It’s that time of year again for the 64th Annual Cortland Recreation Conference! The Special Events Planning class has been working hard to make this conference the best one yet. The dates for the conference are November 6 and 7, 2014. What an exciting event to draw you home to the Cortland area!

Our exciting new theme for this year’s conference is “Dive into Recreation.” Immerse yourself in the recreation profession! Learn how to swim from therapeutic recreation, to outdoor recreation, to recreation management, and as far as the eye can see. Dip your toes in the sea of networking opportunities via the annual internship fair and exhibit hall. Our conference will help students dive head first into the field and allow professionals to continue to splash around in the field they know and love. Come on in — the water is just fine! Registration is open to the general public. The registration rate for the conference is $60 for students and $125 for professionals. Registrations will be accepted at the door both days.

This year’s Metcalf Endowed Keynote Speaker is Dr. Valeria J. Freysinger from Miami University of Ohio. Dr. Freysinger is an associate professor of leisure studies and lifespan development in the Department of Kinesiology and Health at Miami University, where she is also a faculty associate with the Scripps Gerontology Center.

After working five years in community recreation/social services, Dr. Freysinger returned to school and received her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research interests include gendered experiences of leisure across adulthood; leisure as a context for and practice of aging; and leisure, aging, and social (in)equity. Most recently, she has focused on the notion that leisure is a context of life that not only constructs and perpetuates social and global inequality but also is a space/place within which social and global inequality may be resisted, challenged and transformed. Her latest co-edited book (with Shaw, Henderson, and Bialeschki), Leisure, Women and Gender, pulls together the thinking of some of the top recreation and leisure researchers in this area. Dr. Freysinger has been an active participant in the World Leisure Organization, serving for four years as Chair of the Commission on Leisure in Later Life. Classes that she teaches and the community service with which she is involved also focus on these topics.

This year’s conference will also feature an opening session with Bill Zimmerman ’76. Mr. Zimmerman is the Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the City of New Rochelle, NY. Mr. Zimmerman is the recipient of the prestigious Michael B. Berman Special Fellow Citation award, a longtime member of the SUNY Cortland Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies Alumni Advisory Committee, and is a Past-President for New York State Parks and Recreation Society.

This year’s conference committee has continued to work with faculty and our on-campus technology services to develop a functioning website (www.cortland.edu/recconf/) where the conference brochure, schedule, registration forms, and other important information can be found. We urge you to take advantage of our online registration service. We are also on Facebook at “Annual Cortland Recreation Conference,” www.facebook.com/pages/Annual-Cortland-Recreation-Conference/30854732538526.

Come join us this year at the 64th Annual Cortland Recreation Conference for an abundance of networking and professional development opportunities. If you would like to be an exhibitor or part of the internship fair please contact the conference planning office at (607) 753-4904.