



# DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas 77843

TEACHING - RESEARCH - EXTENSION



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## TEACHING AND RESEARCH

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## "REID'S RUMBLE SEAT"

The most important news item that could possibly be included in this issue is announcement of the approval on September 16, 1968 by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs in our Department. This approval, effective immediately, authorized the granting of advanced degrees in the major field of Recreation and Resources Development.

The Coordinating Board's approval climaxes 16 months of detailed evaluation of the capability of the Department of Recreation and Parks to offer high quality programs of study at the master's and doctoral levels. The immediate implementation granted reflected the Board's favorable assessment of the manner in which President Rudder and the Administration of Texas A&M University has provided maximum support leading to the structuring of an outstanding graduate faculty in Recreation and Parks, which in turn has already become a powerful team magnet in attracting unusually able graduate degree candidates.

Our graduate students deserve special mention here. Each of the 38 students enrolled during the period that the advanced degrees were being considered by the Coordinating Board. Drawn from all sections of the U.S. and Canada, highly motivated, these students began their graduate studies at Texas A&M prior to an authorized degree program, and enrolled in related departments primarily because of their desire to study under the particular group of Recreation and Park professors.

Their belief in the timely approval of the advanced degrees and in the administration of Texas A&MM, is now justified. They have gained ----and have earned -- a substantial lead in completion of their respective degree programs.

A copy of the announcement is enclosed.

## FUTURE EVENTS

2nd Annual Recreation Management Institute, Texas A&M University, College Station, October 20-November 1, 1968.

1968 Congress for Recreation and Parks, National Recreation and Parks Association, Seattle, Washington, October 13-17, 1968.

Annual Conference and State Workshop, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Texas A&M University, College Station, November 7-9, 1968.

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INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN SOCIOLOGISTS AND FOREST RECREATION MANAGERS was urged by DR. R.L. BURY during the recent annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society in Boston, Massachusetts. Speaking to participants in the Society's Committee on the Sociology of Natural Resources Management, DR. BURY urged that sociologists and recreation professionals work more closely through their efforts in research, education and decision-making in the field. The need for such increased interaction was supported by results of his recent research into educational requirements for meeting the needs of present and future recreation managers. The conferees elected DR. BURY to serve as one of four members of the steering committee for next year's Committee on the Sociology of Natural Resources Management.

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"SPATIAL BEHAVIOR IN RECREATIONAL BOATING" was the topic of a paper presented by DR. C.S. VAN DOREN at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Washington, D.C. in August. His paper, co-authored by BARRY LENTNEK of Ohio State University, was given to the session for spatial planning. Other papers were presented on cartography, remote sensing and air pollution.

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CAMPUS VISITORS -- A number of educators and professionals have visited the Department recently:

Sept. 24 -- CHARLES PEARSON, NPS, Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
Oct. 10 -- RON JONES and RON THUMA, Resource Planning Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin

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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY will be held in College Station this year, hosted by the Department of Recreation and Parks. B. DAN KAMP is Conference Coordinator. Dates for the meeting are November 7, 8, and 9. The three-day event will begin with a Golf Tournament on Thursday afternoon arranged by JAY WILLIAMS at the Bryan Country Club. GENE STALLINGS, Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Texas A&M will be the honorary starter.

Friday and Saturday sessions will be held on many topics: recreational programming, park maintenance, turf management, communications, group interactions, group dynamics, therapeutic recreation and others. Campus tours are also planned for the Data Processing Center, the new \$4 million Library and the School of Veterinary Medicine.



EDUCATION FOR WILDLAND RECREATION MANAGERS was featured at the all-day meeting of the Division of Education, Society of American Foresters during this year's Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia the first week of October. Five papers were presented and discussed examining the nature of forestry education. DR. RICHARD L. BURY presented a paper, "A Proposed Group of Courses in Wildland Recreation Management Keyed to Field Needs." His paper presented the major conclusions from a two - year study under contract with the U.S. Office of Education.

Springing from his concern that few -- if any -- courses were found to be based on field needs, DR. BURY studied the recreation management job in western National Forests to identify critical needs for improvement of education for the forest recreation manager. His findings were then combined with theory from education and from recreation to produce outlines for each of four courses.

Forestry educators attending the meeting could use these outlines as a springboard to design their own new courses in forest recreation or for an evaluation of existing courses. They can also examine the data from the survey of field needs and combine it with their own philosophies of education and recreation to produce their own courses in forest recreation.

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WITH A LATIN AMERICAN BEAT . . . Three Recreation and Parks graduate students participated in a Title III Intracultural Education project during the summer of 1968. BILL STELL, CARSON WATT, and TOM WOOD were educational attaches with the Programa de Educacion Intraamericana, conducting Texas schoolteachers on an experimental program which included a four-week study of the lands and people of selected Latin American countries. This tour climaxed four months of accelerated research, orientation, lessons in Spanish, and photographic work. Each of the young men took advantage of the opportunity to view recreation and park developments in Latin America. The final phase of the project consists of the preparation of films and other teaching aids for use in Texas schoolrooms.

TOM WOOD was impressed by the heavy twenty-four hour use of the municipal parks in Ecuador and the massive education program to acquaint the citizens with the importance, value, and use of their parks. CARSON WATT, whose studies included Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras, noted that the major differences were in the use -- the types of activities conducted. Parks and public areas are used extensively for business as well as leisure pursuits. BILL STELL, who visited the island-nations of Barbados, Trinidad-Tobago, and Jamaica, found the inhabitants to be friendly and their daily lives to be pervaded by a leisure-orientation. He commented that unlike most Americans, who sometimes find it difficult to define leisure, much less to apply it to their daily lives, the people of these islands actually work for leisure.

All three felt that the objectives of the program had been met -- all participants had achieved an insight into and an appreciation for the cultures of our neighbors to the South. The programs they develop will serve to extend this bond of cultural empathy to the school children of Texas. For these three young men, the opportunity for a first-hand view of the role of recreation and parks in a rapidly developing tourism economy will be an invaluable asset in their graduate studies.



NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICES . . . From our office windows, we can see the contractors hard at work renovating our new building (sketched on the grad announcement). Trying to predict the actual occupancy date is more difficult than winning a major league baseball pool, but the current estimate is for sometime in November. The new partitions are in and the offices are taking shape. Getting our entire department into a building of our own will be a tremendous boost in efficiency.

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One of the first publications produced by this Department has just been received from the Press. Entitled Legislation for Outdoor Recreation in Texas, the 12-page pamphlet (MP-879) is a compilation of Texas statutes relating to recreation. Authorized by Instructor C.D. DOWELL of Recreation and Parks and H. DOZIER, Attorney and Assistant Professor, Department of Management, the publication groups existing statutes under nine major headings.

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FACULTY RETREAT & WORKSHOP . . . It's good to have the students back again. Several kickoff activities made September a busier than usual month. DR. and MRS. REID hosted a Saturday morning breakfast at their home for all graduate students to get acquainted with the faculty. A few days later the faculty wives sponsored a tea for student wives. This was followed the next weekend by a picnic in Williamson Park (naturally!) for faculty and grad student families. Last week the undergraduates held their initial monthly meeting at DR. REID'S Carter Lake property. About 50 attended, including more than a dozen new students. The evening was spent around the campfire on the lakeshore first eating and then discussing various summer work experiences. As a full moon came up, three guitars appeared and DR. BURY somehow produced his famous "gut-bucket" to provide the necessary "oom-pah." Only the call of textbooks could have adjourned a meeting like that at a respectable hour.

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R&P HEAD speaks at NATIONAL CONFERENCE on STATE PARKS . . . For the second year, DR. REID appeared on the program of the National Conference of the NCSP. Sharing a panel session with DR. GEORGE PRATT, President of Arkansas Technological College and DR. GARRETT EPPLEY, Indiana University, DR. REID'S remarks were on the subject of "University Training for Park Administration". Abandoning the approach of curriculum content, DR. REID said, "I'd like to take you on a trip inside the student's head -- to consider his interests, aspirations, concerns and prejudices as he approaches his first position".

Commissioner BOB EVANS, Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission and his staff did an excellent job of hosting the Conference at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Opportunity to visit with Professors C.D. DOWELL and DAVID J. REED, who moved to the Recreation and Park faculty at Arkansas Tech, was an added pleasure reported from attending the NCSP Conference.

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WE'RE STILL GROWING. . . We are now entering our third academic year, and expansion continues -- our total enrollment has now exceeded one hundred students who are majoring in the field of Recreation and Parks. A comparison of the three year figures is included for those following our progress:

	1966	1967	1968
Full time faculty	3	8	13
Graduate Assistants	4	12	13
Undergraduate majors	32	54	72
Graduate majors - M.S.	6	11	18
Graduate majors - Ph.D.	2	11	19
Total hours of undergraduate instruction	243	251	377

We are particularly gratified at the increased enrollment in our departmental courses. Our primary source of major students remains the transfers who hear of our courses, enroll in one, and then switch their major field. The enrollment, by class, of the undergraduate students is indicative of this:

Freshmen - 9      Sophomores - 12      Juniors - 25      Seniors - 26

These figures speak well of our fine teaching staff and their ability to communicate their enthusiasm for this growing field. Our plans, however, call for active recruitment of young men and women who are graduating from High School, and the years ahead should see an expanded Freshman and Sophomore program. We hope that you readers who are practitioners within the field will take every opportunity to encourage the interested and bright youngsters with whom you deal to consider a university education and career in Recreation and Parks.

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DR. LES REID, DR. CLARE A. GUNN, DR. FRANK SUGGITT, MR. LOU HODGES, and MR. JIM STRIBLING spent an enjoyable evening dining and philosophizing with DR. SAM BARNES, of Trinity. DR. BARNES' deep and unselfish committment to guiding and bringing about order in the change in his community resulting from the construction of Livingston Reservoirs, has had effects far beyond the limits of his home town.