

The R. A. G.

(Recreation Alumni Gossip)

Issue 2
October 2009

COA/NRPA Accreditation – 25 Years!

It's all but final! On October 12, 2009, the UMM Recreation Management faculty will defend the program before the Council on Accreditation in our effort to retain national accreditation. The big event is in Salt Lake City at the NRPA National Congress and Exposition. Eckart, Scribner and seven students will be in attendance.

Remember the first one? When small colleges rarely were granted accreditation? That was 1989, and we did it right. The Rec program has maintained continuous accreditation since then. And, if we are reaccredited in October, that will mean 25 years of national accreditation for UMM's

Recreation Management program.

This past January the Rec faculty submitted our self-study report to the COA and the visiting team. In March a visiting team of three people, two faculty and one practitioner, came to Machias to visit with faculty, students, staff, alumni, COOP supervisors and others, to verify what we claimed to be doing in our self-study.

The visiting team included a faculty member from Mississippi and one from SUNY—Cortland, and a practitioner from Norfolk, VA. The team

was quite impressed with all of what they found at UMM. In fact, their final report included far more commendations than concerns. We were very pleased with the outcome.

You may not be aware that UMM is one of only four colleges in New England which have national accreditation of their recreation program. We are the only college in Maine with such recognition. There are approximately 100 college programs across the US with this accreditation. Pretty good, hey?



PROGRAM FOCUS SHIFTS ALONG WITH INSTITUTION

Remember....most things don't stay the same forever. Just check out my gray hair and my increasing waist line....and my new artificial knee joint. Time moves on and life changes and so do things at UMM, even in Recreation Management.

As most of higher education in the US, especially public higher ed struggles to maintain budgets and enrollment, each institution must examine what it does and must develop a unique niche which will support long-term sustainability. UMM is no exception. Decreasing state appropriations, shrinking numbers of high school graduates, the economy, the cost of energy and health care and other factors have put UMM in the company of many institutions which are adjusting to meet financial demands.

The colleges which seem to be the most successful in this challenging environment are ones which focus their efforts onto a common theme. They use their strengths to the fullest and create a unique niche

which attracts enthusiastic students (faculty and staff) and promotes sustainability. UMM has been engaged in this process for the last two years. You may have read that the outcome of this effort is to brand UMM as a public Environmental Liberal Arts (ELA) college. President Huggins and the campus have strong support from the UMS Board of Trustees and Chancellor to pursue this niche. There is a high expectation that this change will result in a long-term sustainability for UMM.

Of course with that institutional adjustment, all academic programs are being asked to adapt in a similar way. As you have heard Scribner say before, "Rec Management is the Liberal Arts of the professional programs at UMM." And we have always included the environment in our course work. But now we will be doing even more.

We have changed the name of the program to Environmental Recreation and Tourism Management. We have shifted requirements a bit, reduced our areas of concen-

tration to two (Recreation & Natural Resources and Leisure Programming), and added new courses to reflect the new name. The two new required courses for all students are Introduction to Tourism and Recreation Behavior and the Environment. We believe that the program retains the rigor and quality it always had. There still is the 50-page maintenance plan and all the rest. UMM is still the best place to go to get a degree in recreation. You can count on that.

So go check out the UMM web site at www.umm.maine.edu. Look for all the new changes at UMM and in the Rec program. Let us know what you think....

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And if you are ever in Downeast Maine, please visit us. We will love to see you.

65 YEARS AT UMM

This just can not be true! Counting all the years that Scribner (35) and Eckart (30) have been teaching at UMM we get 65 years of service. That is incredible!

It has been a long run, and we have all experienced a lot. We have so many stories, and you have them too. Remember when....when Eckart was young and foolish and climbed a tree for his yearbook picture....when Scribner walked the gunnels of a canoe....when Scribner and Eckart both played hockey with the UMM Hockey Club....when we headed off to far away places to attend national conferences (which we still do) Remember when???

It has been a good run. We have had so many successes. Most of all, the biggest successes have been our gradu-

ates...YOU! So many of you have developed such rich and fulfilling lives.... professionally, personally, and more. And after all these years there are so many of you. We just wish we could do a better job of staying in touch.

But again after all these years the time will be coming soon for these two warhorses (Eckart and Scribner that is) to retire. It's not official yet, but the plans are in the works. So by the next academic year you will see the announcement of at least one retirement.

The changing of the guard will not diminish the quality of the Rec program at UMM or its role and importance to this campus. The expectation is that any vacancy in faculty position, created by retirement, will be filled

immediately. The show will carry on. But we will always "Remember When."



NEW FACULTY

A SEAMLESS TRANSITION

by Kelsey Kurz

A student's perspective on how our newest recreation faculty member fits into the program and the recreation management team:

"It was three years ago that Dr. Andrea Ednie joined the recreation family at UMM, the same year that I entered as a freshman. I remember walking into her office at the beginning of our first advisee meeting, and she was beaming with excitement. It didn't take long to figure out that Andrea meant business. We both were starting something new that day; it's hard to believe it's three years later. In that time, Andrea has been nothing but continuous support and an incredible leader to her students. She's combined her passion for the outdoors with conceptual tasks and real life skills that benefit every student who enters her classroom. The great thing about the Recreation program here at UMM is that it's very personal and very hands on, and Andrea fits with both of those things perfectly. She has real life experiences that she can share with her students, and hands on that really shape who we I can remember one talking about the Appalachian Trail, and what it entailed, etc. and Andrea pulled up pictures of when she hiked it after college with one of her good friends. It was the neatest thing looking at these pictures that Andrea took and talking about the hardships they faced, but more importantly this experience that changed their life. This is just a small example of how real and motivating Andrea's classes are. I can honestly say that there are very few other classes where at the end, I just want to get up and do whatever it is she was talking about. Whenever something is exciting to Andrea, it makes it exciting to everyone else around her, and that's truly something special. Every class with her is a new inspiration, and makes it that much more exciting to be a part of the Recreation program at UMM. I think I speak for all of the students, staff, and faculty that know Andrea, that it's a true honor to have her here with us, enhancing this program with her knowledge of recreation, tourism, and the environment as well as a love for teaching this to her students. We really appreciate all that you do."

"Every class with her is a new inspiration...."

labs and activities are as individuals. class we were



Alumni Corner

One feature of this newsletter we hope to continue is an update of where alumni are and what they are doing. We also want to create a UMM alumni page on the Rec Management web site so alumni can keep in touch. Having said that, let me add that this task is not easy to do. And we need your help. So please contact us and let us know where you are and what you are up to in your life, please.

The issue's update...

Some of you remember Amanda Holey? Sure, the over-achiever, driven to get her degree in three years (and doing it), and then on to a Master's Degree in Forestry (and doing that), then on to change the forestry world. It is great for the faculty to see that drive and ambition. At the same time we often wonder where that person will end up....we have seen so many.

Well, this past winter someone at UMM found a newspaper article from the "Clare Sentinel" with a story about Amanda Holey (now Green) explaining how she had just become the new Recreation Director for the city of Clare, Michigan. We knew Amanda had gone on to graduate school for forestry, but how did she end up in municipal parks and recreation?

Well, even better than reading about Amanda....I am walking through the crowd this August at the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival. And right there in front of me, who do I see but Amanda Holey Green and her husband Bob (of course I didn't recognize him). By the way, it was the first time Amanda had ever been to the Blueberry Festival. We had a great conversation and Amanda told me the story of discovering what she really wanted to do as a career. It all came back to her experiences at UMM running programs and activities. Amanda told me that she realized that the activity stuff was what

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STUDENTS IN THE WORKFORCE

As always, a big part of how we prepare students for the workforce is having them complete a major cooperative education (coop) experience. In the past couple of years, students have worked in a wide range of settings – from camp councilors to whitewater rafting guides, coaches, volunteer fire fighters, groundskeepers, park rangers and interpreters, fitness trainers, resort staff, municipal recreation staff, schooner staff, wildlife refuge interns, land trust stewards, and many more.

The students often refer to coops as the “best class I’ve had yet” and discuss the importance of working with colleagues and supervisors as crucial learning experiences. I really enjoy sponsoring student coops as it gives me a chance to meet new people in the workforce (often UMM alumni) and to see the students in a professional setting. Academic performance in class is not always the strongest predictor of work performance – I love seeing students shine and hearing from professionals that they are impressed... as I so often hear!

We are always looking for new places for students to work for their coops. Please let us know if you have or know of an opportunity that you feel would fit well with students in our program.

by Andrea Ednie



Ryan Meader working as raft guide for New England Outdoor Center out of Millinocket.



Jay Skillings, working as a summer camp councilor at the Bath YMCA.



Chris Tomlinson working as a councilor at Education Playcare in Avon, CT.

Alumni Corner

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She enjoyed the most and after graduate school she looked for a job where she could do that. She says she is very happy in municipal recreation. But who would have ever thought she would be there. Congratulations Amanda!

So what do you say? How about sending Bill a little something about where you are today. Send us something we can put on our developing alumni page of the Rec Management web site. Let's get more connected. At the last alumni picnic there were a couple different times when people discovered that they lived within just a couple miles of another UMM Rec alumnus whom they never knew. It really is a small world.

Please stay in touch.



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GO UMM!!!