REC 4100: Professional Development
This fall, undergraduate recreation students who are enrolled in REC 4100 have had the privilege of becoming mentees to various professionals in the recreation field. These mentors are: Tony Collins, Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks; Kate Mattison, Recreation Administrator for the City of Dublin; James Gant, Recreation Director of Prairie Township Community Center; Alesia Howard, Communications and Marketing Specialist for Columbus Recreation and Parks; Doug Smathers, Camp Director and Co-Owner of Talisman Camps; Kerri Duffy, Recreation Supervisor of Obetz Parks and Recreation Department; Amy Bowman-Moore, Executive Director of Erie MetroParks; Mac Bishop, Director of Operations of Camp Highlander and Charlie Wilson, Assistant Director of Springdale Parks and Recreation.

Throughout the semester, students have been able to build their networks while also gaining valuable tips on resumes, interviews, and more. Some of the mentors have even looked over the students’ resumes and cover letters for them. In November, these mentors will come to campus for a networking event. The students cannot wait to meet the professionals in person and moving forward, the students are eager to apply what they have learned when it is time for them to apply for internships and jobs.

RMA
Undergraduate students who are majoring or minoring in recreation have the opportunity to join the Recreation Majors Association. Currently, RMA is working on programming an event for children on November 9th and fundraising to send students to the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association conference in February.

If you would like to join RMA, email John Kisor for more information at jk144415@ohio.edu.

Upcoming Events

Stargazing & Campfire
11/2 & 11/3
7:45pm — 11:00pm
Join Outdoor Pursuits during Dad’s Weekend for a night of fun at the Ridges!
For more information or to register: Click here

Conkle’s Hollow Day Hike
11/3 & 11/4
10:00am — 3:00pm
Join Outdoor Pursuits on a day hike through the Old Mans Cave region of Hocking Hills State Park.
For more information or to register: Click here

Ziplining at the Ridges
11/4
10:00am — 4:00pm
Take a zipline trip through the Ridges on Dad’s Weekend!
For more information or to register: Click here

21st Century Leadership Certificate Series Workshops:
“Building an Awesome Team”
11/6
6:30pm — 7:30pm
“For Who Am You and Why Should I Care?”
11/6
7:30pm — 8:30pm
Join the CLDC for these free workshops to learn more about team dynamics and personal branding!
For more information, contact the CLDC at (740) 593-2909 or careerandleadership@ohio.edu.
EYH and REC Studies Collaborate in the Classroom

There was a new addition to the REC 2750 course this year. Steve Beha and his Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) participants came back to campus this fall, but this time met in the classroom. REC 2750 and Steve wanted to raise their level of inclusion by bringing all the REC 2750 inclusive program participants together to discuss their interests and needs as they relate to recreation programming. Three programming themes emerged as students and EYH members worked through brainstorming sessions: sports, outdoors, and social endeavors are what all participants are seeking. The REC 2750 course will utilize this information for future programming initiatives.

New Grad Students

The Department of Recreation and Sport Pedagogy recently welcomed several new faces to the Recreation Studies Graduate Program. These students come from all across the United States, from California to Massachusetts and some states in between, and have been busy working in their graduate assistantships, including Bird Arena, Outdoor Pursuits, Intramurals, Club Sports, and teaching outdoor skills classes for the undergraduate program during their first semesters. While many of the new students went straight from undergrad to graduate school, some are returning to school after starting their recreation careers or after a stint in the military. One of these students is Rye Bennett. He is continuing his education after serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. When asked why he returned to school, Rye said, “I didn’t understand the importance of education, and pursuing a Master’s Degree was something that became important for me and my future career goals.”

Upcoming Events

Backpacking in Grayson Highlands

11/9

Join Outdoor Pursuits for a trip through one of the most beautiful sections around the Appalachian trail. All levels of experience are welcome.

For more information or to register: Click here

Stay Out Of Your Own Way

11/14

Learn more about communication with this workshop.

For more information, contact M. Geneva Murray at (740)593-9625 or murraym2@ohio.edu.

Woody Woodward Visits Campus

Executive Director of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Woody Woodward recently visited campus. He spoke to the REC 4100 class about the three goals of OPRA: educate, advocate, and collaborate. Students were able to listen to him speak about what it takes to be successful in the recreation field and ask questions about his background. In addition, he encouraged the students to attend the OPRA Conference in February. This conference is a great way to network with various recreation professionals as well as learn more about the industry.

To register for the OPRA Conference in February, please click here. If you have questions regarding the conference, please contact Annie Frisoli at frisoli@ohio.edu.
REC Faculty Stay Relevant with Professional Certifications

Dr. Bruce Martin recently traveled to Tybee Island, GA (just south of Hilton Head), participating in the American Canoe Association (ACA) Open-Water (Level 4) Coastal Kayak Instructor Update. This is a national certification for folks teaching coastal kayaking in open water settings, like Cape Lookout National Seashore where he and other REC faculty travel with students every summer. If you are interested in traveling with our expert faculty, keep an eye out for the REC 3240 expedition!

Ms. Annie Frisoli recently traveled to the International Festivals and Events Association Annual Conference, not only to present on “Adding Dimension to Your Event: Managing Diversity and Inclusion,” but also received recognition as a Certified Festivals and Event Executive. This is a high honor within the festivals and events industry and a certification requiring a variety of experience and education to obtain – all of which she is excited to share in the Spring REC 3620/5620 course. To learn more about IFEA, please go to: www.ifea.com

Year Three for Ohio University Partnership with St. Louis Art Fair

Six students, along with faculty member Annie Frisoli, traveled over 500 miles to Clayton, Missouri, to volunteer over 60 hours in four days at The Saint Louis Art Fair (SLAF) from September 5th – 10th. Over the four days of service, students gained valuable event management experience, took advantage of networking opportunities, and left an outstanding impression of the Ohio University Recreation Studies program on the SLAF staff. Student Troy Westerhof stated, “My experience working at the St. Louis Art Fair provided me with a valuable, unique, and holistic perspective of event management. Our group’s participation in the fair’s execution was entirely hands-on, which allowed for first-hand exposure to the nuances and challenges of managing large-scale events. Furthermore, the conversations I was able to have with SLAF team members were so enlightening and insightful. I’d highly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity to anyone interested in the world of event management; as there is such a tremendous amount of knowledge to be gained by doing so.”

The Saint Louis Art Fair is ranked as one of the top five art fairs in the nation, and entertains over 130,000 attendees.

Students this year worked with Executive Director Laura Miller and veteran volunteer and Director of Operations, Mr. Dave Roser. Mr. Roser shares details of the entire event and educates students on what it really takes to host a large community festival. Students gain knowledge not only in logistics and operations but also food and beverage, public relations, sponsorship, entertainment, and risk management. Mr. Roser did an outstanding job presenting details of event management to the students and answering any questions they had. All of the staff at the art fair were very supportive of the OHIO students, and we are already excited to have OHIO bring six more students to the 2019 St. Louis Art Fair. Applications for students to attend next year will be sent out during the Spring 2019 semester.

Finally, a sincere thank you goes to Dr. Bruce Martin for his support of this trip and all the Recreation faculty who supported the students attending the St. Louis Art Fair.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kerri Duffy

Kerri Duffy currently works as a Recreation Supervisor for the Village of Obetz where she mainly works on programming for youth and families. Since the Village of Obetz has a small department, Kerri works in other areas as well, such as facility rentals, park maintenance, staff scheduling, payroll, and overseeing the day to day operations of some parks and facilities. Kerri’s favorite part of her job is that she helps provide quality of life to her community. In addition, she also enjoys the unpredictability of it; she said that when every day is so different, it is difficult to become bored.

When asked about what best prepared her for her career, Kerri spoke highly about the projects that she completed in Programming, Facilities, Concepts and Issues, and Professional Development. She said, “I remember being entirely stressed and thinking that the hypothetical issues weren’t going to mirror the real world, but our professors really do make such an effort to keep it as realistic as possible.” In addition, Kerri highly recommends attending the OPRA conference. She said that it is a great place to meet people in the field and network to help you achieve your career goals.

Kerri’s advice to current students is “Take every opportunity that comes your way to broaden your skill set. Just because you don’t think that you will ever host a special event, doesn’t mean you won’t. Just because you are not focusing on senior programming, does not mean you will never need to provide a program for that demographic. Be a jack of all trades because in our career field you will need to be.”
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Brittney Holloman

Second year student in the graduate program Brittney Holloman recently competed in her first bodybuilding competitions, specifically bikini and figure. On September 29th, she placed 3rd in Novice Bikini and True Novice Bikini, 2nd in Open Bikini, and 1st place in Open Figure. On October 13th, Brittney placed 4th in Open Figure, 2nd in Collegiate Bikini, 2nd in Open Bikini, and 1st in Novice Bikini. As a first time competitor, Brittney qualified for nationals twice in bikini and once in figure.

Bodybuilding is now something that Brittney wants to pursue for the rest of her life. In these competitions, judges not only look for leaness and symmetry but also poise, presentation, posing, confidence, and stage presence. As a first-time competitor, it is an impressive feat to nationally qualify, and it is very uncommon to qualify in the same show for two divisions. Standing at 4’11”, Brittney is the smallest competitor, but she gives it her all each time she is on the stage. She said, “I am happy I received many trophies, but all I care about is beating my accomplishments next time and the time after.”

Kirby Simeon

Kirby is currently a senior majoring in Recreation Management with minors in Business and Outdoor Recreation and Education. On campus, he is the treasurer of RMA and works as an ice maintenance specialist at Bird Arena.

Kirby participated in the 2017 Outdoor Leadership course where he spent 27 days backpacking and sea kayaking in North Carolina. This trip is where he found his passion for leading people in the outdoors. Over the last two summers, Kirby spent most of his time on the New or Gauley Rivers where he paddled for both work and play.

For his internship, Kirby will be working with West Virginia Adventures, a whitewater rafting outfitter. Although he will be completing his internship during the off-season for rafting, he is looking forward to working closely with the owner of the company, who has years of experience in outdoor recreation. Throughout his time with West Virginia Adventures, Kirby will focus on sales and marketing for the company and handle administrative tasks. This internship lines up perfectly with his career goals of owning his own adventure guiding outfitter one day, and he is excited for the opportunity.

When asked about advice for his peers, Kirby said, “Take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. Time here goes by fast. You don’t want to look back on your years here and wonder what it would have been like to take a risk and go outside your comfort zone.”

Check us out on social media!

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