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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Wow! What a great inaugural TALS Research Institute! Huge kudos go out to Indiana University, the planning committee, and specifically Rasul Mowatt, for facilitating an amazing event. Next year’s conference, which has been officially named The Academy of Leisure Sciences Annual Conference on Research and Teaching, is certain to draw an even more diverse group of participants back to Indianapolis for thought-provoking presentations and discussion around both research and teaching. Therefore, be sure to save the date: February 21–23, 2018.

Below I would like to pull out some key highlights from the Town Hall Forum that was held on the Friday of the Institute to keep those who were unable to attend in the loop.

- There was a great deal of discussion around “what we want to be” as an association. The list was quite comprehensive and started with an overwhelming desire to be inclusive. Also mentioned were goals related to advocacy and serving as a resource not only for members but the larger field of leisure. As one participant stated, to be a community of scholars with the goal of diversity of scholarship. Many appreciated that TALS provides opportunities to come together for collaboration and opportunities to be challenged as well as a place for collective action. Discussion also centered on the thought that we should also take consideration of what “we do not stand for” – to include privatization of public lands and discriminatory practices among other practices.

- The group discussed that as TALS seeks out new partners, these relationships need to be intentional and mutually beneficial. Currently there are efforts to expand formal partnerships that would be similar to those that TALS currently has with ANZALS, for example. These partnerships will allow TALS to broaden its impact and expand opportunities for its members.

- Additional topics of discussion ranged from hearing about a potential new journal for the field, a request to seek input on benefits members look for from TALS, exploring different modes of communication among members, and themes for next year’s Research and Teaching Conference.

DENISE ANDERSON, President
The Academy of Leisure Sciences
A session at the TALS 2017 conference included an interview with Douglas Kleiber about his life and career. Here are some interesting insights from and about Dr. Kleiber for people who didn’t attend the conference or session.

**Q: How did you become interested in leisure studies?**
**A:** I was in an educational psychology doctoral program at the University of Texas in the early 70s, where I concentrated in social and developmental psychology. I became interested in children’s play and made some connections to leisure, and then I studied the developmental implications of free-time activities of college students. I worked in psychology departments for my first two faculty jobs, and then took a position at the University of Illinois in their Leisure Behavior Research Laboratory and thought, “Wow, this all fits!”

**Q: What does success look like to you?**
**A:** Success is when your ideas (through publications/presentations) are influential to others and you understand how your work has led to influencing others’ thinking. It is also very gratifying when you have students who finish their dissertations and go on to do good things.

**Q: Who has inspired you? Who do you look up to?**
**A:** Mihály Csíkszentmihályi has been a key figure in my career and has shaped a lot of my work and my thinking. He was quick to say “flow” isn’t restricted to leisure. It’s as likely to occur in work. I’ve taken that as a challenge… to find the leisure contexts that are most likely to lead to flow. Other people who have inspired me have been Dan Dustin, Karla Henderson, Geof Godbey, and John Kelly. Many others such as Neulinger, Iso-Ahola, Stebbins, and Richard Lerner, Ed Deci and Richard Ryan in psychology have inspired me. They are all good thinkers and very bright people. Now it’s the young people I’m intrigued with, as they have such great ideas.

**Q: Where do you find leisure?**
**A:** I’m a dabbler. I do a little of this and a little of that: cycle, play tennis, basketball, and fish occasionally, hike a bit (or as much as I can), work on trails (my volunteer work), and I like to spend time with my children and grandchildren, doing whatever they want to do.
THE 15TH CANADIAN CONGRESS ON LEISURE RESEARCH (CCLR) FEATURES THOUGHT-PROVOKING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

The 15th triennial CCLR will take place in Kitchener, Ontario, May 23-26th. Both keynote speakers, Dave Zirin and Lenore Skenazy, are thought-provoking authors. Dave Zirin is an American political sports writer, talk show host, and the author of a sports blog called The Edge of Sports. Lenore Skenazy is an American blogger, author, and founder of the movement “Free Range Kids.” In 2009 she published the book “Free-Range Kids: Giving Our Children the Freedom We Had without Going Nuts with Worry (John Wiley & Sons).

Three pre-conference workshops allow participants to delve deeply into several topics including:
- Qualitative research writing workshop
- A people’s history of leisure studies: Framing the discussion around race and ethnicity to advance leisure research
- Systematic observation of physical activity using iPad apps for research and practice: iSOPARC and iSOFIT

Registration is now open for the conference. More information is available on the CCLR website: https://uwaterloo.ca/canadian-congress-on-leisure-research-15/

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN THERAPEUTIC RECREATION ASSOCIATION (ATRA):

The ATRA annual conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, September 9–12, 2017.

Two new publications are available for purchase:
- ATRA’s Coverage of RT Publication has been updated and is available for purchase. This book aides recreational therapists in developing a compliant program and assists RTs in communicating with administrators and healthcare professionals about the appropriateness of RT in various settings.
- ATRA’s Ethics Publication is available as an electronic book

More information on the conference and publications is available on ATRA’s website: https://www.atra-online.com
The Opening Keynote Panel moderated by Dr. Corliss Outley (Texas A&M) featured Drs. Karla Henderson (NC State), B. Dana Kivel (Sacramento State), Diane Samdahl (Georgia), Diana Parry (Waterloo) and Kim Shinew (Illinois).

Conference attendees enjoyed thought-provoking research sessions, and there were opportunities to catch up at the two evening socials.

Denise Anderson moderated the Town Hall Meeting which was a great opportunity for TALS members to offer input for the future direction of the organization.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS REMINDER!

The awards committee seeks awards nominations by May 5, 2017.

- Future Scholars Award
- Distinguished Colleague Award
- Excellence in Teaching Award
- Innovation in Teaching Award
- Leadership for the Future Award

For details and nominations information, click here: https://www.theacademyofleisuresciences.org/nomination-forms

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