The Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences has enjoyed another full and productive semester to start the 2019-2020 school year. In the Fall 2019 Newsletter you’ll find a focus on events planned and implemented by our students in the past three months. These events not only helped educate future event professionals but also exposed students to issues in our national parks, research topics in youth development, encouraged recycling and the use of alternative transportation. Faculty member Debe Shafer has been the driving force in our event management program for the past six years. Mrs. Shafer is retiring soon and Dr. Corliss Outley is leaving for exciting opportunities at Clemson University after 13 great years in RPTS. We will miss them both and offer a fond farewell in the pages that follow.

It is always interesting to learn about what our alumni and current students are doing. You’ll read about Ms. Margie Trame ’18 who, after a stint with College Station PARD, now works for the City of San Jose, CA as an Event Coordinator; PhD student Alex Sullins who is working in the area of Positive Youth Development; and Mr. Jake Vasquez ’20 who is working in the Disney College Program at EPCOT. So many of our graduates and current students are doing great things as they follow a passion to serve others.

There are also new course offerings and new faculty members to introduce. The department is partnering with professionals in the hotel industry and the brewing industry to offer new opportunities in Hotel Management and in Brewery Management and Operations. Faculty in the Department of Soil and Crop Science are working with us to offer additional brewing coursework and there are plans to make a brewery management certificate available in the near future. In the congratulations section RPTS faculty and staff are featured who display innovation and excellence in their teaching, research and service. As you will see, their work results in new opportunities and well-deserved honors.

Wishing you all peace in 2020. “Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.”
– Unknown

Having fun at the RPTS Tailgate. Pictured Left to Right: Lavell Merritt, Dr. Scott Shafer, Mrs. Debe Shafer, and Dr. Robert Stanton.
Every semester groups of student event coordinators work together to implement a variety of events. Here are the events that took place this semester. Below you will find when the event was held and what the purpose of the event was, as well as, a few pictures from the event and a picture of the team that implemented the event.

Where Children Grow Gala - October 25, 2019

The Where Children Grow Gala is an annual fundraising event held by the St. Thomas Early Learning Center. This year, the gala was held on Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Ice House on Main in Bryan. Its purpose is to raise money for the school to continue its mission of promoting exploration and discovery in the curriculum of young children. The theme for this year’s gala was nature and greenery, which beautifully captured the essence of St. Thomas and their love of the outdoors and all that it has to offer.

RPTS Tailgate - September 21, 2019

The purpose of our event is to build a better community within the RPTS department. We wanted to host an event that would connect former students with current students and faculty members. The event is a fun and safe way to unite these audiences and celebrate the Aggies.
National Park Service Event - September 19, 2019

The NPS Workshop and Panel 2019, was held on September 19th at the AgriLife Center on West Campus. This event hosted professionals from the National Park Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife department, Former Superintendent of the National Park Service, J.T. Reynolds; Chief Park Ranger, Anthony Vela; Former Director of the National Park Service, Robert Stanton; Current Director of Operations of the National Park Service, David Vela. Throughout the day, students and faculty had the opportunity to network and learn about these two organizations and how to pursue a career with these agencies. The event also hosted a presentation with a panel of distinguished guests with a reception to follow. Overall, the event was a huge hit!

PEMC BASH - September 10, 2019

The PEMC BASH (Professional Event Management Certification Business Associates Social Hour) is a speed networking event. The purpose of the PEMC BASH is to connect former students who have completed the PEMC certificate program and have established careers in event management with current students working towards the PEMC. This networking event helped current PEMC students achieve an idea of what opportunities are ahead of them and to help spark interest in certain career fields with the influence of former PEMC students. Through this classy yet fun event, former PEMC students helped current PEMC students gain valuable insight into the event management profession.

Youth Development Address featuring Dr. Richard Lerner - November 11-14, 2019

This event started on the main campus in the Harrington Building with a coffee hour after the address took place at Texas A&M AgriLife Center from 3:00 - 6:00 pm, following after with a happy hour. Our clients wanted to ensure that this event focused on the future of Positive Youth Development. It was a successful event with over 100 attendees. We got terrific feedback to improve for future events like this. Our team would like to thank our sponsors for helping us put on this event and host Dr. Richard M. Lerner.
What are pop up events?

Pop up events are temporary, unexpected events in unique spaces that usually last for a few hours and then pop down. Over the semester, event implementation teams worked together to host 3 different pop up events across campus.

Fall in The Gardens - October 25, 2019

The purpose of this pop up was to help bring awareness to all the beautiful things that are offered within the Gardens here on West Campus. The event was planned with the goals of making it interactive, educational, and enjoyable. This was accomplished by creating a scavenger hunt through the gardens that ended with the participants painting pumpkins, eating cookies, and drinking hot cider.

National America Recycles Day - November 15, 2019

On Friday, November 15, 2019, the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences hosted a pop-up event at Rudder Plaza in celebration of National America Recycles Day. This pop-up event was planned and hosted by two student groups from RPTS 321 to bring awareness to what National America Recycles Day is and how the students of Texas A&M University can become more eco-friendly in their daily lives. The pop-up event included recycling themed activities and games, along with an eco-friendly takeaway: a reusable drinking straw.

Thankful For - November 22, 2019

The “Thankful for...” pop-up event was hosted on Friday, November 22, 2019 during the RPTS 321 class. As students at Texas A&M, we have a lot to be thankful for, so we wanted to engage the Texas A&M community in an event dedicated to thankfulness. Held in front of the Horticulture Building on West Campus and inside the Memorial Student Center (MSC), passersbys could enjoy hot cider, delicious cookies, fun activities, and most importantly, take the time to write about what they are thankful for on a leaf to fill our thankful tree.
Please tell us a little bit about yourself and your relationship with the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (RPTS) at Texas A&M University. EX: Where are you from, when did you come into the RPTS department, anything you want people to know about you.

I was born and raised in Arlington, Texas. After graduating high school, I began attending Texas A&M in Fall 2014. I began my freshman year as an RPTS major and immediately fell in love with the department and everyone in it! My emphasis was in Tourism Management, and I was also in the Professional Event Management Certification Program. During my senior year at A&M, I began working full-time for the City of College Station Parks & Recreation Department as an Assistant Recreation Supervisor for Wolf Pen Creek Park and Special Events. In that position I helped coordinate various events such as concerts, 5K races, Valentine’s Day events, egg hunts, small weddings, meetings, Halloween events, Christmas events, and more. This past August, I moved to California and found a position at the City of San Jose as an Event Coordinator. It was been quite a crazy transition moving from College Station to this huge city of over 1 million people!

How did RPTS help prepare you for your career?

The RPTS department requires students to be very hands-on in courses, so this taught me to really think through the details of my work and tackle issues that came up in my projects. The event planning courses from Debe Shafer & Steve Migacz, and the Tourism Marketing class by Dr. Petrick were the three most valuable classes for me!

Was it your dream to work in the Event Industry? What prompted you to pursue this career?

Yes! In high school, I worked part-time at a wedding reception hall and helped my mom plan my quinceañera. These experiences are where I got my first taste in event planning, and it really excited me. During college, I explored other fields including cruise lines, the hotel industry, retail, and summer camps, but my heart always came back to event planning.

Do you feel that your job is related/connected to your personality?

I do believe that my chosen career is connected to my personality. My friends often describe me as bubbly and positive, and I consider myself to be very observational and detail-oriented which is great for event planning. I prefer to be more laid-back, so the parks & recreation industry is great for this because everyone I have worked with has been so down-to-Earth and approachable. I also crave new challenges, and this job certainly fulfills that. Every day is different!
What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I specifically chose to work with community events due to how they benefit the community. While I have worked in private, profit-driven businesses, I found that it did not motivate me in a way that community events do, and it was not the right fit for me. Seeing guests enjoying themselves and making memories at events I helped create fills me with so much happiness and satisfaction. That feeling has been a great achievement and constant motivation.

What advice would you give to future graduates of RPTS who wish to pursue a career in the Event Industry?

Start working in college! Whether it is a part-time job, internship, or volunteer work, just start building experience! Experience is THE most important thing that employers look at. They need to know that you have some sort of work ethic built up, and past work experience shows that. Also, the portfolio website that RPTS requires students to make has proven useful for me. I have used it to show interviewers pictures and videos from events, and it always seems to impress.

Fun Question: If you were an Avenger, which one would you be and why?

I had no idea which one I would be, so I took a quiz on Disney.com. It told me I was Spiderman! “You’re Spider-man. You’re always energetic and fun, not to mention a total ace at school. Your positive attitude and desire to help others makes you a great friend and confidant.” (Disney. com Results)
Tell Us a Little About Yourself
Where are you from?
Born and raised in Alabama, but I have lived in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi before arriving in Texas.

What are your experiences in life?
I am married to Dr. Donna Lee Sullins (who will be RPTS faculty in Spring 2020) and we have a son Luke who is 15 months.

What led you to pursue an education in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences?
My journey to RPTS is quite like my life; on appearance, it seems to meander along with many curves and changes but in the end, the outcome is quite exciting. I followed my wife to Texas when she accepted a job here at Texas A&M. At the time, I had no intention of returning to school as I had been working in municipal recreation in Dalton, Georgia for nearly 10 years. However, through some connections my wife had made on campus, an opportunity to become a graduate teaching assistant in the School of Military Science (SOMS) was presented to me as they were in need for an instructor in the Hollingsworth Center for Ethical Leadership. With my cost covered by the Hollingsworth Center, I only had to be admitted to a program. Initially, I was a student of Dr. Chris Harrist, in the Youth Development program. However, when Dr. Harrist left, I was fortunate to fall under the wing and mentorship of Dr. Corliss Outley. Dr. Outley has been instrumental in my growth as a student, researcher, and even father and husband. All together, these experiences have created a great joy in my life to continue my education in RPTS. I am very thankful for this department and what it has meant to myself and my family.

What inspired you to choose your field of study?
My interest in recreation was an evolution in sport. In college, I played soccer at Wallace State College. Go Lions! Throughout my youth, I realized that I had always had an interest toward sports and the sporting lifestyle; therefore, this should be my career focus. Later, after my days as an athlete were over, I completed college and entered into graduate school with a similar focus of wanting to be involved with sports and athletics professionally. It was as this point, that I spent time in coaching, collegiate athletic administration, and minor league sports. However, what I was searching for from these endeavors was the dynamic relationship between people. To clarify, I like to work WITH people, not for people. Interactions with others, specifically helping others succeed, is a true joy in my life. While coaching was very fulfilling personally, and allowed me to build wonderful relationships, my abilities were not found in the execution of the X’s and O’s. Athletic administration and minor league sport administration were more focused on the business aspects of sport, and not so much on the human aspects and left me feeling void as a career choice.
What topics in your studies are of most interest?
   My research interest area focuses on issues that affect the Physical Activity of youth. It could include motivation, structural barriers, or lack of access.

What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?
   True to my research, my leisure time activities mainly include playing soccer and woodworking.

What have you learned through your experiences while in the RPTS Department?
   This answer could go on for days. Most importantly, I’ve learned how the land grant mission of our institution is so crucial for the state and its people. With my interest in working with people, I have come to understand that I might be working at a large institution, I can have a real impact on the citizens of Texas, especially the youth.

Where do you see yourself in the future? How might your current studies influence your career and/or your life in general?
   My goals are to become a faculty member, teaching students how to impact the lives of others through the use of parks, recreation and tourism. After spending much of my career in parks and recreation, I now understand the “why” of what we do in RPTS. I believe it is vital for this mission to continue and I wish to properly train the generations to come to keep pushing our field forward.

What advice would you give new students or those thinking about becoming students in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences?
   You are considering one of the largest, if not the largest industry in the world. Nearly whatever you wish to do, there is some form of leisure to accomplish that. You can work nearly anywhere. Personally, I suggest you take chances, try new things, and don’t be afraid to start over if you fail.

Fun question: If you were an Avenger, which one would you be and why?
   HULK, no doubt. All that power and strength, yes!
Tell Us a Little About Yourself

Where are you from? San Antonio, Texas

What are your experiences in life? I have had a lot of interesting experiences in life.... I explored many different fields and studies; I found my true passion in life to be travel! College has truly been the best experience in my life. Before college, I had never left the country but now I have traveled to 7 different countries (Costa Rica and Italy being some of my favorite destinations!). Aside from coming to Texas A&M and studying RPTS, joining MSC OPAS was the best decision I have made! MSC OPAS has had such an amazing impact on me, my education, and my future and I am so grateful to be part of such an amazing organization. I think a major part of the enjoyment and success of my college career has been due to the amazing support and mentors I am surrounded by in the RPTS department and in the MSC.

What led you to pursue an education in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences? Throughout my college experience I frequently changed my education focus but one thing that did not change was my desire to travel. When I first learned of RPTS, I realized that it was the perfect way to combine my education with my desire to travel.

What inspired you to choose your field of study? While in high school, I worked at Six Flags Fiesta Texas and absolutely loved it! I loved seeing families travel and come together to create lifelong memories. With such an influence on families and their relationships, I knew tourism management is the industry I wanted to be in! Tourism has the unique power to bring people together in a unique way. Tourism provides opportunities of professional growth, personal development, education advancement and memorable moments. I think it was my experiences as a customer in the tourism industry that has made me want to join the industry forever.

What topics in your studies are of most interest? I love studying event planning, risk management, and tourism marketing. I think these are the most interesting topics to me because they focus on how the customer perceives the industry and its products. Studying how people (safely) enjoy events and how they learn of new events and destinations is so fascinating to me.

What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time? With my current internship at Walt Disney World, the majority of my leisure time is spent at the Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts!!! Nothing beats a day spent at Disney’s Hollywood Studios. Aside from Disney World, in my leisure time I also really enjoy baking, cooking, and binge watching shows on Disney+.
What have you learned through your experiences while in the RPTS Department? I have learned to be adventurous and try everything. Before RPTS, if you would have asked me to take a class aboard a cruise ship, study youth development, or plan a kite festival, I would have thought you were crazy. RPTS has taught me to be adventurous and try things that aren't necessarily my status quo. It's times where we are outside of our comfort zone that we have the most potential for growth. I think joining the RPTS department has been one of the most adventurous things I have ever done! (and I've been sky diving... twice).

Where do you see yourself in the future? How might your current studies influence your career and/or your life in general? There are many different paths I think my future may take. I could work at Walt Disney World for the rest of my life. I could start a career with a performing arts presenting company. I could become a professor within the hospitality and tourism industry. All three paths are ones that I would be extremely excited and feel extremely blessed to be on. I think my studies, as well as those who taught me, have truly influenced and shaped my future for the best. It is because of the amazing professors and mentors I have had at Texas A&M University that I strive to reach my fullest potential. While I do not know EXACTLY where I will end up... I know the RPTS department and my experiences have greatly shaped who I am and who I will become.

What advice would you give new students or those thinking about becoming students in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences? DO IT... or at least try it! If you would have told me to be an RPTS major 4 years ago, I would have laughed in your face but it is truly one of the best decisions I have made thus far! The RPTS department has pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to reach new heights I didn't think possible. It has allowed me to explore and develop my own academic interest. The department has produced many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and given me lifelong friend-ships and mentors. I wouldn't trade the world for the experience I’ve had in the RPTS department.

Tell us about your Disney College Program. I am interning with the Disney College Program, a unique program where I live, eat, and breathe Disney for 7 months. During these 7 months I have been working for EPCOT Parking Operations. My daily assignments include directing traffic, parking cars, driving trams, and being one of the first people to welcome our guests! Although the job has its ups and downs, it is an amazing experience and I am so glad I did it! As a parking cast member, I am the first to welcome a guest to the park and the last to say goodbye. It is a really unique perspective that many other cast members don't get to see. Aside from working in the parking lot, I have been able to make incredible friendships, professional networking connections, and learn a lot about the hospitality and tourism industry from a world-renowned company. Going to the parks all the time for free isn’t so bad either! If anyone is thinking about doing the Disney College Program, I highly recommend it especially if you are a huge Disney fan! It has been an amazing opportunity that has impacted me in many ways.

Fun question: If you were an Avenger, which one would you be and why? Although I would really like to say I would be Thor (because he is clearly the best avenger), I think I would most likely be Ant-Man. Just like Ant-Man, I think I am dependable, extroverted, determined and the comedic relief in many situations! I enjoy having fun while getting the job done and creating lifelong memories. Although I am lighthearted and enjoy the fun, when it comes down to business I can get the job done... while having some fun! I may not have an all-powerful hammer that only I can lift, but I do have a large personality and a can-do attitude!
Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences - (RPTS) 489 Special Topics: Brewing Operations & Management 3 Credit Course

This course will educate students about the brewing industry including history, laws and regulatory environment, retail operations, quality control and packaging. The production of beer including raw materials, fermentation process, styles of beer and palate will be reviewed. It will be taught by a Professional Brew Master in the industry.

The course is open to all majors. Students must be 21 years of age to enroll. Check with an academic advisor for information about how these credits apply. Class starts Spring Semester 2020! For more information on this course please contact Melyssa-Anne Stricklin at melyssa.stricklin@tamu.edu

RPTS 689: Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence - Spring 2020

This is a graduate seminar about conflict, coexistence, and the complex interactions between people and wildlife. Participants will: 1) explore the historical, cultural, economic, and ecological dimensions and root causes of human-wildlife conflict, and 2) review lessons and insights from the efforts of conservationists, communities, governments, advocates, and activists to foster coexistence. We will bridge theory and practice, studying a variety of books, scientific articles, case studies, and films from a range of fields, including conservation biology, wildlife management, recreation, park, and tourism studies, anthropology, and environmental psychology. Our species focus will be diverse, with examples from every continent—elephants and other herbivores, lions and other carnivores, snakes, primates, and birds. Students from all disciplines are invited to join. The seminar will be a platform for multidisciplinary learning, discussion, collaboration, synthesis, idea building, and problem solving. For more information please contact Irina Shatruk at ishatruk@tamu.edu

RENR 689 - Special Topics: Conservation Psychology - Spring 2020

Conservation psychology is a field of research and practice that uses the theories and methods of psychology to understand and improve the relationships between people and natural systems. It draws on many areas of psychology, and has connections to many allied fields. It has important links and parallels to conservation biology, whose primary concerns are understanding and conserving biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Those conservation biology goals, however, clearly cannot succeed without marshalling our best understanding of human beings and our actions in a whole range of systems. It is human mind, emotion, behavior patterns, language, social patterns, biases, and so on that generate challenges and solutions. For more information please contact Irina Shatruk at ishatruk@tamu.edu
Dr. Donna Lee Sullins
Instructional Assistant Professor, Teaching RPTS 320, 321

Mr. Greg Stafford
Assistant Professor of the Practice (Hotel Operations), TAMU Hotel Management, Teaching RPTS 421

Mr. Chris Juergen
Assistant Professor of the Practice (Brewery Management), Teaching RPTS 489 Brewery Operations & Management

Dr. Pita MKumbo
Assistant Lecturer in Tourism, Teaching RPTS 302, 323, and 331

Dr. Chad Nelson
Instructional Assistant Professor, Teaching RPTS 311 (Planning & Implementing Events) and RPTS 371 (Skills for Youth Development)

Dr. Jingxian “Kelly” Jaing
Research Assistant Professor
Dr. Corliss Outley has been a faculty member in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences for more than 14 years. After receiving her doctorate here in 2000 she spent six years at the University of Minnesota before returning to Aggieland in 2006. Dr. Outley has been an exceptional colleague, excelling in research, teaching and service. Her work to expand and manage our Youth Development Program has been critical to its success. Her ability to form partnerships, secure grants and conduct re-search in support of youth services has been exceptional and critical to the education of our graduate students. Dr. Outley has successfully developed and taught classes at the undergraduate and graduate level. Her perspectives on youth, recreation and life has been invaluable to our students.

Dr. Outley has also been an outstanding team player. Over the past three years, she has served as Associate Department Head working closely with academic advisors, assigning graduate assistantships, developing course schedules and many other tasks. Scores of students have sought her personal guidance over the years as they dealt with challenges of college life. Dr. Outley gives the gift of time to students and coworkers alike. While her academic expertise will be greatly missed, the wonderful smile, infectious laugh and caring approach are irreplaceable. We are very sor-ry to lose Dr. Outley but wish her all the very best as she joins the faculty at Clemson University.

Mrs. Debe Shafer started her teaching career 39 years ago as a freshly minted graduate of Texas A&M University. She has taught in high school, middle school, and three different university departments – one at the University of Utah and two here at Texas A&M. She also coached basketball, track and tennis during her tenure as a public school teacher. Mrs. Shafer is a truly gifted teacher who has positively influenced thousands of students over her career. That gift is multifaceted but relationships with students are the key to her success. They are genuine and foster learning through mutual respect. One of her most impressive qualities as a teacher is her obvious enthusiasm for the topic at hand.

Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences has been fortunate to benefit from Mrs. Shafer’s teaching during the last six years of her career. She established very effective applied methods in our event curriculum, engaging students in “high impact” community work. Organizations including municipalities, schools, philanthropic organizations, businesses and campus departments have benefited from her students’ ideas and energy. Under her leadership the Profes-sional Event Management Certificate has become one of the department’s most sought after credentials. She has also been a dedicated advisor to the University’s Student Event Planners Association, helping that organization grow and better serve its members. Mrs. Shafer will be missed as a colleague, teacher and friend. We wish her the very best in retirement and hope she might return from time to time as a guest lecturer to share her enthusiasm and expertise.
Texas Youth Summit

We were given the opportunity to host teens from areas around Texas which exhibit high rates of juvenile injustice. This summit gave them the opportunity to learn ways to implement positive change in their communities through exercises and activities. They were also able to attend lecture style training classes that were hands on and engaging for the students. The purpose of the conference is to bring these teens to Texas A&M and show them that their communities do not define who they are. Overall, everyone had a great time and learned how to ignite their passions within themselves and their communities.

Cruise Tourism Management Course

Dr. Petrick had his 8th annual Cruise Tourism Management course (RPTS 411) this Fall with 17 undergraduate and 1 graduate student. The “study aboard” course included a seven-day Caribbean cruise on board the world’s largest cruise ship, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines’ Symphony of the Seas. The cruise sailed out of Miami, FL to St. Kitts, St. Thomas and CoCo Cay. Students had a meet and greet with Norwegian Cruise Line’s Vice President of on board activities and entertainment the night before sailing, and had meetings with the Captain, Hotel Director, Cruise Director, and other key personnel while at sea. Students learned, first hand: skills needed to obtain a career at sea, key management principles that can be applied across leisure experience careers, service quality principles, and applied marketing and research skills. While at sea, the students captured data from passengers related to the benefits they received while cruising, and utilized the data to write technical reports to Royal Caribbean Cruise Line Management, on how to utilize the benefits data to better create cruise experiences and how to market those experiences to potential future cruisers. The course culminated back on campus this Fall with lectures related to Total Quality Management and Six Sigma management principles and a final exam related to the readings and experiences throughout the course. The 9th Annual Study Aboard Cruise Management course will start with a cruise next August, and all interested will need to commit no later than the end of July, 2020. Any interested undergraduate or graduate students should e-mail Dr. Petrick at jpetrick@tamu.edu.
Dr. Angela Durko

- Whose RPTS 302 students (virtually) traveled to Koln Germany this semester to partner with students of Cologne Business School on Tourism Development and Organic Learning Programs. Students worked together for 3 months to learn of one another’s destination and culture. They then prepared proposals for overcoming constraints to travel and addressed misperceptions of one another’s destination. Dr Durko was invited to be present for and provide feedback on the student presentations in Germany, which led to establishing future exchange field trips between the universities. Additionally, she was an invited guest lecturer at Haaga-Helia University in Finland as a guest of the Fulbright scholars program.

Dr. Tazim Jamal

- For her recent induction to the International Academy for the Study of Tourism. The Academy represents a very select group of scholars.

Dr. Andrea Ettekal

- For being invited to the U.S. Olympic Training Center to help in launching research that will examine a program aimed at understanding character development through sport.

Dr. John Crompton

- Who was recently voted by College Station residents to rejoin the City Council.

Dr. Jun Wang

- Who was selected as an ADVANCE NCFDD Faculty Success Fellow for the Spring 2020 semester. The purpose of the program is to promote the success of tenure-track faculty members at Texas A&M University through a professional development opportunity designed to increase productivity and maintain work-life balance. ADVANCE covers the cost of participation in the Spring 2020 Faculty Success Program offered by the National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development.

Ms. Chariss York & Dr. John Jacob

- For their recent chapter, Harnessing Green Infrastructure for Resilient Natural Solutions, in Optimizing Community Infrastructure, edited by Ryan Colker and published by Elsevier.

Dr. Courtney Suess-Raeisinafchi

Our department is committed to providing an excellent education. We hope that the educational experience you had in our program and at Texas A&M is proving to be a positive influence in your life. Collecting information from former students like you will help us communicate the RPTS profession and plan for the future. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Responses will not be identified with you. Results will be aggregated and used to advise prospective students, assist current students, and plan for positive changes to the program.

Please go to the address below to complete the survey:
We invite you to learn more about giving to the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences. The web-page link below can link you to specific opportunities that need your support. Wherever you choose to direct your gift, it will have a lasting impact on our Department. Through your gifts, you can be a fellow “educator,” helping us to maintain and enhance the outstanding quality of the RPTS Department’s faculty, students, and programs.

You may give to support students through an enrichment fund. You may also support faculty and staff enrichment. These enrichment funds support either students or faculty and staff with travel to conferences, small research grants, educational enhancement, or professional development of different types.

To give online, please visit: www.txamfoundation.com/give.aspx?c_id=2&d_id=13

*For more information about giving including details about contributing to specific scholarships, please contact Dr. Scott Shafer, Department Head, Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, at sshafer@tamu.edu or call 979-845-7324.
Mission:

Our mission is to generate and disseminate knowledge that increases our ability to understand relationships among people, environment and economy in order to respond to the needs of a diverse society.

Vision:

The Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Department is committed to supporting wellness and prosperity through sustainable environments and positive experiences.

Core Values:

We value...
- the contributions that parks, recreation, community development, and tourism can make to the health of communities.
- scholarship that is validated by peers and external audiences; and we believe that scholarship can be expressed through teaching, research, and extension.

We believe...
- that our education, scientific research, and outreach programs contribute to the expansion of knowledge and to the enhancement of the quality of life.
- that our primary responsibility is to the people of Texas;
- that our contributions to the State of Texas will be enhanced by scholarly activities at the national and international levels.
- in preparing society-ready graduates, with a solid educational foundation that includes experiential and liberal education, and development of skills for career employment and lifelong learning.
- that the process of education is a collaborative learning experience, and students, faculty, practitioners, and professionals from other fields are participants in this process.

We recognize...
- the growing demographic and geographic diversity of Texas and the United States; the value of diversity in thoughts and ideas among the faculty, staff, and students; and the opportunities presented by an international border.
- the value of human diversity and interdisciplinary collaboration in teaching, research, and extension, and affirm the individual strengths that people bring to the Department.

We are committed to...
- the contributions of recreation, parks, community development, and tourism make to the sustainability and stewardship of cultural, historical, and natural resources.
- concepts of social and environmental justice.