



From the Editor

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With the fall semester well underway, I invite you to take a moment to pause, step back from the daily grind, and peruse this newsletter. With hints of pumpkin spice in the air and a few weeks left before the full brunt of winter (for those of you not living in western New York), this is the perfect time to catch up on what has been happening in the TALS-osphere, hear a few words from our president-elect, and mark your calendars for the upcoming TALS Conference on Teaching and Research (back to the Midwest!). Finally, remember that we want to hear from you: send us interesting and newsworthy information, suggestions for newsletter content, kudos given or received, or information about upcoming events. Academy members benefit when we share your news. See you in Champaign-Urbana!

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PRESIDENT’S CORNER

People, First?

A philosophy in health allied professions, and not a concept for good corporate business practices. A reference to the person, and not their diagnosis or condition. It grants us an opportunity to consider and recognize them as a complete human being with whole and complex lives, not broken ones awaiting our fix. In my use of this philosophy, I am saying something more than individual cases of care, but in encounters with whole communities and neighborhoods. We can fall into a space of “fixing” and treating a person’s disability as opposed to assisting him or her in navigating a broken society not designed

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GETTING PERSONAL: DAN DUSTIN

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

A: I tripped and fell into this field. My undergraduate degree at The University of Michigan was in cultural geography, and I planned on attending graduate school at UC Berkeley to study Latin American geography and Spanish, and then to live an Indiana Jones kind of life. But as I was about to graduate from Michigan, I decided to give myself a graduation present —visiting my first real girlfriend, who was an exchange student

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Time to register for the 2020 TALS Research and Teaching Conference. The conference will be hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from February 11-14 in Champaign, IL.

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for their access. We can fall into notions of authoritative positionality doling out deriding assessments of a community's state of being instead of witnessing a community's struggle for self-determination. But, taking this even further than it is likely intended, "people, first" should be a doorway and not an end point. What do I mean by this?

People-first language can aid us in seeing the person and not the disability, but there is no way to not "see" the disability. Nor should we. Society has conceived of this thing called disability, and society should be the focus of our attention and how it has rendered people identity-less or identity-reduced. First peoples/persons acknowledgments enables an honoring of indigenous communities, but there is no way to honor without drudging up past wrongs. Nor should there be. Honor can be quite hollow if invisibility and appropriation is still perpetrated. People-first and First peoples are simply examples of wordplay in this statement that highlights a dilemma.

Where do we start in seeing people, and further, in seeing communities? Are people and communities finished, fixed-state forms of existence?

If yes, then what is the point of our endeavors in research, teaching, and service? The "good" people and communities will remain so, and those "bad" people and communities, well....

If no, then this is the challenge to our research, teaching, and service. People and communities are not in a fixed-state. But what people and which communities deserve much of our attention and time? Well, that is entirely another point of discussion.

This is the struggle I see within the broad and expanding field of leisure studies, are people really first? When we glean over our grant proposals, course syllabi, conference abstracts, and tables of contents in journals or books, is this philosophy truly evident? Is this philosophy true?

As we embark on a remarkable gathering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for our fourth annual conference in February 2020, let's keep this dilemma, challenge, and struggle in mind. Please register, please come, and please interact. And think of what has been stated here in an international context and not just a domestic one. While our colleagues at the University of Illinois will host the China-International Leisure Research Association, think of these questions impacting future conceptualizations of leisure in China, and the broader geographic area of Asia, as well as other areas that merit our attention in the Global South. Additionally, as many of us will be in the midst of our academic year, how can this also fuel our approach to engaging the learning of our students and their development as future inheritors of the field, and by extension, inheritors of roles in those communities most deserving of our attention (and not in need)?

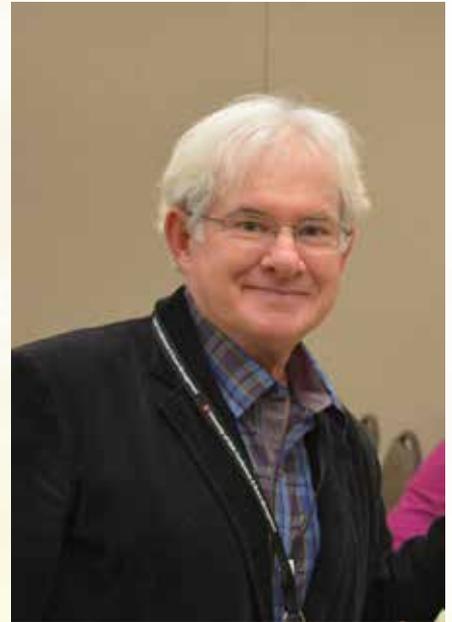
People, first.

RASUL MOWATT, President
The Academy of Leisure Sciences



GETTING PERSONAL: DAN DUSTIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Germany. This was 1968 during the Vietnam War, and if you were going to leave the country, you had to let your Draft Board know. Mine responded by drafting me. I ended up enlisting and served as a Russian Linguist on the East/West German border. When I was discharged from the Army in 1972, I was disillusioned with people and, after a long soul search, I decided I wanted to devote my life to saving wilderness. My parents had introduced me to Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness as a boy, and I thought that was something worth fighting for. I returned to the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, studied under Bev Driver, Ross Tocher, and Steve and Rachel Kaplan, and then pursued a PhD at the University of Minnesota under the tutelage of John Schultz, Larry Merriam, and Leo McAvoy.



Whose work has inspired you over the years and why?

Too many folks, both living and dead, to name, so I think it best to acknowledge a few role models who have inspired me along the way: Bev Driver and Ross Tocher, who nurtured the left and right side of my brain, respectively; Geof Godbey and Tom Goodale, who encouraged me to read widely and think critically; John Crompton, who taught me to push students while simultaneously treating them as colleagues; Leo McAvoy, Karla Henderson, Deb Bialeschki, Dennis Howard, and Jim Murphy, who showed me you can be a highly accomplished scholar and still retain your humility, kindness, sense of humor, and generosity of spirit; Gene Lamke, who taught me the power of positive thinking . . . the list could go on and on. In the words of SUNY Cortland's Harlan "Gold" Metcalf, I have tried to "stay in the presence of the best in the sphere in which I have sought attainment and made an honest response."

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

I think the future of parks, recreation, and tourism as an area of human service depends on our ability to demonstrate the field's relevance to the health of people and the environment considered together. Can we contribute to the reduction of social healthcare costs? Can we take a leadership role in conserving the natural world that is the fundamental ground of our being? And perhaps most importantly, can we step down from our anthropocentric pedestals to assume a more humble station in life as, in Leopold's words, plain members and citizens of a larger community of life? There is considerable preventative, rehabilitative, and restorative power in parks, recreation, and tourism, and our collective challenge is to better document it in any number of ways.

What career contributions are you most proud of?

Pride is one of the seven deadly sins, right? Allow me to frame the question a bit differently. "What have I done in my career that has turned out really well?"

1) I was fortunate to begin my career at a comprehensive teaching university, San Diego State, where I was rewarded for writing "outside the box." SDSU had a wider view of what counted as scholarship than research universities, and I was therefore able to develop my own voice and writing style early in my career. I did not have to limit myself to formulaic research report writing. SDSU liberated me.

GETTING PERSONAL: DAN DUSTIN CONTINUED

2) I hired Kelly and Nate Bricker at the University of Utah. It was the smartest decision I ever made as an academic administrator. Their leadership, supported by a highly competent team of colleagues, made a good program great.

3) For 43 years through conference attendance, service leadership, and collaborative writing, I have built an international network of friends that make the quality of my life especially rich in the twilight of my career. I'm glad I was wise enough to invest in these relationships early on. They are now paying handsome social dividends that will buoy me for the rest of my life.

What about yourself? Where do you find leisure?

I have trouble distinguishing between my work and leisure. I'm fortunate, because my vocational and avocational interests melded over time. I write for a living and I live to write. How could I be so lucky? I have thought about retirement, but not seriously. My good friend, Karla Henderson, impressed upon me that it is important to have something to retire to as well as something to retire from. When she asked me what I would want to do upon retirement, I said, "I'd like to read, think, and write." Of course, that is what I do now as a professor, and I get paid for it. Health permitting, why would I abandon such a good thing?

SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fellows committee (Scott Shafer, Bill Hendricks, Monika Stodolska, and Bob Rossman)

The Fellows Committee is responsible for the nomination, election, and induction of new TALS Fellows. While our objectives remain largely consistent on a year to year basis, #4 in the list below is specific to 2019-2020.

1. Secure nominations for TALS Fellows membership
2. Hold a vote to elect Fellows from among those nominated
3. Set up the annual Fellows meeting in conjunction with TALS conference and induct new Fellows
4. Revise the Fellows Committee procedural guidelines

The fourth objective is unique to this two-year cycle as TALS Fellows membership and related processes have evolved. The committee agreed that more accurate documentation of responsibilities would be helpful moving forward. The committee has met virtually several times in the past months to discuss edits. Bob Rossman has led the effort and has been working on a new document. The document will require a final vote by all active Fellows before being adopted.

Future scholars committee (Kindal Shores, Andy Mowen, Dan Theriault, Sonja Wilhelm, William Ramos)

The Future Scholars committee is actively soliciting applications for the 2020 Future Scholars program. We think that we have the best job in TALS—we get to learn about rising scholars with a passion in our field—and link them to existing resources and mentors to learn about PhD programs and research in the broad field of leisure research. Our committee is a group of diverse scholars in North America and later this fall we will read and review students' CVs, letters of purpose and letters of recommendations. It is always an activity that renews our passion and energy for our own work and profession.

Global relevance committee (Iryna Sharaievska, Heather Gibson, Ingrid Schneider, Jasmine Goodenow, Jason Boccarro, Kelly Bricker, Alexis McKenney, Mona Mirehie)

As a recently initiated committee, global relevance recently had our first meeting. We are only starting to develop the list of organizations we would like to collaborate with, as well as to develop a set of agreements under which these collaborations would take place. This is a new initiative for our organization and we are looking forward to sharing the achievements of our members with the global community. Specifically, we will focus on the following objectives:

1. Increase collaborations with groups addressing critical global issues relevant to TALS values.
2. Establish a presence at global issues events.

Graduate student advisory committee (Sammie Powers, Jaesung An, Kristy Anderson, Leslie Camarillo, Luc Cousineau, Thomas Eck)

The TALS Student Advisory Committee is working to increase student engagement in TALS both at the annual conference and during the remainder of the year. At the conference, we'll be continuing with our Student Mentoring Lunch, which has successfully expanded over the past two years. We will also be providing a platform for students to find roommates for the conference to help reduce costs. This fall, we hosted what we hope will be just the first in a series of webinars for students, *What To Do With a Graduate Degree?*, which included a panel discussion of career paths in our field that are possible after graduate school.

Education committee (Toni Liechty, Brooke Burk, Ed Gomez, Elizabeth Weybright, Josh Bauer, Justin Harmon, Lindsay Usher, Mike Edwards)

The education committee is tasked with collecting and creating resources that will benefit members. This year we are focusing on developing lists of graduate and undergraduate programs related to the leisure field as well as other resources for recruiting students and increasing awareness about the field. We have been working on the first task of creating a list of graduate programs, which is now available on the TALS website under the Membership tab or at <https://www.theacademyofleisuresciences.org/Leisure-related-graduate-program>. Any feedback or information for the committee can be directed to Toni Liechty at tliechty@illinois.edu

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More information about the conferences can be found at <https://www.theacademyofleisuresciences.org/> and <http://www.cilra.ahs.illinois.edu/information>.

Remember that we are hosting the fourth congress of the China-International Leisure Research Association (CILRA), marking the first time that CILRA will take place outside of China. The CILRA previously hosted three international leisure studies conferences in Beijing (2013), Tianjin (2015), and in Hangzhou (2016). The CILRA 2020 Conference is designed to foster institutional collaborations between Chinese and North American Universities and promote theoretical and applied research related to broadly defined aspects of leisure in the context of China. With rapid economic development and urbaniza-



CONFERENCE INFORMATION CONTINUED

tion in China, recreation and leisure became the critical elements in Chinese people's daily life. Research on leisure behavior among Chinese population contributes to broadening the scope of leisure research, testing the existing leisure theories, and enhancing the development of leisure studies in a global context. For more information, visit <http://cilra.ahs.illinois.edu/information>

Also, please consider joining us for one of our educational trips while in Urbana-Champaign. Conference attendees will be able to choose one of the following:

1. A guided tour of the University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) and participate in exercise sessions of their choice.
2. A guided University of Illinois campus tour.
3. A guided tour of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

The tours will be free of charge, and will be held on Thursday (2/13) afternoon before the TALS Dinner, Business Meeting, & Awards Ceremony. Attendees who would like to participate in one of these tours need to register for them as part of the conference registration process.

Finally, consider attending some of our graduate student-centered events or encouraging current students to do so:

- Student Networking Lunch: To be held over lunch on Wednesday.
- Graduate Student Fair: To be held concurrently with the poster session on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. (universities can have their booths/tables at this event free of charge).
- Post-Conference Workshops: Two separate tracks, geared toward graduate students interested in academic and recreation industry careers.

To register for TALS and/or CILRA conferences, please go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/1bd7d94b-2f1a-4dfc-9476-c628913d700a/regProcessStep1>

