

Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

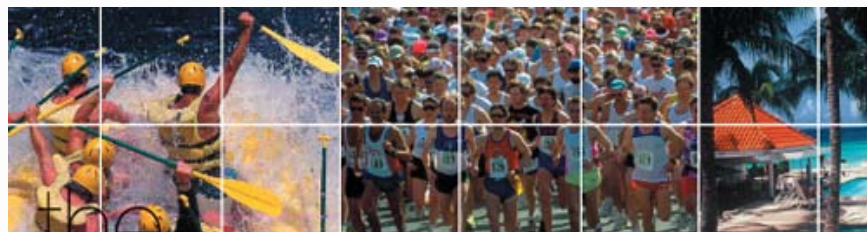
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



the Report

A newsletter for Recreation, Parks, Alumni, Students &

[View all Newsletters](#)

Navigation:

[Welcome](#) • [Editorial](#) • [Fundraiser](#) • [Accreditation](#) • [Carolyn Shank](#) • [Disney Intern](#)

•

• [Conference Planning](#) • [Poly Success](#) • [Chief of Staff](#) • [Job Shadow](#) • [Ben Turley](#)
• [CPRS 2011](#) • [RPTA Romance](#) • [RPTA Club](#) • [Peace Corps](#) • [Advisory Council](#) •

[Meet the Staff](#) • [Donate](#) •

FROM MY LITTLE WOODEN DESK...

By: Dr. Bill Hendricks, Department Head

Since first arriving on the Cal Poly campus in 1994, I have been amazed at the rich lives that RPTA students lead and their willingness to get involved with co-curricular activities. They truly embody Cal Poly's learn by doing philosophy and they often go the extra mile to maximize the benefits of the "college experience." Recently, Cal Poly has embraced co-curricular experiences in a more formal manner, with the explicit recognition that these activities are an essential element of growth as an individual and as a component of student learning outcomes. In this issue of "The Report" several of these activities are highlighted. RPTA student involvement includes serving on professional conference planning committees, coordinating our annual RPTA auction and benefit fundraiser, testing one's limits in outdoor settings, dreaming big to land the ultimate internship, attending conferences, and serving and mentoring others both on and off campus.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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The RPTA team of Amber Black, Amy Lepp, Kristen McClay, and Kelsey Pavao captured the first-ever Academic Quiz Bowl championship at the 2010 National Recreation and Park



At a recent meeting attended by Cal Poly's new chief administrator, President Jeffrey Armstrong, a portion of the discussion evolved around the sense of place and attachment that makes Cal Poly an institution of distinction. There was some consensus that Cal Poly is a unique community and that the units within Cal Poly such as a college or department are like a family. You will read in this newsletter about our wide-ranging sense of family. In fact, please join me in congratulating RPTA alumni Bart and Cassie on their commitment to spend their lives together. [Read more.](#)

[↩ back to top](#)

EDITORIAL: THE VALUE OF SPORTS TO YOUTH AND SOCIETY

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor, The Report



Most of us have played sports at some point in our lives. Most likely, we were children and the sport was being offered through an afterschool program, or by a local chapter of AYSO or YMCA. Either way, sports were a part of our youth. However, few of us realize how important youth sports really were in our lives. When someone asks, "Did you play sports?" and you reply "Yes, I played soccer from the time I was five until high school," it seems like it's no big

deal. It is a big deal! As a child you learned key elements in that game of soccer that helped you succeed in life. Sport not only teaches physical skills but also teaches values and life lessons. Some sports emphasize teamwork, "You have to pass the ball Timmy;" or leadership, "You are team captain, so you need to take charge;" and determination, "You can do it! On any given day, anyone could win." The list goes on and on about what can be learned by playing a sport, but more investment should be put into sport at all levels. [Read more](#)

[↩ back to top](#)

"FLY AWAY" TO THE BEST FUNDRAISER YET

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Dr. Jeff Jacobs was honored with the 2010 CAFES New Faculty Teaching award; this same honor was bestowed upon Dr. Marni Goldenberg in 2009. Congratulations to both of these well deserving RPTA faculty! [Read more](#)

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer and Courtney Winters (RPTA '11), Guest Writer

On the evening of Saturday, February 26, the Cal Poly Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration (RPTA) Department hosted its annual dinner and auction fundraiser, "Fly Away with RPTA," which raised over \$27,000 to help support the RPTA Department.



This annual fundraiser is a student-run event, overseen by RPTA faculty member Kendi Root, who specializes in special event planning. This year's benefit was held at San Luis Obispo's very own jet center. Unlike past years, the 2011 planning committee transformed the traditional, formal dinner reception into a more welcoming and social environment. This allowed students, alumni, faculty, and families to mingle and reconnect while enjoying the food and wine graciously donated by several of the county's finest restaurants and wineries. Guests were also able to bid on a number of exciting auction items, such as trips to the Cayman Islands, Alaska, and Las Vegas, tickets to Sea World and Disneyland, wine tasting packages, skydiving excursions, and much more. [Read more.](#)

[↗ back to top](#)

"...BUT ONLY ONE CAL POLY!"

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

"There are 87 accredited programs, but there is only one Cal Poly!" That glowing quote from Dr. Jeff Witman (York College of Pennsylvania), lead representative of the external review accreditation team, wrapped up a busy and stressful week for the RPTA department in mid-February. The visit and review by an external team is one more step in the accreditation process that is required every five years. The process will end with a hearing at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress in Atlanta, Georgia in



October 2011. At that time, the department will know whether our national accreditation has been renewed, but the words from Witman bode well. Witman was joined on the accreditation review committee by Dr. Candace Goode Vick (North Carolina State University) and Dr. Camille O'Bryant as an internal reviewer. O'Bryant is the department head for the Kinesiology Department at Cal Poly. [Read more.](#)

⬅ back to top

CAROLYN SHANK: ONE OF A KIND!

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor, The Report



Professor Emeritus Carolyn Shank is truly one of a kind. After retiring from her 32-year stay at Cal Poly as a student and then a professor, she has participated in little of the stereotypical “retired life.” Rather, she has taken on new hobbies, endeavors, and adventures, making the young at heart jealous of life after Cal Poly. How does she do it? “I never worry. I’ve had some health problems but it is what it is. I have a sense of humor about things. I got class clown in high school. I’m just lucky. I was born with decent genes. A slight risk taker, I put myself out there a bit.” [Read more.](#)

⬅ back to to

THE HAPPIEST INTERN ON EARTH?

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Stephanie Mastro, an RPTA graduating senior, has said her farewells to Cal Poly and run off to the “The Happiest Place on Earth,” otherwise known as Disneyland. For this self-described Disney aficionado who even completed her senior project on the world famous theme park, working as an intern at Disneyland is a dream come true. Yet, it took more than just dreams to land the position.



Out of the 3,000 applicants, Mastro was selected with only 350 other students to become part of Disney's prestigious "College Program" in Anaheim, California. According to the Disney Jobs website, "This truly unique program allows participants to network with Disneyland Resort leaders, take part in personal and career-development classes, and build transferable skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, Guest service and effective communication. All participants will work in front-line roles at the Disneyland Resort, including Stores, Attractions, Food & Beverage, Lodging and many more." [Read more](#)

⬆ back to top

RPTA PLANNING TWO MAJOR CONFERENCES IN 2011

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

The RPTA department is looking forward to a very busy year. This year, the RPTA department has taken on the huge endeavor of planning both the California Sustainable Tourism Summit and the Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference. And according to Dave Wehner, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), these opportunities are precisely the type of "learn-by-doing" projects that help make Cal Poly such a special place. Both projects have multiple RPTA students involved in integral roles, and Kendi Root is serving as the lead faculty member and liaison for both opportunities. [Read more.](#)

⬆ back to top

JACOBS HELPS FRESHMEN ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

Upon first arriving at college, getting assimilated and comfortable in your surroundings can often seem a daunting task, especially when classes start and you find yourself thrown into an entirely new way of life. Thanks to one RPTA faculty member, freshmen have found the support and answers they were looking for. Dr. Jeff Jacobs helps coordinate "Poly Success," a program



designed to empower freshmen through access to resources and a network of people who can help them find their way at Cal Poly. [Read more.](#)

⬆ back to top

SENIOR STANDOUT: TIFFANY FOWLER, ASI CHIEF OF STAFF

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

Here at Cal Poly, ASI (Associated Students Incorporated) plays a very important role in our daily lives. Whether it is going to the recreation center, visiting the University Union, or attending one of the university's many events, we constantly experience the results of ASI's dedicated staff. One thing you may not know, however, is that the ASI Chief of Staff, is one of our very own - RPTA senior Tiffany Fowler. [Read more.](#)



⬆ back to top

INDUSTRY CONNECTION: FOUR RPTA STUDENTS CHOSEN TO SHADOW PFK CONSULTING VP BRUCE BALTIN

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Through the CSU Hospitality Management Education Initiative's "Adopt-A-Campus" program, Bruce Baltin, the Vice President of PFK Consulting in Los Angeles, has visited Cal Poly two times in the last two years. He was so impressed that he decided to give back and offered to treat students to a job "shadow" experience at PFK. During his last visit to Cal Poly, he coordinated with officers of Rho Phi Lambda, RPTA's honor society, to hold interviews for their members to go through a professional interview selection process.



Four RPTA honors students were chosen: junior Amy Lepp, seniors Lara Choma and Nika Jalali, and graduate student Tyson Stockton. At the start of Winter Quarter, these four students traveled to Los Angeles to shadow Baltin for a day. [Read more.](#)

"OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO..." RPTA SENIOR FINDS NO LIMITS

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

In 2009, Ben Turley made the decision to forgo the Spring quarter of his junior year at Cal Poly to accomplish his life long dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail from start to finish. Turley was first inspired to hike the "A.T." at the youthful age of ten, by his father's camp employee, who had also hiked the 2,178.3-mile long trail.



Ten years later, despite the complete disbelief of his family and friends, Turley turned his dream into a reality. According to Turley, he knew from the moment he took his first steps on Cal Poly's campus for his first day of WOW, that his life decisions were now his own, and therefore, anything he set his mind to, he would accomplish. After his first year of classes as a civil engineering student, Turley switched majors to become part of the RPTA family after he simply decided, "I want[ed] to play!" [Read more.](#)

BACK IN BLACK: RPTA SHINES AGAIN AT CPRS

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff writer

When it comes to the field of parks and recreation, there are few organizations that bring as many companies and professionals together as the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS). And when it comes to student members with CPRS, there are no equals to RPTA at Cal Poly. For the third year in a row, more than forty Cal Poly students donning black-colored polo shirts with Cal Poly gold lettering attended CPRS's annual conference, the California & Pacific Southwest Park and Recreation Training Conference, that occurred March 8-11, 2011 in Sacramento. [Read more.](#)



⬆ back to top

RPTA ROMANCE: MAJOR BRINGS COUPLE LOVE, THEN MARRIAGE...

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff writer

Being an RPTA major brings with it numerous opportunities, from providing community service to attending conferences and networking with professionals, but in the case of Cal Poly RPTA alumni Bart Gant and Cassie Walitsch, being part of the department also brought with it a fantastic new relationship. The soon to be married couple first met in Dr. Jeff Jacobs' RPTA 412: Adventure Travel & Tourism course on Cruise Tourism (their first class together). Here's how the RPTA love story unfolded... [Read more.](#)



⬆ back to top

RPTA CLUB UPDATE: BACK IN ACTION AND BETTER THAN EVER!

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

After a long Winter, RPTA students are ready to stretch their wings and get outside to play, but not without saying farewell to winter with one last exciting adventure. This Winter, twelve lucky club members ventured into the treacherous and freezing temperatures of Yosemite on a snowshoeing trip with Poly Escapes. Among these lucky members were: Ryan Swearingen, Katie Draeger, Kristina Eads, Selena Ramirez, Nikki Harth, Andrew Salter, Kiefer Reischl, Toni Hazlett, Anna Wagner, Kelly Hedgecock, Blake Lopez and Eddie Stefani. [Read more.](#)



⬆ back to top

RPTA ALUMNI DRAWN TO PEACE CORPS

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

The Peace Corps is a great opportunity for students after college. Individuals coming out of our department are drawn to the experience because it involves helping people and traveling to an international location. RPTA alumnus Nic Turrentine traveled to Fiji for the Peace Corps (2007-2010) and recalls his experience, "I was a business development advisor and lived in a small village called Lavena, on an outer island called Taveuni. My primary assignment was to assist the village with improving the operations and financial management of an eco-tourism project the community was operating. I also worked with the youth running sexual reproductive health programs." One of the exciting things about working with the Peace Corps right now is that the program is going into its 50th year of helping people. [Read more.](#)



⬆ back to top

WELCOME TO NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor

This quarter, the RPTA department would like to welcome three members to the [RPTA Advisory Council](#):

- [Tim Cohee](#), the Owner and General Manager of China Peak Mountain Resort in Lakeshore, CA;
- [Cheryl Cuming](#), Chief Administrative Officer of the San Luis Obispo County Tourism Business Improvement District; and

- o **Jacqueline Harder Mireles**, Senior Human Resources manager for the Chumash Casino Resort in Buellton, CA.

[↗ back to top](#)

MEET THE STAFF OF "THE REPORT"

Staff for "The Report" are nominated by RPTA faculty for demonstrating excellent writing skills in RPTA classes. Student writers then coordinate with the editor and faculty advisor Dr. Brian Greenwood to develop and write articles.

The editor for 2010-2011 is **Anthonia Edgren** (RPTA '12). **Kevin Mould** (RPTA '14) and **Kim Saavedra** (RPTA '13) are returning staff members who began in Fall 2010, and this quarter we welcomed a new staff writer to our team, **Kalli Sandberg** (RPTA '13). [Read more about the staff.](#)

[↗ back to top](#)

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Interested donors should first choose "**College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences**" and then have the choice of giving to the "**Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration department**" OR the "**Excellence in Recreation Administration (REC Excellence) fund**," which is designated to benefit RPTA student and faculty professional development.

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

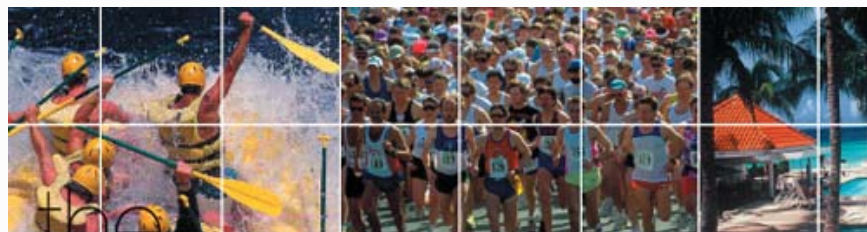
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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Overall, the department review revealed many strengths such as our mission vision/values, our advisory council and connections with the industry, curricular development, relationship with the Career Center and Library, as well as student

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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involvement with faculty research. We were also praised for our internship program, senior project and the sense of community among students and faculty. The Cal Poly RPTA program is one to be admired within the field. Boasting award-winning and respected faculty, hardworking and involved students, and a great curriculum, its obvious to many how great the RPTA major is.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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[View all Newsletters](#)

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Four RPTA honors students were chosen: junior Amy Lepp, seniors Lara Choma and Nika Jalali, and graduate student Tyson Stockton. At the start of Winter Quarter, these four students traveled to Los Angeles to shadow Baltin for a day.

Upon arrival in Los Angeles, the four RPTA students received exceptional hospitality, staying in a room on the executive floor of the Grand Wilshire Hotel, and enjoying a beautiful afternoon in LA. The next morning they had the opportunity to visit PFK Consulting. Lepp said, "We got to ask a lot of questions and got a very good overview of what a consultant does in the tourism industry. I didn't know anything about it before

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

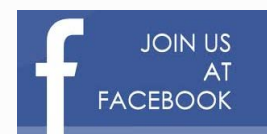
[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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so it was interesting to learn about. We learned a lot about different projects he was working on and what he had to look at with each different situation. It was amazing that they could predict trends and figure out future revenue and how one hotel or building could have an impact on the whole community.”

The job shadow was a great real world experience for these students who are all approaching graduation from Cal Poly within the next year and a half. Lepp also commented upon seeing tourism from a different perspective, “I liked listening to his conversations with his clients because hearing how they talked and seeing firsthand what consultants do made me aware of a whole other side to working with tourism that I had never considered.”

Choma had a great time in LA and loved being able to see the tourism world up close and personal. She also enjoyed the meal that she and the other students were served by one of the winning chefs from the FOOD Network's “Hell's Kitchen's.” Choma also commented upon the experience shadowing Baltin, “He explained a lot of what he does and opened up the floor for any questions we had. It was amazing the connections he had!” These four students are very grateful for the opportunity they had to meet and work with Bruce Baltin and all hope to apply what they learned into their life and careers after Cal Poly.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

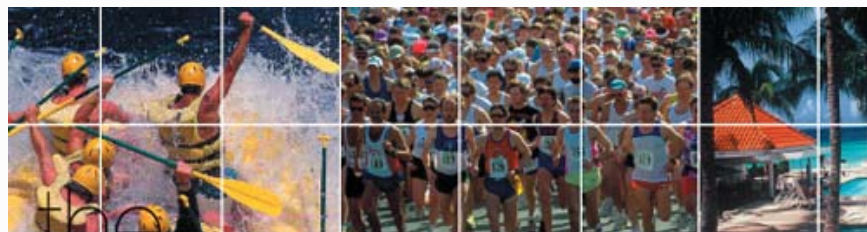
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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[View all Newsletters](#)

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During that first class together, they discovered they lived only a few blocks from one another and began carpooling to class together. Gant admitted that he developed a romantic interest in Walitsch right away. When the RPTA 412 class took a cruise to Mexico over Spring Break, the two really hit it off, spending every meal together and enjoying one another's company. At the cruise's conclusion, since both were from the Bay Area, they drove back together and got the chance to meet one another's families.

The next quarter they had class again, this time with Kendi Root, who, recognizing the potential spark between them, strategically paired them up for a quarter-long personality assessment project. After

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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the cruise, Dr. Jacobs had asked them both to work at his summer camp in Michigan, and they both accepted. Although a relationship seemed a little risky to Cassie because they would be working together, by mid spring they were officially dating. They then went through the summer, one last quarter at Cal Poly, and then eight months of long distance relationship before both getting jobs at Mount Hermon in the Santa Cruz mountains. Bart then asked Cassie to marry him, and the two plan to tie the knot this September.

Both Walitsch and Gant embody the spirit that makes being a part of the RPTA major like being a part of a family, and their department family wishes them all the best as they embark on this next chapter of life together.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

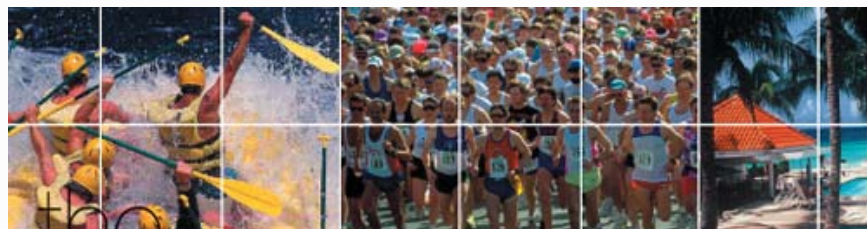
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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[View all Newsletters](#)

BACK IN BLACK: RPTA SHINES AGAIN AT CPRS

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

When it comes to the field of parks and recreation, there are few organizations that bring as many companies and professionals together as the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS). And when it comes to student members with CPRS, there are no equals to RPTA at Cal Poly. For the third year in a row, Cal Poly students donning black-colored polo shirts with Cal Poly gold lettering dominated CPRS's annual conference, the California & Pacific Southwest Park and Recreation Training Conference that occurred March 8-11, 2011 in Sacramento.



RPTA junior Kacianne Knighton attended this year's conference and said there is an abundance of activities and events in which to participate and the educational

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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opportunities are immense. First, there is the exhibit hall, which brings companies together to showcase their products and equipment such as playground equipment, turf, or architectural and landscape designs. In addition, the conference hosts numerous seminars and educational sessions that provide students and professionals alike with new skills and knowledge. One such seminar, says Knighton, dealt with sustainable design. Since companies are now leaning towards sustainability in their designs, she points out that, "seminars like these are essential to us because we are their future employees."



In general the conference presents a great opportunity for students to network and talk with professionals in their desired field; a mentoring program that teams students up with industry professionals continues to provide added support to future college graduates. By participating in this program, students can acquire valuable contact information and learn about various potential internship opportunities. In addition, the RPTA department organized and held a social that involved RPTA students, faculty, and alumni interacting with professionals from District 8 of CPRS and attending a Sacramento Kings versus Orlando Magic basketball game. Attendees were treated to a pre-game tour of ARCO Arena and a talk with the Kings' VP of Ticket Sales. Twenty lucky students were also able to go courtside during the Magic pre-game shoot-around.

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With its variety of seminars, displays and networking opportunities, the CPRS conference is a great place for both students and professionals alike to broaden their horizons and learn more about the parks and recreation field.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

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[RPTA Home](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [College Based Fees](#)

Last Update: 06/14/10

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

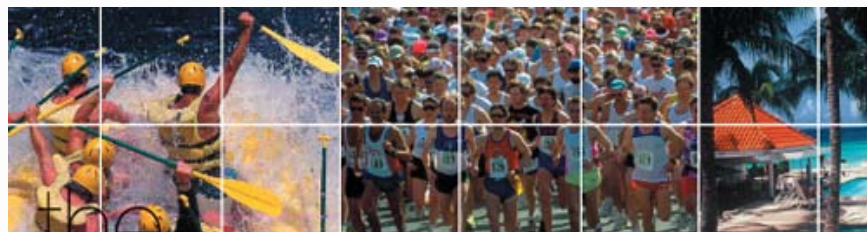
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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EDITORIAL: THE VALUE OF SPORTS TO YOUTH AND SOCIETY

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor, The Report



Most of us have played sports at some point in our lives. Most likely, we were children and the sport was being offered through an afterschool program, or by a local chapter of AYSO or YMCA. Either way, sports were a part of our youth. However, few of us realize how important youth sports really were in our lives. When someone asks, "Did you play sports?" and you reply "Yes, I played soccer from the time I was five until high school," it seems like it's no big

deal. It is a big deal! As a child you learned key elements in that game of soccer that helped you succeed in life. Sport not only teaches physical skills but also teaches values and life lessons. Some sports emphasize teamwork, "You have to pass the ball Timmy;" or leadership, "You are team captain, so you need to take charge;" and determination, "You can do it! On any given day, anyone could win." The list goes on and on about what can be learned by playing a sport, but more investment should be put into sport at all levels.

Sports in general build character, keep kids off streets, encourage healthy lifestyles, and give them something to be proud of. Youth sports give children other networks of support as well; a team they can call a family, a coach they can look up to, and friends they can fall back on. In today's society, where so much emphasis is placed on technology and advancement of video games, those who still play youth sports should be admired. Though it's often challenging, Wii Tennis does not count as a youth sport, and playing Madden EA Sports for 5 hours doesn't count either. Actually going outside to a field or gym or court and playing and running around and screaming if necessary, that

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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is youth sports.

When children go to high school, they take those values they learned in their early youth sports career with them. Granted, they expand on the basic values, but those staples help them excel on and off the field. Why shouldn't everyone play youth sports? Well, they should. Yet, the cost of youth and interscholastic sport participation is continuing to rise, as many struggling school systems across the nation institute "Pay to Play" policies in order to continue to offer programs. Community recreation programs were long ago forced into fees for participation. Most cities try to make youth sports available to everyone and affordable and accessible, but it continues to be more and more difficult to do so. We as citizens need to recognize the value that youth sports play in our communities and rally to help. What will you do to help offset this growing issue and help give today's youth the same chance that you had to participate?

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

[Make a donation to the Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration Department!](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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[RPTA Home](#) • [Contact Us](#) • [College Based Fees](#)

Last Update: 06/14/10

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

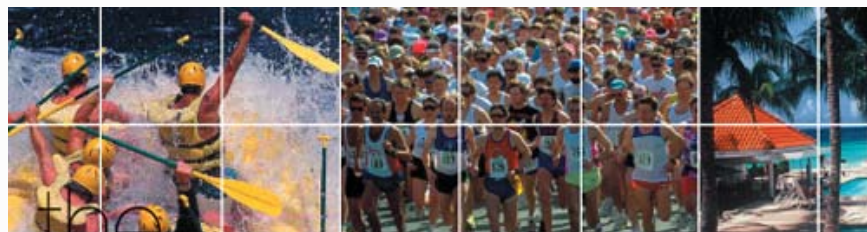
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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"FLY AWAY" TO THE BEST FUNDRAISER YET

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer and Courtney Winters (RPTA '11), Guest Writer

On the evening of Saturday, February 26, the Cal Poly Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration (RPTA) Department hosted its annual dinner and auction fundraiser, "Fly Away with RPTA," which raised over \$27,000 to help support the RPTA Department.



This annual fundraiser is a student-run event, overseen by RPTA faculty member Kendi Root, who specializes in special event planning. This year's benefit was held at San Luis Obispo's very own jet center. Unlike past years, the 2011 planning committee

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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transformed the traditional, formal dinner reception into a more welcoming and social environment. This allowed students, alumni, faculty, and families to mingle and reconnect while enjoying the food and wine graciously donated by several of the county's finest restaurants and wineries. Guests were also able to bid on a number of exciting auction items, such as trips to the Cayman Islands, Alaska, and Las Vegas, tickets to Sea World and Disneyland, wine tasting packages, skydiving excursions, and much more.

The money raised through this annual event has helped to fund student and faculty professional development. At a time when many departments on campus and many universities nationwide are struggling to fund important co-curricular activities for students, RPTA has thrived thanks to the efforts by Root and her students to hold this annual event. In addition to drastically offsetting the cost of sending students to conferences, such as the California and Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference and the annual conference for The International Ecotourism Society, funds have also been used to provide other opportunities. For example, funds were used in 2010 to help send four students to compete in the national park and recreation Academic Quiz Bowl competition, one in which Cal Poly's RPTA students placed first in 2010 and will defend their title in 2011 at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress in Atlanta, GA.

With opportunities such as this, the Cal Poly RPTA department and students have been able to gain national recognition and a prestigious reputation among other universities and within the industry.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬅ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

[Make a donation to the Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration Department!](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

Katherine Soule, a recent RPTA Masters degree recipient, received the prestigious "Future Scholars" award at the 2010 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

Advising Information

Curriculum Information

Concentrations

Course Schedules

Degree Information

News & Activities

Clubs

News & Features

Newsletters

Resources & Opportunities

Faculty and Office Hours

Career Paths

Resource Links

Alumni Spotlight

Internships & Senior Project

Scholarships

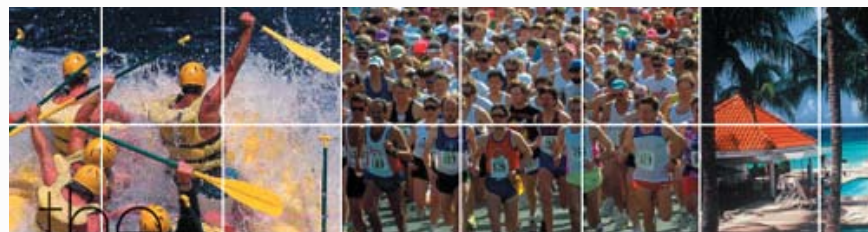
Listening to Students

College Based Fees

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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SENIOR STANDOUT: TIFFANY FOWLER, ASI CHIEF OF STAFF

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

Here at Cal Poly, ASI (Associated Students Incorporated) plays a very important role in our daily lives. Whether it is going to the recreation center, visiting the University Union, or attending one of the university's many events, we constantly experience the results of ASI's dedicated staff. One thing you may not know, however, is that the ASI Chief of Staff, is one of our very own - RPTA senior Tiffany Fowler.



As the Chief of Staff, Fowler implements the ideas of the ASI president and has direct oversight of the executive cabinet. She is in charge of running weekly meetings, overseeing projects of the various branches, filing the necessary paperwork, and making needed reservations. The job has proven to be immensely beneficial to Fowler, who says, "The professionalism I've learned through ASI has taught me corporate level communication, real world people management, the importance of delegation, the process of planning, and much more." In addition, she has developed an extensive network of contacts and immense workplace experience. Having worked for student government for four years now, she is unsure as to what initially attracted her to the position, but feels that it has paid off tenfold.

Adds Fowler, "Like many activities, you get out of it what you put into it. I wish every student could have the opportunity to learn what I have from this organization, there's nothing to lose and everything to gain." Anyone interested in learning more about ASI student government can explore their link at http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/be_a_leader.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Contact Information

Advisory Council

Graduate Program

How to Enroll

Where in the world is RPTA?

Make a Donation



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

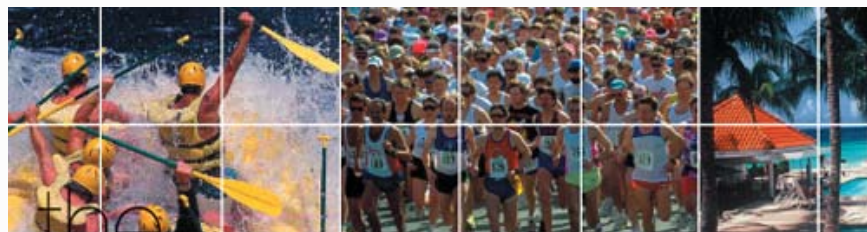
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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JACOBS HELPS FRESHMEN ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer



Upon first arriving at college, getting assimilated and comfortable in your surroundings can often seem a daunting task, especially when classes start up and you find yourself thrown into an entirely new way of life. Thanks to one RPTA faculty member, many freshmen have found the support and answers they were looking for. Dr. Jeff Jacobs helps coordinate "Poly Success," a program designed to empower freshmen through access to resources and a network of people who can help them find their way at Cal Poly.

The Poly Success program meets for 50 minutes once a week in groups of about 20 students from various majors, and each session brings with it a different focus. The program is an outlet for support, where students can voice any questions or concerns they might have, but in addition it teaches many useful skills. Some sessions may bring in speakers from such resources as career services or study abroad programs, and others may focus on finding strengths, learning time management skills, and performing team-building activities. The integral part of the program, however, is the mentor system, where each freshman is paired with an older student who they can hang out with and who can help them with any questions or problems they might have.

The program has proven to be incredibly successful. Although it only takes place for the first academic quarter of a student's career here, every student who has taken part in the program is still enrolled at Cal Poly and have in general held a higher average GPA than students who did not participate. When asked how he felt about the program, Dr.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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Jacobs replied, "The program has been very successful in helping first year students to feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged during their first quarter here at Cal Poly."

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

[Make a donation to the Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration Department!](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Last Update: 06/14/10

Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration
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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

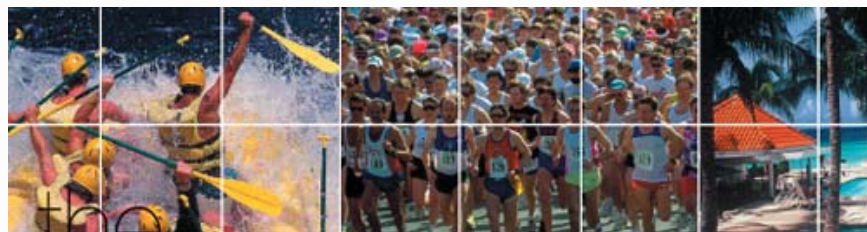
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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FROM MY LITTLE WOODEN DESK...

By Dr. Bill Hendricks, Department Head

Since first arriving on the Cal Poly campus in 1994, I have been amazed at the rich lives that RPTA students lead and their willingness to get involved with co-curricular activities. They truly embody Cal Poly's learn by doing philosophy and they often go the extra mile to maximize the benefits of the "college experience." Recently, Cal Poly has embraced co-curricular experiences in a more formal manner, with the explicit recognition that these activities are an essential element of growth as an individual and as a component of student learning outcomes. In this issue of "The Report" several of these activities are highlighted. RPTA student involvement includes serving on professional conference planning committees, coordinating our annual RPTA auction and benefit fundraiser, testing one's limits in outdoor settings, dreaming big to land the ultimate internship, attending conferences, and serving and mentoring others both on and off campus.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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At a recent meeting attended by Cal Poly's new chief administrator, President Jeffrey Armstrong, a portion of the discussion evolved around the sense of place and attachment that makes Cal Poly an institution of distinction. There was some consensus that Cal Poly is a unique community and that the units within Cal Poly such as a college or department are like a family. You will read in this newsletter about our wide-ranging sense of family. In fact, please join me in congratulating RPTA alumni Bart and Cassie on their commitment to spend their lives together.

We consider students, faculty, emeritus faculty, staff, parents, industry professionals, and alumni as a part of our extended family. There really is no other industry that exemplifies the characteristics of a healthy family and community in everything it does. What other profession can advocate taking your family to a park, going to a ball game, treating yourself to a healthy meal, staying in an exotic destination, coaching youth sports, protecting special places, and attending a festival in your community as elements of its very core? RPTA simply celebrates family, service, healthy lifestyles, sustainable communities, special places, personal growth, and life-enhancing experiences.

So, since you are all a part of our family and we want to hear about your experiences, don't forget as my dad always said, "keep those cards and letters (emails) coming."

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[back to top](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

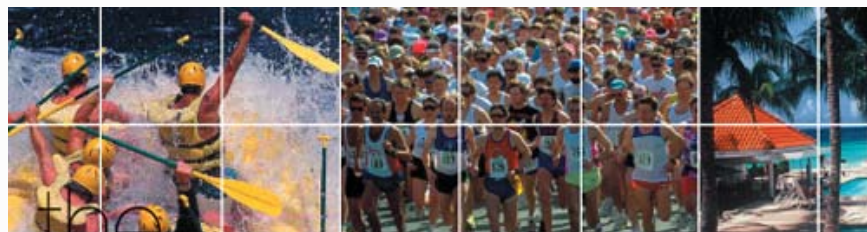
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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"THE HAPPIEST INTERN ON EARTH?"

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Stephanie Mastro, an RPTA graduating senior, has said her farewells to Cal Poly and run off to the "The Happiest Place on Earth," otherwise known as Disneyland. For this self-described Disney aficionado who even completed her senior project on the world famous theme park, working as an intern at Disneyland is a dream come true. Yet, it took more than just dreams to land the position.



Out of the 3,000 applicants, Mastro was selected with only 350 other students to become part of Disney's prestigious "College Program" in Anaheim, California. According to the Disney Jobs website, "This truly unique program allows participants to network with Disneyland Resort leaders, take part in personal and career-development classes, and build transferable skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, Guest service and effective communication. All participants will work in front-line roles at the

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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Disneyland Resort, including Stores, Attractions, Food & Beverage, Lodging and many more."

In addition to joining a team of professionals with an international reputation for excellent guest service, and training, Mastro will receive perks such as free theme park admission and discounts on resort accommodations and merchandise. Mastro began her internship in mid-January and describes her experience in saying, "So far I've had a blast!" She is currently working on Main Street USA at the Coke Refreshment Corner, The Main Street Cone Shop, and Gibson Girl Ice Cream Parlor. According to Mastro, "[She] get[s] to wear a really cute costume too" and encourages her fellow RECies to "stop by and say hello!"

Mastro will return from her 400-hour internship in June to walk at graduation and hopes to be an official employee for Disney soon thereafter. She looks forward to the amazing opportunities that will surely be provided by Disneyland and its programs. For current and future RPTA students looking to gain access to the "World of Disney," Mastro has plenty of advice and recommendations. The RPTA senior applied twice before she was accepted and admits that, "The application process is kind of frustrating because it's all online and you don't really get to talk with anyone in person." However, her most important suggestions are, "Don't be nervous about any negative things, everyone has a different interview. Make sure you smile when you talk; remember, they want 'Disney people.'" With her bubbly personality and almost "Disney perfect" persona, Mastro reminds all students that, "If you really want it, don't give up. It will happen when it's supposed to happen."

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

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Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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[View all Newsletters](#)

MEET THE STAFF OF "THE REPORT"

Staff for "The Report" are nominated by RPTA faculty for demonstrating excellent writing skills in RPTA classes. Student writers then coordinate with the editor and faculty advisor Dr. Brian Greenwood to develop and write articles. The editor for 2010-2011 is **Anthonia Edgren** (RPTA '12), and **Kevin Mould** (RPTA '14) and **Kim Saavedra** (RPTA '13) are returning staff members who began in Fall 2010, and this quarter we welcomed a new staff writer to our team, **Kalli Sandberg** (RPTA '13).

Here's more about the staff:

Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor

Edgren is a second year RPTA student concentrating in Sport Management and Special Events. She has been on The Report staff for two years and truly enjoys the opportunity to be Editor. Edgren hopes to intern with her hometown team, the San Diego Chargers this summer and has a career goal of one day being the General Manager for the team. In her free time, her favorite outdoor activity is running in Poly Canyon and at Pismo Beach.

Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

Mould is excited to be a part of The Report staff. A freshman from Mountain View he hopes to concentrate in Sports Management, a tribute to his love for the San Jose Sharks. Why he chose RPTA: "All through high school I knew I wanted to do something related to sports business, and this seemed like the perfect way to do that!"

Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Sandberg is a second year RPTA student from Marin County, CA (just North of the Golden Gate bridge) who plans on combining event planning and tourism as concentrations. She chose RPTA because "RPTA gives me an opportunity to combine my leadership and organizational skills with fun and amazing staff, students, and classes. Most of my friends just nickname the major 'FUN,' and I couldn't be happier

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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with my decision." Sandberg comes to "The Report" after having shown her writing abilities both in the classroom and in the blogosphere.

Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

A second year RPTA student, Saavedra knows how "truly awesome" it is to be an RPTA major. Look for a highlight on Saavedra in spring 2011, as she details her experience in being chosen as one of four to participate in the NASCAR mentor program. Next fall Kim will be studying abroad in Spain and looks forward to the new experiences it will bring. Carrying that adventuresome attitude, Saavedra explains that the reason she chose RPTA: "I was looking for a way to have fun for the rest of my life doing what I love!"

If you have ideas for stories, ideas about how to improve The Report, and/or feedback about the current or past issues, please feel free to email us at rptanewsletter@gmail.com.

[Back to Winter 2011newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

Advising Information

Curriculum Information

Concentrations

Course Schedules

Degree Information

News & Activities

Clubs

News & Features

Newsletters

Resources & Opportunities

Faculty and Office Hours

Career Paths

Resource Links

Alumni Spotlight

Internships & Senior Project

Scholarships

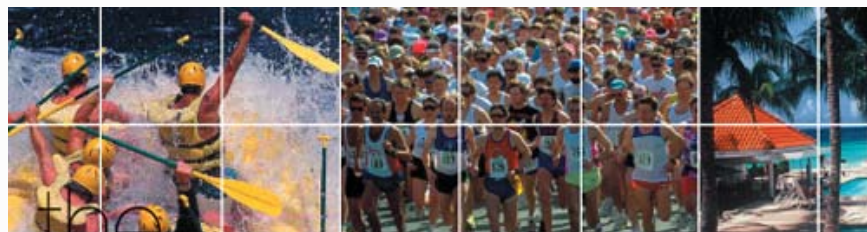
Listening to Students

College Based Fees

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



the **RePort**

A newsletter for Recreation, Parks, Alumni, Students &

[View all Newsletters](#)

RPTA ALUMNI DRAWN TO PEACE CORPS

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

The Peace Corps is a great opportunity for students after college. Individuals coming out of our department are drawn to the experience because it involves helping people and traveling to an international location. RPTA alumnus Nic Turrentine traveled to Fiji for the Peace Corps (2007-2010) and recalls his experience, "I was a business development advisor and lived in a small village called Lavena, on an outer island called Taveuni. My primary assignment was to assist the village with improving the operations and financial management of an eco-tourism project the community was operating. I also worked with the youth running sexual reproductive health programs." One of the exciting things about working with the Peace Corps right now is that the program is going into its 50th year of helping people.



Turrentine enjoyed the experience so much that he decided not to leave once his 2-year commitment was complete. He adds, "I extended for my 3rd year and moved to the capital city, Suva. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader and worked in the Peace Corps office as part of the programming and training team. Part time I worked with a regional NGO on coordinating a multi-unit sexual health project called Stepping Stones in 8 different villages throughout the country." Turrentine found that the experiences he had living in Fiji have made him more appreciative of his life at home. Working for the Peace Corps and traveling to areas that are in need is an amazing experience that Turrentine is truly thankful for.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Contact Information

Advisory Council

Graduate Program

How to Enroll

Where in the world is RPTA?

Make a Donation



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

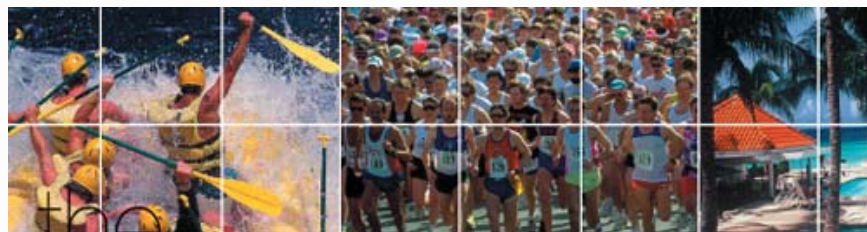
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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[View all Newsletters](#)

RPTA PLANNING TWO MAJOR CONFERENCES IN 2011

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

The RPTA department is looking forward to a very busy year. This year, the RPTA department has taken on the huge endeavor of planning both the California Sustainable Tourism Summit and the Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference. And according to the Dave Wehner, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), these opportunities are precisely the type of "learn-by-doing" projects that help make Cal Poly such a special place. Both projects have multiple RPTA students involved in integral roles, and Kendi Root is serving as the lead faculty member and liaison for both opportunities.



The California Sustainable Tourism Summit is put on by the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC). The 2011 event will be held in Los Angeles and is being planned by a team of four RPTA students; Carrie Nasby, Torey Gilmore, Lauren Rosen, and Devon Carlstrom. These individuals were enrolled in Kendi Root's RPTA 412 class and took an interest in planning a Sustainability Summit. Nasby stated, "I am passionate about the cause, sustainable travel and tourism. It was also something at the time I wanted to learn more about. Since I'm from the Los Angeles area, I figured that being a part of this event would be a great networking opportunity with individuals in the industry in the Los Angeles area." Nasby explained the planning process and the collaborative efforts of the team, "To split up the tasks to be completed for this Summit, we divided certain jobs to each person. Although we all are assigned to a job or two, we basically all work together and help each other out with each individual task. My role has been to help with theme development and finding sustainable partners in the LA area for multiple areas of the event. We also have conference calls with individuals at

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

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CTTC once or twice a month.”

Cal Poly RPTA students are also busy planning the Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference (ESTC) held annually by The International Ecotourism Society (TIES). The 2011 conference will be held in Hilton Head, SC from September 19-21, 2011. Melissa Crist is working on a special events planning concentration and is helping plan the conference. Crist said, “ESTC is in its fifth year and focuses on the latest sustainable business strategies as well as new developments in our attempts to 'go green.' The conference has four tracks attendees can follow with specific speakers for each area. This year the four major topics to be discussed are Business Sustainability Practices, Conservation and Communities, Partnerships in Press Policy and Politics, and Places and Experiences.” Crist is in charge of meeting logistics, speakers, and audio-visual (AV). Meeting room layout, room changes for nightly functions, speaker accommodations, speaker-audience communication, volunteer training, and AV equipment management are just a few of her many responsibilities. Crist is just one of the many individuals involved in the intricate planning of this event.



The RPTA department is honored and privileged to have the opportunity and resources to plan these two amazing conferences. With a focus on the importance of sustainability in the tourism industry, these two conferences are setting the standard for future “green” conferences and sustainability efforts.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

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Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

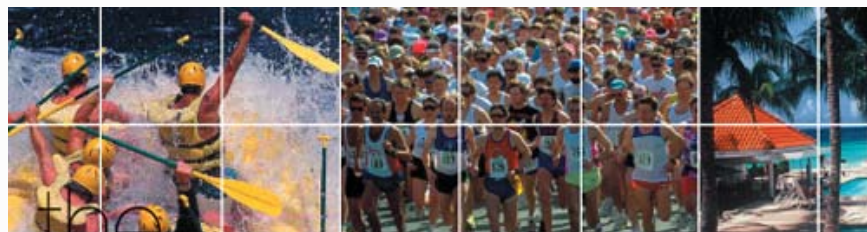
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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[View all Newsletters](#)

RPTA CLUB UPDATE: SPRING FEVER AWAITS

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

After a long Winter, RPTA students are ready to stretch their wings and get outside to play, but not without saying farewell to winter with one last exciting adventure. This Winter, twelve lucky club members ventured into the treacherous and freezing temperatures of Yosemite on a snowshoeing trip with Poly Escapes. Among these lucky members were: Ryan Swearingen, Katie Draeger, Kristina Eads, Selena Ramirez, Nikki Harth, Andrew Salter, Kiefer Reischl, Toni Hazlett, Anna Wagner, Kelly Hedgecock, Blake Lopez and Eddie Stefani.



Luckily, after the chill and nearly freezing temperatures of winter, Spring quarter will be infused with dozens of fun activities to help members fulfill their 1,00 hour recreation

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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volunteer or work experience. Some of these include: the Rho Phi Lambda-sponsored Career Fair, Cal Poly's Open House, Walk for Life, intramurals, another Poly Escapes trip, and finally the Wildflower Triathlon, a club favorite!

The AVIA Wildflower Triathlon Festival is an amazing tradition that gathers more than 30,000 spectators, and 7,500 athletes each year during the last weekend in April. Every year, the RPTA Club and more than 1,000 other Cal Poly students volunteer to support Tri-California's three-day triathlon and gain valuable insight into the production and organization of the largest triathlon in the United States and the second largest triathlon in the world. For more information about participating as an athlete or volunteer, contact Kimberly Saavedra at saavedra@calpoly.edu or The Report Editor, Anthonia Edgren at aedgren@calpoly.edu.



After a cold and busy winter, the RPTA Club is ready to spring into action and venture into the world. Unfortunately, the club is saying farewell to their proud leader and president, Ryan Swearingen, who will be interning with JNR, an employee incentives and corporate event planning company based in Irvine, CA, before graduating in June. Thanks to his guidance and support, RPTA officers are ready to step up and jump into spring with full force!

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[↗ back to top](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

Katherine Soule, a recent RPTA Masters degree recipient, received the prestigious "Future Scholars" award at the 2010 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

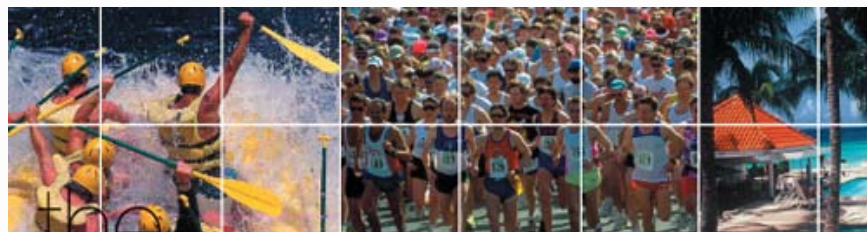
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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A newsletter for Recreation, Parks, Alumni, Students &

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CAROLYN SHANK: ONE OF A KIND

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor, The Report



Professor Emeritus Carolyn Shank is truly one of a kind. After retiring from her 32-year stay at Cal Poly as a student and then a professor, she has participated in little of the stereotypical "retired life." Rather, she has taken on new hobbies, endeavors, and adventures, making the young at heart jealous of life after Cal Poly. How does she do it? "I never worry. I've had some health problems but it is what it is. I have a sense of humor about things. I got class clown in high school. I'm just lucky. I was born with decent genes. A slight risk taker, I put myself out there a bit."

According to many, Carolyn Shank was the catalyst that turned the RPTA department into what it is today. As department head she hired Dr. Hendricks, Professor Root, and Professor Moyer, and by doing so, helped the program gain national accreditation and permanent department status at Cal Poly.

Currently, Shank teaches a 55+ exercise class consisting of stretch and flexibility training. An avid golfer, she hits the course every week; she is also the event chair for the Sea Pines Golf Resort, and the hospitality chair and Webmaster for the Morro Bay golf course. She has organized the Monarch Invitational, as well as Rally for the

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

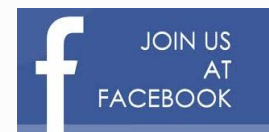
[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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Cure, an event to raise money for breast cancer research. Shank says that planning events like these challenges her to “practice what she preached.” Dr. Shank has been experiencing the world within the past few years in traveling to North Carolina, New York, and Australia “to just run around.” Shank explained that she prefers traveling to large cities because she enjoys the challenge of mastering and finding her way around.



So, while Carolyn Shank is getting holes in one at Sea Pines Golf Course (Hole 7), traveling the world, rewriting a book, and being a devoted family member to her daughters, mother, and husband, she has some advice for today's RPTA students, “There is only so much you can learn in classes. It's what's out there in the world and it's what you can do on your own with no teachers standing there. Can you pull it off? 1000 hours are the most important thing, getting the experience is what is important because nowadays, a Bachelor's degree is just a foot in the door.”

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

[⬆ back to top](#)

Make a Donation

[Make a donation to the Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration Department!](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

Katherine Soule, a recent RPTA Masters degree recipient, received the prestigious "Future Scholars" award at the 2010 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

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Navigation

Curriculum Information

[Advising Information](#)

[Curriculum Information](#)

[Concentrations](#)

[Course Schedules](#)

[Degree Information](#)

News & Activities

[Clubs](#)

[News & Features](#)

[Newsletters](#)

Resources & Opportunities

[Faculty and Office Hours](#)

[Career Paths](#)

[Resource Links](#)

[Alumni Spotlight](#)

[Internships & Senior Project](#)

[Scholarships](#)

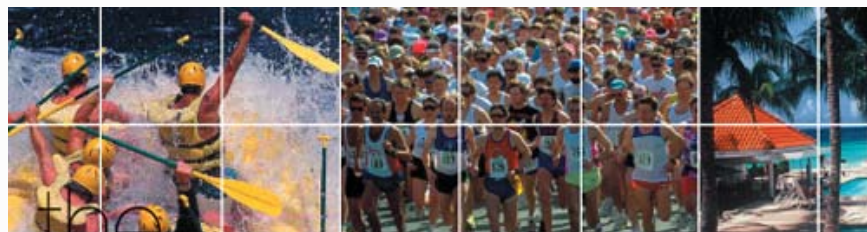
Listening to Students

[College Based Fees](#)

RPTA Department > Winter 2011 Newsletter

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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A newsletter for Recreation, Parks, Alumni, Students &

[View all Newsletters](#)

"OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO..." RPTA SENIOR FINDS NO LIMITS

By Kim Saavedra (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

In 2009, Ben Turley made the decision to forgo the Spring quarter of his junior year at Cal Poly to accomplish his life long dream of hiking the Appalachian Trail from start to finish. Turley was first inspired to hike the "A.T." at the youthful age of ten, by his father's camp employee, who had also hiked the 2,178.3-mile long trail.



Ten years later, despite the complete disbelief of his family and friends, Turley turned his dream into a reality. According to Turley, he knew from the moment he took his first steps on Cal Poly's campus for his first day of WOW, that his life decisions were now his own, and therefore, anything he set his mind to, he would accomplish. After his first

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[Contact Information](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[Graduate Program](#)

[How to Enroll](#)

[Where in the world is RPTA?](#)

[Make a Donation](#)



NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Brian Greenwood was recognized by the North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture with a meritorious award for outstanding teaching at the annual CAFES leadership banquet. [Read more](#)

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The RPTA team of Amber Black, Amy Lepp, Kristen McClay, and Kelsey Pavao captured the first-ever Academic Quiz Bowl championship at the 2010 National Recreation and Park

year of classes as a civil engineering student, Turley switched majors to become part of the RPTA family after he simply decided, "I want[ed] to play!"

Yet, with a new-found love for school through the RPTA department, Turley had not forgotten his sincere desire to hike the Appalachian Trail. So, in April of 2009, Turley began his treacherous walk on the famous Appalachian Trail at its southernmost entrance in Georgia. While Turley did begin his hike alone, he quickly realized that there would be no lack of companionship, as he proceeded to meet, "some of the most brilliant and diverse groups of people" that he ever hoped to encounter. Unfortunately for Turley, that Spring and Summer later became referred to as the, "Year of the Rain," and he was lucky to see two days of sun in a row. However, the incessant and torrential downpour of rain, wind, snow and hail failed to dampen his spirits. Four months later, Turley would become one of only ten percent of hikers who set out and manage to complete the entire trail from start to finish...2,178.3 miles from Georgia to Maine. Even through wet clothes from April to August, nerve-racking bear encounters, and scant amounts of food, Turley looks back on his adventurous hike as a complete success. For Turley, his decision to hike the Appalachian Trail was not made for class credit or recognition, it was simply a childhood dream, and nothing could prevent him from completing it.



Today, Turley finds himself finishing his last quarter at Cal Poly and will begin his 400-hour internship as a Wilderness Program Director for Kidder Creek Orchard Camps in Etna, CA. After graduation in June, Turley will continue his work with Kidder Camps until September when he will embark on new adventures and travel around the world to hike in countries such as England, Nepal, and eventually, New Zealand. However, despite his treacherous hikes and dangerous endeavors, Turley maintains that his greatest accomplishment has been finishing college. To all future and current RPTA students, Turley's advice is, "Don't be afraid to try new things and broaden your perspective." With a minor in biology, Turley encourages all students to push boundaries, whether in the classroom or halfway around the world, and never believe that anything is impossible.

[Back to Winter 2011 newsletter](#)

Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

Katherine Soule, a recent RPTA Masters degree recipient, received the prestigious "Future Scholars" award at the 2010 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis, MN. [Read more](#)

A team of RPTA faculty and students partnered with the California Travel and Tourism Commission to develop the Sustainable Tourism Marketing Handbook. The handbook was presented at the 2010 California Sustainable Tourism Summit in Lake Tahoe. [Read more](#)

Dr. Jeff Jacobs was honored with the 2010 CAFES New Faculty Teaching award; this same honor was bestowed upon Dr. Marni Goldenberg in 2009. Congratulations to both of these well deserving RPTA faculty! [Read more](#)

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Last Update: 06/14/10

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