Greetings from the Department! I hope life is treating you great and you are living the good life! We are delighted to welcome new faculty member Dr. Ryan Sharp to the family! Ryan has hit the ground running and is already involved in research, regional stewardship, camping excursions in REC 290, and is shaping up a great initiative involving outdoor recreation with EKU’s First Year programs.

We are all missing Peg! She retired effective December 31, and the Department will always hold her near and dear to our hearts. We wish her and Ronnie a wonderful retirement filled with great adventures! We are excited to welcome our new Administrative Assistant Carol!

Our accreditation visit last spring went very well, although we had some issues with the logistics. Two of the visitation team members had emergency medical issues the week before the visit, but thankfully Dr. Stephen Anderson from Barry University filled in as visitation chair along with Irby Brinson, retired Parks Director in Asheville. Thanks Steve and Irby for all your hard work! We are excited to report our continuing accreditation has been granted, thus maintaining our status as the 8th longest accredited program in the nation!

Students in the Department have been involved with a wide variety of service-learning and research projects that you will read about in this newsletter edition. With a faculty of only four, we have 14 regional stewardship projects occurring during the 2011-2012 academic year. This level of productivity is a testament to the commitment of our faculty to make that proverbial difference in the communities we serve.

Our students describe the department by using the word “family.” We would love to hear from our alumni family, so take some time to drop us an email telling us what’s happening in your life.

Recreationally,

Dr. Jon McChesney, Chair
Charles Mullins,
Part-Time Instructor

During the fall semester, my Rec 460 Advanced Leadership & Programming class teamed up with Erin Moore, of Richmond Parks and Recreation to assist in the planning and coordination of Halloween Hoe-Down 2011. The family-friendly event is designed for children to have a safe and fun environment to Trick or Treat. The class raised $850 for the Madison County Special Olympics. In November, I scheduled a technology workshop for the class. Instructed by Erin Moore, the students learned the basic operations of specialized recreation software used by Richmond Parks & Rec for activity registration, facility reservation, league scheduling, financial management, marketing reporting, etc. Presently, I am working on a marketing project with my Management of Recreation Services class. The class will create and administer a marketing plan that will focus on student recruitment for the Department.

Julie Sharp,
Part-Time Instructor

I grew up in rural Upstate New York where I spent my childhood camping, boating, swimming, horseback riding, skiing and exploring the great outdoors any other way I could. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Geography from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo. After seven years and a number of administrative positions in various industries, I went back to school and earned my MS in Natural Resources Recreation Management from the Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. During graduate school I formed a great love for our country’s National Parks and protected areas!

My Master’s research at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Atlanta focused on place attachment in relation to public perceptions and preferences for management options. I have also had the opportunity to assist with research with a number of research projects including on the Appalachian Trail and at Cumberland Island National Seashore off the coast of Georgia. I have worked as an interpretive ranger at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, in facilities management at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming and in environmental protection in the NPS regional office in Denver, Colorado. I have visited over 70 NPS sites, a small step towards my dream of eventually visiting every one of the almost 400 in the U.S. I am now living here in Richmond with my husband Ryan, our daughter Ivy who will be 1-year old in May and our two great pups Duffy and Murphy.

Caelin Scott
Part-Time Instructor

As a graduate from the Master's program in RPA, I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to be back in the classroom and to share my enthusiasm with students! The experience I’ve gained in the Dept. has not only allowed me to aid in student achievement and success, but has also helped in my own personal growth. I have always had a passion for education and the students in the RPA Department really help ignite that passion with their excitement and eagerness to learn.

When I’m not teaching, you can find me in the Perkins building working in the Conferencing & Events Dept. I am also now one semester into completing my doctorate. This fall I started the Educational Leadership Ed.D program at EKU and have loved every minute of it!

As if everything I’ve already mentioned doesn’t take up most of my days, I also love spending time with my husband Zach. We’ve been married just over four years but have been together for almost eight. We currently do not have any children, but consider our two miniature dachshunds, Scout & Duke to be our kids. In our free time, we love being outdoors. Whether we go hiking, camping or fishing, as long as we are outside we have fun!

Dr. Ryan Sharp,
Assistant Professor

A little less than a year ago I was in Denver, Colorado working for the National Park Service. Although I really enjoyed my job, I obtained my PhD to one day become a university professor. This year, that desire came to fruition, and I could not be happier! I joined the Recreation and Parks family in August of 2011 and have had quite a wild ride since arriving in Richmond. I have faced many challenges being a first time professor, but the interaction with the students and the atmosphere within the department and at the university is more rewarding than I could have imagined. I have high expectations for the department, our students and myself. I look forward to continuing to build on the foundation that has been built for the past 46 years.

Although I have not been here long, I would like to share a few things that I am proud of:

- REC 290 Adventure Programming went on two overnight backpacking trips to the Red River Gorge this past fall. The students learned about Leave No Trace ethics and got to see some of the concepts discussed during class in action. We also were able to clean up several campsites, carrying out 5 bags of garbage during our stay.
- REC 410 Research Methods is in the process of developing and delivering a survey on the EKU campus to better understand recycling behaviors of students and faculty. This project will give students hands on experience with research and also provide EKU with essential information to help make campus a greener, more sustainable place.

I will be working with First Year Programs and Adventure Programs to deliver an outdoor experience for participants in the first year orientation program, Colonel Camp. We will be taking up to 20 incoming freshman to Big South Fork National Recreation Area for a 3 day, 2 night backpacking trip. My hope is that this program will grow to become a formal part of the Colonel Camp experience and the 2-night trip will turn into a weeklong wilderness orientation program.

On a personal note, my daughter, Ivy, will be turning 1-year-old on May 11th. I look forward to her first birthday party!!!

Ivy with our new Rec Bear!
Sherry Jones,
Assistant Professor

It is difficult to believe that 2012 is upon us…where has the time gone? My classes have been working on service learning and regional stewardship projects.

**Halloween Hoopfest** - REC 102-Introduction to Recreation Leadership, October’s 2011 Hoopfest project was a great success! The cool and rainy weather did not hinder the brave enthusiasts who wanted to experience this fun occasion. Hoopfest, opens up the EKU’s basketball season with fun, games, food and prizes. The REC 102 class was responsible for planning and implementing the activities for kids. The students worked hard planning activities and showed their enthusiasm throughout the event.

The spring 102 class is getting ready to plan for the Easter Extravaganza with the Richmond Parks and Recreation department.

**The Buddy Project and Feed our Seniors fundraiser** with the Richmond Senior Center proved to be a success, raising over $350 to help with the nutrition program. Students in REC 411 – Therapeutic Recreation for the Senior Adult class, showed their commitment to our senior community by serving as class buddies. They selected a buddy and committed to one hour weekly by discussing the fears and concerns related to the aging process as well as recreation opportunities that aid in healthier lifestyles. The class also initiated the opportunity to raise funds for the nutrition program, by receiving donations from citizens in the Richmond community.

Dr. Michelle Gerken,
Associate Professor

During the fall, I was busy again with the fifth year of providing the mentoring and social skills programs at Bellevue Learning Center. The community at large supports the mentoring program by donating various prizes for Rewards Day at the end of the semester. The students gain different perspectives and education about youth at risk and life. I feel it is important for college students to learn from life experiences (service learning).

I also chaired a thesis committee with a student from “down under” in Australia. In REC 511/711 class, I continued to host the Annual Wheelchair Sport Exhibition at Model Lab School. Model Lab elementary students participated in using sport wheelchairs for a variety of sports. The students learned how to manipulate the wheelchair.

The REC 450 class as well as other classes in the department participated in the second annual Research Symposium in the spring semester. The research symposium is a highlight of a student’s academic career. Myself and the other faculty critiqued the poster presentations, which have become a capstone of a students’ academic career.

During the spring semester, students participated in the Young Athletes program through Richmond Parks and Recreation delivering gross motor skills to preschool children with and without disabilities. In April, a recreation therapy workshop will occur for Certified Therapeutic Recreation Therapists in the state. Dr. Dave Austin will present the keynote address and will lead one session. Dr. Austin is a well-known author of therapeutic recreation textbooks.

I believe in providing stewardship to EKU’s service region. My REC 512/712 and REC 840 classes partnered with Natural Bridge State Resort Park in order provide the first Spring Break Day Camp. Children with and without mild disabilities from a service region county will attend the park to participate in outdoor and recreation activities under my direction, graduate students and undergraduate students. Learning will prevail for everyone who participated in the partnership.

Last, in conjunction with my REC 225 class and Healthy You, we will offer a Hobby Exhibition for faculty, staff and my students to exhibit their hobbies for the first Hobby Exhibition inside and outside of the Powell Building.
In 2011, Jon McChesney and undergraduate students Katie Posey and Brittany Toombs went to Frankfort to present our research at the Posters at the Capital entitled Out of Control Youth Sports: Helping Families to find a Leisure Balance.

**Publications**

Matt Young (graduate student) and Dr. Jon McChesney had their article *Contemporary Trends in Recreation Volunteerism* Published in the Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Dr. Ryan Sharp and Mrs. Julie Sharp had their article “Lessons Learned: Merging Process Elements to Address Wilderness Character and User Capacity” published in *Park Science*, a research and resource management bulletin of the U.S. National Park Service.

Students in REC 809 created a Motivation Manual for the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society.


**Presentations**


Gerken, M. (2011). 2011 Kentucky Association Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Convention. *To Mentor or Not To Mentor that is the Question?*


Gerken, M. & Kline, L. (June 24, 2011). Community Forum on Reducing Delinquency and Substance Abuse in Madison County Schools. *Addressing the needs of at risk youth: the Bellevue program.*


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### Alumni Updates!

**Geoff Roberts**  
Parks Program Services Leader  
Rough River Dam State Resort Park  
Falls of Rough, KY 40119  
270-257-2311  
geoffrey.roberts@ky.gov

**Jeremy Hayes**  
Recreation Specialist  
MWR Division Blue Grass Army Depot  
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**Holly Hofstetter**  
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**Trevor Coccari**  
Director of Conference Services  
YMCA Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood  
13528 State HWY TATE

**Amanda Lasley**  
Park Ranger  
North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation  
Jordan Lake State Recreation Area, 280 State Rd, Apex, NC 27523  
919-362-0586 ext. 215

**Laura Kincaid**  
Kenton County Cooperative Extension Service  
Family & Consumer Science Program Assistant  
AA POTOSI, MO 63664  
573-438-2154 EXT 226

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Congratulations on the new jobs! Erin Gillespie, Program Coordinator for the Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky! Geoff Roberts, Parks Program Services Leader at Rough River Dam State Resort Park! Anessa Snowden, Senior Adult & TR Program Administrator, Lexington Parks & Recreation! Mitchell Pearson, Group/Tour Sales Executive at Renfro Valley Entertainment Center!

We now have an alumni-specific Facebook page at:  
EKU Department of Recreation and Park Administration Alumni!
Welcome Carol, our new Administrative Assistant!

I look forward to working with everyone! I would like to thank everyone for stopping by and saying hello! I graduated from Midway College with an Equine Office Administration degree. Some of my hobbies are: horseback riding, classic movies, I’m a big fan of Audrey Hepburn, and I collect Princess Diana memorabilia.

Homecoming Kickball Game

It was a sad day for the Old Folks! The undergrad team coached by Dan Eastham, avenged last year’s loss by winning the 2nd Annual Kickball Challenge. Coach Dan booted two home runs, and the stacked lineup of dudes stretched the lead at one time to eight runs before a gallant comeback by the Alumni/Faculty/Grad Students team led by alum and current University of Tennessee graduate student Kye James! While Michelle Gerken sustained a finger injury, the rest of the old bunch escaped unscathed! We were delighted to welcome back alumni Kye James, Erin Moore, Meg Gampher, Katie Posey, Caelin Scott and Matt Thomsen. Alumni-Plan on joining us in 2012 the Friday before Homecoming for this fun-filled and spirited game!

Our First Department Staff Quiz!

Please match up the statement to the correct person!

1.) I love 80's pop culture, low-budget horror films, & Buttered Popcorn Jelly Bellies!
   A. Carol Davidson

2.) My cats are named BlackEye Pea and Squeaky Lou, and I like country drives and making mixed CDs!
   B. Rhae Hoskins

3.) I have seen U2, Jackopierce, Rolling Stones, Guns ‘N Roses, and Guster in concert and was attacked by a duck as a child!
   C. Jon McChesney

4.) I love owls and collect owl figurines!
   D. Caelin Scott

5.) I was my high school’s mascot (Go Cardinals!)
   E. Ryan Sharp

6.) I like to eat Whoppers, and listen to the Eagles, Bee Gees, Barbra Streisand & Adele.
   F. Michelle Gerken

7.) I have been to over 80 concerts! I lived in the woods for a year as program manager for a challenge course!
   G. Sherry Jones

8.) I love Seinfeld, disco, and motorcycles. I am terrified of heights, falling, mice and rats!
   H. Charles Mullins

9.) I was featured in my hometown newspaper for a culinary independent study & creating a Cappuccino Caramel Cheesecake recipe!
   I. Julie Sharp

10.) I love the ocean, the Oscars, & elephants! I have a Lord of the Rings & a Mario 1-Up tattoo!
    J. Brittany Toombs

A. Carol Davidson   F. Michelle Gerken
B. Rhae Hoskins GA  G. Sherry Jones
C. Jon McChesney    H. Charles Mullins
D. Caelin Scott     I. Julie Sharp
E. Ryan Sharp       J. Brittany Toombs GA

*Email your responses to rhae_hoskins15@eku.edu by April 30th!
*Prize will be given for the most correct responses!

“Your body cannot heal without play. Your mind cannot heal without laughter. Your soul cannot heal without joy”
-Catherine Fenwich
Department Events and News

Department Award Winners
Fall 2011 Blue Ribbon Recognition: Morgan Thacker & Brittany Toombs
Fall 2010 Blue Ribbon Recognition: Mallory Wolfe
The Blue Ribbon Recognition is given to students that demonstrate excellence in all Department classes, service-learning projects & fieldwork.

2011 Department Student Award Winners
- Dr. James McChesney Scholarship Award - Brittany Toombs
- Outstanding Senior Leadership & Academic Excellence - Hannah Bicknell Eaton
- Outstanding Senior Leadership & Professional Involvement - Katie Poesy
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award - Geoff Roberts
- Outstanding Alumni Award - Kevin Johnson
- Recreation Spirit Award - Josh Hobbs

Congrats to Our Recent MS Graduates!
- Mike Conley
- Travis Absher
- Timothy McGee
- Megan Gampher
- Prabhu Sanker
- Ryan Farley
- Patti Matthews
- Michelle Ford
- Jennifer Maringer
- Sean Conroy
- Geoffrey Roberts
- Brian Clark
- Erin Gillespie

Department Sponsors!
Many thanks to our Department Sponsors! We are continuing with the initiative of having Department sponsors in order to create energy among faculty and students as well as aid the marketing efforts of area businesses!

Spring 2012 Sponsors:
- January: Outback Steakhouse
- February: Logan’s Roadhouse
- March: Buffalo Wild Wings
- April: Richmond Parks and Rec (Paradise Cove and Adventure Falls)

Fall 2011 Sponsors:
- December: Papa C’s Pizza
- November: Domino’s Pizza
- October: bd’s Mongolian Grill
- September: Qdoba
- August: Chick-Fil-A

Thank you to our 2011-2012 REC 101 Guest Speakers!
- Erin Moore
- Joe Bentley
- Brian Clark
- Charles Mullins
- Jaren Gooden
- Lashe Mullins
- Leah Anderson
- Jason Burton
- Anessa Snowden
- Dr. Michelle Gerken

Department Hosts 2nd KRPS District 6 Meeting! On Sept. 15, 2011 we were delighted to welcome Department alumni Maggy Kriebel (Berea Parks & Rec) and Erin Moore (Richmond Parks & Rec), along with KRPS Executive Director, Chuck Haddaway, Marlron Sams (Corbin Parks & Rec), Beth Boyle (Lincoln Co. Parks & Rec), and John High (Mt. Sterling Parks & Rec) to campus for their District 6 meeting. KRPS offered us a ½ price new member deal for that day (Thanks Chuck!) and as a result, we signed up 25 new student members!

James McChesney Memorial Golf Classic! The 2011 Classic was another record breaking year thanks to alumni support including Randy Moore, Neil Napier & Gary Parsons. Our thanks, once again, to Gillium’s Sports Lounge for their sponsorship and taking care of all the food for the awards dinner. The winning team was the Richmond Church of Christ headed by 11 year Classic player, Ron Murray! Finishing in a tie for runner-up was the Ft. Knox MWR tram headed by Randy Moore and the multiple defending champ team of Steve Brooks!

The email silent auction continues to be loads of fun! If you are interested in being involved with the silent auction and capturing one of our bargains please drop me an email at jon mcchesney@eku.edu
The auction usually begins around the 1st of April.

The 12th Annual Classic is scheduled for Friday April 20, 2012.

Department Regional Stewardship:
- Buddy Program, REC 411 w/Senior Center
- Feed the Hungry, REC 411. Richmond Senior Center, Madison Tower (Section 8 housing) & Willis Manor (Section 8 housing)
- Richmond’s Halloween Hoedown, REC 460
- Social Skills, REC 511 & Mentoring Program, REC 311 at Bellevue Alternative School
- Young Athletes Special Olympics Program, REC 512
- TR Workshop for CTRS in KY & Ohio, REC 512
- EKU Hobby Day w/Wellness Program, REC 225
- 12th Annual James McChesney Memorial Golf Classic, REC 280
- Richmond Easter Eggstravaganza, REC 102
- Trail Maintenance, REC 290
- Colonel Camp Outdoor Adventures partnerships with 1st Year Programs- REC 590

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/groups.ekuparksandrec/ and on Twitter @EKURecandPark

Don’t forget to stop by and check out our new Department website: www.recreation.eku.edu

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