On Friday, April 5, 2013, Dr.'s Beth Erickson and David Rolloff met the RPTA 132 Campus Recreation class at Fallon Naval Air Station (NAS) located in Fallon, Nevada for an overnight expedition. During their trip the students examined the comprehensive recreation and leisure services support for all branches of the military, especially for the U.S. Navy. Fallon NAS is a smaller base compared to others, but is especially important as it serves as a training base for Top Gun pilots and the Navy Seals. During their stay, the students had the opportunity to explore the aquatic facilities, the outdoor track, the outdoor equipment rentals, the new multi-million dollar gym, and the newly renovated bowling alley. In addition, the students explored the areas of the base where the enlisted sailors can “hang out” and where the officers can unwind after a long day at the Officers Club. The planes flown by the Top Gun pilots and the special equipment worn to help keep blood circulating to the brain to counter the G-Force speed was also an item of interest. In the evening, the students dined on the “greatest burgers in the west” in a remote town called Middlegate Station, an overland stage station that was used by the Pony Express in the 1800’s. Day 2 con-

Parts of the 1986 Tom Cruise movie, Top Gun, were filmed at Fallon NAS. The class didn’t get to meet Tom Cruise, but they got to see quite a bit of what it means to program and manage recreation services for Top Gun pilots. The facilities are state-of-the-art, and the opportunities in military recreation are world-wide.

Top Guns! RPTA 132 Goes to NAS Fallon in Nevada

- by Beth Erickson
In addition to my work for the RPTA department, I have an active life outside of my office. Besides snowshoeing in the winter and swimming and cycling during the summer, I love to sing. For the past 17 years I have been a member of the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra, an all-volunteer, auditioned chorus made up of a diverse group of men and women from the greater Sacramento area. Our chorus is unique due to the fact that we have the only all-volunteer chorus in the country to have a collective bargaining agreement with its own professional orchestra. We usually do four concerts per year, two in fall and two in spring, at various venues in Sacramento or Davis, mostly from the classical repertoire, although we have sung many contemporary pieces.

If you’re interested in experiencing a new leisure activity, let me know. Tickets for students are half price and I can order them at a discount through my chorus, avoiding the per ticket fee that most places charge. Additionally, you can go to our website (http://www.sacramentochoral.com/) to watch a short documentary that our local PBS station, KVIE, put together about our chorus. It is on our homepage in the bottom right hand corner. If you look closely, you’ll see me several times throughout the documentary!

At the 2013 California Park and Recreation Society’s Annual Training Conference in March, the City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation, along with Save Mart Supermarkets, were recognized with two awards.

The Great Recession of 2008 affected recreation and leisure organizations, social services, and colleges and universities, which ultimately impacted programs and services across California. Within the Sacramento area, largely a “government town,” these effects were profound and far-reaching. Not only were countless employees of these organizations downsized, but also those who were left experienced unpaid furloughs and additional workloads. As a result, vital services to the communities were discontinued or disrupted, which included closures of swimming pools and community centers, and under-maintained parks.

In an effort to help with the budget reductions affecting Sacramento parks, two city parks and recreation volunteer programs encouraged neighborhoods to take ownership and have a proactive role in keeping their parks maintained. Currently the Adopt-a-Park program has approximately 60 organized groups who are committed to supporting their local parks.

Similarly, the PLAY Program (Parks Leadership Youth Academy), enlists middle and high school-aged students to learn, apply and teach park maintenance techniques to other volunteers in their local parks. The PLAY program runs year round and provides learning opportunities about the parks profession and community engagement. Congratulations to the City of Sacramento DPR for the Creating Community Award of Excellence.

When the budget crisis threatened to close all City of Sacramento swimming pools for the summer of 2012, Save Mart Supermarkets headquartered in Modesto, California, contacted City officials to discuss keeping pools open to children and families during the hot summer months through a large scale community-based sponsorship campaign. Through the “Help Save Mart Save Our Pools” campaign, Save Mart pledged to match up to $500,000 in donations from businesses and the community making $1 million available to support pool maintenance and recreational swimming for City pools. Congratulations to Save Mart Supermarkets for the Service Award of Excellence – Champion of the Community.

Beginning in the fall of 2013, RPTA will have a brand new schedule that will help students plan their semesters further in advance and help them move through the major more efficiently.

The first part of the new plan is that all lower division courses (RPTA 1, 30, 32 and 42) will be in Tu/Th back-to-back-to-back-to-back. This will effectively create a block of courses so that all of the lower division classes can be completed easily in one term. The lower division courses will often conflict with upper division courses, encouraging students to take all of the lower division courses first so that their schedules are open for other courses later.

Upper division courses will also become more streamlined, and depending on a student’s concentration, most of the courses will be either Mo/We or Tu/Th to help students coordinate work and GE courses around the major courses.

Look for other changes in the schedule that will include RPTA 117 now being offered in both the fall and spring to accommodate larger numbers of students taking this class (this class is required by Gerontology students in addition to Recreation Therapy students).

In RPM, many Parks and Recreation Resource courses will be offered later in the day to facilitate site visits to local agencies. Courses are filling more quickly than ever, so plan your schedule in advance with an advisor!
In a heated debate that lasted several months, the Sacramento State Faculty Senate finally voted to keep the university’s additional foreign language requirement. Sacramento State is one of only a few CSU campuses that requires three years of foreign language, rather than two, which is the allowable minimum. In an effort to trim units from the university’s General Education (GE)/Graduate Requirements (GR) program, one idea was to reduce the foreign language requirement by one year, potentially eliminating six to eight units for undergrad students.

The effort failed, but the Senate then decided to allow Bachelor of Science degrees (not Bachelor of Arts degrees) the ability individually to request an exemption from the requirement. Both Recreation Therapy and Recreation and Park Management have been approved for the exemption, and beginning fall 2013, students will no longer have to take the extra year of language.

- by Greg Shaw

During my junior year as an undergrad at Chico State (1995), I had the opportunity to work one summer for the Army Corps of Engineers as a park ranger. The site was at Englebright Lake, in the steep Yuba River canyon, in the Sierra Nevada foothills. This location offers a unique boat-in camping experience, several species of sport fish, abundant wildlife, and year-round water-based recreational activities for enthusiasts and families alike. It is located between Grass Valley and Yuba City off State Route 20” (Taken from http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/projects.cfm?Id=L205580 on April 29, 2013).

As some of you know, my focus as an undergrad was natural resource management. This was a summer position (not my internship), where I worked with three other female student rangers. At the time, it was a boat-in camping facility only, so the four of us spent a lot of time in the patrol boat (too fun!). Our main duty was to patrol, however, we also worked on other projects, including an educational session for youth and boating, planting trees, and outreach to the local area. Though “enforcement” was not my area of interest (I am an interpreter), what I learned through this experience was quite valuable to my educational journey!

And yes, there were times I did have to wear the typical “Yogi Bear” Ranger hat!!

- by Lisa Jorgensen
Trivia question for all recreation majors: which federal agency is the largest in recreation?

**Answer:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

(Wait, did I hear that right? The Army? Do they even have any parks?) That's right. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages more than 420 parks in the U.S., draws more daily visitors than the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or the U.S. Forest Service. And, with 90 percent of its recreation areas located within 50 miles of a major metropolitan center, Corps parks are readily accessible to the public. How did this happen? Really, it is very simple. The Corps builds dams, the dams make lakes (also called reservoirs), and the lakes make parks for recreation. Water-based recreation is very popular, especially in the arid west, and a long summer season makes for thousands of visitors to the California lakes alone. The Corps is divided into districts by water basins. In the Sacramento District, there are 10 parks (nine lakes and one river park) managed by more than 65 Corps park rangers. Not only that: where do you think the "flat hat" comes from? You know, the one that we associate with the park rangers at National Park Service? The Army was the first protector of our national treasures, due to the foresight of President Theodore Roosevelt, who began the institution of park rangers in the early 20th century, by installing soldiers on federal lands to protect natural resources from plumbers, poachers and timber thieves. The Corps of Engineers, formed two days after George Washington declared

Do you like parks? Be an Army Ranger!

The continued project has been very successful for the department.
Recently, the Broward County Commission approved funding for a $4.2 million scoreboard at the BB&T Center, the home of the NHL’s Florida Panthers.

It’s a fairly understandable expense. The current scoreboard has been in place since the arena opened in 1998 and Broward County is in charge of the facility’s upkeep.

It’s also inexpensive compared to other pro team’s requests.

The Miami Dolphins were recently denied $400 million from the Florida legislature to assist in renovating Sun Life Stadium, the team’s home since opening in 1987. Renovations are necessary, according to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, for Miami to host future Super Bowls.

The Dolphins were looking to distance themselves from the unpopular but successful bid that ended up building Marlins Park. That facility sits on what was the Miami Orange Bowl and is home to the Miami Marlins, owned by Jeff Loria.

Loria is the primary focus of problems surrounding the Marlins who, after last year’s nightmare 69-93 opening year at their new ballpark, are currently 11-29. Taxpayers paid for Marlins Park (close to 75 percent) because the Marlins claimed they were broke, which later drew the ire of the SEC after the website Deadspin posted team financial documents. This is on top of the Marlins’ disastrous first season: they suspended their manager for insensitive comments; the team underperformed, but complained about not having an All-Star; Showtime canceled its series The Franchise: Miami Marlins during the MLB season; fans didn’t show to games; and they fired their manager.

The grand finale came when the Marlins traded their star players from the roster even though they promised not to do so and even after the Mayor of Miami wrote MLB Commissioner Bud Selig imploring him to stop the trades.

In contrast, Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross pledged to put in more money than the public and to keep the team in Miami for the 25 years. In a newspaper ad, Ross broke down the differences between his deal and the Marlins saying he would use private dollars to fund at least 51 percent of the Sun Life effort, compared to less than 25 percent from Loria.

Ross also said Sun Life helps the economy more than the Marlins park does.

Which gets back to Marlins. Miami-Dade county commissioners endorsed the Sun Life Stadium Renovation plan but emphasized they would not approve anything close to the Marlins Park deal made in 2009. For the Marlins Park deal, Miami-Dade borrowed $400 million by selling bonds on Wall Street. One of these bonds is currently worth $91 million; however, it will cost around $1.2 billion to pay back by it’s last payment in 2048. Miami-Dade will use hotel-tax revenue to pay off the bonds, but those payments don’t kick in until 2026 and get costly thereafter.

- by Chris Shannon

**RPTA Majors Successful with Local Winery**

Rail Bridge Cellars, located in downtown Sacramento, has continued its relationship with RPTA students in the California Wine and Agri-Tourism course. The winery opened its Penthouse tasting room in 2012 on the exclusive 14th floor of downtown’s historic Elks Building. The original tasting room manager was RPTA major Mc Kinesie Pimely. Mc Kensie was so successful with the winery that she was recognized in the Student Spotlight by the CSU Hospitality Management Education Initiative (HMEI) based at the Collins School of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly, Pomona.

Mc Kensie moved on after graduation, but RPTAers still manage the tasting room. Master’s student Michelle Mark, who is completing her graduate project on wine tourism, has taken over as the tasting room and event manager with the winery.

The department is proud of both young women and very pleased to have this relationship with Rail Bridge Cellars.

To visit Rail Bridge, you’ll need to call ahead since the Penthouse isn’t accessible to the public. It’s not an issue, however, and you can make an appointment by visiting the winery’s website.

Cheers!

- by Greg Shaw
RPTA FACULTY

Dr. Beth Erickson
(Internship Coordinator)
• Campus Recreation
• Community Recreation

Dr. Steve Gray
• Community Recreation
• Campus Recreation

Dr. Lisa Jorgensen
(Interim Recreation Therapy Coordinator)
• Community Recreation

Dr. Dana Kivel
(Graduate Coordinator)
• Community Recreation
• Non-Profit Administration

Arlene Krause, M.S., CTRS
• Recreation Therapy
• Non-Profit Recreation

Kathy Martinez, M.S.
• General Education
• Community Recreation

Geraldine Nicholson
• Administrative Coordinator

Dr. Kath Pinch
• Outdoor Recreation
• Experiential Education

Dr. David Rolloff
• Outdoor Recreation
• Natural Resource Management

Dr. Greg Shaw
(Department Chair)
• Tourism, Hospitality
• Commercial Recreation

Dr. Tony Sheppard
• Tourism, Hospitality
• Commercial Recreation

Quick Bits...

Instructor Arlene Krause has been busy ordering new equipment for Recreation Therapy students. There will be $5000 worth of new equipment beginning fall 2013 designed to help RT students have more hands-on experience before assisting patients. Exciting news for RT!

Dr. Dana Kivel has been elected the chair of the university’s General Education/Graduation Requirements Policies Committee.

Dr. Beth Erickson has created a special section of the department’s RPTA 122 writing intensive course. This new section will highlight leadership skills and specifically serve Veterans returning to college. Sacramento State has the most successful Veterans Center of the CSU campuses and their enthusiasm for RPTA 122 is appreciated.

Instructor Kathy Martinez has worked for years raising money for the Mustard Seed School for homeless children. Recently at Lucca Restaurant, Mustard Seed’s fundraiser made over $8000 as part of the Sacramento restaurant’s 10 year anniversary celebration.

In an already dog-friendly department, Kathy Martinez has a new puppy named Kona! Awww.

As always, our part time faculty add so much valuable content and support to both our GE and major courses. This term we’ve had the pleasure of working with returning part time faculty, Cat Bening, Terri Matal, Hunter Merritt, and Andre Pichly. Lindsey Dao joined us for the first time this spring. Thanks for all you do!

The Department would like to welcome new Advisory Committee member, LeeAnn Solerno, Director of Program for Girl Scouts of Central California. Welcome LeeAnn!

The spring 2013 meeting went well, and LeeAnn joins our returning Advisory Committee members:

Jane Adams
Exec. Dir., CA Park & Recreation Society

Ken Bailey
Retired, City of Roseville Dept of Parks & Recreation

Andre Pichly
Recreation Superintendent, City of West Sacramento

Judy Quattrin
Retired, CSUS RPTA Faculty

Paul Romero
Retired, CA State Parks

Debby Walker
Administrator, Mission Oaks Rec & Park District

Jael Young
Director, Peak Adventures, CSUS

If you are interested in serving on the RPTA Advisory Committee, please contact Geralin. Nicholson
geraldine.nicholson@csus.edu