



# LEISURE NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## A Year In Review - Report from the Chair

By: Dr. Lynn Anderson

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I have just finished serving my third 3-year term as chair of the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department. I continue to be honored to serve the department in that capacity. I am humbled to be on a short list of former highly-regarded chairpersons, from Dr. Harlan “Gold” Metcalf, the first chair in 1948, to Dr. Charlie Lewis, Dr. Warren Bartholomew, Dr. Marcia Spaeth, and lastly to Dr. Anderson Young, who served the department from 1986 to 1998. The role of chairperson is complex. The chair is a faculty member but also an administrator. The tension between these two different and sometimes conflicting roles can make life interesting! What makes it all worthwhile is seeing faculty, students, and staff reach goals that I may have helped facilitate in some small way. So I signed on for three more years, and the faculty supported me in that decision. At year twelve, I plan to join the “chair emeritus” club with Andy Young and hope over the next few years to help any aspiring faculty in the department learn the ins and outs of this wonderful, frustrating, rewarding, and stressful job!

So, here is a short list of interesting activities in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department this year:

We finalized our contract with the National Outdoor Leadership School and are now among a small handful of “direct credit” universities with NOLS. Our first student, Kenny Luetzger, is enrolled for fall semester in *REC 476: Wilderness Leadership Education*. He will spend the semester with NOLS, completing the *Semester in the Rockies*. Another student, Tim Rodriguez, is beginning the arrangements to take *SAB 476: International Wilderness Leadership Education*, next spring. He will spend the semester with NOLS in India. Though we have had students studying with NOLS on a regular basis in the past, this is the first time they can register at SUNY Cortland for SUNY Cortland credit for the experience.

We hired Dr. Ken Cohen and had the privilege of working with him for the year. We were saddened to accept his resignation this spring. Ken is returning to the West, solely for personal family reasons, and we will miss him greatly. The students and faculty all gained great respect for Ken over the year, and we know he will add greatly to the program at Central Washington University, where he is relocating. We have approval to start a search immediately in August to fill the vacant tenure-track faculty line in the recreation management area, and we hope we can find a replacement to fill Ken’s shoes.

We received a large grant from the New York Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to develop a university-based inclusive recreation resource center. Laurie Penney McGee, ’99, CTRS, was hired as full-time project coordinator. She writes

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**“A Year In Review” (continued from page 1)**

more about the center in this newsletter. We are excited to work with partners throughout the state on making New York’s wonderful parks and recreation resources more inclusive for all people.

We received funding from Senator Thomas Libous to study the feasibility of developing the train line from Cortland to Binghamton as a tourism attraction. This will be a useful and exciting funded research project for our department.

We worked with the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and provided professional development workshops across the state to state park managers.

We continue to work on increasing our cultural competence and infusing that across the curriculum. We hosted two book chats this year for the campus, one on the book “Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria,” by Beverly Tatum, and the other on the book “Black and Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places,” by Dudley Edmondson. We recommend both books to you!

We implemented our three new majors, Outdoor Recreation, Recreation Management, and Therapeutic Recreation. Our fourth major, the generalist degree in Recreation, continues to thrive.

We continued to work with the community and the campus in providing a high amount of service learning for our students. Whether managing a community bike project or working with youth in an after-school program at Onondaga Nation School, our students and faculty are out there, applying and “trying out” what they are learning in classes and truly making a positive difference in the world. Two of our students, Brandy Boden and Tim Rodriguez, and Dr. Vicki Wilkins received the campus “Civic Engagement and Leadership” award for their work.

Speaking of awards, we had many students receive a wide variety of scholarships and awards this year. David Hamilton received the highest honor for a student from the SUNY system, the SUNY Chancellor’s Award. Brandy Boden received the Rho Phi Lambda National Scholar Award. Samantha Armstrong won the New York State Recreation and Park Society Friends Scholarship. Kristen Lamphear received the New York State Therapeutic Recreation Society Student of the Year and Student Scholarship Award. Ben Hale received the Fran Tokar Central New York Recreation and Park Society Scholarship. The list goes on and on....! The department scholarships and awards are highlighted in this newsletter as well.

These are just some of the highlights from another good year at SUNY Cortland. We feel that we are working toward our vision and I leave you with that:

*RLS Department Vision*

*Recreation and leisure are critical to healthy, happy people and stable communities. We will make a difference by educating students to become competent and caring citizens and professionals. We believe in freedom and self-determination expressed through leisure and its impact on quality of life and happiness. We will be agents of change. The stakes are high!*



## RLS Graduate Program Report 2006-2007

By Dr. Anderson B. Young, Graduate Program Coordinator

Although undergraduate education is the primary focus of this department, the graduate program has long been important to the quality and vitality of our department and its service to the profession. Many of the alumni receiving this newsletter went through our program. Most undergraduates interact with graduates in certain courses, at Raquette Lake, and through other department activities. The size and scope of the program has varied considerably in my 26 years at SUNY Cortland. Let me tell you what it's like now.

This year, the department had 53 graduate students taking classes in the fall semester and 48 in the spring. About half were taking the concentration in outdoor and environmental education. The rest were evenly divided between our concentrations in therapeutic recreation and management of leisure services. Approximately half study on a full-time basis. Over 70% of RLS graduate students were registered for 6 or more credits.

Many graduate students write a thesis or scholarly project to complete their degree; the rest take the comprehensive examination. The thesis and project topics are pretty interesting. Here's a sampling of this year's topics:

### Master's Theses and Projects in Progress or Recently Completed

Student	Topic/Title
<b>ACTIVE:</b>	
Chuck Robillard (thesis)	Relationship between sobriety and engagement in therapeutic recreation/recreation
Joseph Halus (project)	Development of a wilderness intervention for students at risk in the judicial system
Jacqueline Johnston (thesis)	Status and needs for inclusive recreation in NY: A focus group approach
Melissa Roeder (project)	Development of a recreation referral service for the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center
Josh Bochniak (thesis)	The relationships between solitude attainment, extraversion, and self-actualization of participants in a wilderness solo experience
Jason Erdman (thesis)	The role of self-efficacy in determining participant perception of trip success in a university-based outdoor adventure program

Typical of graduate programs in recreation, our students come from a wide variety of undergraduate majors. These varied backgrounds enrich many aspects of our program. Our field is interdisciplinary, and it makes sense that people from different disciplines find their way to recreation and leisure. Not until last fall, when we actually tabulated the undergraduate majors of our graduate students, did I realize just how various their backgrounds are. Here's the list.

## WISH LIST FOR THE RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The RLS Department is 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 (2002 or newer)

**This is our biggest need!**

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.)

Wetsuits in good condition

Cross-country skis or snowshoes in good condition

Bicycles for the Community Bike Program



### Graduate Program Report continued from page 3

BA

Anthropology  
 Detecting Technology  
 Elementary Education  
 English  
 Human Development  
 International Relations  
 Journalism  
 Math  
 Outdoor Studies  
 Psychology (2)  
 Secondary Ed.  
 Sociology  
 Sociology/Political Sci.  
 Special Education  
 Sport Mgt.  
 Telecommunications/Psychology  
 Writing

BS

Adolescent Bio. Education  
 Applied Psychology  
 Athletic Training  
 Biological Sciences  
 Business Administration  
 Communications  
 Early Childhood/Elem. Ed.  
 Engineering  
 Environmental Science  
 Family & Consumer Sci./Human Eco.  
 Health & PE  
 Health & Wellness  
 History/Education  
 Human Development  
 Mass Communication  
 Occupational Therapy  
 Outdoor Recreation (2)  
 Park & Resource Management  
 PE (2)  
 Recreation (2)  
 Recreation Management  
 Social Work  
 Sociology  
 Theater/Journalism

BSE/BSED

PE (2)

PEC

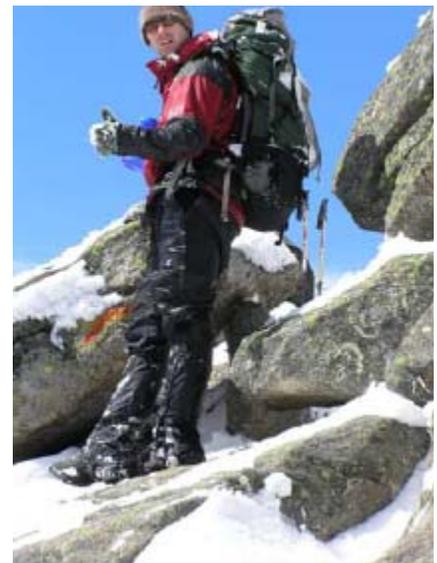
Recreation Education

Total = 49

16% have UG degrees in REC

12% have UG degrees in PE

Graduate students with undergraduate degrees in recreation take a concentration that differed from the focus of their undergraduate program. A number of our graduate students are teachers and take our master of science in education degree to meet certification requirements and to expand the scope of their work as teachers. The rest of the graduate students, and by far the majority, take a course of study that prepares them to enter our profession. From each of these three groups, a certain number go on for doctoral study and university careers. Five recent graduates are doing that right now.



## Out & About 2006-7: An update on what's happening in the outdoors

By Dale Anderson, Lecturer

Another school year has come and gone. The outdoor portions of the Recreation & Leisure Studies curriculum have continued to grow and develop in many ways. Included here are some highlights.

### **B.S. Outdoor Recreation**

The department now has a distinct major in Outdoor Recreation with concentrations in Outdoor Leadership, Camp Management, Natural Resource Recreation Management, and Environmental and Cultural Interpretation. We anticipate this new development to improve visibility of the curricula to potential students as well as to the campus and community.

### **Key Staff Expand Outdoor Activities**

Ben Rowell took the reins of the Community Bike Project from Eric Ceilinski, who graduated in December. We owe Eric a very big THANK YOU for all of the outdoor expertise which he has added this past year. Eric led and assisted many classes, trips, and other great experiences for students. Ben and a flock of volunteers had a successful spring semester with the largest number of yellow bikes ever (over 60), out running around campus for us to use.

Jason Erdman (MS) graduates this year. Jason has provided the backbone of outdoor activity courses for the department the past two years. His hiking boots will be tough to fill.

Pat Mercer received an ASC grant for some mountaineering equipment which helped Jason to initiate a new activity course – Mountaineering. Pat also added his expertise for a couple of caving trips, which are always popular choices.

Corey Ryon and Kevin Todd helped again to provide a variety of kayaking activities in the pool. Kevin has im-

mense expertise in strokes and efficiency to maneuver a kayak or 1 person canoe through any aquatic obstacles. Corey's enthusiasm in playing in a kayak is contagious.

### **Snow Sports - Late Start to a Great Snow Season**

Because of the balmy early half of the winter season, we were forced to postpone a lot of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, winter camping trips, skiing, and snowboarding until February & March, which turned out to be excellent snow conditions.

The campus bus transportation to Greek Peak every Tuesday evening helped facilitate classes as well as others interested in a free ride to the slopes – hats off to the bus drivers!

Greek Peak Mountain Resort has become an operational lab for a multitude of recreation education experiences as well as fun for Cortland students, faculty, and staff. RLS has snowboard, ski, and adapted classes, a research project on "Activity Based Training," and an excellent site for commercial recreation jobs and internships.

### **Earth Week Provides A New Focus for Cortland Outdoor Opportunities Program (Co-op)**

The Cortland Red Dragon became GREEN. Well it's kind of a long story, but the essence was to put an environmentally friendly "spin" on Co-op activities, something we have known all along – that participation in outdoor recreation is all about caring for the earth. (Co-op provides a variety of non-credit outdoor activities available to everyone.)

A group of students developed the idea of EGOR, the green dragon, as a mascot for the Earth Week festivities in April. EGOR stands for Extreme

Green Outdoor Recreation. EGOR encourages environmentally friendly recreation behaviors like backpacking, kayaking, hiking, windsurfing, cycling, and so on. EGOR "breathes fire" on pollution producing outdoor recreation like all-terrain vehicles, personal watercraft, and any activity related to conspicuous consumption of natural resources.

Co-op has pledged to be conscientious about what and how it promotes outdoor recreation for Cortland participants. Co-op intends to work FOR the environment along with its new mascot EGOR.

### **Outdoor Education Practicum '07 at Raquette Lake**

It was great to be back at historic Huntington for camp. OEP was just great again this year – no bugs, beautiful weather, great staff, a wonderful place, fantastic group of students. Just kidding about the bugs. They were there, but not nearly as bad as I recall from previous years.

### **As for the Future**

Co-op would love to offer some advanced experiences for those seeking a greater challenge. NOLS affiliations certainly can and do just that, but they are expensive. We could be designing our own expeditions or camp experiences of a more advanced level. We have staff and students with some high levels of expertise.

We would also like to take better advantage of the college facilities at Raquette Lake and the Brauer Field Station near Albany. It is simply a matter of planning ahead, but it is also a matter of taking on more commitments and extending our resources, time in particular. We need help from more volunteers. Would you like to lead a trip or take charge of an experience? Call or write me!

[DAnderson@Cortland.Edu](mailto:DAnderson@Cortland.Edu)

607-753-4957

## Second Annual Metcalf Retreat - A Resounding Success!

By John Silsby '69

At the 2006 Metcalf Retreat, the old met the new, and many of the Metcalf traditions were relived through stories and socialization!

On the sunny September weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 15 alumni and students gathered at Raquette Lake to share Cortland traditions and provide the students with an image of Cortland's past!

The retreat was organized by the college's foundation office and Metcalf Endowment Board. It was initiated in September 2005 as a fund-raising event for the endowment. The intent was to invite alumni from the Metcalf years back to Raquette Lake in hopes that by experiencing bygone times, they would consider long-term giving to the college.

As it turned out, the retreat evolved into much more. By including Jessie Krueger, a senior, into the mix, the group quickly realized that the retreat was a great opportunity to bridge the past with the present. Through stories of the Metcalf years, Jessie learned more about the Cortland tradition than many hours in the classroom would have offered her.

When it came to planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual retreat, the organizing committee of Rhonda Jacobs '01 and Snapper Petta '76 was interested in increasing both alumni and student participation. Thanks to the generosity of alumni Don Rhuda '65, Peggy Payne '64, and Rhonda, 6 current students were able to participate.

During the two-day retreat, alumni and students, in the Cortland way, quickly became friends, and soon the alumni were sharing classroom tales from the '50s and '60 with students of the 21st century. Besides sharing experiences, the group visited Camp Huntington and participated in camp experiences together. Some of the alumni hadn't visited the Raquette Lake Outdoor Education Center since they graduated 40+ years earlier.

Snapper, Ben, Josh, and I decided to hike to Cascade Falls nearby. During our hike, more stories were told. Luckily, Ben and Josh were understanding students and didn't leave Snapper and myself behind. Though my new hiking boots gained their first layer of mud, I enjoyed my time in the wilderness. Following an evening cruise on Raquette Lake, the alumni decided to challenge the students to some traditional table games. I'm not sure who won, but I lost every game.

When we parted company on Tuesday morning, the traditional union of Cortland students was taken home by all. I plan to attend the 3rd Annual retreat planned for September 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2007! I hope you'll be there too. Call me for more details at 860-536-5686!

The Metcalf Endowment Board is going through a transition. Only Bob Ditton '64 and John Silsby '69 are current Board members who were mentored and educated by Gold Metcalf. Former board members have retired to the Metcalf Emeritus Group. The newest board members span the decades from 1970 to the present. Recent additions to the Board include Mike Cooper, Sara Riedel Lester '98, Ike Kuzio '00, and Jessie Kruger '06. In 2007, the Metcalf Board is committed to reaching the important goal of \$100,000! Cortland Alumni help us achieve our goal on behalf of Gold and all the students who have learned from his teaching and example for the past 50 years!



## RLS DEPARTMENT AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2006-2007

**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 Ben Hale from Walton, New York.

**The Ralph S. Mauro Award:** This award honors Ralph Mauro, who was a student in the RLS 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 James Ruda from Watkins Glen, New York.

**The Harlan "Gold" Metcalf Award:** This award honors the founder of the RLS 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 David Hamilton of Freeville, New York.

**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 RLS Department. This year's recipients were Samantha Armstrong from Richfield Springs, New York, and Chandra Richardson from Poughkeepsie, New York.

**The John A. MacPhee Award:** This award is given each year to a recreation major who is a scholar athlete. It also honors John A. MacPhee, one of the founding faculty members of the RLS Department. This year's recipient is Nicole Welch from Dansville, New York.

**The Jay '66 and Bettie Lee Yerka Award:** 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 student in therapeutic recreation and a non-traditional student. This year's recipient is Ben Hale.

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 was awarded to Tim Rodriguez from Poland, New York, and Chris Garno from Ogdensburg, New York.

Continuing scholarship recipients include Kara Carrino from Baldwinsville, New York, and Ashley DaSilva from Bellport, New York, recipients of the **Joyce A. Gaus '60 Scholarship**. Nick Olson, from Dansville, New York, continues as the **Thomas Goodale '61 Scholarship** recipient.

**Outstanding Senior**, selected by his peers, is Ben Hale.



recreation and leisure services. To become a member as an undergraduate, students must have an overall GPA of 3.20 and substantial evidence of out-

## RHO PHI LAMBDA INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

standing 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

Kara Carrino, Baldwinsville, NY

Katie Elliott, Cortland, NY

Benjamin Hale, Walton, NY

### Graduate

Josh Bochniak, Ithaca, NY

Donna Dvoracek, Deposit, NY

## Research & Evaluation: Graduate and Undergraduate Classes in Action

by Sharon Todd

Past newsletter articles have reported the research process and resulting projects undertaken by the graduate students enrolled in REC 601 and 602: *Recreation Research & Evaluation I & II*. This year was no exception, with the students implementing an exciting study on children's relationship with nature.

What hasn't been reported has been the myriad of projects completed by the undergraduate students enrolled in REC 407: *Evaluation & Research*. While the graduate students in REC 601/602 complete one large-scale class project as part of a year-long process, the undergraduates in REC 407 conceptualize and implement smaller scale projects in groups of approximately three students, with each team producing a research abstract and poster in just one semester.

This spring, seven interesting undergraduate studies were completed and shared via a poster session in May. Topics included examining the influence of SUNY Cortland's recreation and athletic facilities on students' decisions to enroll at the college (there was an impact); the effect of windowed vs. windowless classrooms on recreation students' learning attitudes (windowed classroom produced more positive outcomes); the relationship between gender and motivation to participate in fitness workouts (males were more extrinsically motivated and women perceived more constraints); awareness and use of on- and off-campus recreation facilities (off-campus students knew and used both kinds of facilities to a greater degree than on-campus students); the relationship between students' drinking habits and family values (students who drink were more likely to have parents who drink); the relationship between high school students' participation in recreation and academic performance (students who participated more often believed their grades were better, but actual numbers showed that grades decreased as hours in recreation activities increased); student willingness to ride Community Bikes vs. campus buses (although ecologically students supported bike riding, they would choose buses over bikes when inconvenienced).

Inspired by Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*, this year the graduate students chose to conduct an empirical study on the relationship children have with nature. Specific research questions examined how much time children spend in nature and how they feel when they do, what encourages and impedes them in terms of spending time outside, and which demographic variables are related to outdoor play.

Since Louv's book documented anecdotal evidence from adults' perspectives, the REC 601/602 study was groundbreaking in many ways. First, this study looked at children's relationship with nature *from a child's perspective*. Second, a purposive sample of fifth graders was chosen from a rural school and from an inner-city school to compare the influence of residence. Third, participants' parents will be completing the exact same survey (independent of their children's input!) to compare adult vs. child perspectives, as well as to qualitatively document generational changes in outdoor play patterns.

Results of the children's data were often contrary to what was expected. These fifth graders estimated they spend "most" to "all" of their free time playing outside in the summer, and "some" of their free time outside in the winter. About half would like to spend more time outside than they do now, while 44% want to spend the same amount as they currently do. At the bottom line, however, a vast majority (85%) indicated they would rather play outside than inside.

Other findings included that children felt comfortable with others and parents when playing outside; a little less so alone. Overwhelmingly children felt happy, safe, relaxed, and excited when playing outdoors. Their key motives for playing outside included wanting to have fun, be with friends, and be active. Children tended to learn about outdoor places to play from parents, friends, and themselves, by discovering them on their own. Finally, the top five constraints to outdoor play included weather, homework, no one to play with, parents not letting them, and choosing to watch TV or play video/computer games over playing outside. As expected, comparisons between rural and urban produced interesting differences in almost every category of results.

When data collection from the parents is completed, Dr. Lynn Anderson and Dr. Sharon Todd (who facilitated REC 601 and 602, respectively) will finish writing the final report for the project. This report will be especially important and pertinent to Dr. Charlie Yapple, who attended a national forum on children's play in June, and is anxious to share the results!

## The Development of a State-Wide Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland

By Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP & Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS

We are very excited to announce that the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) has awarded SUNY Cortland Recreation and Leisure Studies Department a substantial and renewable grant to establish a statewide resource center for inclusive recreation. Along with the DDPC, collaborating partners include "I Love New York" Tourism, the New York State Recreation and Park Society, the Self Advocacy Association of New York, the New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association, and the Department of Environmental Conservation. With the support of this grant and our partners, we hope to increase access to recreation programs and facilities across New York state so that all people of all abilities can recreate how and where they choose.

### *Here are just a few of the services the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center will provide:*

**Accessibility surveys:** The Center is developing a user-friendly tool to help programs and facilities assess both physical and programmatic inclusion. The tool will be piloted in June and will eventually be a web-based resource, available to any trained individual to complete recreation accessibility surveys around the state.

**Training:** The Center will provide face-to-face information and training to parks and recreation professionals, self-advocates, tourism professionals, human services professionals, families, and anyone interested in increasing opportunities for inclusive recreation across the state.

**Online database for inclusive recreation:** The database will be a comprehensive bank of information, aligned with the "I Love NY" tourism regions on the inclusiveness and accessibility of recreation resources around

the state. An individual with a disability will be able to search for information and plan their recreation experiences.

**Technical assistance:** Anyone providing recreation services can contact the Center for assistance in improving program or facility accessibility. The staff is available to assist agencies as they work to increase inclusion of people with disabilities and other differences into their parks, programs, or facilities.

**Partnership development:** The Center is working in several regions of the state to solidify partnerships between recreation professionals, disability groups, and other interested parties to promote full inclusion in recreation on a regional basis. Regional Advisory Committees will be formed, and Regional Action Plans developed.

**Recreation Referral Service:** Project staff will assist participants with a disability in identifying their recreation interests and goals, exploring and choosing community recreation resources, and working with identified programs, areas, or services on full inclusion. Referral and matching may range from an email exchange to an in-depth interaction, depending on the needs of the individual with a disability. Graduate student Melissa Roeder is developing the matching and referral service as part of her Master's Thesis project.

The Center is staffed by several individuals with many years of inclusive recreation expertise. Dr. Lynn Anderson is the project director, and Dr. Susan Wilson and Dr. Vicki Wilkins are project faculty. We are extremely excited to welcome alumni Laurie Penney McGee, CTRS, as the full-time project coordinator. Laurie, who has her master's degree in recreation/therapeutic recreation from SUNY

Cortland, has worked in recreation and inclusion for many years and is an extremely valuable asset to the Center. In addition, we have two bright and eager graduate assistants, both masters' students in therapeutic recreation, Jacqueline Johnston and Melissa Roeder, who are working in the Center. Both are focusing their masters' thesis projects on the development of the Center.

In order to establish the mission the IRRC and an appropriate name for the Center, nine focus groups have been conducted around the state to gather information from people with disabilities and their families, advocates, and recreation service providers. These meetings were planned to gain input about the development of and function of the IRRC's database, website, recreation referral service, and the inclusivity assessment tool. The focus groups also provided a mechanism to develop Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) to assist in the development of Regional Action Plans for each region. In year one, we will focus our efforts in the Catskills and Long Island "I Love New York" regions. We are also working with our Finger Lakes regional partners for the purposes of developing and piloting the project. We will move on to the Thousand Islands and Adirondacks region in 2008. To date, sixty-five different entities have agreed to participate in partnerships or collaborations with us, with many of these organizations committing time and resources to participating in Region Advisory Committees and the State-wide Advisory Committee. We also want to find a name for our new Center. We are currently calling it the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (IRRC) and are looking for a shorter, catchier name. Please feel free to share your ideas!

**Inclusive recreation continued on page 11**

## Update on NYSTRA's 12th Annual Conference

By Susan M. Wilson, CTRS

The theme of the New York State Therapeutic Recreation's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (NYSTRA) was The Power of Therapeutic Recreation, and Cortland was certainly showing its strength. Held in Saratoga Springs, NY, from March 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, the conference was opened and closed with presentations by Cortland alumni Janet Connolly and Kirstin Impicciatore respectively. In between, Lynn Anderson presented Assessing Strengths: Tools for Positive Change with Linda Heyne from Ithaca College, which is a component of their upcoming book. Lynn and Susan Wilson led a book chat on Mark Haddon's "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." This was the sixth time that NYSTRA members have been asked to read a book to discuss at the session; it has become a popular format. Lynn and Susan were joined by Laurie Penney McGee, project director, Melissa Roeder and Jackie Johnston, graduate assistants, in presenting Development of a State-Wide Inclusive Recreation Center at SUNY Cortland as well as conducted a focus group for the new Inclusion Recreation Resource Center (IRRC). Alumni Bob Riley also presented on the comprehensive job analysis study that NCTRC has just completed. Kristin Lamphear, a graduate student, was awarded NYSTRA Student of the Year as well as receiving the student scholarship to attend the conference.

Most exciting, however, was the amount of students present from SUNY Cortland. In addition to Kristin, 17 current therapeutic recreation students from REC 4/535 attended the conference. Some were only able to attend for one day, but most were there for the

entire conference. Students were able to attend sessions, meet alumni, and network with professionals. Melissa Roeder, a graduate student, had this to say about networking: "NYSTRA was a great opportunity to connect with professionals in the field. Everyone was open to conversation and was genuinely interested in sharing their work experience with me, a student. I was reassured by the conference that TR is the field for me. I will someday contribute to a field that is so valuable and plays such a significant role in the enhancement of so many lives." Other students indicated that the conference opened their eyes to possibilities within the TR field. It also gave them a chance to see how professionals are using the interventions that they are learning in the classroom. Students got a chance to make contacts for future fieldwork and internship possibilities. It was not all work for the students, who also attended the conference social and helped lead the group in the Hokey Pokey. This allowed Naoko Nagasaki, a student from Japan, to perform this dance for the first time!

Several alumni from recent years were also on hand at the conference, continuing the involvement with NYSTRA they started while in REC 4/535. The current students made an impression on the conference attendees. Many professionals commented on the students' willingness to get involved with NYSTRA. Presenters commented that several of the best questions asked were from SUNY Cortland students. The conference committee was impressed with the dedication of these future professionals to commit both their time and financial resources to the event.

The experience for faculty, staff, and students was positive. The contacts made will help in the development of new professionals as well as the IRRC on SUNY Cortland's campus.

### ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**LAURIE PENNEY MCGEE, CLASS OF '99**  
EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY RESOURCES  
SYRACUSE, NY

**ROBERT DITTON, CLASS OF '64**  
PROFESSOR OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE SCIENCES  
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

**GEOFFREY GODBEY, CLASS OF '64**  
NEXT CONSULTING  
EMERITUS PROFESSOR, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
STATE COLLEGE, PA

**JESSICA HATFIELD DAILY, CLASS OF '01**  
ACTIVITY DIRECTOR  
WALDEN PLACE  
CORTLAND, NY

**CAROLYN KELLY, CLASS OF '02**  
SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNER  
PERRY'S FLORIST  
LAKE RONKONKOMA, NY

**ERIN MCGRADY, CURRENT STUDENT**  
PRESIDENT OF CCRA  
SUNY CORTLAND  
CORTLAND, NY

**GARY LOPEZ, CLASS OF '96**  
ONONDAGA COUNTY PARKS  
SYRACUSE, NY

**TIM O'CONNELL, CLASS OF '90**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
BROCK UNIVERSITY  
ST. CATHERINE'S, ONTARIO, CANADA

**ELAINE O'MARA-HULBERT, CLASS OF '84**  
RECREATION THERAPIST  
BROOME DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES  
MARGARETVILLE, NY

**JOHN SILSBY, CLASS OF '69 (CHAIR)**  
RECREATION DIRECTOR  
GROTON PARKS AND RECREATION  
GROTON, CT

**GORDON WILSON, CLASS OF '77**  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
PARK SUPERINTENDENT  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

**BILL ZIMMERMAN, CLASS OF '76**  
RECREATION DIRECTOR  
NEW ROCHELLE PARKS AND RECREATION  
NEW ROCHELLE, NY

**CAROL ZIMMERMAN, CLASS OF '95**  
ADVENTURE EDUCATION SPECIALIST  
SUNY POTSDAM, NY

## **Alumni News**

Here are a few examples of the wonderful work of our alumni:

Dr. Thomas Goodale '61 and Distinguished Alumnus honored by the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association for his generosity by having the library at the Alumni House named "The Goodale Library." Dr. Goodale was also featured in the SUNY Cortland Annual Report 05-06.

Kevin Merrill, '03, Onondaga County Parks, received the "Young Professional of the Year Award" from both the Central New York Recreation and Park Society and the New York State Recreation and Park Society.

John McNerney '87, Cortland Youth Bureau, received the SUNY Cortland Community Partner Civic Engagement Award.

Michael "Moss" McCurdy '88, was featured in an Associated Press national story about therapeutic wilderness programs for teens. Moss is the field director for the Adirondack Leadership Expeditions, a therapy program for teens who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Dr. Tom Buchanan '74, University of Wyoming, was the keynote speaker at SUNY Cortland Scholars' Day. In addition, he was featured in the Spring 2007 issue of *Columns* Alumni Newsletter on the occasion of becoming the President of the University of Wyoming.

Mr. Patrick Mercer '03, (and adjunct faculty) was featured in the Syracuse Post Standard in a story about "Spelunking."

Ms. Michele Celestino Falco '01 won \$750,000 on the television game show, "Deal or No Deal!" When interviewed, she stated, "The feeling at SUNY Cortland is awesome. It was a great experience all around. Cortland was really good to me."

Here is an e-mail from a new graduate, Heather Henderson '06, "I just wanted to send a HUGE thank you to everyone in the Cortland RLS Department. I recently got hired as the new Adventure Program Instructor at the Cooperstown Clark Sports Center, and it is an amazing job! We lead trips, rock climbing, ice climbing, skiing, paddling, high ropes and much more. What landed me this position were the skills I got from every single class at Cortland. I was prepared and determined to get this job and used just about every single class in preparing for my interview to show them what I learned. SUNY Cortland was an amazing step for me, and I appreciate everything that you did for me and for everyone in the major!" Thank you for

### **Inclusive Recreation (continued from page 9)**

Also as a result of this grant, a new college course, REC 529: Advanced Methods in Inclusive Recreation Services will be offered in Fall 2007. This class, which will be based primarily in the classroom the first half of the semester and out in the field the second half, will teach students how to utilize the inclusivity tool to assess recreation programs, parks, and facilities, "certify" them to enter their results in a database, and then provide opportunities for them to work in the field providing assessments and inclusive technical assistance to agencies. This class will provide an excellent foundation for anyone working in the recreation field who truly wishes to provide inclusive services in their communities!

The development of an Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland will provide wonderful opportunities for people with all types of disabilities to locate and enjoy a wide variety of recreation experiences throughout the state of New York. There are many ways for you to become involved in this project, including becoming a recreation assessor, volunteering to assist with the Recreation Referral Service, or by participating in Regional Advisory Committees to help guide this process in your region. If you would like to become involved or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laurie Penney McGee at [penneymcgeel@cortland.edu](mailto:penneymcgeel@cortland.edu) or at (607) 753-4833.

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

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## The 57th Annual Cortland Recreation Conference

The 57th Annual Cortland Recreation Conference will be held on November 1st and 2nd, 2007, on the SUNY Cortland campus. The student-organized conference is rich with tradition and gathers 300-500 students and professionals in recreation for the purpose of exchanging up-to-date information in the field. This year's theme is "Time to Re-create!"

The Metcalf Endowment Keynote Speaker is Cathy O'Keefe, from the University of South Alabama, and a national board member for the "Take Back Your Time" movement. Her keynote address, "When Time is

More than Money" will touch a nerve with everyone who values leisure and a life well-lived.

If anyone believes they can contribute to the theme of the conference and are interested in presenting, please contact the Cortland Conference Office at (607) 753-4939 or [rec-conf@cortland.edu](mailto:rec-conf@cortland.edu).

Please reserve the date. Enclosed with this newsletter is the conference brochure. Please look it over and call with any questions or suggestions that you may have to make this the best conference to date!

