This is my last issue as newsletter editor since I have been appointed editor of JLR. I’d like to welcome Joel Agate as our new newsletter editor. Feel free to reach out to Joel with ideas, articles and suggestions. He can be reached at jagate@brockport.edu. Happy winter break everyone!

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PRESIDENT’S CORNER

This time of year I find myself making lots of lists—grading lists, gift lists, decorating lists, resolution lists, you get the picture. This column represents another one of my lists with two primary objectives. First on my list is issuing a huge thank you to everyone who helped lift TALS to new heights this past year that I spent as president. Without a hard-working group of volunteers who serve their colleagues in ways too numerous to count, TALS simply would not have continued to evolve in such exciting ways during 2017.

The second part of my list involves issuing three challenges to our members that if checked off will support both TALS, as well as our individual members, in becoming even stronger. With the new year fast approaching, here they are.

I challenge each of you to do the following:

• Attend the TALS Annual Conference on Research and Teaching February 20-23, 2018: The line-up is great, opportunities to grow as a professional are astounding, and the food and fun are top notch. Plus, Indy is pretty easy to get to compared to some other locations. Whether as a presenter or attendee, everyone has something to add that makes the experience better for all. Don’t find yourself hitting March 1 with TALS-regrets for not going! Don’t be the person everyone is looking for but no one can find.

• Engage in the TALS social media outlets; let your voice be heard, start a dialogue, meet new colleagues electronically, and engage. You won’t regret it. Find us on Facebook (@ AcademyofLeisureSciences), Instagram (theacademyofleisuresciences), Twitter (@ AcademyofLeisureSci), and on LinkedIn.

• Nominate a colleague (or yourself) for an award (i.e., teaching, distinguished colleague, innovation in teaching, leadership for the future, future scholars, TALS fellow). The people we have the privilege to work with every day are what make our field great. They need to be recognized...spend the time to help us do so!

I’m going to limit the list to three challenges. They are all doable...especially after a nice, restful break! Be safe and enjoy the winter holidays! I hope to see you in Indy at TALS in February!

DENISE ANDERSON, Past-President
The Academy of Leisure Sciences
How did you get into the field and what inspired you to pursue a career in recreation and leisure?

My formative years were spent in Micronesia where diversity was the norm and life for children was uncomplicated. Returning to the mainland in 1970 was a challenge because I did not know how to live in a society impacted by the after-effects of the Civil Rights Movement and a growing drug culture amongst adolescents. Thanks to the Amateur Athletic Union, a high school theatre program, and the city of Woodland, California’s recreation and park program, I not only survived but thrived. With the support and encouragement of Connie O’Conner and Bill Niepeth, Recreation and Parks faculty at California State University at Chico, I began to flourish in what would become my career.

Whose work has inspired you over the years and why?

I have been inspired by individuals’ values and behavior, not their work. Early on, Dr. Frank Guadagnolo taught me the value of selflessness; of doing what is best for the department even if it might result in less visibility and recognition amongst one’s peers. Dr. Herberta Lundegren showed me how to nurture students and/or colleagues. My students/advisees, both undergraduate and graduate, imparted the importance of being a caring, humble human being. And my contemporaries and colleagues, particularly Dr. Kelly Bricker and Dr. Alan Graefe, inspired me to serve the broader fields of recreation and parks and tourism.

What are some important trends and issues we should be addressing in our field (from any perspective—research, education, outreach, administration/leadership).

I will focus on two issues associated with teaching. It is important to note that I’ve spent my entire academic life at Penn State, which has impacted my perspective on teaching. First, we must continue to use innovative approaches (e.g., alumni-student study courses) to educating students, regardless of discipline, about our broader field and its value to society. Doing so likely will have multiple benefits, including but not limited to: (a) increasing collaboration across disciplines, which in many cases is a criteria for teaching and research funding; and (b) forcing us to consider alternative methods of content delivery, which is necessary when faced with fiscal and human resource constraints. Second, for a variety of reasons, the faculty/undergraduate student relationship has been lost in many universities. Faculty need to consider remediying this situation as it has negatively impacted students’ satisfaction with their degree program and long-term potential for development (e.g., securing financial and other forms of support from alumni).

Where do you find leisure, and what are you looking forward to in your transition to retirement?

I love to get my hands dirty by creating new landscapes in the yard and gardening. I also like to kayak; read most any mystery novel; and listen, dance, and sing to all types of music. I look forward to continuing to participate in these activities, traveling more, and spending as much time as possible with family and friends who have made and continue to make my life wonderful.
CONGRATULATIONS TO AWARD WINNERS!

Distinguished Colleague Award
Lawrence Allen, PhD, Professor and Dean Emeritus
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management (Clemson University)

Innovation in Teaching Award
Laurlyn (Laurie) Harmon, PhD, Associate Professor
Department of Recreation Management and Therapeutic Recreation (University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse)

Denise Anderson, Larry Allen, and Brett Wright

Denise Anderson, Laurie Harmon, and Dart Schmalz

Excellence in Teaching Award
Mary Parr, PhD, Associate Professor
Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management (Kent State University)

Innovation in Teaching Award
J. Joy James, PhD, Associate Professor
Department of Recreation Management and Physical Education (Appalachian State University)
Leadership for the Future Award
Lara Fenton, PhD, Assistant Professor
Department of Kinesiology and Recreation Management (University of Manitoba)

Highlights from the TALS Meeting at the NRPA Conference in New Orleans

Shane Pegg, newly inducted TALS Fellow with nominators Jerry Singleton (L) & Gary Ellis (R)
Two other fellows were inducted: Rodney Dieser and John de Graaf (not pictured)

President’s Award
Rasul Mowatt, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair
Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies (Indiana University)

Sunwoo Lee (Palacky University, Czech Republic), Tim Tiger (Illinois), and Dr. Curtis Clemens, a newly minted doctoral graduate from Oklahoma State University. Congratulations Dr. Clemens!!
Bill Hendricks (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo), Laura McLachlin (Chico State), and Bob Brookover (Clemson, on right)

Jeri Bellan, Marta Moorman, Barb Schlatter, and Lisa Pesavento enjoying some catch-up time