculty, we had never heard of Dr. Metcalf...this was our loss. We would soon learn all about Dr. Metcalf and his pivotal role in the recreation field – especially where outdoor education is concerned. After all, it was his fishing trip to the Adirondacks that led to the discovery and later acquisition of Camp Pine Knot, without which there'd likely be no OEP, which brings us to number eight....

### Camp songs and back flies at OEP

We love black flies. In fact, we love them so much that we are requesting Sharon to always host OEP during peak black fly season. OEP was an amazing experience for both of us. Yes, we became part of the legendary black fly stories, or better yet, part of their meals! We were also part of the powerful experience of OEP...and, of course, the camp songs....*Green trees all around us...*

### Community Bike Project - how cool is that?

The CBP is an amazing program. Lynn and Dale brought the idea to life, and we have had the chance to be involved. This college-wide supported program has been a model for colleges and universities across the nation. *Go yellow bike, go!* This year we revamped the CBP to include a rental program - check out the departmental website to see our new approach to sustainability.

### Where's Wayne?

Wayne Stormann...yes, we had heard of him, one of us even saw him during our interview, so we knew he existed, unless that was just an apparition. But where was he? Wayne was on sabbatical our first semester, so we didn't see him at all (oh, on the sabbatical note...neither of us will have the option for a LONG time).

### Amazing students who later become amazing alumni

We had the largest student contingent attend the NYS Recreation and Parks Society Annual Conference on Long Island. They certainly made an impression as they closed down the party in the penthouse suite! They have now been invited to host the student social at the conference next spring in Saratoga Springs. We look forward to when these current students join the ranks of our incredible alumni. What a wonderful sight to see so many dedicated and loyal alumni at the Cortland Recreation Conference. What great ideas and support you give! It is truly amazing!

### Orientation will make your head spin

Well, what can we say about our orientation at SUNY Cortland? It started on Monday, one week prior to the start of classes. It ended 168 hours later (that would be seven days). By the time we were able to process all of the orientation information, it was the beginning of the Spring Semester 2009! Whew! What a ride it's been ever since! It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed.

### A307 is the place to be

Doesn't this place have any other classrooms? Having one primary classroom sure makes it easy for new faculty. Whatever will we do when we have to meet somewhere else?? Ask Darleen, of course! (see number one)

### Schedule a field experience on Cortaca weekend - never again!

Well this was the first time students had invited us to join them at the Cortland bars, except the few who had to attend the Adirondack field trip Amy unwittingly scheduled for that weekend. Yes, it rained, but then it stopped, that is, when it started to snow! What a weekend in the woods – Who needs Cortaca to make things interesting?

### Darleen knows everything about campus....err....umm....make that Darleen knows everything.

Darleen, where is A307? Darleen, where do I get my copies? Darleen, where is Corey Union? Darleen, how do I order my books? Darleen, my keys do not work, can you help? Darleen, I seem to have misplaced my keys, can I borrow yours? Darleen, where did I leave my students? You get the point...without Darleen, we would have been lost our first year. In fact, I am quite sure even faculty who have been here MUCH longer than us still ask “Darleen, where is....”

## 59th Annual Cortland Recreation Conference

### It's that time of year. . .



As alumni from the recreation department, you know the time is near for the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Cortland Recreation Conference. Keeping with tradition, it will be held the first Thursday (the 5<sup>th</sup>) and Friday (the 6<sup>th</sup>) of November 2009 in Corey Union on the SUNY Cortland campus.

The theme for the conference is "Destination Rec-GREEN-ation." The concept we are trying to convey is a "go green" premise, where we are doing our best to promote, as well as practice this notion. We are delighted to say that we have been able to cut costs without cutting corners. The conference committee and advisor, Eddie Hill, have developed a functional website containing the brochure, schedules, and printable registration forms; the link can be found at [www.cortland.edu/rec](http://www.cortland.edu/rec). In addition, we have used our valuable resources to create our own brochure rather than outsourcing. We have taken these eco

(nominally) friendly measures in hopes that it will be a great stepping stone for future conference planners.

Some exciting new additions to this year's conference include entertainment by a five- piece acoustic folk band during our social, two pre-conference workshops, a post-conference workshop, and a research symposium. Please contact us via the avenues below for more information.

Our Metcalf Endowment Keynote Speaker, Fran P. Mainella, was the first female superintendent to lead the National Park Service. Currently, Fran is a Visiting Scholar at Clemson University Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. She also holds membership of the Newsweek Magazine's Environmental Advisory Board as well as a member of the National Society for Park Resources. Furthermore, she has served as president of both the National Recreation and Park Association and the National Association of State Park Directors. Fran has a multitude of honors that she has achieved in her lifetime, and we are lucky to have her bestow just a fraction of her enlightened ideas on our Recreation Conference attendees.

**Phone:** (607) 753-4904

**Website Link:** [www.cortland.edu/rec](http://www.cortland.edu/rec)

**E-mail:** [recconf@cortland.edu](mailto:recconf@cortland.edu)



*Fran P. Mainella*

## Meet the RPLS Graduate Assistants!



**Angelique Bovee**

Angelique is the new graduate assistant for the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors. She has a non-traditional career history ranging from being a television producer for FOX 23 WXXA-TV for eight years, three-time US National Boxing Champion, member of Team USA and competitive athlete for eight years, a seasonal park ranger with the National Park Service, and a personal trainer and group exercise instructor for Equinox, New York Sports Clubs and LA Boxing. Angelique and her partner, three-time World Champion professional boxer Ann-Marie Sacurato, were the subjects of a PBS In the Life documentary "*The Last Closet*," that is now airing at film festivals all over the world. In October, Angelique will be the team manager for the women's Team USA boxing squad as they travel to Guayaquil, Ecuador to compete in the Pan American Games. Angelique is in the Recreation and Leisure Management program and received the Diversity Scholarship to attend SUNY Cortland.

Learn more about Angelique at [www.boxingangel.com](http://www.boxingangel.com).



**Lindsey Brown**

Lindsey is a second-year graduate student in the department, and this is her first year as a graduate assistant with the SUNY Cortland Community Bike Project. She graduated from SUNY Geneseo with a degree in sociology and minor in business management. At Cortland, she is overseeing the Community Bike Project and has a part in many other exciting projects including coordinating the League 56 Academy and co-chairing the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Cortland Recreation Conference.



**Brandi Crowe, CTRS**

Brandi is a graduate student pursuing her master's degree in outdoor recreation/environmental education and is currently the graduate assistant with the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Brandi obtained her B.S. in therapeutic recreation from the University of South Alabama and completed her internship at the QEII Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre in Halifax, Canada. Prior to attending SUNY Cortland, she worked as a therapeutic recreation specialist with Blaze Sports America in Atlanta, Georgia, providing adaptive sport and recreation opportunities for youth and adults with physical disabilities.



**Emily Cosnett**

Emily is the new graduate assistant working with several different field experience programs in the RPLS Department, from work at the Onondaga Nation School to the Barry Elementary Program to Play Across Cultures. Emily earned a B.F.A. degree in studio art from Binghamton University in 2002 and is now working toward her master's degree in outdoor education from SUNY Cortland. Her diverse work history includes working as a camp director, outdoor educator, photojournalist, EMT, high school art teacher, and bus driver. Emily also volunteered for a year in Italy working with an orphanage. She enjoys a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities, but her passion is rock climbing, which she currently teaches through Cornell Outdoor Education.



**Pat Langendorfer**

Pat is the new outdoor pursuits graduate assistant with the department. He started his master's degree this fall at SUNY Cortland in recreation management. Pat earned his bachelor's degree in recreation at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and comes to Cortland via an internship at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. He has worked for several college outdoor programs, camps, and has worked with the physical education camps at Raquette Lake since 2006. Pat will be working with the Cortland Outdoor Opportunity Program (COOP), teaching 1-credit outdoor recreation activity classes and assisting with outdoor leadership classes as part of his responsibilities with the department.





## All Aboard! The Cortland-Binghamton Tourist Train Study: Part II

By Dr. Sharon Todd

Last year's alumni newsletter highlighted a unique class project implemented by the graduate students enrolled in REC 601 & REC 602: *Recreation Research & Evaluation I & II*. The students used a \$50,000 NYS Department of Economic Development Aid to Localities Fund grant to develop a study about uses of passenger rail for tourism between Binghamton and Cortland. The grant also provided operational aid to the NY Susquehanna & Western Railway Corporation to run an excursion train at the Central New York Maple Festival in Marathon.

In April 2008, the RPLS Department received word that Senator Thomas Libous had successfully negotiated to extend the study another year with a second \$50,000 grant. Adjunct instructor Brandy Boden and graduate assistant Ellie Barvinchak helped the new group of graduate students navigate the "research process journey" under the direction of Sharon Todd.

The grant extension allowed the class to implement recommendations for future research from the previous year's study through both replication and expansion. In terms of replicating the 2007-2008 project, students administered the previous year's anonymous survey to a different group of potential train users during the Fall 2008 semester: attendees of The Great Cortland Pumpkinfest (n=382). To add dimensions to the study, a new survey was designed and administered in Spring 2009 to actual users on the excursion train running between Cortland and Marathon (n=193) and at the Central New York Maple Festival itself (n=194). The response rate for this systematic random sample of 769 was 62% overall, including 59% for Pumpkinfest respondents, 53% for Festival attendees, and 86% for train riders.

Results from the 2007-2008 project, 2008 Pumpkinfest, and 2009 Maple Festival were strikingly consistent and similar. The main findings of the study included the following:

*Past and potential passengers seem more interested in "the journey" than "the destination," showing slightly higher preference for riding trains with various themes than for the purpose of reaching various community events.*

*Respondents recognize, value, and are motivated by all the benefits that excursion trains provide, from personal to social, educational, economic, environmental, and community. First and foremost, they characterize train excursions as fun, unique, family-friendly leisure opportunities for all ages as well as providing activities to share with visiting guests and friends.*

*Constraints to riding excursion trains are not highly evident, with lack of time, information, and income occurring "occasionally" on average. Although not rated highly as an overall constraint, lack of accessibility affects 4 out of 10 passengers.*

*Hearing about train excursion opportunities by word-of-mouth, newspaper, television, and radio would likely result in these respondents actually participating.*

*Respondents are generally willing to pay \$11-\$20 for round-trip excursion train tickets from Binghamton to Cortland, and they would also pay extra for certain amenities. A vast majority of respondents would purchase tickets in advance if they were cheaper, preferably over the Internet. Current and potential train passengers would favor and/or participate in various ways to subsidize and generate support for a local excursion train to help it remain financially viable and sustainable. Riding excursion trains is a popular past-time. Overall, respondents' interest in riding an excursion train between Binghamton and Cortland is very high, and support for having an excursion train in respondents' communities is overwhelmingly positive. Although the Central New York Maple Festival draws a relatively small, regional crowd, it produces significant economic impacts for Cortland County. The ripple effects, however, are fairly small due to the rural nature of the area and its economy.*

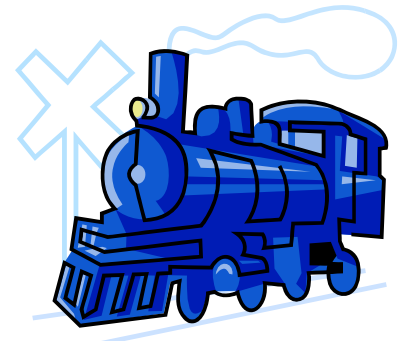
Estimates of simple, straight spending associated with the 2009 Maple Festival totaled \$771,600 with 90% (\$683,100) spent in Cortland County. When a social accounting input-output model (IMPLAN Version 2.0, based on 2006 dollars) was incorporated to further analyze the economic impacts of the festival on Cortland County, conservative estimates of output (sales) totaled \$543,000, 8.8 new jobs were created, and additional labor income was estimated at \$183,000. Ripple effects of the Maple Festival were relatively low, with multipliers ranging from approximately 1.25 to 1.40 for all categories of impacts.

*The Maple Festival Train is integral to the success of the Central New York Maple Festival. Congratulations to the New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway Corporation on its invaluable contribution.*

The 2009 Maple Festival Train boarded more than 6,500 riders with approximately 3,230 tickets (primarily round-trip) sold. More than 80% of respondents were aware the train existed before attending the festival. When asked, "If the Maple Festival Train were **not** an offered attraction, would you have attended the Festival?" nearly half (45%) answered "no" or "not sure." Economic impact analysis showed that the Maple Festival Train accounts for direct, indirect, and induced effects totaling more than \$150,000 in sales, 1.2 jobs, and \$88,000 in labor income.

While this study suggests that certain changes and improvements are warranted, this local excursion train is certainly a model of best practices. Areas on which to focus future planning efforts may include offering additional opportunities that combine themes with destination events, as well as expanding the range of stops and destinations (e.g., Syracuse); marketing all benefits excursion trains provide; creating a stand-alone excursion train website; raising ticket prices slightly, but offering discounted tickets in advance over the Internet; improving accessibility for all citizens; increasing the number of out-of-region visitors and the number of Cortland County craft vendors to further stimulate the local economy; offering varied events spread over the duration of the Festival to entice more visitors and locals to attend both days; and keeping the Festival Train as a unique central feature.

In sum, this study verified that if a way can be found to offer a tourist train, the entire community will benefit. If not, losses will not only be economic, but also intangible in terms of quality of life and community goodwill. An excursion train is indeed something worth investing in for Central New York.



To learn more about the Cortland-Binghamton Tourist Train Study visit  
[Cortland.edu/faculty/projects.htm](http://Cortland.edu/faculty/projects.htm)



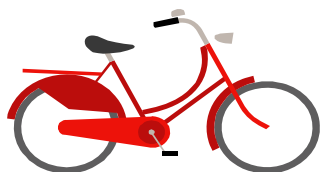
# Wish List

## Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department

The RPLS Department is in dire need of a passenger van. The university is decreasing the size of its state fleet, and we are not able to meet the needs of our outdoor recreation courses with the remaining vehicles. We have too much going on all the time!!! If you or a group of alumni would like to work to procure a large van for the department, we would be so grateful!

Also, we are in need of the following items. If you would like to make a donation to the department, please contact Dr. Lynn Anderson, Department Chair, to make arrangements. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated and would make an immediate impact on the students and their learning.

- Passenger van (2005 or newer)
- GPS units
- Kayaks or canoes in good condition
- Adaptive recreation equipment and sport wheelchairs
- Items from countries around the world related to play, recreation, leisure, or culture (toys, games, visuals, etc.)
- Cross-country skis or snowshoes in good condition
- Bicycles for the Community Bike Project
- Outdoor education supplies like binoculars, spotting scopes, telescopes, etc.





# Award and Scholarship Winners in the RPLS Department for 2008-2009

**The Marcia Carlson Award.** This award, in honor of professor emeritus Dr. Marcia Carlson, longtime faculty member at SUNY Cortland, recognizes a student who has made a significant contribution to the areas of outdoor education. This year's recipient is Jeff Radcliffe from Canandaigua, NY.

**The Ralph S. Mauro Award.** This award honors Ralph Mauro, who was a student in the RPLS Department in the 1970's. Ralph demonstrated a high degree of enthusiasm and dedication to helping others with disabilities and was an individual with a physical disability himself. Ralph was actively involved in several community organizations that support individuals with disabilities when he died in 1978. This year's recipient is Naoko Nagasaki, from Akita, Japan.

**The Harlan "Gold" Metcalf Award:** This award honors the founder of the RPLS Department, Harlan "Gold" Metcalf, and recognizes a student who exemplifies Dr. Metcalf's qualities of good scholarship, interest in many activities, high moral and ethical character, and dedication to serving people. This year's recipient is Monica Vatalaro from Wantage, NJ.

**The John A. MacPhee Scholarship:** This award is given each year to a recreation major who shows academic achievement, professional promise, and clear educational goals. It honors John A. MacPhee, one of the founding faculty members of the RPLS Department. This year's recipients were Naoko Nagasaki and Monica Vatalaro.

**The Jay '66 and Bettie Lee Yerka Scholarship** The Jay '66 and Bettie Lee Yerka Award for Excellence in Recreation and Leisure Studies recognizes a student who is majoring in recreation, demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and leadership, and has high moral and ethical character. In addition, the award is preferably given to a non-traditional student in therapeutic recreation. This year's recipient is Dave Burnett from Kenmore, NY.

**The John B. Knox Memorial Scholarship,** which recognizes students from the Adirondack Park region with an interest in recreation studies and outdoor education and demonstrate high academic achievement and leadership qualities, is awarded to Adam Prue from Peru, NY.

Continuing scholarship recipients include Maria Hart from Binghamton, recipient of the **Joyce A. Gaus '60 Scholarship.** and Nick Olson from Dansville, New York, continues as the **Thomas Goodale '61 Scholarship** recipient.

**Outstanding Senior,** selected by his peers, was Jeff Radcliffe.



## STATE AWARD WINNERS



### SUNY Chancellor's Award

Tim Rodriguez, outdoor recreation major, received the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Tim was among 238 students from

64 SUNY campuses honored for excellence in leadership, academic excellence, community service, and other indicators of high success.

### NYS Recreation and Park Society "Friends" Scholarship

Michael Anderson and Lindsey Brown, graduate students in recreation management received the "Friends" scholarship, awarded by the NYS Recreation and Park Society. This is a statewide competition given to a student at any college majoring in recreation.

### Central New York Recreation Society "Fran Tokar" Scholarship

Monica Vatalaro, undergraduate student in outdoor recreation, and Jennifer Smiley, undergraduate student in recreation, received the "Fran Tokar" scholarship, awarded by the Central New York State Recreation and Park Society. This is a region-wide competition given to a student at any college majoring in recreation.

### NYS Therapeutic Recreation Association Student of the Year Award

Whitney Mayer, graduate student in therapeutic recreation, received the NYSTRA Student of the Year Award, awarded for significant contributions by a college student in the State of New York in the field of therapeutic recreation.

## Rho Phi Lambda Inducts New Members



On May 1, 2009, 11 students were inducted into Rho Phi Lambda, the national honor society for parks, recreation and leisure services. To become a member as an undergraduate,

students must have an overall GPA of 3.20 and substantial evidence of outstanding leadership and service. Graduate students

must have a GPA of 3.50 and the same criteria for leadership and service. The following students were inducted:

### Undergraduate

Jon Cooney, Fort Edward, NY

### Graduate

Eugene Borzendowski, Rome, NY

Lindsey Brown, Mahopac, NY

Katherine Conant, Norwich, NY

Brandi Crowe, Northport, AL

Stefanie Higgins, North Syracuse, NY

Kristiana Kalab, Hoboken, NJ

Andra Smith, Owasso, OK

Dan Sullivan, Tulsa, OK

Josh Teeter, Endicott, NY



## The New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center Making a Difference Across New York State

Founded in January 2007 with funding from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource (NYS IRRC) has become a leading training and resource center for people with disabilities and recreation professionals across the state.

- In a just a few short years, the NYS IRRC has developed an Inclusivity Assessment Tool that collects accurate and detailed information about physical and social inclusion across all types of recreation sites, facilities, and programs. Information collected through the assessment process is reviewed and entered into an on-line database so that people with disabilities, their families, and providers can find descriptive information in order to better plan their recreation. To date, over 600 volunteers, students, people with disabilities, recreation providers, and many others have attended the NYS IRRC's full-day training, Inclusion U, which trains people to administer the Inclusivity Assessment Tool.
- The impact of this work has been amazing! Since 2007, trained Certified Inclusivity Assessors (CIAs) have assessed over 300 recreation sites. Whether it is a state park, a bowling alley, or a museum, volunteers have conducted assessments of physical environments and met with recreation administrators state-wide to gather information about administrative policies, procedures, and program practices. These interviews provide a way to educate recreation administrators about best practices in inclusion and have resulted in immeasurable positive changes. To name a few examples, automatic doors have been added, recreation professionals have received training about person-first language and disability awareness, and accessible parking spots have been designated. Recreation sites have also begun to include people with disabilities in their program and facility development plans.
- Inclusion U has been also been embedded in the recreation degree programs of nine different colleges and universities across the state. Consequently, students of these programs are all graduating with a core foundation of inclusive recreation and a deeper understanding of what they can do to create recreation programs and services that are welcoming to people of all abilities.
- The NYS IRRC has recently received continuation funding from the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to educate service coordinators about the use of the NYS IRRC's database and to train them to assess recreation inclusion.
- To learn more about the work of the NYS IRRC, please visit the website at [www.nysirrc.org](http://www.nysirrc.org). If you are interested in attending training, would like to have your facility assessed, or if you have any other questions, please contact Project Coordinator Laurie Penney McGee at (607) 753-4833 or email [InclusiveRec@cortland.edu](mailto:InclusiveRec@cortland.edu).

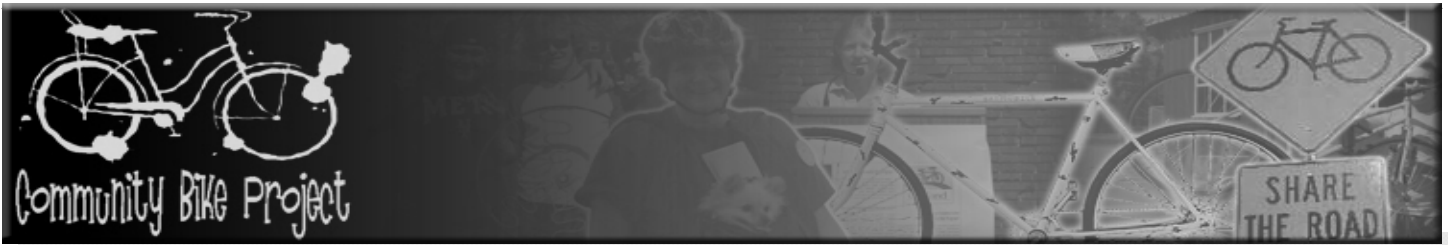
### NYS IRRC Team

Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP, Project Director

Brandi Crowe, CTRS, Graduate Assistant

Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS, Project Coordinator

Dr. Vicki Wilkins, Project Faculty



## SUNY Cortland Community Bike Project

As you know, sustainability is an ongoing goal for SUNY Cortland. In our efforts to help green the campus and make the bike project more sustainable, the Community Yellow Bikes will now be available to the Cortland Community through a check-out process. Formerly, the Yellow Bikes were placed on yellow racks throughout campus and students, faculty, and staff were able to utilize the bikes at their leisure if there was one available. This year, the bikes will all be located at the Butler Building on lower campus and can be checked-out from 9am to 5pm, for up to three days at a time. With the bicycle, riders will receive a lock, key, and have the option of borrowing a helmet for the 3-day stint. When it comes time to return the bikes, riders will have the option of either dropping them off during the hours of operation, or locking the bike on a rack at the Butler Building and dropping the key into a lock box. It's a simple process, and we believe that the Community Bike Riders will love the new system! As the department is highly involved in inclusion and adaptive activities, we will be purchasing a hand cycle that can be attached to many different types of wheelchairs which will also be available for check-out.



Also new to the program are Red Rental Bikes. For a small fee, the campus community can rent a quality bicycle for the entire semester! Included in the rental will again be a lock, key, and helmet in addition to free maintenance and repair (including parts) on the bike for the duration of the rental! Many students have already shown interest in this part of the program, and we are excited to offer it!

Lastly, Green Hauler Bikes are available for purchase by departments and clubs! The purchase of the bike includes a John Deere Green paint job (with department/unit design), a lock and key, helmet, signage on the bike, maintenance throughout the year, winter storage if desired, and recognition on the Community Bike web site and around campus. With this deal, they are certainly getting the most bang for their buck!

The Community Bike Project would like to thank its continued supporters, advocates, and volunteers. We have expanded and grown exponentially over the last five years because of you! We encourage you to ride any chance you get, and don't forget your helmet!



## Fender Blender Fun!

This year, the Community Bike Project purchased a "Fender Blender." The Fender Blender attaches to the back wheel of a bike and is powered by a person pedaling the bike. It is a fun way to promote sustainability and get some exercise! The Community Bike Project is using the Fender Blender as a fundraiser. Students pay for a fruit smoothie, which they then pedal to make.

## CCRA, Student Chapter Status, and Conference Attendance

In the Fall of 2008, nine members of CCRA attended the annual NRPA Congress in Baltimore, MD. That was just a kick-off point for what was to come. In the following spring, a whopping 31 students travelled to Happaugue NY on Long Island to attend the New York State Recreation & Parks Society's Annual Conference. Although students from other college programs attended the conference including Ithaca, St. Joseph's, and Brockport, the students from SUNY Cortland made their presence known by not only attending, but hosting educational sessions, workshops, and managing informational booths. The trip was sponsored in part by the Metcalf Endowment, the Student Government Association, and the Cortland College Recreation Association (CCRA).



This past year, CCRA also officially became a student chapter of the New York State Recreation and Park Society. This new alliance will benefit students, who are now members of NYSRPS, and will receive all the membership benefits of the professional association. We are the largest student chapter at this time.

This year, in the spirit of the College officially becoming SUNY Cortland, CCRA will be changing its name to SCRA - - SUNY Cortland Recreation Association. As always, students will be planning trips including Finger Lakes Trail and Lime Hollow trail maintenance, hikes at Bear Swamp, a trip to Raquette Lake, and planning various volunteer and fundraising events. As a new, ongoing fundraiser, SCRA is selling collared, short-sleeved shirts (men's and women's cut) in hunter green and black. The shirt's crest features the new SUNY Cortland swoosh and dons the RPLS Department underneath. To purchase your very own RPLS Department shirt, look for them at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Cortland Recreation Conference or contact Drs. Eddie Hill and Amy Shellman, the new co-advisors of SCRA.

## Alumni Advisory Committee

**Raul 'Rocci' Aguirre '99**  
Executive Director, Finger Lakes Land Trust

**Celeste Bernardo '85**  
Superintendent, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, National Park Service

**Karen Caccese '99**  
Special Events Planner, Manhattan, NY

**Jessica Daily '01**  
Activities Director, Walden Place

**Robert Ditton '64**  
Professor Emeritus of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A & M University

**"Ike" Alfred Kuzio '00**  
Recreation Specialist, Westchester County Department of Parks

**Gary Lopez '95**  
Recreation Specialist, Onondaga County Parks

**Tim O'Connell '90**  
Associate Professor, Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Brock University

**Elaine O'Mara-Hulbert '84**  
Recreation Therapist, Maple Leaf Day Habilitation Program

**Ellen O'Sullivan '70**  
Professor Emeritus, Southern State Connecticut University

**Laurie Penney McGee '99**  
Coordinator, NYS Inclusive Recreation Resource Center

**John Silsby '69 (Chair)**  
Director of Parks and Recreation, Groton CT Parks and Recreation Department

**Annie Tasker '11**  
President, SUNY Cortland Recreation Association

**Carol Zimmerman '95**  
St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, Adventure Education Specialist

**William Zimmerman '76**  
Recreation Director, City of New Rochelle Recreation

## Alumni News

We hear often from alumni and exciting things they are doing. Here are a few recent stories.

**Carol Navarro '02** works as a Park Interpreter/Park Ranger for Texas Parks and Wildlife at Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park. Carol tells us, "I love Bentsen and plan on being here for a long time.... I am enjoying being a park naturalist and focusing on the development of school programs. This endeavor is a full-time job that I enjoy, as there has not been much research and development here in the past for this critical need. The Rio Grande Valley is a culturally unique place....most people are unaware of the incredible natural resource they have in their backyard."



**Kevin Lowry '03** has been appointed as the visitor services manager for the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Northern Wisconsin. Kevin is responsible for developing, planning, implementing, and managing the refuge's extensive visitors' services programs, including outreach, education, special events, and more.

**Dr. Regina Glover '76** retired this year after a long and successful career as a professor and chair at Southern Illinois University. We wish her the best in her retirement.

We were honored this year to reconnect with the family of **Ralph Mauro**, who was a therapeutic recreation student in the 70's and who has one of our department awards named for him. Toni Buttafuoco, Ralph's sister, and her family attended the SCRA-RPLS Awards Banquet and helped present the Mauro Award to Naoko Nagasaki. It was wonderful to learn more about Ralph and to share this special event with his family.



*Pictured: Toni Buttafuoco, Ralph Mauro's sister, and Darleen Lieber, RPLS Secretary*

**The Jay '66 and Bettie Lee Yerka** Scholarship has been officially and fully endowed by Dr. Bettie Yerka in her husband's honor, to become an annual scholarship in our department. This endowed scholarship will replace the existing award and will be awarded annually. See Awards section for more details about the scholarship. We sincerely thank Dr. Yerka for her generosity and her faith in the future generation of therapeutic recreation professionals.

**Roger Keeney '96** recently applied for and was chosen by Ford Motor Company to do a test drive on their new 2010 Ford Mustang. The interesting fact, however, is that Roger is legally blind. He is featured in the August issue of *Motor Trend* magazine, and a short clip can be seen at the following web site: <http://www.fordvehicles.com/the2010mustang/> (under 2010 experience, '10 unleashed, P.O.V. #2)

**Karen Pittleman '79** has worked the last 30 years for the National Park Service. Currently Deputy Director of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts-America's only National Park dedicated to the Performing Arts.

Please send us your news and updates! Included in this newsletter is an Alumni Profile, which you can use for updates.

## Barry/League 56 Academy



By Lindsey Brown

This past spring, the students in Vicki Wilkins' REC 293 *Diversity and Inclusive Recreation* class and Eddie Hill's REC 380 *Leadership* class had the opportunity to program activities for students at Barry Elementary School in Cortland. The new principal of Barry Elementary, Lydia Rosero, is making strides in moving the school into the era of recreation. Rather than calling the time after lunch the traditional, "recess," she chooses to have it on the schedule as "recreation time." Rosero approached SUNY Cortland and asked if there was anything the recreation department could add to the newly established recreation time. The RPLS Department had just the thing!

The students of the Diversity class planned inclusive activities five days each week for students of all abilities in grades kindergarten through sixth. The Diversity students were free to come and go as they pleased; however, many of them loved working with the elementary students so much they found themselves volunteering more than the required amount! Students in the Diversity class will continue to prepare inclusive activities in the fall for the Barry Elementary students!

The students of the Leadership class had a slightly different agenda. The SUNY Cortland students went to Barry on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during recreation time and had intentionally programmed to build resiliency, specifically in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The program was such a success that it will continue in the fall as a more comprehensive, afterschool piece entitled League 56 Academy! Watch for more information about this positive youth development initiative in next year's Alumni Newsletter!



# Into "The Maine Woods"

By Dr. Wayne Stormann

Unlike Henry David Thoreau, whose attempts to climb Mount Katadin were thwarted twice by dangerous weather conditions, causing him to reflect on nature's utter indifference toward humans, my stay in the Maine woods during the Fall Semester of 2008 was more like Thoreau's time at Walden Pond. The only "hardships" I had to contend with were splitting wood and the cold mornings that penetrate a log cabin whose wood fires had expired evening last.

Usually rising to a chorus of birds and squirrels, my routine began with the preparation of a pot of coffee and the starting of the fire in a Franklin fireplace. Only from late October on did I have to kindle a fire in the Ashley stove that was located at the opposite end of a large room from the Franklin, a room that constituted the entire cabin when it was built by my grandfather at the age of 21 in 1919. The cabin has since sprouted three bedrooms and a kitchen with a woodstove for cooking.

Once the fires had begun to remove the chill and dampness of the Maine fall mornings that were not discouraged by the cabin's log walls, and with my second cup of coffee in hand, I would situate myself at the large table located between the two fireplaces. With the Franklin stove to my back, I could pick up my writing from the day before on a table that was strewn with the resource materials that were informing my writing at that stage of my project. I had amassed most of the books and manuscripts that I felt would serve as the essentials during the summer prior to my fall sabbatical and had transported a small library into the Maine woods with me. When I needed further resource material, I would leave the woods and spend time at the University of Maine Memorial Library, the location of much of my undergraduate study.

Each day of the week saw me writing until one or two in the afternoon at which time I would walk or canoe, which allowed me to reflect on the day's writing and the direction the next day's writing should take. My evenings were spent casting an outline of the direction my writing should take the following day.

My routine and the memories I harbored of my youth spent at the cabin with my grandparents fostered an environment that produced not only a substantial manuscript that I have sent out for consideration by a publisher, but a more deeper appreciation for family and nature. Whether Thoreau, in his statement that "in wildness is the preservation of the world," meant the preservation of large swaths of natural areas would save the world, or instead as Mark Spence suggests – "Thoreau spoke of wildness as a quality that all people should possess" – I have been able to acquire a deeper understanding of both perspectives thanks to a sabbatical spent in the Maine woods.



## Cortland Students Know First and Best about Camp Professional Practices

Dr. Anderson Young

Last year, Dr. Deb Bialeschki, Director of Research for the American Camp Association (ACA), approached me about involving SUNY Cortland recreation students in a major research project. If successful, our students, ACA, and camp professionals would benefit. To explore this possibility, I turned to Amy Padowski, an outstanding graduate student from Grand Island, NY. After a one-semester trail, we're very excited about this opportunity for other camp management students. Let me tell you what Amy did and others will be doing.

Recognizing that members of a profession often want to know "what others do," ACA periodically contracts with a major research firm to conduct a national survey of practices in the camping profession. They collect huge amounts of data about business, finance, marketing, programming, site and facilities, etc. The research firm, ReadexResearch, prepares a substantial summary of the findings on a national level, but most camp directors and others want to know more specific information about the practices of day or resident camps similar to their own (e.g., agency camps; private camps) or in their own region of the US. Here's where our work begins.

Cortland students like Amy Padowski work with the data set, preparing summary tables for different types of camps. For example, one of Amy's summaries includes 33 tables about business operations of resident camps in New England. Another covered day camps in the same region. Similarly, she prepared summary tables on those same business operations as reported by private-for-profit camps, religiously affiliated camps, and so on. Now, when professionals and others acquire a copy of the national survey report, they also receive a copy of the summary reports for their type of camp. Amy's name and SUNY Cortland appear on each of the reports she prepared.

The outcomes are good for all. Thanks to Amy's reports, camp professionals don't have to ferret out all that information from cross tabulations in the national report. ACA benefits by providing better service to its members. Amy now knows trends in the business operations of day and resident camps like few others in the country. Using that knowledge, she co-authored an article on that topic that recently appeared in *Camping Magazine*. With her name (and ours) on that article and every report, it is good for her reputation and ours.

Fortunately, there is much more data to be extracted and summarized. This summer and next fall, undergraduate student, Jeralee O'Hara, and graduate student, Brad Posner, will pick up where Amy left off. We're also looking at ways to involve students in our fall semester camp administration course with this project. In this way, Cortland students will know first and best about practices in the camping profession.

If you'd like to see some of Amy's work, visit [http://www.acacamps.org/research/improve/2009\\_business\\_operations.php](http://www.acacamps.org/research/improve/2009_business_operations.php)



## Patrick Mercer '03 Accepts Position as Chair of Recreation at Tompkins Cortland Community College



Patrick Mercer was a graduate assistant in the RPLS Department from 2001-03. Once he received his master's degree in recreation with a concentration in outdoor and environmental education, we hired Pat to teach on our adjunct faculty. Since then, Pat has taught several different classes for the department from *Camp Counseling and Outdoor Education* to *Wilderness and American Culture* to *Leadership in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services*. Pat supervised interns, taught and coordinated the conference class, and advised the student club CCRA. His dedication and loyalty to SUNY Cortland and the RPLS Department are greatly appreciated. He has added much to the quality of our department through the years.

This fall, Pat began his new, full-time tenure track position as chair of the Recreation Leadership program at Tompkins Cortland Community College. He plans to continue to work closely with SUNY Cortland. We will miss Pat but are happy he is just down the road!

Patrick Mercer with son Hayden at SCRA Awards Banquet

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## *Studio West Addition and Alteration Project to Provide New RPLS Home*

*Dr. Lynn Anderson and Dr. Vicki Wilkins*

Over the past two years, the two of us have been actively involved in representing our department as we work to develop our new building. We wanted to give you an overview and update on this exciting project. The program study, which helped the architects, KSS, understand our needs, took over a year. During that time, KSS worked with all four departments that will be housed in the building to ascertain the needed teaching, research, and administrative spaces needed. The new wing of the building will house the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department (formerly called Speech Pathology and Audiology) and the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department. The renovated part of the building will house the Kinesiology and Sport Management Departments. The other two departments in the School of Professional Studies will remain in their existing space. Health will continue to be housed in Moffett Hall, and Physical Education will remain in Park Center.

After the program study was completed, KSS moved on to the design phase of the project. Pictured is the design for the teaching and office areas for the RPLS Department. The dedicated teaching area includes an outdoor education lab/classroom, a secure gear repair and storage area, and an extension/garage that will house canoes, kayaks, windsurf gear, skis, vans, trailers, and more. There is also a TR/Play Teaching Lab. Adjacent to these areas are easily accessed outdoor areas for teaching. Several more classrooms are spaced throughout the Studio West building, as well as computer labs, lounges, coffee/concession area, student group area, and more. The building will be heated and cooled via geothermal wells and will be LEED certified.

The building has now gone out for bids, and ground will officially be broken on the new addition this fall. Everyone housed in the existing portion of Studio West (including our Dean's Office, the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center, and the Conference Planning Events area) will move out at the end of fall semester.

The plan is for all departments to move into the new and renovated School of Professional Studies building for Spring Semester 2011!! We invite you to campus to see our new space!

*First Floor Teaching Areas*



*Second Floor Office Areas*



## **SUNY Cortland Recreation, Parks & Leisure Studies Alumni Profile**

Thank you to all alumni who returned the profile update forms that we sent out in last year's issue of the Alumni Newsletter. We received many responses, which have allowed us to do a number of things. First, we feature Alumna/Alumnus of the month in the department. Each month, a picture of a selected graduate is prominently displayed in the Park Center. Second, we develop a file for students to access information about alumni. The students are able to look up alumni according to their field of interest and contact them about numerous topics. Finally, we have published "What You Can Do With a SUNY Cortland Recreation Degree." This publication highlights various alumni in therapeutic recreation and leisure services, environmental and outdoor recreation, leisure/recreation programming, college teaching, and professions outside of the field. We use this to enable prospective students and current recreation majors to see where this degree program might take them. We plan to update the publication this year and would love to receive your information.

Again, we would like to thank all of you who sent in a profile form, and please encourage others to send them in too. Please take a minute to complete the "Alumni Profile" form if you have not already done so. Also, if possible, please send a black and white or color photo along with it.

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<b>Name:</b>			<b>Year Graduated:</b>	
<b>Degree:</b>	* B.S.	* B.S. Ed.	* M.S.	* M.S. Ed.
<b>Other Degrees Earned:</b>				
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Degree:</b>	<b>Field:</b>	<b>Institution:</b>	
<b>Certifications:</b> (check all that apply)	* CPRP	* CTRS	Others:	
<b>Present/Most Recent Position (job title):</b>				
* Full-time * Part-time				
Brief description of duties:				
Agency and Location:				
<b>First position after graduating from Cortland:</b>				
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Agency:</b>		<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Other Positions:</b>				
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Agency:</b>		<b>Location:</b>	

<b>Fondest memory of Cortland:</b>
<b>What the Cortland degree did for me:</b>
<b>A word of advice to current Cortland Recreation majors:</b>
<b>Topics on which you would be willing to be contacted by students:</b>

Note: The department assumes that, by completing this form, you are authorizing this information to be shared with current and prospective students and with others interested in our department and programs.

If you are also willing to have your name in a database of alumni, which present students may contact, please provide as much of the following additional information you are willing to share.

Phone: (Work) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred means for students to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your responses and contributions to this newsletter are welcome. If you have news you'd like included in next year's newsletter, please include a hard copy of the information you'd like to share with this Profile.

Please return to: *(with a photo, if possible)*

<p><b>Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies</b>  <b>SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000,</b>  <b>Cortland, NY 13045. Fax: 607/753-5982; Voice: 607/753-4941. Thank you!</b></p>
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