

Graduate Program Newsletter

Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department



Spring 2009



Greetings to all of our graduate students and graduate program partners! We have just completed our first semester with our new Department name, Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, one that we believe better reflects the courses we teach and the diversity of

Welcome

organizations we serve. Our graduate program was the first recreation Master's degree curriculum in California, and in 2009 we are celebrating our 63rd anniversary. But we continue to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of our professions and society. We hope you will join us to accomplish our program vision in this wonderful "living laboratory" of the San Francisco Bay Area. I would like to particularly welcome our new students who have been enrolled since fall: Kelsey Currier, Laurie Christofferson, Corrie Fuhrman, Dorcas Gaor, Stephanie Harris, Mercedes Hunt, Ben Kumli, Claire Lai, Feruza Ruzieva and Erik Wilhelm.

We are excited about the direction of the graduate program and look forward to the year ahead. RPT offers opportunities for graduate students to receive financial support as we hire graduate students to work as graduate research assistant's supporting faculty research. Faculty brought in more than \$70,000 in research grants last semester alone, which provides opportunities for graduate student involvement and offers additional financial strength for the Department. Despite the tough economic times our Department has fared well, even with budget cuts to the university. We have not had to reduce the number of graduate level classes offered. We are conducting fiscal planning now to ensure the long term prosperity of our program.

Sincerely,

Patrick Tierney, Chair

Graduate Students and Faculty, Spring Social 2009



"Quotes" from Alumni

“ In this economy: budgets, budgets, budgets... Thanks to Tierney's class assignment and my classes in nonprofit management, I was able to cut my unit's budget by 10% without cutting jobs or raising fees and still maintain programs with limited supplies.”

Debbie Hernandez

“ My favorite quote from my adventure in the Masters program was and is: 'Live to Leisure and Leisure to live'. I have a Bachelors Degree in Business and worked in the field of recreation since I was a pre-teen. The Masters in Recreation provided me with a better understanding of the recreation field and a sense of purpose...and the journey continues.”

Jennifer Der



Faculty News



The Department is pleased to welcome **Dr. Pavlina Latkova** who became a core faculty member last fall semester. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Recreation Administration from Sacramento State and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources. Pavlina brings extensive experience in the tourism industry of the Czech Republic, Eastern Europe and USA. Last semester she worked on helping design California's first LEED green certified campground.



Another change in our Department is that **Dr. Jim Murphy** has been promoted to Acting Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. We will miss his daily contact, but he has been a great supporter of the Department in his new position. He wishes all new RPT graduate students the very best as you embark on your graduate degree and throughout your graduate program.



Dr. Asuncion Suren has revised the SF State Youth Human Services Nonprofit Administration Certificate program, secured funding and organizational support. She continues her work with at risk youth and urban recreation. She has also served on the CPRS District IV Advisory Board.



Dr. Nina Roberts has received a number of research grants from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, including the first comprehensive survey of GGNRA visitors, conducted with Dr. Tierney. She continues her research and youth evaluation with the Crissy Field Center. She is on the GirlVentures Advisory Council, and Board of Directors of the Yosemite Institute. Dr. Roberts is the director of the SF State Pacific Leadership Institute: www.pliprograms.org.



Dr. Erik Rosegard has been involved with City of San Francisco on several projects. Erik has worked on developing a new community and educational center at Lake Merced. He is also on the Hilton national leisure advisory board and CPRS Board.

Need Grad Research Assistants

The department is looking for two RPT graduate students to be paid, part-time graduate research assistants starting fall 2010. One position would involve evaluation of urban adventure recreation programs for at-risk youth, leadership of events and facilitation with the Pacific Leadership Institute at the RPT ropes challenge course. A second GRA involves working with the National Park Service and Golden Gate Parks Conservancy in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Duties might include design and conduct of focus groups and assessment surveys of park users. GRA's work closely with faculty and have flexible work schedules.

GRA applicants must have been accepted to, or currently enrolled in, the RPT Masters Program; have a BA in recreation or related field; have a strong interest or experience in urban national parks, have a strong desire to complete a thesis or project for their culminating experience and some experience in conducting research. Preference is given to newly-admitted graduate students. See www.sfsu.edu/~recdept/html/gradhm.htm, or contact Dr. Patrick Tierney (ptierney@sfsu.edu).

Alumni...Where Are They?

Debbie Hernandez – Works as a Recreation Supervisor with the City of Richmond.

Jennifer Der – Is the Recreation Supervisor with the City of Daly City Parks and Recreation Department.

Doug Kaplan – Works as a Director of Activities and Social Services at The Heritage, a continuing retirement community.

Connie Anderson – Is on Maternity leave with her two little children.

Sharon Farrell – Is an Associate Director of Park Projects at the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in San Francisco. Sharon is a Switzer fellow and was recently honored by CalIPC with the Catalyst in Leadership award.

Eric W. Larson – Is a sports medicine physician with Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco.

Ben Lara – Is a Recreation Planner with the Inyo National Forest in Bishop, CA.

Stephen Flynn – Is a financial analyst with MAXCOR Financial in New York.

Advisory Council

An outstanding group of alumni and professionals are assisting the Recreation Parks, and Tourism Department as an Advisory Council. This distinguished group meets 2-3 times per year with the goals of evaluating our undergraduate and graduate programs and advancing department needs. Many also serve as mentors to graduate students.

Council Members

Todd Badger

Recreation Coordinator/Sports
Foster City Parks and Recreation

Cindy Blackstone

Director of Recreation Services
The Janet Pomeroy Center

Sheila Canzian

Director of Parks & Recreation
City of San Mateo

Katherine Bradshaw Chappellear

Alumna of SFSU

Michelle Cleere

Health & Fitness Director
Shih Yu-Lang Central YMCA

Sharon Farrell

Natural Resources Project Manager
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

Sarah Heath

Girl Ventures

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Virginia S. Jaquith

Professor Emerita

Debbie Hernandez

Recreation Supervisor
City of Richmond Recreation Department

Kathleen Hooper

Manager, Outdoor Recreation
Santa Clara County Parks & Rec. Dept.

Simon Lee

Executive Director
GLO, Growth & Learning Opportunities

Carol M. Leslie

President,
Carol M. Leslie Special Events

Jason Morris

Vice President, External Affairs
Nature Bridge

Jill McIntyre

Communications Director
California School-Age Consortium

Jo Mestelle

Managing Director
Rec Connect Initiative

Eden O'Brien-Brenner

Director of Youth & Family Services
Berkeley YMCA

Randy Schwartz

Director
City of Burlingame, Parks & Rec Dept.

Jane Sedonaen

Principle
Integrated Design Studio

Marcia Somers

Assistant Town Manager
Town of Danville

Linda Thompson

President and CEO
Cappa and Graham, Inc.

Jennifer L. Tons

Recreation Superintendent
Foster City Parks and Recreation

Sharon Washington

Executive Director
National Writing Project

University of California

Naomi Torres

Superintendent
Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail

Recreation Graduate Program: Advancing Leaders in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

The Master of Science in Recreation at SF State is designed to increase student employment opportunities, foster leaders and advocates for individual development and social change who will serve as catalysts to:

1. Advance the recreation, parks, and tourism professions, and;
2. Improve leisure opportunities and quality of life, through entrepreneurial and collaborative approaches that link theory and practice.

Reposition Yourself

As a SF State recreation graduate student you will learn about collaborative and entrepreneurial leadership; gain fiscal, budgetary, marketing and human resource knowledge; comprehend current theories, models and paradigms; learn to design and conduct research; as well as appraise and promote the importance and benefits of leisure, recreation, parks, and tourism to the well-being of individuals, community and environment.

For program information visit the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department located in HSS 307 or the program website www.sfsu.edu/~recdept/html/gradhm.htm. For admittance information contact Dr. Patrick Tierney (ptierney@sfsu.edu),



**Growth,
Knowledge, Leadership,
Experience, Advancement**



Recreation Graduate Curriculum

Core Classes (19 Units)

- RPT 700 Orientation/Professional Development (1)
- RPT 720 Developing Collaborative Leaders (3)
- RPT 730 Foundations of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism (3)
- RPT 810 Research Methods (3)
- RPT 850 Human Resources Development (3)
- RPT 862 Management of Recreation, Parks, & Tourism (3)
- RPT 880 Trends & Issues in Recreation, Parks, & Tourism (3)

Specialization Classes (12 units), examples:

- RPT 570 Developing & Managing Resources in Nonprofit Agencies (3)
- RPT 605 Ecotourism Principles and Practices (3)
- RPT 640 Managing Recreational Use of National Parks (3)
- RPT 740 Leisure and Aging (3)

Culminating Experience (3 units)

Thesis, Applied Project, or Comprehensive Exam

TOTAL UNITS = 34

**Advance Your
Career! Or... Tell
a Colleague To
Apply!**

**For Graduate Program
Information And To Apply**

Visit:

www.sfsu.edu/~recdept/gradhm.htm

Or Contact

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and Tourism

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