From the Editor

We would like to hear from you! Please send me updates on your program, thoughts you have regarding anything posted in the newsletter, as well as information about upcoming events. The Academy of Leisure Sciences membership benefits from hearing about advances in the field. Contact me at:

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Penn State University
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Nominate Prospective Fellows to The Academy of Leisure Sciences

Active fellows (i.e., Academy members who have paid their dues in the current calendar year) are cordially invited to make up to two nominations for prospective fellows in The Academy of Leisure Sciences. The following criteria (as per The Academy of Leisure Sciences Constitution) should be considered as you propose candidates for membership:

1. The individual should have demonstrated competence in professional activities over a considerable period of time (10-15 years). Included in this consideration of eligibility are such factors as: (a) quality as well as quantity of contributions to the literature in the field; (b) recognition of leadership and extensive participation in professional associations or organizations; and (c) acknowledged outstanding performance as a teacher, leader, administrator, practitioner, or researcher in the field of leisure sciences.

2. A willingness to further the goals of The Academy of Leisure Sciences and participate actively (broadly defined) in its affairs.

Following is a link to the 2016 ALS nominations form: http://www.academyofleisure-sciences.com/sites/default/files/history/2016-ALS-nominations-form.docx
• Welcome to our newest institutional members: Cal State – Sacramento, Northwest Missouri State University, University of Florida, University of Moncton, and University of New Hampshire. We now have over 440 members with 29 institutional memberships.
• The Challenge Grant to support the Future Scholars Endowment Fund was successfully met! Thanks to all who generously supported this initiative and to the committee who coordinated the campaign. The $8,940 raised was matched by the former American Academy of Leisure for a total of $16,940. (See note on page 5 of this newsletter.)
• Plans are underway for the inaugural Research Institute to be held in early spring 2017. Refer to the end of this newsletter for more information!

The Academy of Leisure Sciences – We are it, it is us! Let’s see what we can do...

MARY PARR, President
The Academy of Leisure Sciences

FOUR NEW FELLOWS ELECTED TO THE ACADEMY

Cynthia Carruthers, Bill Hendricks, Jim Sibthorp, and Michael Tarrant were named Fellows of The Academy of Leisure Sciences at the 2015 NRPA Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Cynthia Carruthers is professor emerita, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has co-authored one book, authored or co-authored over 10 book chapters and over 25 refereed articles, and delivered over 100 refereed conference presentations. She was the co-editor of the Therapeutic Recreation Journal and served as a reviewer for six additional journals. She is the co-author of the Leisure and Well-Being Model, a model for therapeutic recreation practice.

Dr. Bill Hendricks is a professor and head of the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. His research interests in visitor services and recreation resource management are complemented by his experience in the field that spans more than 30 years as an educator, park ranger, and employee in the ski industry. For more than two decades, Hendricks has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service on a variety of outdoor recreation research projects. In addition, he has maintained cooperative research projects with California State Parks since 2000. He is currently a trustee of the California Foundation for Parks and Recreation, a member of the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, and a member of the Visit California Research Committee.
Dr. Jim Sibthorp is a professor at the University of Utah in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. His scholarship focuses on youth programming and outdoor adventure education. Through his work with both the American Camp Association (ACA) and the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Dr. Sibthorp designs, implements, and translates studies that bridge research and practice. He has written extensively on topics involving outdoor and adventure education, and he regularly serves on editorial boards for professional journals. He is a coauthor (with Alan Ewert) of *Outdoor Adventure Education: Foundations, Theory, and Research*, which was published in 2014. He currently serves on the Research Advisory Council for the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors and the Editorial Advisory Committee for the Association of Experiential Education.

Dr. Michael Tarrant is a distinguished teaching professor in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia and the founding director of Discover Abroad (DA). Dr. Tarrant is also the owner and founding director (from 2003–2010) of American Universities International Programs (AUIP), Ltd. His company has worked with more than 20 U.S. universities and colleges to provide international programs. His research interests include the learning outcomes of study abroad, global citizenship, the human dimensions of natural resources, and international protected area and wilderness management. He has published one book, eleven book chapters, and over fifty journal articles and previously served as associate editor of *Environmental Management* and the *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*.

**CANADIANS AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS**

Hailing from the province of Ontario, Canada, Luc Cousineau and Amanda McGowan were recognized as the Academy’s 2015 Future Scholars. Luc’s mentor at the Congress was Deb Bialeschki, Director of Research, American Camping Association. Amanda’s mentor was Alan Ewert, Professor, and Patricia and Joel Meier Endowed Chair of Outdoor Leadership, Indiana University Bloomington.

Luc, who is interested in issues of influence, representation, and development in social entrepreneurship, community sport organizations, and sense of community, is a master’s student at the University of Waterloo.

His goals are to explore issues impacting organizational culture at the theoretical level while simultaneously teaching those who will one day become decision makers.

**Troy Glover (Nominator), Deb Kerstetter (Chair, Future Scholars Committee), Luc Cousineau (Future Scholar), and Deb Bialeschki (Mentor)**

**Alan Ewert (Mentor), Deb Kerstetter (Chair, Future Scholars Committee), Amanda McGowan (Future Scholar), and Joseph Flood (Nominator)**
Amanda, an MS candidate at Minnesota State University in Mankato and working full time at the University of Waterloo, wants to focus her research interests on identity and character development through outdoor recreation as well as the effects of outdoor recreation on neurogenesis, learning, cognition, and memory.

Her goals are to make research contributions and to be able to use research to capture the lived experiences of people from many different backgrounds as they use outdoor recreation activities to navigate different aspects of their life.

**2015 Future Scholars Committee**

Brent Beggs (Illinois State University), Mike Edwards (North Carolina State University), Deborah Kerstetter—Chair (Penn State University), Katherine Soule (University of California at San Luis Obispo), and Tyler Tapps (Oklahoma State University)

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**Exceptional Talent and Contributions Were Recognized at the 2015 NRPA Congress in Las Vegas**

Numerous individuals were recognized for their excellent scholarship. Their names, affiliations, and paper titles are listed below.

**2015 ALS Best Student Abstract Award**

**Dina Izenstark**, PhD candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Paper: “Utilizing family-based nature activities to promote rural, low-income families’ health”

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**Best Paper: Social Equity Pillar**

Maggie Phan, Monika Stodolska, and Juan Carlos Acevedo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Paper: “Healthy eating and leisure among Mexican immigrants in the U.S.”

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**Best Paper: Conservation Pillar**

Farhad Moghimehfar and Elizabeth Halpenny, University of Alberta

Paper: “Predicting pro-environmental camping behaviour in Alberta Parks, Canada”

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**Best Paper: Health and Wellness Pillar**

Dina Izenstark, Ramona Oswald, Elizabeth Holman, Shawn Mendes, and Kimberly Greder, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Paper: “Using family-based nature activities to promote rural, low-income families’ health”

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**ALS Leadership for the Future Award**

Jill Sturts, Indiana University

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**ALS Excellence in Teaching**

Sarah Young, University of Indiana
Meredith Jansen, outgoing secretary of ALS, posing with outgoing President, Barb Schlatter

J. Robert (Bob) Rossman, professor emeritus at Indiana University-Bloomington, was selected as a Legend in Park and Recreation Administration by the Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. The Legends Program recognizes distinguished administrators and educators who have made outstanding contributions to the field. Some of Bob Rossman’s many accomplishments include helping to develop the Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) examination; co-authoring three editions of the *CPRP Study Guide*; and serving as a board member and president of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators, and a board member for the Academy of Park and Recreation Administration, the National Forum, and the Accreditation Council. Previously he was awarded the NRPA National Literary Award and the Charles K. Brightbill Award from the University of Illinois as well as fellowship in multiple organizations.

**CHALLENGE GRANT RAISES MORE THAN $16,000 FOR FUTURE SCHOLARS ENDOWMENT!**

In 2013, the American Leisure Academy (ALA) disbanded and its members joined The Academy of Leisure Sciences. One outcome of this transition was the creation of a Challenge Grant where, for every dollar raised, a dollar match up to $8,000 was donated from the ALA account balance to The Academy of Leisure Sciences Future Scholars Endowment Fund (for a total of $16,940). Thank you to all who made donations to this important cause which supports the Future Scholars Program, annually recognizing outstanding master’s students interested in pursuing doctoral degrees in parks, recreation, and related fields. Since 1991, the Academy has recognized these future scholars with monies to attend the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference, recognition at the Academy’s Annual Meeting, Fellows Luncheon, and mentorship by an ALS Fellow during the conference. Special thanks are extended to the Challenge Grant Committee—Sam Lankford, Ellen Rodgers, Patti Freeman, Bill Stewart, Peter Bannon, and Barbara Schlatter—and Chris Edginton, who sparked the Challenge Grant idea and facilitated the transfer of funds from the former American Leisure Academy to The Academy of Leisure Sciences.
philosophy. While specialized coursework in LS has been common in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong for some time, it has come to the mainland only in the last decade.

Perhaps a turning point was when the scholar Ma Huidi began communicating with western scholars, which led to the exchange of information, mutual visits, and the translation of many Western textbooks and scholarly books dealing with leisure. Even though “leisure” was somewhat suspect, traditionally associated with idleness or even laziness, forward-thinking Chinese scholars and businesspeople saw the link between tourism and leisure. At first, the interest was largely on the economic impact of leisure. Several influential conferences were held in Hangzhou and elsewhere, dealing first with leisure and the economy and then a wider variety of topics. Leisure and the family, leisure and aging, environmental issues and many others emerged. The concept of a “Leisure City” became fashionable.

Research in China concerning leisure has largely modeled Western research. This has produced both successes and failures. Survey research is faced with a different set of obstacles in China, which often make unobtrusive measures and ethnography preferable, yet few faculty are schooled in these methods. The goal of most Chinese leisure researchers remains to get published in Western journals concerned with leisure and tourism. In many cases, this goal is unrealistic for reasons of language, culture and opportunity. There exists a huge need for a Chinese journals dealing with leisure and tourism and that need is being investigated now.

Perhaps the most encouraging sign concerning Chinese leisure studies is the huge amount of collaboration between Chinese and North American scholars. Chinese scholars are beginning to find their own way, after a period of imitation. As North American scholars understand more about China and the limits of research based on questioning the public, we may become more helpful. All such effort begins with becoming friends.
MEMBERS’ MILESTONES

Mary Ann Devine, CTRS, was recently promoted to professor of Disability Studies and Community Inclusion at Kent State University. Dr. Devine has conducted numerous studies examining aspects of the inclusion process such as social acceptance, social construction of disability, attitudinal barriers, best practices, and the application of the ADA in leisure settings. Recently, she has been examining the role of social justice related to inclusion as well as the role of leisure in helping individuals with intellectual disabilities transition from high school to college.

The coordinator of Bowling Green State University’s (BGSU) Tourism, Leisure and Event Planning program, Bob Lee, was recently awarded funding to conduct cross-cultural tourism research. His research, conducted in collaboration with students at BGSU and Beijing Union University, will hopefully lead to greater cultural awareness among faculty and students.

Edwin Gomez was awarded the title of “University Professor” at Old Dominion University. This title is given only to professors who excel at teaching. In addition, Dr. Gomez was awarded the Sara and Rufus Tonelson Award for his outstanding teaching, research and publication work, as well as service to the department, college, university and community.

Wendy Hultsman, director of undergraduate programs and associate professor in the School of Community Resources and Development at Arizona State University, has been honored with the Faculty Achievement Teaching Award.

Engaging with members of the Community is second nature to faculty at Old Dominion University (ODU)

Edwin Gomez, Eddie Hill, Lindsay Usher, and Betsey Kennedy, faculty in the Park, Recreation and Tourism Program at ODU were recognized for their contributions to communities in Hampton Roads and elsewhere. Examples of their engagement include community-based service and research with a number of organizations, including an afterschool program at a middle school, the annual Little Feet Meet Special Olympics, the City of Norfolk’s Recreation, Parks, and Open Spaces, Sportable™ Paralympic Experience Day, and survey and data collection for the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau, Virginia State Parks, and the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

SUNY Cortland is now offering an online graduate certificate in therapeutic recreation

The Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department launched a Therapeutic Recreation Online Graduate Certificate in fall 2015. The 18-credit graduate certificate program fulfills the varying needs of a large group of entering and practicing professionals in therapeutic recreation, especially those who need academic courses to meet requirements for the national certification exam or those who need continuing education. The online platform makes the graduate certificate available to a wide group of people, regardless of geographic location. Sample feedback from current students includes the following:
“As a working professional the... program has been a fantastic way for me to continue my education in therapeutic recreation... From interactive coursework to discussion boards to webinars and guest speakers, [the courses] really made you feel like you were in a classroom.”

“The TR Online Graduate Certificate program... has allowed me to [brush] up on my skills and grow in areas that I have not had the ability to professionally practice as often...”

More information about the certificate is available at http://www2.cortland.edu/graduate-programs/therapeutic-recreation-certificate/index.dot. You can also contact Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, program coordinator (lynn.anderson@cortland.edu) or Dr. Sharon Todd, department chair (sharon.todd@cortland.edu), for more information.

Faculty and students at CSU Fresno contribute to residents’ quality of life

The Department of Recreation Administration at CSU Fresno has developed a new research and service program to meet the needs of parks and recreation agencies in the San Joaquin Valley of central California. The program, Recreation Research and Service (R2S), is designed to assist agencies in the provision of services (i.e., open space and park planning, marketing research, economic impact studies, policy analysis, recreation programming, needs assessment, program evaluation, management/staff training) that enhance economic opportunities and the quality of the environment and community life. For more information about this and other community engagement programs run by the Department, contact Sam Lankford at (559) 278-2654, slankford@csufresno.edu.

Appalachian State hires Dale Atkins to oversee its growing program

Appalachian State University’s Recreation Management (RM) Program is now part of the Department of Recreation Management and Physical Education and Dr. Dale Atkins, formerly at Western Illinois, was recently hired as the department’s first full-time chair. The RM Program, 280 majors strong, is comprised of nine tenure-track faculty and two lecturers, four of whom (i.e., Joy James, Stephanie West, Melissa Weddell, and Kristian Jackson) have been recognized for their excellence in teaching.

The RM Program has been recognized for its commitment to student engagement, which includes, but is not limited to the following initiatives: an Outdoor Jobs Fair, a Recreation Management Symposium, unique travel-based courses, and professional certification opportunities. The Outdoor Jobs Fair is an annual networking opportunity involving over 60 professionals. Students from all majors are able to network, bring their resumes, and have interviews with multiple destinations in one day. The Recreation Symposium, a one-day on-campus conference, provides students with the opportunity to hear from recreation professionals about current trends and issues in the field. The program’s unique travel courses are hands-on, providing students with a behind-the-scenes look at the tourism industry and the opportunity to meet with professional staff working with cruise lines, coastal resorts, and with sustainable tourism practices in Costa Rica. If that is not enough, students are also able to take courses that allow them to earn the following certifications: Wildland Firefighting Red Card (Incident Qualification Card)*, Certified Interpretive Guide, CPR/First Aid Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, Wilderness First Aid Instructor, Leave No Trace, Leave No Trace Instructor, NC Environmental Educator*, and PCIA Single Pitch Instructor and Avalanche Safety Training.

*Additional work is needed after the related course to finish the certification.

Cal Poly students serve as the face of Super Bowl City

Thirty Cal Poly students from the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Department got to experience the 50th Super Bowl the best way they know how—ensuring that thousands of visitors had a safe, pleasurable experience. The students served as Ambassadors for the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, answering questions about activities and amenities, assisting with crowd control, supporting public safety and security, and directing the flow of visitors — ultimately serving as the face of Super Bowl City at entrances and exits. The goal of Super Bowl City, open free to the public, was to highlight the best of the Bay Area with interactive activities for all ages, as well as to celebrate the Super Bowl.

Bill Hendricks, head of the Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Department, facilitated the
volunteer experience for students by working directly with contacts he has in the tourism, event, marketing, and sport industries. Hendricks said serving as ambassadors was a good chance for students to apply their knowledge in leadership, event planning, experiential marketing, volunteer motivation, sustainability, sponsorship, and more. Professor Keri Schwab, who attended the event with Hendricks and the student volunteers, said the event was a great one for students to use as they apply for jobs: “It allowed them to gain confidence in themselves and taught them the power of working together.”

THE FIELD IS ADVANCING…

We are excited about upcoming gatherings that will be taking place in 2016 and 2017. The Leisure Studies Association conference is gathering scholars together in July 2016. One month later, the Critical Tourism Studies North America conference and a Colloquium on Digital Dilemmas: Transforming Gender Identities and Power Relations in Everyday Life will be held at the University of Waterloo. Both will highlight the field’s growing need to gather, discuss, and disseminate important and relevant research. In October the NRPA Research Sessions (formally the Leisure Research Symposium) is being held in St. Louis.

2017 also promises to be an exciting year for new initiatives. The Academy of Leisure Science’s first Research Institute will be held February 2017 at Indiana University. The Research Institute is intended to expand our understanding of the role of research by addressing questions such as “Where do we discuss the purpose, practice, and ethics of research?,” “Where do we learn or critique new techniques, tools, or methods?,” “Where do we expand upon certain subject matter?,” “What do we have as a space that is designed to find collaborators?,” “How do we expand the endeavor of research at any level (faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates) alongside colleagues known or unknown (in education, policy studies, history, ethnic studies, geography)?”

In April 2015, The Academy of Leisure Sciences launched a survey regarding the idea of a research institute. The majority of respondents believed that such an institute would fill a professional development need for the field and appeal to colleagues in anthropology, geography, gerontology, philosophy, psychology, public health, rural studies, sociology, sport management, and many others. Respondents also noted a range of topics that they would like to see as sessions, workshops, or keynote lectures: research methods; theoretical or conceptual perspectives (e.g., serious leisure, deviancy, and critical theory); networking and soliciting potential collaborators; social justice or social impact ethics; resource exchanges (e.g., relevant literature, funding mechanisms); grant writing or external funding; and software application or analysis tools session. Based on these results, the proposed Research Institute will be a gathering, similar in format to TALS Teaching Institute, meeting every other year. But, like TALS Teaching Institute, it will emphasize the need to gather around one of our three chief academic duties, the endeavor of research more broadly, and not the endeavor of research more specifically that many of our current gatherings accommodate in North America as well as Europe, Australia, and southern Africa. The sense of camaraderie and collegiality in the intimacy of a space solely for the scholarly advancement of the field is unfounded. Thus, the proposed Research Institute will be a place to come together, become influenced by each other, and ultimately propel the field to a future that we collectively envision!

Please look for additional information on the exact dates for the inaugural Research Institute in February 2017 at Indiana University, as well as a call for papers and other contributions in the upcoming months.

Rasul Mowatt
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The 2016 Distinguished Colleague Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated herself/himself to be an exceptional member of The Academy of Leisure Sciences through meritorious service to the profession of leisure science broadly defined, including but not limited to, recreation, parks, tourism, sport, therapeutic recreation, outdoor recreation, and/or leisure education. The criteria for the Distinguished Colleague Award are (1) member of The Academy of Leisure Sciences, (2) recognized excellence in the profession of leisure science, (3) minimum of 10 years of outstanding service in education and research in leisure science, and (4) must be living.

If you are interested in nominating a colleague for the 2016 Distinguished Colleague Award, please go to http://www.academyofleisuresciences.com/sites/default/files/2016-ALS-DISTINGUISHED-COLLEAGUE-AWARD-NOMINATION.docx

The 2016 Leadership for the Future Award exists to honor, recognize, and encourage young scholars transitioning from student life to faculty life who have illustrated promise in teaching, research, and service in the field of leisure studies broadly defined, including but not limited to, recreation, parks, tourism, sport, therapeutic recreation, outdoor recreation, and/or leisure education. The criteria for the Leadership for the Future Award are (1) currently enrolled doctoral students who complete all requirements for their degree by December 31, 2016; (2) evidence of commitment to excellence in teaching (e.g., graduate teaching opportunities and awards) and scholarly activities (e.g., publications in scholarly outlets and presentations at scholarly meetings or symposia); (3) evidence of leadership activities (e.g., leadership positions within graduate student organizations, service on departmental or university committees, participation in community service organizations); and (4) potential to contribute to the TALS mission (e.g., becoming an TALS committee member, reviewing for Leisure Research Symposium and journals). As a condition of the award, the recipient is obligated to join The Academy of Leisure Sciences as an affiliate member and become involved in TALS activities.

If you are interested in nominating a colleague for the 2016 Leadership for the Future Award, please go to http://www.academyofleisuresciences.com/sites/default/files/2016-ALS-LEADERSHIP-FOR-THE-FUTURE-AWARD-NOMINATION.docx

All nomination materials must be submitted by email to Dr. Randy Swedburg (randy.swedburg@concordia.ca) by May 6, 2016.

1Accomplishments can include, but are not limited to, scholarship that has advanced the field, recognitions by other leisure-related organizations or related fields, achievement of elevated position within ones organization, mentorship of graduate students, pre-tenured faculty, and/or individuals new to the leisure profession; editorial/assistant editorial service to a scholarly journal in leisure science; leadership in leisure related member organization(s); and leadership within one’s organization.

Don’t forget to nominate deserving faculty for the Innovation in Teaching and Excellence in Teaching Awards. All nominations are due May 6, 2016 and forms can be found at http://www.academyofleisuresciences.com/nomination-forms.