After this photo was taken we had the first snowstorm of the season, and everyone was cozy inside until the weather cleared. Increasingly the outdoor courses are going further afield, with class trips to Yosemite and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as Sequoia and Eldorado National Forests.

During the 2011-12 year, a mobile “Outdoor Field Camp(us)” was created for use with the outdoor and natural resource course field experiences. RPTA professor David Rolloff came up with the idea on a particularly wet spring day in Yosemite: “It occurred to me that the same wall tents we used on winter Outward Bound courses in Minnesota would be perfect for making students more comfortable in a base-camp setting in the Sierra Nevada.” So far the department has purchased two large 12x14 canvas tents with small woodstoves that can be used in almost any foul-weather conditions to create a comfortable, heated and well-lit space. Drs. Kath Pinch and Rolloff used the base-camp approach for the 2011 Fall Field Camp on Parker Creek near Mono Lake (photo). “Two days after this photo was taken we had the first snowstorm of the season, and everyone was cozy inside until the weather cleared.” Increasingly the outdoor courses are going further afield, with class trips to Yosemite and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as Sequoia and Eldorado National Forests.

A big piece of RPTA’s new “Outdoor Field Camp(us).” The tent, set up on Parker Creek near Mono Lake, kept students safe and warm during a seasonal snow storm.

**New Outdoor Field Camp**

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**California Wine and Agri-Tourism**

A three-unit course, RPTA 189: California Wine and Agri-Tourism. The course curriculum will still include information on wineries as event centers, wine mythology and history, California’s wine regions and geography, basics on grape varietals and pairing, and, of course, trips to some of northern California’s wineries, including Lava Cap in El Dorado County, Benziger in Sonoma Valley and the Old Sugar Mill in Clarksburg. In expanding the course, new curriculum will cover regional crop tourism, agricultural festivals, marketing agricultural products (such as olive oil and cheeses), farmers markets, and the role of agriculture in the identity of the Sacramento Valley. Wine and agriculture surround Sacramento, and the course not only compliments other courses in hospitality and tourism, but also ties together some of the largest industries in Central California.
By popular demand, a rectified course is being offered this fall semester: RPTA 154—Sports and Recreation Facility Design and Administration (AKA Recreational Facility Management). The instructor for this course is Terri Matal, a part-time lecturer, who has been teaching RPTA 122 for the last three semesters. Terri’s day job is the Aquatics and Adult Sports Supervisor with the City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation.

“When Dr. Greg Shaw asked me about this last fall, not only was I excited to be able to teach a course in the major, but honored to be able to develop the curriculum and explore the possibilities for this class,” said Terri.

Students have a lot in store for this semester, including facility tours to the Sac State Aquatics Center, The WELL, several parks and recreation facilities and a commercial recreation facility. Facility Managers and Operators will also visit the class as guest speakers to describe and show students what it really takes to operate recreational facilities. Students will be challenged to critically examine recreational facilities from the point of view of maintenance, design, risk management and compliance with local, state and federal agencies. An important component to the curriculum will be aquatics facility management which is sometimes left out of facility courses. “With my 20 years of experience in aquatics in operating swimming pools, I hope to bring this very critical component to the course,” said Terri.

Terri emphasizes that this is not a programming class, but that this course will teach students the importance of running a safe, successful facility where programs and events can be developed and be successful. As she says, “You can’t run programs without facilities!” Students will learn the connection in RPTA 154.

The Grays Pull A Two-Generation, Double Team

Dr. Steve Gray has always been fit and eager to participate in recreational activities. This past summer, Steve qualified for the CrossFit Games in L.A. and placed 18th in this world-wide competition for the 60+ age group. What’s more exciting is that Steve was coached by Jesse Gray (good last name), who is an RPTA major here at CSUS and a CrossFit instructor in Dana Point. Steve, wife Jackie, and dog, Moose (a really cute, brown Labradoodle), joined Steve in southern California for the event. (Apparently Moose enjoyed some really good ice cream down there - which has relevance to this story how?)

Dr. Steve Gray Gains IRB Certification

This past year, Steve Gray gained certification as an International Rugby Board (IRB) Trainer. If you know Steve at all, you know he’s been a fan, player, advocate and coach of rugby for years. As a trainer, Steve oversees IRB Educators who deliver coaching and referee certification courses. He has worked at courses in San Diego, Denver, Chicago, Portland, and Atlanta, certifying over 100 rugby coaches. Steve says that Rugby is in desperate need of more coaches as its popularity has been increasing, in part due to its inclusion in the 2016 Olympics. Rugby was last in the Olympics in 1924, and the United States won the gold medal at those Games and the team was composed primarily of Californians. Hopefully, we’ll be able to defend our title.
Lisa Jorgensen (Dr. J) has been working with Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District on an evaluation project that will be used to update the District’s Master Plan. The work has been a collaborative effort of a team of four, including the District Administrator, the Marketing Director, and an RPTA student who worked at Mission Oaks after completing the proposal project in RPTA 110. The evaluation is in its final stages, with reporting to the Board scheduled for the first of October. In other news, Dr. J also has had three momentous occasions this past year. First, she had her first publication in a top tier journal, Environment and Behavior, where her dissertation study was presented; second, she published an article with her significant other, Todd Easterla (one of the top bird watchers in California), in Western Birds; and third, her greatest highlight for the year 2012 was being selected as Outstanding Teacher for the College of Health and Human Services.

— Information provided by Lisa Jorgensen

**RPTA’s Own “Dr. J”**

A spring session of RPTA 151 – Visitor Management included several days in Yosemite Valley visiting with a number of National Park Service managers and rangers about issues related to visitor behavior and management in the park. The visit included a morning class session with NPS interpretive ranger Shelton Johnson. Shelton is perhaps most known for his appearance in Ken Burns’ production on the story of the National Park Service, “America’s Best Idea.” But he is also known for getting Oprah Winfrey to take a trip with her friend Gayle King to camp in Yosemite. When Shelton wrote to Oprah saying that he was more likely to meet a black family from Africa in his park than one from Oakland, Oprah did a series in her television show exploring why African American’s are often under-represented in the parks. Shelton told the 151 students that when he asked Oprah if she really thought it would make a difference if she encouraged African Americans to visit Yosemite, she said “Oh, if I say it, it will make a difference.” And apparently it has: conversations during the spring and summer of 2012 note that park attendance by African Americans has increased by several times.

— Information provided by David Rolloff

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**Spring Yosemite Trip Includes National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson**

RPTA students are moved by the stories of Shelton Johnson. The visit marks a new and exciting chapter in field experiences for RPTA.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA JORGENSEN FOR BEING NAMED THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR!**

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**RPTMA to RMA**

The Recreation, Parks and Tourism Majors Association (RPTMA) has changed its name to the Recreation Majors Association (RMA). This new name highlights the beginning of a near year for the club as they make themselves more visible on campus.

RMA membership is open to all majors, minors and any other student of Sac State! To join RMA, please visit 4000 Solano Hall for information.

One of our sexy new tents attracts Sac State students at the WELlcome Back event hosted by The WELL. The majors association (RMA) hosted the RPTA booth for the event that appealed to students all over campus looking for experiential activities and socializing.
After completing a six-year term as chair and a Fall 2011 sabbatical, Dr. Dana Kivel has returned to the department to teach and assume the duties of the Graduate Coordinator. While interest in the Master’s program has remained steady over the past few years, the number of students actually enrolling in the program has been low. Low enrollment in graduate programs has also been an issue at our sister campuses, CSU Chico and San Francisco State University (SFSU). Recognizing that low-enrolled programs may not be sustainable during these difficult economic times, we have been in discussions with our sister campuses to consider creating a Regional Master’s Program. In this program, students from all three campuses would be enrolled together in courses that would be offered at the individual campuses. For example, this semester, students from our program will take the introductory graduate course at Chico virtually with a camera, head set and microphone. Students from SFSU will also be enrolled in the class. The plan is for each campus to teach two core classes over a two-year period with additional electives being offered at each campus. Faculty would be allowed to chair or serve on committees for students at other campuses as they complete their thesis or project. We are continuing our conversations and negotiations on our own campuses and across the CSU system and plan to have the program in place by the Fall of 2014.

Commitment to Community

This semester, Dana Kivel will be teaching RPTA 137, Community Organizations, a course that has not been taught for several years. Severe budget cuts in the city of Sacramento have led to a reduction in hours and services at all community centers, including the Oak Park Community Center (OPCC). Dana, a core group of undergraduate and graduate students, and members of the Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) have developed a plan to assist the Oak Park Community with keeping its community center open an additional day a week. Students in RPTA 137 will now join in this effort and may assist with staffing the center and/or training residents to staff the center. We hope this will be the beginning of a long partnership between our students, the Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) and the Oak Park Community Center staff and volunteers.

RPTA Joins with Other Disciplines...

In spring 2012, Dr. Dana Kivel worked with two other faculty members, Professor Janet Hecsh of the Department of Education, and Professor Chris Bellon of the Department of Philosophy, to teach an academic learning collaborative (ALC). The ALC, a new educational format, allows faculty from different disciplines in different university colleges to join three General Education courses together to create one large, inter-disciplinary course. The three bundled courses included: Introduction to Critical Thinking, Introduction to Ethics, and Race, Class, Gender & Leisure. The three courses were reconfigured under the broad course theme, Living the Good Life. Approximately 150 students earned nine units of General Education credit across three different sub-areas (critical thinking, humanities, and social science). The ALC was a success and the faculty plan on teaching it again in the Spring 2013 semester.

Go Kelly!!

Quick Bits...

Dr. Dana Kivel was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from City of Sacramento Police Department for her work with Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH), which services the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento.

Dr. Beth Erickson has created a Vets 4 Vets Mentoring Program at Sacramento State. The program is administered by the Veterans Success Center on campus, which has been recognized as being the most successful in the CSU System.

The Sacramento Film and Music Festival, co-directed by Dr. Tony Sheppard, was listed as a finalist by the Arts Business Council for Arts Management Excellence.

Each year Kathy Martinez, lecturer, organizes the Mustard Seed Spin fundraiser for the Mustard Seed School for homeless children. This year's spin raised over $33,000 for the school. Go Kathy!

Dr. Kath Pinch recently finished a sabbatical in Australia, during which she hiked over 1000km across the country. Dr. Pinch's sabbatical research involved interviewing older adults in their 60s and 70s. Can't wait to see what the research yields!

Drs. Beth Erickson and David Rolloff have landed a $350,000 year-long study of attendance at the State Vehicle Recreation Areas for Calif. State Parks.

Arlene Krause's lovely home was featured this past spring in the Curtis Park Home and Garden Tour. The house was photographed for the Sac Bee and was also used as the poster to publicize the event.

Each year RPTA relies on valued part time instructors. This term we are honored to have Cat Bening, Alejandra Gallardo, Arlene Krause, Terri Matal, Hunter Merritt, Andre Pichly and Joel Young working with us. Thanks so much!

RPTA Expands Course Availability

The Good: The RPTA department has grown significantly in the last few years, adding several majors each semester at both the first-year and transfer levels.

The Bad: Core courses, once easy to register for are now full within a day or two of opening with many students unable to get classes in the major.

The problem isn't unique to RPTA. Across the campus in majors and in General Education, students have struggled to find seats in their necessary courses, and as budget cuts continue for the CSU, the problems are anticipated to increase in the short term.

RPTA is however working hard to offer more sections of some core courses to help students maintain their graduation goals as closely as possible. Look for these upcoming changes:

RPTA 166: Beginning fall 2013, this course will be offered each year instead of two. That's 40 additional seats for students.

RPTA 105, 160 and 183: Beginning spring 2013, these courses will be offered in both the fall and spring semesters. There will be seats for approximately 40 students each term in each class.

— Information provided by Greg Shaw

Department Website: http://www.csus.edu/HHS/rpta/