



From the Co-editors

From the Co-editors: With the fall semester behind us, we wish you all a pleasant break and happy holiday season! Remember, we want to hear from you! Please send us interesting and newsworthy information: program updates, suggestions for newsletter content, honors and awards given or received, or information about upcoming events. Academy members benefit when we share your news. We look forward to hearing from you!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from Boone, NC! The fall semester is closing in on us and it's just about time to gear up for the 2019 Annual Conference on Research and Teaching. I'm happy to report that, from all accounts, The Academy of Leisure Sciences is thriving. The conference had a record number of presentation proposal submissions, almost twice as many this year as last year, and last year was about twice as many as in our inaugural year (albeit that first year it was a research-only conference). I hope everyone will be able to make the conference, even if they are not presenting, because Clemson has an impressive line-up of events for us.

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GETTING PERSONAL: LAURIE HARMON

Laurie Harmon is an associate professor and department chair at the University of Wisconsin Lacrosse. She worked as a landscape architect before continuing her education, earning a master's degree at Michigan State University and a PhD at Penn State. As a scholar, Laurie focuses on social-psychological outcomes of nature-based recreation.

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TALS PARTNER: AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA)

TALS has recently signed Memoranda of Understanding and initiated relationships with several like-minded organizations. The next few issues of the TALS newsletter will include an introduction and update from one of these organizations. Please read on to learn about the important work of the American Camp Association.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We kick the conference off with “The Life of the Mind,” a session dedicated to unveiling the latest AAPRA video, this one discussing what academic life is like. It features Geof Godbey, Karla Henderson, and John Crompton, but there are also brief appearances by Harlan “Gold” Metcalf, Doug Sessoms (with references to Charles Brightbill), and Tony Mobley. The bulk of the presentation will be interaction between the audience and Geof, Karla, and John talking about academic life. These AAPRA Legends Videos are a culmination of the hard work of Kelly Bricker, Dan Dustin, Keri Schwab and Matt Brownlee. To view the other Legends videos currently available, go to <https://app.box.com/v/LEGENDS-FINAL>. With the exception of this one, the videos are all available now for your use personally or in your classroom and cover topics including gender, race, equity, the NPS, volunteerism, and leadership.

Also on the lineup for this year is the first Joseph J. Bannon Lecture. The lecture recognizes Joseph Bannon and the prominent role he has played in the advancement of park, recreation, and leisure as a discipline and profession. Bob Rossman, a distinguished colleague and friend of Joseph Bannon, will delivered this year’s inaugural lecture.

Continuing in the tradition of previous conferences (organized by TALS or SPRE), this year’s conference will also include the presentation of the following awards that recognize our outstanding colleagues in teaching and/or research: Distinguished Colleague, Distinguished Researcher, New Researcher, Excellence in Teaching, Innovation in Teaching, and Leadership for the Future.

These are actually just a few of the exciting things Clemson has in store for you. Just wait until you see the socials and keynote speakers scheduled for the conference. It is sure to be a great time to get together with past, present, and future friends of The Academy! I look forward to seeing everyone there!



STEPHANIE WEST, President
The Academy of Leisure Sciences



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Register for the TALS Annual Conference on Research and Teaching 2019.
Begins: 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Ends: 11 a.m. Friday, March 1, 2019.

1. How did you get into the field, and what inspired you to pursue a career in recreation and leisure?

A 4-week backcountry natural science study program in the Canadian Rockies helped me realize how important leisure and the outdoors were. That path inspired me to become a landscape architect where I focused on designing golf courses in Michigan. At that time, I also co-taught a golf course design class with my employer, and it didn't take long to realize that working with college students was where I really wanted to be. So, I started a master's degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Resources at Michigan State and simultaneously took a position in the State Parks division of the DNR. That set me on a parks and recreation path that was solidified when I completed my Leisure Studies doctorate at Penn State.

2. Whose work has inspired you over the years and why?

I have always been in awe of Rachel Carson, Anne La Bastille, and Maddie Murie. These women used science and a sincere love for the outdoors to fuel their beautiful and introspective writings. Aldo Leopold's way of sharing observations about nature and the interactions he observed also inspires me to step back and watch as nature happens. And, I have to confess, I always enjoy reading works from the incomparable Dan Dustin. He is creative, thoughtful, and truly human in his ways of thinking through academics and leisure.

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

I see my colleagues addressing so many important issues, but there are two that really stand out for me. First, I truly appreciate the attention connecting people with nature has garnered within our profession and among the public. However, leisure professionals still have many opportunities to lead the conversation and continue sharing the role parks and outdoor spaces play in our psychological, emotional, and physical health. Second, our profession may also have a role in helping to develop civility. Civility seems to be a lost art (or is it a skill?). While it may not yet be a trend, this could be an opportunity for leisure research (of course, I haven't done my homework—so perhaps there is already a body of research out there in leisure).

4. What career contributions are you most proud of?

Designing and successfully implementing class projects that connect students to the natural world is my favorite activity. In addition, being able to facilitate service/learning projects where students are able to learn about and understand the role not-for-profit agencies, such as the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, play in managing open space for humans and non-humans to exist reminds me how important our classroom presence is.

5. Where do you find leisure?

Hiking and nature photography. Frankly, give me a pair of hiking boots and a camera (along with, perhaps, a backpack with cheese, chocolate, and wine), and I'll be a happy camper. Speaking of which...camping, too... and enjoying coffee on the deck watching the wildlife.



TALS PARTNER: AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA) CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The American Camp Association is dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults through high-quality camp experiences. Our members are 3,000 camps across the U.S. (most of whom are ACA accredited), plus 11,000 individual members. For the last 12 years, ACA staff and volunteers have worked to create and sustain a research environment that results in relevant, applied research for camp professionals and rigorous, national studies that support our advocacy efforts.

We are currently two years into our most recent effort, which is to explore the lasting impacts of camp among campers, emerging leaders (counselors in training), and staff. Dr. Jim Sibthorp and his team at the University of Utah were selected through an RFP process to do the project. Preliminary results indicate that camp promotes outcomes related to youth development and social-emotional learning that indeed last over time; furthermore, the ways in which camps promote these outcomes appear to be distinct from other developmental settings, which suggests that camp experiences play a valuable role in a young person's learning landscape.

In addition to this multi-year study, ACA supports two all-volunteer research committees and an annual Camp Research Forum. This year, the Forum will take place at the ACA National Conference in Nashville, TN, and will feature approximately 18 peer-reviewed studies, 12 of which will be presented orally. Two research-related awards are presented at this event, the Marge Scanlin Award for Outstanding Student Research, and the Eleanor P. Eells Award for Excellence in Research in Practice. All of the abstracts from the Research Forum are free and available for download following the conference. You can follow along with ACA's research efforts through our bi-weekly Research 360 blog, which can be accessed at <https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/news-publications/blogs/research-360>.



For questions or to get involved, contact Dr. Laurie Browne, ACA Director of Research, at lbrowne@acacamps.org.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES: THE U.S. PLAY COALITION

In the summer of 2009, a group of concerned scholars and citizens met in Clemson, SC, to attend The Summit on the Value of Play, co-chaired by Fran P. Mainella, former National Park Service Director and visiting scholar at Clemson University, and Brett Wright, PhD, then department chair of Parks Recreation and Tourism Management (PRTM) at Clemson University. Keynote speakers for the 2009 summit were heavy hitters in the play world, including Joe Frost, EdD, LHD; Stuart Brown, MD; Cheryl Charles, PhD; and Hara Estroff Maranno.

The concept of play as a valuable tool struck a chord with many across the country. Attendees at this summit made a commitment to create a coalition to promote the value of play throughout life. Its vision was for play to become a valued and integral part of the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2019, the U.S. Play Coalition continues to advocate for play through education, research, and communications. Their efforts are broad and deep. In addition to hosting the annual conference, the coalition provides research and action grants annually to support play, publishes papers on a variety of play related themes, hosts monthly Twitter chats called #WePlayChat, and has a newly formed Play Research Team at Clemson University, to name a few.

Learn more about the U.S. Play Coalition and download free resources from its website, usplaycoalition.org. Membership is FREE, so click "Get Involved" to join. Find them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

IMPORTANT INITIATIVES: THE U.S. PLAY COALITION CONTINUED

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

10th Anniversary Conference on the
Value of Play: PLAY FOR LIFE
March 31-April 3, 2019 at Clemson
University in Clemson, SC

For additional information, please
contact Stephanie Garst, Executive
Director of the U.S. Play Coalition at (864)
656-2525, or visit usplaycoalition.org



2019 TALS RESEARCH AND TEACHING CONFERENCE

Time to register for the 2019 TALS Research and Teaching Conference: We look forward to seeing you at the 2019 TALS Conference on Research and Teaching! The conference will be hosted by Clemson University's PRTM department and held in beautiful Greenville, SC. We northerners know that a trip to the South in February may be just what the doctor ordered! Please join us in Greenville February 26–March 1! Register at <https://www.theacademyofleisureciences.org/conference> by January 27 to secure early-bird rates.

Department chairs and leaders, please also plan to register to attend the Department Chair and Leaders Retreat. This retreat will immediately follow the Research and Teaching Conference on March 1–3 at Clemson University. The theme of the retreat is Managing Transitions. Please contact Wayne Friedmund, Chair of Clemson's Parks Recreation and Tourism Management department with topic suggestions for the retreat.



INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMY OF LEISURE SCIENCES

February 26 - March 1, 2019

Clemson University | Claflin University | Benedict College

