KEEPING THE BALANCE: WISDOM AND INNOVATION
FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD | JOHN DATTILO

2006 MARKED our department’s sixty-year anniversary at Penn State. I feel fortunate to have been a part of the rich history of such an internationally-respected department. Where we go from here depends on how we balance many competing demands. To move forward, we depend upon both the wisdom that comes from longevity and fresh insights and perspectives generated by our newer faculty arrivals.

In recent years we have celebrated the retirements of Frank Guadagnolo, Geoffrey Godbey, and Elaine Ebeling. While Elaine enjoys time with her family, both Frank and Geof continue to be active faculty emeriti who provide us with much-appreciated advice. We also have a cohort of faculty and staff who have been with us for many years, such as Tammy Buckley, Linda Caldwell, Garry Chick, Alan Graefe, Sharon Houser, Deb Kerstetter, Patty Kleban, Jeanne Korman, Steve Lovell, Ralph Smith, Burch Wilkes, and Harry Zinn. They continue to help guide the department in amazing ways.

This incredible collective wisdom is balanced by innovative ideas generated by our new faculty. We were thrilled when Harry Zinn became a tenured associate professor a few years ago and we were delighted to learn this year of the promotion and tenure of Duarte Morais. In addition, we have hired a tenure-track faculty member in each of the past several years including Andy Mowen, Careen Yarnal, Mark Ivy, and Christine Buzinde, and we are currently searching for yet another faculty member. We have also been fortunate recently to hire several instructors including Eric Handley, Rosemarie Hibbler, and Kathleen Raupach. Finally, the infusion of new staff this past year including Natalie Novak, Brenda Neff, and Sarah Ransom has helped to create a metamorphosis in the operations of the department.

It is clear that our accomplished faculty, dedicated staff, and engaged and committed alumni are a significant source of our success. With this team in place we are successfully contributing to the development of highly educated, skilled, and happy students.

Please join us in celebrating our illustrious sixty years at our annual recognition banquet on March 31, 2007. We would love for you to attend this occasion so that we can collectively thank our alumni, students, faculty and staff and especially pay tribute to our past department leaders. Thank you for helping us to keep the balance through our collective wisdom and innovation.

Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Affiliate Program Group Web site:
www.hhdev.psu.edu/alumni/apg/rptm/

Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Web site:
www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/
IN 2003, alumni of the Penn State Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management chartered an Affiliate Program Group (APG) of the College of Health and Human Development Alumni Society called the RPTM APG. As an alumnus of the RPTM program (or any predecessor programs), you are a member of the APG. It’s free of charge, so welcome!

The mission of the RPTM APG is to unite Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management alumni in order to serve alumni, faculty, and students of the Penn State Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management. Our APG strives to accomplish its goals in many ways, including helping to promote the College of Health and Human Development Mentoring Program, recognizing the accomplishments of students and alumni through awards, connecting alumni via newsletters and our Web site, and uniting alumni during social and professional events. This framework, called MACS (Mentoring, Awards, Communications, Social/Professional Events), allows us to better direct our energies toward meaningful activities.

The APG sponsors alumni/student career development activities such as an annual Career Panel that features alumni discussions and great opportunities for networking. The APG works closely with the department and the RPTM Student Society to offer classroom visits and keynote speakers for on-campus events. We also sponsor opportunities for alumni to network at professional conferences and Penn State events such as a football tailgate each fall.

If you are not receiving the monthly e-newsletter, Kudos, please contact Natalie Novak, administrative specialist and assistant to the department head, at nun1@psu.edu or 814-865-1852. This e-newsletter contains updates on students, faculty, and alumni and is a good way to stay connected to what’s happening at Penn State.

You can also visit our Web site at www.hhdev.psu.edu/alumni/apg/rptm to find out more about the APG and its upcoming activities.

Becoming involved with the APG and reconnecting with Penn State has been a rewarding experience for me. There are many ways to participate and stay engaged with your alma mater and you can do this through volunteering your time and expertise and/or making a financial contribution to support RPTM alumni activities. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities that the RPTM APG has to offer. If you want to get involved as a speaker or a mentor, or are interested in being on the Board, please e-mail me at dsharapan@warwick-township.org.

### NOTABLE QUOTES

My studies at Penn State prepared me to step straight into a supervisory position out of college and succeed! I felt that the coursework and the 12-credit internship involved with the program really prepared me for my current position.

**Emily Johnston ’04**

“I am valuing all of my experiences and putting to work all of the skills I learned at Penn State. I wanted to thank you for helping to provide such a wonderful program. I am in such awe of how knowledgeable and resourceful our faculty is. I was well-prepared for my internship.”

**Amy Baginski ’06**
MENTORING
THE APG strives to make connections among students, alumni, and faculty. We have assisted in the recruitment of alumni mentors for the College’s Mentoring Program and sponsored career activities for students such as panel discussions, workshops, and classroom visits.

Currently we are planning and participating in a full weekend of activities for RPTM alumni and students at University Park on March 31, 2007. The events for this weekend will include a mentoring brunch, an alumni roundtable with students, and the department’s annual recognition banquet. This weekend provides the opportunity for alumni to invest in Penn State’s most important asset: the students. It also creates an avenue for dialogue between faculty and alumni.

I invite you to become involved in enriching the experiences of our future RPTM alumni. If you would like more information on our Mentoring Program or the RPTM APG, feel free to contact Dan Sharapan at dsharapan@warwick-township.org.

WHAT IS MACS?

THE COLLEGE of Health and Human Development utilizes a framework to guide alumni in offering their volunteer time to departments and schools in the college. “MACS” stands for Mentoring, Awards, Communications, and Social/Professional Events. The RPTM APG’s most recent efforts and accomplishments in each of these four areas follow.

PAST MENTORS HAVE INCLUDED...

Michael Baker ’94
Director of Conferences/Event Services
Messiah College
Grantham, PA

Jennifer Bean ’01
Assistant Program Director
Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center
Petersburg, PA

Donald Coine ’98
State Park Manager
Bureau of State Parks

Heather Erle ’04
Activities Specialist
Remed Recovery Care Center
Paoli, PA

Michelle Fisher ’99
Reservation Manager
Hershey Entertainment & Resorts
Hershey, PA

James Hennessey ’87
Assistant Director of Operations
Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom
Allentown, PA

Joseph Hoffman ’75
Manager of Special Projects
Barry Isett and Associates
Trexeltown, PA

Monica Hoffman ’77
Therapeutic Activities Specialist
Torrance State Hospital
Torrance, PA

Susan Johnson ’82
Director
Hemlock Overlook-Center of Outdoor Education
Clifton, VA

Stephanie Krzywanski ’97
Director of Meetings and Special Events
Philadelphia Bar Association
Philadelphia, PA

Barbara McCluskey ’02
Director of Therapeutic Recreation
Garvey Manor
Hollidaysburg, PA

Laurie McLaughlin ’88
Instructor
Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center
Petersburg, PA

Julie Moyer ’82
Outdoor Recreation Planner
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
Bradford, PA

Terry Roth ’76
Chief of Visitor Services
National Park Service
Gallitzin, PA

Marcia Schaefer ’03g
Program Director
Kennett Square YMCA
Kennett Square, PA

Phil Smakula ’77
Recreation Supervisor
Montgomery County Department of Recreation
Wheaton, MD

Gary Smith ’72
State Parks Regional Manager
DCNR, Bureau of State Parks
Schellsburg, PA

Larry Smith ’71g
Innkeeper
Cross Road Inn Bed and Breakfast
New Market, VA

Angela Spaziano ’03
Recreational Therapist
Kidspace
Philadelphia, PA

John Spencer ’96
Regional Park Ranger
Chester County Parks & Recreation
Pottstown, PA
AWARDS

Introducing the RPTM APG Outstanding Alumni Award

The RPTM APG is unveiling the first ever Outstanding Alumni Award. This prestigious award will be presented to one deserving recipient at the RPTM recognition banquet on March 31, 2007. However, in order to present the award, we need your help! Please take the time to nominate an outstanding RPTM alumnus or alumna. For more information and a nomination form, please visit www.hhdev.psu.edu/alumni/apg/rptm/awards.htm. If you would like to get involved with the awards committee or if you have any questions about the award, please contact Dianne DeFusco ’88 at dianedefusco@yahoo.com.

Additional RPTM Alumni Awards

In addition to the RPTM APG Outstanding Alumni Awards, RPTM also presents three additional departmental alumni awards. These are the Alumni Recognition Award, the Emerging Professional–Undergraduate Award, and Emerging Professional–Graduate Award. For information on how to nominate someone for a departmental award, contact Patty Kleban ’82, ’91g at 814-863-2489 or plk4@psu.edu.

MacS, CONTINUED

Ben Wygant receives the RPTM Outstanding Student Award—Outdoor Option for 2006 from John Dattilo.

Sharon Prusko receives the PRPS Robert Crawford Memorial Scholarship for 2006 from Bill Wert, Director of Parks and Recreation for Newtown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Megan Miller, here with her mother, Mary, received a certificate of recognition for academic involvement.

2006 Alumni Award Winners

Greg Weitzel ’97 received the Emerging Professional Undergraduate Award from Dan Sharapan ’95.

Kelly Bricker ’98g (left) received the Emerging Professional Graduate Student award. Also pictured is associate professor Deb Kerstetter ’80g, ’90g (middle) and HHD Alumni Society president Kay Salvino, ’69g.

RPTM News
COMMUNICATIONS

RPTM APG Launches Newsletter and Web Site

In addition to this annual newsletter, the department produces two online publications: Kudos (www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/news/kudos.html), which highlights monthly accomplishments of alumni, faculty, and students, and At Your Leisure (www.hhdev.psu.edu/rptm/news/newsletter.html) where John Dattilo shares department news.

In addition, the RPTM APG has launched a new Web site to help keep alumni up-to-date on alumni and departmental happenings. The Web site can be found at www.hhdev.psu.edu/alumni/apg/rptm.

SOCIAL/PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

Please join us for the 3rd Annual Recognition Banquet

The Annual RPTM Recognition Banquet is a great way to engage with the department and socialize with faculty, students, and other RPTM alumni. The 3rd Annual RPTM Recognition Banquet is scheduled for March 31, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at The Nittany Lion Inn on the University Park campus. Please tell fellow alumni about the banquet and plan to join us. Individuals interested in attending the RPTM Recognition Banquet should call Brenda at (814) 865-1851 or send an email to RPTMevent@psu.edu for more information on how to attend.

LAND OF THE LOST

Do you know any RPTM alumni who might have lost contact with the department and who would want to hear from us? Let them know that we are looking for them and/or send a quick email to Natalie at nun1@psu.edu or 814-865-1851 and we will be sure to include them in our future communications. It’s all about staying connected!
WHEN IT comes to knowing the Army, we can now salute two RTPM faculty members, Ralph Smith ’84g and Patricia Kleban ’82, ’91g. Both are committed to assisting Army recreation managers in learning the types of leadership skills needed to offer inclusive recreation services to soldiers returning from Iraq with disabilities and/or their family members. Currently, both faculty members are involved with a customized training project with the Army’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Academy in Alexandria, Virginia, and are working to promote more inclusive recreation MWR programming at U.S. Army posts throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Smith, associate professor and 101st Airborne Vietnam veteran, understands why this training is so important. “Because an increasing number of soldiers with war-related disabilities/injuries are returning to active duty (if possible) and/or life on installations, there is a need for MWR programs to be proactive and responsive to soldiers with physical disabilities and/or soldiers who are experiencing the psychological effects of war, such as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD)” he said. “MWR personnel are uniquely positioned to provide soldiers (as well as exceptional family members) access to programs that help to reduce stress, offer options for healthy activity participation, and contribute to the overall quality of life of the soldier (and his/her family). As a result, MWR personnel can and should be instrumental in facilitating the soldier’s successful transition back to active military status and/or civilian life on post.”

For some soldiers (and some soldiers who have exceptional family members), however, full access to, and participation in, MWR programs may not always happen. Many individuals with disabilities, for example, experience real or perceived barriers to participation that unintentionally exclude their participation in various programs and services. Often, service providers are unaware that potential participants are being excluded because the service providers are also unaware of the unique needs of the individual. This unintentional exclusion can further contribute to other and more harmful problems, such as substance abuse, social isolation, depression, etc.

Kortney Clemons, an Iraq veteran and sophomore RPTM major, knows the need for inclusive recreation services first-hand. On February 21, 2005, Kortney was wounded in Iraq as he was helping to evacuate a wounded soldier and subsequently had his right leg amputated above the knee. Using a specially-designed prosthesis, Kortney has since competed in sports both nationally and internationally, including a first place win at the 2006 Paralympic games in the 100 meters with a lifetime best of 15.61. Kortney has this to say about the Army Recreation Manager training project: “I think it is great! This type of training helps to get veterans with disabilities active again. Being able to re-engage in sports and recreational activities with friends and family is not only good for the veteran’s physical health, but it also helps a lot psychologically.” Sports and recreation participation are so important to Kortney that he is currently studying Therapeutic Recreation to promote inclusive recreation services to others with disabling conditions.

Because the goals of the Army MWR training project are to promote inclusion, assist in a seamless transition to life on post, and aid retention of soldiers, it is important that MWR personnel not only learn inclusive programming concepts, but also develop leadership skills and strategies to promote involvement of soldiers with physical and/or psychological disabilities into MWR programs and services. That is where Ms. Patricia Kleban, steps in. “Our experiences working with the MWR academy have been very exciting,” says Kleban. “Helping MWR identify plans for improving leadership skills, particularly as related to including people with disabilities in recreation programs, has been a great collaboration and is being very well received by MWR personnel.”

For more information about the MWR Training Project, please contact Ralph Smith at rsmith@psu.edu or 814-863-8989. For more information on how RTPM can assist with your organization’s professional development and training needs, please contact Tammy Buckley at tbuckley@psu.edu or 814-865-1851.
PLANS ARE underway for the creation of a Golf Teaching and Research Center on the University Park campus. The center, which will be located in Chandlee Lab on Pollock Road, will be an invaluable tool for students and faculty in the Professional Golf Management (PGM) program.

“The Golf Teaching and Research Center is a logical “next step” in our efforts to recruit top students and to enhance our students’ learning experiences,” said Burch Wilkes, instructor and director of the PGM program. “The center will provide students with the tools necessary to improve their golf skills and will allow faculty to more closely tailor their instruction to individual students’ needs.”

The Golf Teaching and Research Center will help the PGM program to:

- Measure the effectiveness of its Player Development Program, instructional approaches, equipment, teaching aids, practice sessions, and exercise programs;
- Enhance teaching through the development of detailed student profiles to include such measurements as club head speed, ball speed and spin rate, launch angles, degrees of club face and dispersion, distance, swing plane, timing, and tempo;
- Host teaching seminars taught by faculty, alumni and industry professionals;
- Continue hands-on instruction of students during the winter—an advantage enjoyed by programs in warmer climates;
- Enhance the program’s efforts to recruit the best students;
- Conduct meaningful research that contributes to overall golf instruction.

Efforts are underway by the College of Health and Human Development development office to identify financial support from individuals as well as gifts of equipment and other in-kind contributions. To become involved or if you wish to contribute, please call Maggie Crispell, director of development, College of Health and Human Development, at (814) 865-1064 or mac1@psu.edu.

RPTM TO HOST AN ALUMNI SOCIAL AT PRPS

THE RPTM department will host an Alumni Social on March 26, 2007, at 8:30 p.m. during the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Conference at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. If you are planning to attend the conference, are in the state, or just want to see old friends, please join us.

RPTM Heads to the West Coast!

THE 2006 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference was held at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle. The event was well attended by our RPTM Student Society, which did a terrific job of raising the funds to have eight students make the cross-country trip to have a first-hand look at what our industry has to offer. The students also had the opportunity to do some Seattle sight seeing—checking out the world-famous Pike Place Fish Market and enjoying the NRPA RPTM Alumni Social at Pike’s Pub!
**In the Spotlight**

**STUDENT**

**Catie Star**

**UPON MEETING** Catie Star, it’s hard not to be impacted by her contagious smile and energy. Catie is a senior majoring in RPTM in the Commercial/Community option. Since arriving at Penn State, she has taken the campus by storm and has taken advantage of many opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom, to position herself for success in the field of RPTM.

Catie is from Long Island, New York. When her older brother began looking at colleges, Catie had the benefit of tagging along. After looking at thirty-five different schools, Catie said she knew halfway through her tour of Penn State that this was the place for her. She felt an immediate connection to the campus and the students’ school spirit.

Catie moved into action as soon as she arrived at University Park. She rushed Alpha Delta Pi sorority and became a “Lion Scout.” Lion Scouts are student volunteers who give campus tours to prospective students and their families. During one of those tours, she had the opportunity to visit a table set up by RPTM to inform students about the major. A conversation with faculty member Careen Yarnal opened Catie’s eyes to how RPTM could help her reach her career goals. She joined the major the following semester.

As an RPTM student, Catie participated in the College of Health and Human Development Mentoring Program, which involves being matched with an RPTM alumnus or alumna who has similar career interests and relevant experience. Catie worked with Michelle McCool Fisher ’99 of Hershey Resorts and Entertainment.

Catie has continued with Lion Scouts since her freshmen year and has served as New Member and Orientation Training Captain and as Phone-A-Thon and Chatroom Coordinator. Through her sorority involvement, she has served as Future Panhellenic Delegate, Greek Sing Chairwoman, Recruitment Vice President, and New Member Coordinator.

This past fall, Catie served as University Relations Overall Chairperson for Homecoming 2006. She is a member of the Health and Human Development Honor Society and Mortar Board Honor Society. When asked about campus involvement, Catie says, “I can’t even begin to explain how much I’ve learned from all of my extracurricular activities on campus. Leadership, time management, communication and organizational skills will help me far beyond graduation.”

Catie considers the door open for career opportunities as she graduates in RPTM. She hopes to use her degree to find a position in human resources, recruiting or other management area. “I feel confident that with the lessons I’ve learned at Penn State and the experiences I’ve had, the sky is the limit!”

**FACULTY**

**Dr. Christine Buzinde**

**DR. BUZINDE** joined the RPTM faculty in fall 2006 as an assistant professor. She is extremely pleased to be part of the RPTM team of distinguished scholars and looks forward to working within this very collegial environment. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a master’s degree in Leisure Studies from University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, an undergraduate degree in Tourism Management, and a diploma in Hotel Management from Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia, Canada. A Canadian citizen, Buzinde was born in Africa, lived in Greece, and was raised in Cyprus. Her international experience has not only granted her a great disposition towards languages (she speaks Greek, English, Luganda, Spanish, and basic French), but it has also fueled her research interests in tourism and ethnic cultures.

Buzinde’s research agenda centers on sociocultural aspects of tourism, particularly as they apply to ethnic and/or marginalized groups. Her research can be divided into two trajectories: politics of tourism representations and endogenous community tourism development. Exemplary of some of Buzinde’s work on tourism representations is her examination of tourism destination imagery within a multicultural nation—Canada—and its portrayal of its ethnic minority population. Illustrative of her work on “bottom-up” tourism community development initiatives is a recent collaborative undertaking that examined the use of tourism as a political tool in a gentrified Puerto Rican community located in the core of Chicago. Buzinde’s latest work has focused on the exponential growth of plantation tourism in the southern U.S. Plantation tourism involves the travel to, and touring of, former slave plantations. According to Buzinde, most such sites are privately owned; however, many are owned or managed by federal and state agencies, all of which generally choose to veer away from the issue of slavery in their tour accounts or tangentially discuss the issue and focus primarily on the architecture and lives of the elite white planters. Ironically, some of the federal- and state-owned sites have been awarded symbols of national heritage significance, yet the historical accounts they provide just a portion of the nation, says Buzinde.

Buzinde’s research does not aim to expose the right or wrong way to represent this contentious history within plantation tours, but rather, it aims to examine the nature of the representations and their implications for issues of nationality, identity, heritage and contemporary race relations in America. This research might be viewed as in sync with global efforts such as the United Nations “Breaking the Silence” project, which aims to educate the world about slavery in the Americas as well as contemporary slavery in places like Southeast Asia. Through an interdisciplinary team of scholars, Penn State is, in fact, one of the few American universities that has partnered with the UN on this project, whose goal is to incorporate America’s slavery history into public school curricula. Buzinde
views her research not only a personal interest but a social responsibility and she hopes to continue her career along the same trajectory.

ALUMNI
Dr. Kelly Bricker ’98g

DR. KELLY BRICKER is the first research scientist at Devine, Tarbell and Associates, a Sacramento-based firm, to focus on land-use and aesthetics. She is responsible for conducting research projects related to the social and cultural impacts of re-licensing projects such as hydroelectric facilities located throughout the United States.

Bricker’s current position directly impacts the quality of life of individuals who reside near hydroelectric facilities. Results of her assessments of the social and cultural impact of such facilities dictate what changes must be made to maintain or improve residents’ quality of life, including their local culture as well as the environment that attracts residents and tourists to the natural resource created by the hydroelectric facility. While the work that Dr. Bricker currently does is exemplary, her other accomplishments are equally noteworthy.

Bricker was the impetus behind the development of an ecotourism program throughout Fiji. She conducted ecotourism workshops for the Fiji National Training Council and coordinated the South Pacific Regional Workshop on the International Year of Ecotourism-2000 and the Fiji Ecotourism Conference-2000. She was also an integral member of the National Ecotourism Advisory Committee that created ecotourism guidelines for the Ministry of Tourism in Fiji.

Bricker founded Rivers Fiji, an ecotourism business built on the principles of sustainability. As director of research and marketing, Bricker was responsible for the development of rafting/kayaking/sea kayaking programs in the Fijian Highlands. She also trained and supervised personnel, all of whom were Fijian, to market and manage the business.

Further, Dr. Bricker has maintained a steady stream of research publications and presentations focused on sustainable development in recreation and tourism contexts. Her recent projects have been funded by the International Ecotourism Society, the National Audubon Society, and the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program.

Perhaps most compelling is Dr. Bricker’s level of service locally, nationally and internationally, all of which has had a profound impact on the viability of ecotourism. She has served as a member on multiple committees, but more importantly, has willingly given of her time and energy to serve as president over The Fiji Ecotourism Association and, more recently, The International Ecotourism Society. Bricker and her husband, Nathan, developed the Wilderness Institute for Leadership Development. The Institute serves the leadership development needs of universities across the U.S. including, but not limited to, Penn State.

RETIRED
GEOFFREY GODBEY ’68g, ’72g, professor of leisure studies in Penn State’s College of Health and Human Development, retired effective June 30, 2006 with emeritus status.

Godbey, who is nationally known for his research on leisure, work, time use and tourism, has spent thirty-five years at Penn State. His recent studies have focused on constraints to leisure participation, the future use of forests for recreation, older people’s use of local recreation and park services, the impact of ethnic change on outdoor recreation, relations between health and use of leisure and the impact of changing demographics on use of free time and time use. He has presented his findings to audiences in twenty-five countries.

Godbey has undertaken research for the American Association of Retired Persons, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the National Recreation Foundation. He also has served as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, the state government of Sao Paulo, Brazil, the U.S. Department of the Interior and to several advertising agencies and public and private recreation organizations. He has testified before committees of the U.S. Senate and the President’s Commission on American Outdoors.

Godbey is the author or co-author of 10 books and more than 100 articles that have appeared in a variety of academic journals and popular periodicals. In 1981, he co-founded Venture Publishing Co., which specializes in books dealing with recreation and leisure and with long-term care.
“REWARDING,” “STRESSFUL,” “time consuming,” “exciting,” and “fun” are the most common adjectives used by students in instructor Kathleen Raupach’s courses on Programming in Recreation and Leisure Services. The programming class, designed to teach students how to plan and implement a large-scale, community-wide special event, allows students to gain practical experience in planning, promoting, implementing and evaluating a three-hour special event. The students benefit, but so do numerous non-profit, community, and university organizations.

During the 2005-2006 academic year, more than 2,000 youth and adults attended the student-run events, broadening awareness of the RPTM department both in the community and on campus. In addition, an impressive 124 unduplicated local businesses and organizations donated services or goods to the events. A diverse offering included a Spring Swing (a youth golf event), Chocolate and Chili Festival, Haunted Horror Trail, American Woodcock Festival, Summit Extreme, Attack it with a Racquet, Itchin’ for Fishin’, The Amazing Race, Challenge at the Creek, and more.

This is what representatives of two organizations that benefited from the RPTM student-run events had to say about the experience:

“Working with the RPTM students was a wonderful experience. They worked very hard to make sure our event was successful and were with us through the planning stages and the event itself. They even turned in a wonderful manual for my agency. More than 600 people attended this event!”

Sarah Benton, program director, Community Academy for Lifelong Learning (CALL), which benefited from the Chocolate and Chili Festival.

“It is almost magical…the transformation that one can see in the students as participants arrive for the program and their project takes on a life of its own. Maturity, responsibility, and compassion arise from the students during their programs at levels high above even their own expectations.”

George Vahoviak, program director, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, which benefited from both the Itchin’ for Fishin’ and the Challenge at the Creek events.

Community collaborations for the fall 2006 semester included organizations such as the State College Area School District Physical Education Department, Community Academy for Lifelong Learning, Centre County Youth Services Bureau, Late Night-PennState, Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center, Benner Township Parks and Recreation, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, and the Greenburg Ice Rink.

To learn how your organization might benefit from an RPTM student-run event, please contact Ms. Kathleen Raupach, instructor, at kjr103@psu.edu or 814-865-1851.
RPTM STUDENT SOCIETY UPDATES

The RPTM department has two student societies to which students can belong. Updates from both societies follow.

Professional Golf Management Student Society
by Tj Bradley, President

HELLO ALUMNI!! The fall semester has been an exciting time for the PGM Student Society. The Society has an outstanding group of student leaders who are working toward a successful and active year.

Our fall semester guest speaker series included:

  Sept. 13 — Burch Wilkes: Reviewed the future development of the PGM Golf Teaching & Research Center and new PGM office space.
  Oct. 18 — Bill Cioffoletti, PGA Master Professional and director of recruitment and community outreach for the PGA of America, and Jon Boland (RPTM/PGM '99), sales representative, Fairway & Greene, Ltd.
  Nov. 15 — Scott Mahoney, CEO & president of Peter Millar, and James Jones '04, account executive, Peter Millar
  Dec. 6 — Alumni Panel Discussion

The fall semester tournament season has come to a close and it was fun to compete. A few freshmen quickly emerged as very strong players. It will be interesting in the spring to see how they handle the winter. Also, the matches for the 3rd Annual Guady Cup are currently being developed. Let’s go upperclassmen! I encourage everyone to take a look at the student society Web site, www.clubs.psu.edu/up/pgmss, to stay up-to-date with tournament play.

Last year we became highly involved with THON and it has become one of our biggest projects of the year. With a year of experience under our belts, we plan to take our fundraising and involvement in this special event to a whole new level. We currently have fundraising trips planned for New York City, Pittsburgh, and possibly our very own PGA Merchandise Show and Convention. What a great way to showcase our program’s involvement in the community.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for giving the Penn State PGM program the great respect it has in the industry. You have opened many doors for us and it makes our internship possibilities endless. We hope to get some of you back to State College to guest speak this spring. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to email me at tjb279@psu.edu.

Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Student Society
by Maggie Neil, President

THE RPTM Student Society (RPTMSS) was busy in 2006. Under the leadership of the executive board, we have increased our membership by attending events such as the new RPTM student orientation and HHD Majors’ Night and by visiting RPTM classes. We also sponsored an RPTM student/faculty pizza social that we hope will become an event held each semester to facilitate interaction among faculty and students in the department.

Through fundraising and support from the RPTM department, eight RPTMSS members attended the National Recreation & Park Association Conference in Seattle, Washington. As Penn State representatives, we attended educational sessions and met and interacted with professionals in our future career fields. We plan to send a group to the PRPS conference in March in Hershey.

RPTMSS has plans for social events such as a group gathering at the ice rink and our annual end-of-year picnic. We have invited guest speakers representing the different options within our major to visit our meetings and present on specific areas of expertise. Our fundraising efforts continue as we conduct our annual “Home Helper” program, where RPTMSS members do yard work, cleaning, and other small tasks in exchange for donations. We are looking forward to supporting dancers in THON again this year.

We appreciate all that alumni do for us, and we want to keep the lines of communication open with you. My email is mnn144@psu.edu, and if there is anything we can do to help you, please let us know. We look forward to meeting more of you during the RPTM Super Weekend in March!
March 26, 2007
(Hershey Lodge and Convention Center)
8:30 p.m. • PSU Social at Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society

March 31, 2007
(Nittany Lion Inn — a block of rooms is available until 2/28/07. Please use “RPTM0330 001” to ensure the group rate.)
10:00 a.m. • RPTM Mentoring Brunch • Boardroom 1
1:30 p.m. • Alumni Panel Round Table • Assembly Room
6:00 p.m. • 3rd Annual Recognition Banquet • Boardroom

April 28, 2007
14th Annual PGM Family & Friends Tournament and Banquet.

September 25-29, 2007
National Recreation & Park Association Congress and Exposition.
(Indianapolis, IN)
Check back in with Natalie Novak, nun1@psu.edu, for more information about the RPTM Alumni Social.

Contact Butch Wickes at gbw104@psu.edu or (814) 865-7034 for more information.

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