

PRMMA UPDATE

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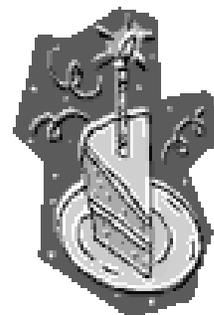
RE-ACCREDITATION SUCCESSFUL!!!

By Dr. Gilbert

The undergraduate degree program in Park and Recreation Management was re-accredited at the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference in San Antonio, TX, on October 17th. The NRPA Accreditation Board met with Drs. Jim Gilbert, PRM Director, and Linda Chitwood, Dean of the School of Applied Sciences, to review the recommendations made in April of 2005 by the state site evaluator Dr. Dennis Nelson (Utah State). To be re-accredited is extremely important to the

students as once they graduate they are eligible to sit for the certification examination without having to be employed for 5 years in the leisure/recreation profession. Today, many municipal recreation departments require and applicant to hold the Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) or be eligible to become certified. The recertification study is a rigorous process that requires [extensive](#) documentation to verify Ole Miss' program met or exceeded the NRPA standards. With a few minor corrections to be completed by September of 2006, the Park and Recrea-

tion Management degree remains stable and academically strong. Dr. Nelson, in remarks about Ole Miss, said, "Congratulations on your successful accreditation bid...I'm glad everything worked out. I had no doubts that they wouldn't."



WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT BY ELLEN EVERETT

Can you believe the semester is over halfway done? Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Time seems to be flying by. With the MRPA conference, the NRPA conference, the Haunted Trail, and classes (we can't forget about classes!), we've been pretty

busy. I just want to remind you to pay your dues (if you haven't already). These dues pay for all the food you've been munching on at the meetings. Also, don't forget to keep up with your CEU points on the CEU sheets that can be found in the departmental office.

These points can mean the difference between a B and an A in some classes. I hope you have a great Thanksgiving break.

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SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS

- Nov. 11, Memphis RiverKings hockey game, Southaven, MS
- Nov. 19-22, Biloxi Relief Trip, Biloxi, MS
- Nov. 21-25, Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28, Classes start back
- Dec. 2, Classes end
- Dec. 5-9, Final Exams



NOVEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 X	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 X
20 X	21 X	22 X	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

PRM RE-ACCREDITATION BY DR. LINDA CHITWOOD

I was honored to sit before the accreditation board with Dr. Gilbert. Our PRM program is clearly recognized as one of the best small programs within the country and we are pleased with our re-accreditation status. Our site visitor, Dr. Dennis Nelson, told the review board that he is envious of the PRM program at Ole Miss and that Ole Miss set the standard for organization and professional presentation during his site visit. Comments such as these and the re-accreditation outcome are a reflection of the work of our excellent faculty, advisory board, and PRM students. On behalf of the School of Applied Sciences, I send congratulations for a job well done.

FOUR DAYS IN SAN ANTONIO **BY TIM WILLIAMSON**

During our four days in San Antonio for the NRPA conference, we learned a great deal on the many opportunities that are available within our field. We met many students and faculty from other universities, we saw many different recreational businesses which offered an array of jobs and services, and we listened to people in our field discuss topics that have relevance and importance to many of us. The seven faculty

and students who represented Ole Miss did an outstanding job of promoting our department and during this time we got to know each other a bit better. Personally, I was inspired by what I saw. The sessions on outdoor recreation, research analysis, and impact studies might seem pretty boring, but they were in fact quite fascinating. I got a chance to hear other grad students, professors, and other outdoor professionals

talk passionately about subjects that I also care about. These sessions proved that what we do can make a big difference if done well. I also got a chance to spend some time with a few individuals from our school who made the conference something I'll remember for quite some time. I guess Tanya Tucker said it best, "Yes, I'll sing it to you just so we all can do, that old San Antonio Stroll."



SAN ANTONIO OR BUST! **BY ELLEN EVERETT**

I'm not quite sure how to put my trip to the NRPA conference in San Antonio into words, but I'll try. I arrived on Monday. Tired as I was, I decided to do a little sight-seeing. Outside the doors of my hotel was the River Walk. It was like walking into a wonderland. There was the tree-lined San Antonio River. All along the river on either side were cute shops and res-

Picasso's, and even Andy Warhol's). I really enjoyed myself. I met up with the others from Ole Miss that night for a great Tex-Mex dinner.

Wednesday, I worked at the exhibit booth. That was a lot of fun. I met people from all over the country, and even the world. The exhibit hall

restaurants (oh, and a CVS pharmacy). There were bridges over the little river so that you could easily navigate both sides. I loved it.

Tuesday, I took a day long tour of San Antonio that was put on by the conference. Since I was the only one from the Ole Miss group to go, I thought I'd be lonely. However, a nice group of people

was monstrous. There were several full playgrounds inside! At the opening party that night, I looked for a table and sat at the only one available. It turned out that I was sitting at the table with the owners of the business that was sponsoring the event! Networking is great.

Thursday morning, I attended

from Sacramento, CA, adopted me. This worked out well, because at the end of the day, I had a job offer. Of course, with lots of classes left to take, I had to turn it down. The tour took us to the Alamo (much smaller than I thought it would be), the Governor's Palace, the Center for Texan Culture, and the McNay Art Museum (I got to see Monet's, Manet's,

the Gulf Coast Relief Forum and spoke about what our club was doing for hurricane relief. Thursday afternoon, I attended a really informative session about making the most of your internship experience. I learned a lot that will help me find a great internship when I'm ready.

Go to page 4. . .

"I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO PUT MY TRIP...INTO WORDS..."

NRPA CONFERENCE **BY MATT ZUEFLE**

Everyone in the PRM Program should be very proud—our presence in San Antonio was really positive. The booth and display in the Exhibit Hall looked very good and were always well-staffed—often by 2-3 folks at once. Our table at the grad school reception got a lot of traffic and we met prospective graduate students from all over the country.

We made contacts with many folks and accomplished quite

Ashleigh deserve extra thanks for all of their help in getting the display together, as do Dale Bramlett and Janet McBride.

Lastly, a big thanks also go to Dr. Jim Gilbert and Dean Linda Chitwood for representing us at our successful re-accreditation review.

I think NRPA was a real success for us this time and I

a bit during the week of NRPA—including the recruiting graduate students, discussing the chair search with several potential candidates, establishing new internship possibilities around the country (and world!), exploring potential research and service collaborations with colleagues from other schools, and engaging in general public relations for Ole Miss. We also go to visit with many former students and

hope to see everyone at the NRPA in Seattle next year!

friends of the University who were in town for the conference.

A number of folks helped me with the preparation and management of the exhibit booth. These people include: our undergraduate students who assisted (Brad Brawner, Ellen Everett, Jennifer Hankins, Ashleigh Lewellen), our graduate student (Tim Williamson), and the faculty member Ms. Stephanie Baller. Tim and



NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE **BY ELLEN EVERETT**

Jon Suter and Jamie Lee, two of our esteemed graduate students, are in the final stages of putting together a new alumni website for the PRM department. They have taken pictures of almost all of the graduating seniors who were in Dr. Gilbert's 400 level class. Each of these students were asked to fill out a questionnaire with personal

information about themselves. The information from the questionnaire will be found next to each of the pictures. I think this is a great way to help us stay in touch with each other after graduating. It will also be a great way for potential students to see all the different kind of people in our department. For more information about this

website, contact Jon Suter at 915-5570 or go by the Graduate Student office in Turner.



HAUNTED TRAIL 2005 BY ELLEN EVERETT

This year's Haunted Trail was a great success. Dr. Beason's 302 class and Ms. Baller's 194 class did a really good job. I personally had a great time guiding kids and parents through the trail. The doctor scene was really gory and a great start for the trail. The first graveyard scene was spooky and really helped to set the scene. I could tell a lot of work was done on that one. I think everyone who visited the trail would agree

that the next scene, the clown scene, was one of the scariest scenes of the trail. Clowns are scary by themselves, but add strobe lights and chainsaws and you get a great scene. The second graveyard scene definitely made some kids run out of their shoes. The house with the Cyclops was a fun one. I have never seen the movie, *The Ring*, but the reenactment of the movie was freaky. The hay maze with the live scarecrows and people

jumping out at you was a great end to the trail. I heard several comments like, "This was much scarier than last year." I think everyone worked really hard, and it showed.

The number of visitors to the trail totaled about 1000, down from last year. The total raised for donation to the Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief fund will be approximately \$2400!

A PARAPLEGIC ATHLETE BY ELLEN EVERETT

Mr. Randy Lavender came to speak to Dr. Dupper's PRM 362 class. If any of the students had any misconceptions, such as people in wheelchairs are helpless, then they definitely learned something during that class period.

Mr. Lavender is the Regional Coordinator for Disabilities and the Physically Challenged for 12 counties in Mississippi.

Mr. Lavender lives down that reputation, too. He drives a GMC Sierra truck with hand controls. His second car is a Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Mr. Lavender's goal is to educate people about the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). I don't know about the other students in that class, but I learned a lot from him.

He is also a very athletic man. He had a motorcycle accident in 1985 that rendered his legs useless. Mr. Lavender water and snow skis. He plays ice hockey. He hand cycles. He loves to fish. He even participates in half marathons. He's been racing since 1990. His racing chair is really light. He told us that racing chairs run from \$2000 on up. The titanium chairs are \$4000!

He may not be able to walk, but he can do just about everything else.

Mr. Lavender trains in a subdivision in Tupelo. He trains with a hand cycle that has 18 gears. This is a man who wasn't into sports at all before his accident. He said he had no reason to be. Now, he is a very multidimensional athlete.

For those in the class who thought he either wouldn't drive, or drives a big van,

"HE MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO WALK,
BUT HE CAN DO
JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING
ELSE." (QUOTED
BY WHOM???)

ELLEN EVERETT, EDITOR

NOVEMBER MEETING

AT

THE BILLIARD CLUB

NOV. 8, 2005

6:00 P.M.

-POOL!

-POOL!

-POOL!

Friday Riverkings CEU
Event. Leave 430pm
from Turner center. .5
cues!

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

SAN ANTONIO OR BUST! CONT.

The highlight of my day on Friday was "Take a Student to Lunch". Professionals from all the different fields took groups of students who were interested in their respective fields to lunch. I met the Director of Operations of the American Hospitality Academy, the Director of Recreation for Amelia Island Plantation, and a representative from Resort Quest. Each of these places would be great places to work. I was able to ask them about what internships with them entail. It was really informative, and I think I'll try for an internship from at least one of those places.

By Saturday, I was ready to come home. I had a great time and met some really great people. I was able to get to know some of the people from our department (students and teachers) a lot better. If you have the chance to go to the NRPA conference in Seattle next year, I suggest you go. It's an experience I'll never forget.