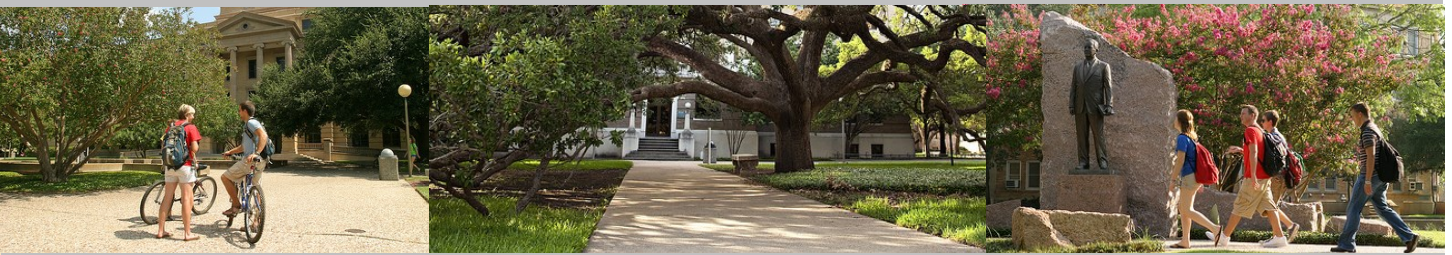




# Recreation, Park & Tourism Sciences

## FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Joëlle Soulard



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## Gary's Gab

From our Dept. Head, Dr. Gary Ellis

The ink that landed on the page you are reading arrived on the page one day after the Thanksgiving holiday. During the holiday, I remembered to seize a day to immerse myself in a memorable experience; the heart of our profession. My wife and I loaded our mountain bikes on our truck and journeyed to Austin to re-explore one of our favorite Texas bike rides: The Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. This wonderful trail parallels the banks of the Colorado River, a stone's throw from downtown Austin. We parked near the Roberta A. Crenshaw Pedestrian bridge, unloaded our bikes, and embarked on an refreshing and inspirational adventure that reminded me of the deep, virtually ineffable significance of parks and recreation.

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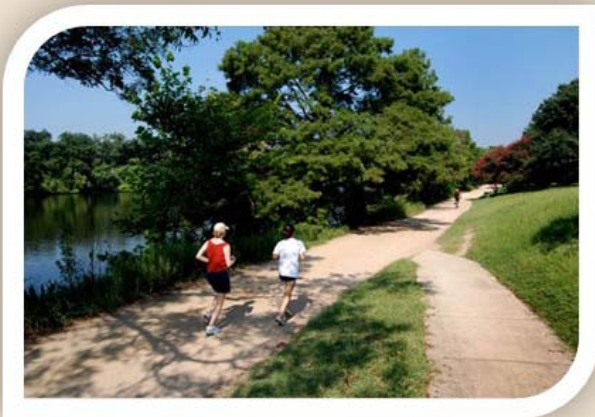


# Gary's Gab

From our Dept. Head, Dr. Gary Ellis



The weather was perfect for November. Austonians of all ages were making the most of the occasion by using the trail. Some were running or jogging to the rhythm of unknown tunes plugged directly into their emotions through tiny ear buds. Couples walked more leisurely, holding hands and chatting. Auras seemed to form around some of the couples, the depth of their romance almost becoming visible to the naked eye. Dogs were taking their owners for walks. They eagerly stretched their leashes and greeted new friends (both human and canidae) while reveling in the varied and fascinating aromas created by the complex and fascinating environment. Older people walked slowly, some accompanied by large and extended families. Some walked leisurely with canes or pushed wheelchairs slowly as the runners and bikers whizzed past. A toddler smiled as a paddler on the river slowed to wave. A lone musician created a wonderful melody from his perch under a bridge, and a guitar player carried the musical torch even further by playing at a location just beyond the audible range of the harmonica music. As I write this, it occurs to me that the skins of recreationists were of many different colors. Dress and bodily adornments reflected the most extremes of world cultures, and no one cared or even took notice. A “community” among these recreationists with diverse motives and social groups was evident. Someone had started an impromptu “lost and found.” Items that had been found along the trail—two sets of keys, a hat, a cap, a glove that had been separated from its mate, and even a wallet—were placed in a conspicuous location on a post beside the Roberta Crenshaw Pedestrian Bridge. These items seemed to be waiting to be found by their relieved owners. And people who were not the rightful owners took no personal interest in these items.



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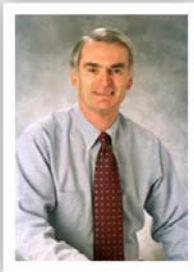
## Gary's Gab con't



At one point I recall wondering how many of these recreationists paused to recognize the visionary leaders whose hard work and creative energies established the trail and continue to make it a magical place through effective and committed management. But just as quickly I recalled that recognition is not what drives park and recreation professionals. The nobility of our profession is much greater than that; we work for a higher cause. We plan, manage, finance, position, and market experience-opportunities because our work advances and elevates the human condition. The fruits of our labor are not in recognition. Rather, they lie in knowing that others become immersed in invaluable human experiences as a result of our labor, such as those I witnessed while biking the Roy Butler Hike and Bike trail on the day following Thanksgiving. We give to others, asking only that their experiences be magical and that their lives be enhanced as a result of our contributions. I returned to College Station very humbled and honored to have served as an educator in this most noble profession. As the new year approaches, my wish for our students who are future professionals is that they may succeed in careers that involve creating magical experiences for recreationists, and my wish for Texas park and recreation professionals, Aggies and beyond, is that they may continue to succeed in doing so!



# Departmental Accomplishments



The well anticipated third edition of ***Financing Sport*** by **Dr. John Crompton** and **Dennis Howard** has been published.

**Dr. David Scott** wrote a chapter titled, “**Race, ethnicity, and leisure services: Can we hope to escape the past?,**” which has been published in *Race, Ethnicity, and Leisure*.



**Dr. Chris Harrist** and his colleagues from the University of New Hampshire had their article accepted for publication. It is titled, “***College and combat trauma: An insider’s perspective of the post-secondary education experience shared by service members managing neurobehavioral symptoms.***”

**Dr. Tazim Jamal** has one of her article published in *Sustainability*. It is titled, “**Critical Omissions and New Directions for Sustainable Tourism: A Situated Macro–Micro Approach.**”







# Departmental Accomplishments



**Dr. David Scott and Sunwoo Lee's** article, ***"Empirical linkages between serious leisure and recreational specialization,"*** was published in the most recent issue of *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*.

**Dr. Jim Petrick, Angela Durko, Matthew Stone, Bamboo Chen, and David Huether,** have their articles published in the special issue of *Journal of Travel Research*. This special issue of *Journal of Travel Research* was devoted to research on benefits of Tourism.



## **Is Travel Better Than Chocolate and Wine? The Benefits of Travel: A Special Series**

James F. Petrick and David Huether

### **Health and Wellness Benefits of Travel Experiences: A Literature Review**

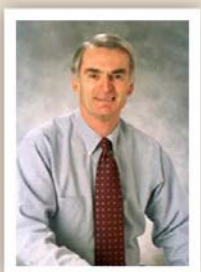
Chun-Chu Chen and James F. Petrick

### **Family and Relationship Benefits of Travel Experiences: A Literature Review**

Angela M. Durko and James F. Petrick

### **The Educational Benefits of Travel Experiences: A Literature Review**

Matthew J. Stone and James F. Petrick



**Dr. John Crompton and Dr. Dennis Howard** have their article, ***Costs: The Rest of the Economic Impact Story*** in the September published in the 2013 issue of *Journal of Sport Management*.



## Departmental Accomplishments



Students from **RPTS 408, Community Development and Supporting Institutions** volunteered to help build houses!

They worked in partnership with **Habitat for Humanity**. This international organization promotes decent, affordable housing for all, and support the global community's commitment to housing as a basic human right.



The **RPTS Quiz Bowl team**, became national champions by winning "Quiz Bowl IV" during the NRPA conference. Each year, students from school across the country gather to participate in the NRPA Quiz Bowl. This popular, fast path event challenges student as they compete on stage in a Jeopardy-style format.

The RPTS Quiz Bowl team included undergrad students Charles "Sonny" Burns, Telisa Koros, and Marcie Murfield. Their coaches were PhD students Katy Campbell and Anna Pechenik Mausolf!

After an intense competition, our Aggie team won on the final "play" of the game, which was a question about the role of the US Army Corps of Engineers in providing water-based recreation opportunities.





# Departmental Accomplishments

**Angela Durko** organized a very creative and innovative virtual study-abroad program via video conference in RPTS 202 this semester! Students from **RPTS 202** had the opportunity to discuss with students from Afghanistan's Herat University. *The Battalion* and *The Eagle* interviewed Angela and her students about their experienced!



William Guerra



**Dr. Alex McIntosh** is a member of the "Texas Grow, Eat, Go" project, which engages third grade students to horticulture and nutrition. That project was recipient of the prestigious **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Superior Service Team Award**.



Students in the class of **Dr. Scott Shafer** are working to develop a potential master plan for Hensel Park in College Station and present the plan to a committee composed of university and city officials. *The Eagle* featured an article about their project.





# Agriculture & Life Sciences Award Recipients



## **Dr. Woosnam**

Recipient of The Dean's  
Outstanding Achievement Award  
for Early Career Teaching



## **Dr. Stronza**

Received of The Dean's  
Outstanding Achievement Award  
for International Impact and Dean's  
Outstanding Achievement Award  
for Research as an Interdisciplinary  
Research Team



## **Dr. Ellis**

Recipient of The Dean's  
Outstanding Achievement Award  
for Administration Excellence





# Student Focus:

## Interview with Anna Pechenik Mausolf

### 1) What made you choose the RPTS Department of TAMU?



I had been attending NRPA conferences before I was a TAMU student. At the NRPA conference, you knew who was from Texas A&M because they always said 'Howdy', handed you stickers and appeared to know where the active professionals and academics were. This made me recognize the strength of the RPTS program at TAMU. Then, Dr. Witt contacted me and invited me to come for a visit at TAMU. I arrived and it instantly felt like home. When I was looking for a PhD. program, I knew that I wanted to be in a University which understood the importance of the land grant programs. When I arrived in the AGLS building, I saw a banner with a quote from President Lincoln next to elevator. I still feel like Texas A&M understands its important service role as a land grant institution.

### 2) What projects are you currently working on?

I am in Dr. Gerard Kyle's Human Dimensions of Natural Resources lab. My research interest is benefits- based recreation and public outdoor settings. I believe that the more the public participates, the more they will realize the benefits of the park system and therefore, it is more likely that they support will legislation to promote outdoor recreation. My love of research is based on encouraging this partnership of healthy human behaviors and healthy natural settings.

### 3) What is your favorite National Park?

-Isle Royale, because I was born and raised in Michigan!

And my favorite National Forest is the Tongass National Forest. I used to live in Sitka, Alaska. I love its volcanoes, mountains, glaciers, trees and fishing villages.





#### **4) What is your favorite Aggie Tradition?**

The Aggie Ring because it represents hard work, patience and perseverance. I think that, especially for women, our wedding ring symbolizes the enormous effort necessary for a good marriage, but earning an Aggie Ring for yourself represents pride, independence, and success.



#### **5) What do you like the best about Bryan/College Station?**

Easy! The parks! When I came for my RPTS interview, my friends took me on a tour of all the parks in BCS. I felt like BCS is a community that understood the importance of park as an oasis. Many park also have fitness and jogging trails. When the academic work is too much it is not like you have to drive far away to experience a natural setting. You can just walk to Research Park and you are in bliss! In BCS, we have so many beautiful parks for mental and physical health --which can be hard to maintain in graduate school!

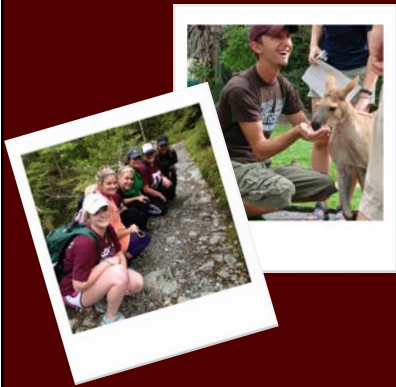


#### **6) What advice would you give to undergrads?**

I would tell them to major in RPTS! I had never for a second regretted majoring in RPTS. As an undergrad the skills learned and knowledge I gained has allowed me to easily find cool jobs all over world and to meet awesome people who are passionate about their jobs. Choosing this as a major prepares you for a career where you can enjoy what you do. This is a career where you can do what you love, get to travel and find happiness!



# Students Opportunities



## High Impact Learning Highlight RPTS 300- “Maymester” 2014

*ATTRACTION & DESTINATION MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT*

**May 12-23, 2014**

Hands-on experience and networking through traveling!

Meet over 15 owners and over 40 CEO's of organizations like the Spurs and SeaWorld! Small class size!

### Instructors

Taught by **Miles Phillips**  
of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension- RPTS

Co-taught by **Paul Serff**, who is President Emeritus of the Texas Travel Industry Association. Prior to his 12 years as president and CEO of TTIA, he managed Fiesta Texas in San Antonio and other major attractions.

### Other exciting high impact course opportunities:

- RPTS 300: Park & Protected Area Management
- RPTS 489: Cruise Tourism



# RPTS 689 Special Topics in Protected Area Management:

## People and Wolves in Greater Yellowstone



Gray Wolf (National Park Service photo)

### Field Site

The course takes place in Yellowstone National Park and Montana's Paradise Valley.



Overlook Field Campus, Gardiner, Montana (Yellowstone Association photo)

### Faculty Leaders

#### James Gramann (RPTS)

Gramann is a professor of protected area policy in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University. He served eight years in Washington, D.C. as the lead social scientist for the National Park Service.

The graduate program of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Through on-the-ground experiences, this course introduces graduate students to the social, cultural, and ecological complexities of transboundary collaboration, sustainable tourism, interpretation, and historic preservation in protected areas.



Wolf Watchers in the Lamar Valley (National Park Service photo)

#### James Miculka (National Park Service)

Miculka is the national coordinator of the Amtrak–National Park Service Trails and Rails partnership, a cooperative interpretive program. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of RPTS AT Texas A&M University.







## **RENr 489: Special Topics** **(Outdoor Recreation Consortium)**

Spring Semester, 2014



### **March 22-28**

If you have an interest in protected area management and/or nature-based tourism, please keep an eye out for “RENr 489: Special Topics (Outdoor Recreation Consortium)” this coming spring.

This is a field-based course (3 credits, spring semester credit) taught over March 22-28 (two weeks after spring break) at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee (<http://www.gsmn.org/>).

Teacher: Professor Gerald Kyle



# **Congratulations to our graduating RPTS'ers !!**



## **B.S.**

BUSA, CODY WAYNE

COLSON, SARAH DANNETTE

HIEBERT, JACOB WARREN

MOORE, BRADLEY ALAN

KLEPAC, CLAIRE ELIZABETH

PLATA, CRAIG MATTHEW

BACCHUS, RICHARD EARL

BAKER, ELIZABETH LYN

BARBER , CAITLYN FITZGERALD

BEASLEY, AARON ROSS

BURNS, CHARLES EDWARD

CORNELL, BRIANNA LEE

DUNBAR, TORI JANE A

ELLIOTT, BLAIR ANNE

FITZPATRICK, KELSEY PAIGE

GRANGER, EVAN RILEY

HUBER, HILLARY LAURA

JOLLY, AARON AUSTIN

KOROS, TELISA MARIE

MCSWAIN, BRITTANY LYNN

REID, ALLISON MICHELLE

SWINT, CAITLIN BLOSSOM

VANDER WIELE, HANNAH JUNE

LOCKLEDGE, CYNTHIA LACKEY

MCLEHANY, MEGAN LYNN

MIMS, GRANT HENLEY

CORBETT, MICHAEL GARY

CORMIER, TIFFANY CHRISTINA

DAHL, KESLEY ANN

DAVIS, CLAIRE ALDEN

DICKSON, DOUGLAS SCOTT

DOWTIN, BROOKE ASHLEY

HALTOM, RYAN EDWARD

HUFF, ELIZABETH ANN

KIESAU, SARA MARIE

MELHORN, ALEXNDRA LEE

RAY, TAYLOR ANN

FERRO, JENNY L.

HOWARD,CARSON ALAN

SALAZAR, JENNIFER DIANE

GALLEGOS ,KIMBERLY M

GUERRA, MICHELLE E.

KROMER, CHARLES PATRICK

BAKER, KATIE LYNN

GRANT, KRISTEN NICHOL

LYONS, STEVEN ASHLEY

WOLF, DEREK S.

PARSONS, EMILY R.

JOHNSON, TAYLOR SETH

## **M.S.**

ALIGO, SCOTT THOMAS

CLANTON, THOMAS RAY

DANIEL, JAMES HOWARD

QIAN, WEI

## **Ph.D.**

DANIEL, JORDAN ANTHONEY

LEE, JYUNG HEE



# Gift Catalog

Pages 15-18

You can be an educator!



*Our gift catalog invites to you to learn more about giving to the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences. This webpage can link you to specific student enrichment projects that need your support. Wherever you chose to direct your gift, it will have a lasting impact on our students' lives.*

*Through your gifts, you can be a fellow "educator", helping us to maintain and enhance the outstanding quality of the RPTS Department's faculty, students and programs.*



To give online please click on the links on the upcoming pages or visit our website at <http://rpts.tamu.edu/gift/>

# Sponsor a “Legend!”

[Legends in the Texas Travel Industry Speaker Series](#) .....\$1,000 per “Legend”

The “Legends in the Texas Travel Industry Speaker Series” brings travel industry leaders to the Texas A&M campus.

Over a two day period, the speaker makes presentations to classes and interacts with students through meals, receptions, and other events. Students gain unique insight into the joys and challenges of managing major travel and experience industry attractions.

Mr. Paul Serff, President-Emeritus of the Texas Travel Industry Association, RPTS Tourism Management Advisory Committee member, and part-time Lecturer created this exciting program for us. Your gift of \$1,000 will establish you as a sponsor of a visit by a “Legend!”



# Support a student's success!



Generous donors have endowed the following scholarships, and we always welcome additional contributions to those **in any amount!**

Contributions to endowments, of course, grow the principal and result in increased awards to students. If you are interested in establishing an endowed scholarship a minimum donation of \$25,000 is required.

- [COADC Jana Wisenbaker Scholarship in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences](#)
- [Leslie M. Reid Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [Lon and Inger Garrison Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [COADC Joyce Nies and Peter Witt Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [John L. Crompton Scholarship](#)
- [Elizabeth B. Crompton Scholarship](#)
- [COADC Heidemann Wuest Foundation Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [Sue Wittens '72 Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Elizabeth Lee Moore '00 Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [Louis Hodges Scholarship in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences](#)
- [Marquerite Van Dyke Graduate Scholarship](#)
- [Korean RPTS Alumni and Marquerite Van Dyke Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [Thomas G. Viilo Endowed Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [TAES Jake Hershey Fellowship in Natural Resources Conservation](#)
- [Bradberry Chair for Youth Development](#)
- [Robert B. Ditton Endowed Scholarship](#)
- [Peter Witt and Joyce Nies Youth Development Excellence Endowment](#)



## Help RPTS sustain and grow excellence!



### [RPTS Endowed Fund for Excellence](#) Gifts in any amount welcome

The RPTS Excellence fund provides support for special unanticipated opportunities for our students that arise during the course of many academic years.

Your gift to our excellence fund will grow the endowment and provide us even better opportunity to pursue opportunities and continue to grow quality experiences for our students.

Mr. Royce Wisenbaker and his wife Jana Wisenbaker endowed this excellence fund for RPTS, and your contribution can help us continue to grow that endowment.

## Sponsor an RPTS Quiz Bowl Student!

### [RPTS Quiz Bowl](#) \$1,000 for sponsorship of a team member or a coach

RPTS students compete with top students from other universities in national Quiz Bowl competition each year.

Teams are comprised of four students and a coach.

Students are quizzed on park, recreation and tourism management, marketing, foundational knowledge, and planning and staging of experiences.

You have the opportunity to sponsor one or more members of our team or even our coach (your choice).



## ***Become a partner in advancing our high-impact learning programs!***

[High-Impact Learning Courses](#) Gifts in any amount are welcomed

The Department offers a variety of “high impact learning” classes.

These classes engage students in direct experiences with managers and marketing professionals.

Students study in major attractions, state and national parks and forests, in cities and towns, and even aboard cruise ships!

Students must bear the cost of special fees for such courses, to cover transportation, lodging, and related expenses. Your support will provide access to students unable to pay those fees.



## ***Connect RPTS students with industry through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service!***

**Connected Learning for Industry Professionals and Students (E!CLIPS)  
5,000 to sponsor an RPTS student intern for a semester**



E!CLIPS is a Texas A&M/ RPTS AgriLife Extension Program that supports real-world training and action research by connecting professionals in recreation, park and tourism businesses and agencies around the world with students and professional learning programs from RPTS Extension.

Opportunities are available in nature tourism, youth development, customer service, event planning, park and trail planning, and public input programs.

**Please mail your contributions to:**

Gary Ellis, PhD, Department Head  
Department of RPTS  
2261 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-2261





## RECREATION, PARK & TOURISM SCIENCES

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

*Quality experiences, lives, and communities.*



## Mission

We enhance individual and social well-being and environmental and economic sustainability by generating and disseminating knowledge about the management and development of recreation, park, community, and tourism resources.

## Vision

Our mission is achieved through undergraduate and graduate education, outreach, and research that integrate social science and natural resource management disciplines.

We strive to understand and respond to the global and local implications of recreation, parks, tourism, and natural resource dimensions of diverse and changing societies.

We endeavor to conduct an effective mix of theoretical and applied research, and liberal and professional education that prepares society-ready graduates and provides responsive service and outreach that meets the needs of our constituents.





## RECREATION, PARK & TOURISM SCIENCES

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

*Quality experiences, lives, and communities.*



### Core Values



We believe that our education, scientific research, and outreach programs contribute to the expansion of knowledge and to the enhancement of the quality of life.

We believe that our primary responsibility is to the people of Texas; we believe that our contributions to the State of Texas will be enhanced by scholarly activities at the national and international levels.

We value the contributions that parks, recreation, community development, and tourism can make to the health of communities.



We believe in preparing society-ready graduates, with a solid educational foundation that includes experiential and liberal education, and development of skills for career employment and lifelong learning.

We believe that the process of education is a collaborative learning experience, and students, faculty, practitioners, and professionals from other fields are participants in this process.



We recognize the growing demographic and geographic diversity of Texas and the United States; the value of diversity in thoughts and ideas among the faculty, staff, and students; and the opportunities presented by an international border.

We recognize the value of human diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching, research, and extension, and affirm the individual strengths that people bring to the Department.



We are committed to the contributions of recreation, parks, community development and tourism make to the sustainability and stewardship of cultural, historical, and natural resources.

We are committed to the concepts of social and environmental justice.

We value scholarship that is validated by peers and external audiences; and we believe that scholarship can be expressed through teaching, research, and extension.