



Inclusive Recreation eNewsletter

2012

VOLUME 6

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***Mission of the
Inclusive
Recreation
Resource Center***

*Helping ALL people
play wherever they
choose!*



Please Take Our Survey

Working with SUNY Cortland, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center is completing a survey to get your feedback on our website and online recreation database. With your input, we can improve the usefulness of both the online recreation database and the website.



Prior to completing the survey, please visit and explore our website at <http://www.inclusiverec.org>.

Also, while on the Center's website, be sure to visit the online recreation database. You can find it by choosing "Resource Center" in the navigation bar or "Find Recreation" button on the right-side navigation. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the database and the information it contains to best answer the questions on the survey.

The survey link is provided below. Could you take a few minutes to complete the it? The survey will ask you to evaluate our website and provide your feedback on improving our website and online recreation database.

We ask that an adult at least 18 years or older complete the survey. The survey should take about 15-30 minutes of your time. To assure anonymity, please do not place any names or personal information on the survey. Your participation is completely voluntary. You may end the survey at any time you wish not to participate. By completing the survey, you have given your informed consent to participate.

The link to the survey

is: <http://survey.cortland.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=923J5p7>

Please complete the survey by December 31, 2012.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to give us input. Your participation will help us gather the information we need to improve our website.

If you have any questions about the survey, feel free to contact Dr. Lynn Anderson, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department at SUNY Cortland (607)-753-4942.

Thank you so much for helping the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center to shape our website, allowing us to best meet the needs of the community.

Learn about the exciting work the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center is doing with the **Belize Zoo** in Central America..... Follow these footprints to learn more!



Highlights from 2012

It has been a very busy year at the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center! Here are just a few highlights from the year.

Inclusion U

- Inclusion U was taught at these universities this year:
 - SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College, Onondaga Community College, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Paul Smith's College, Lehman College, and new this year, Kean University in New Jersey.
 - The Hospital for Special Care in Connecticut hosted Inclusion U and three faculty members from Southern Connecticut State University attended and are bringing Inclusion U to their students.
 - Inclusion U was also taught as pre-institutes at two of our partners' state conferences: New York State Recreation and Park Society (NYSRPS) and New York State Therapeutic Recreation Association (NYSTRA).
- Inclusion U will be online by Fall 2013! Dr. Lynn Anderson's spring sabbatical project is to develop the online training. Watch for details in late summer 2013. People will be able to complete Inclusion U anywhere in the world at any time!

Facebook

- We joined Facebook!
- Like our page to stay up to date on the latest IRRC News at this link: <http://www.facebook.com/InclusiveRec>
- Add a comment, an event, or links that would be useful to people with disabilities and their families and friends.



Inclusivity Assessment Tool

- The Inclusivity Assessment Tool (IAT) goes mobile! You can now fill out an Inclusivity Assessment on your iPad, iPhone, or other mobile device. No more sloppy notes, paper, or wasting trees! If you are a CIA, you have access to the electronic IAT on the website. Just use your CIA password to download the checklists you need.



Award Winners!

- The NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) held its annual meeting on May 31, 2012. At this meeting, a Forging Pathways Grantee Recognition Program was held. This first-time program "recognizes those grantees who have shown extraordinary quality, creativity, innovation, and success in DDPC funded grants." Among this year's recipients were our very own Dr. Lynn Anderson and Dr. Vicki Wilkins for their work with the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. Congratulations to both of you for your hard work and dedication! And a very huge thank you to the NYS DDPC for their ongoing enthusiastic support of the work of the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center.



The Belize Zoo Transformation Project

As is often the case with “the best,” the folks at [The Belize Zoo](#), under the leadership of Sharon Matola, wanted to make the zoo even better. They decided that the zoo should be genuinely available to all people; i.e., they decided to make it accessible. They contacted the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center for some guidance and the conversation began. I am sure that it comes as no surprise to any of you that the very first conversation culminated in the creation of an opportunity for our students to spend time at the zoo!

Lynn, Vicki, and George, Vicki’s son, traveled to Belize in June and spent a week with the staff and the wonderful animals – all, two-legged and four-legged, truly amazing creatures! The zoo is beautifully carved out of the jungle providing native wildlife with comfortable and natural homes. None of the animals have been captured and brought to the zoo; all of the animals either needed a home, care and nutrition, or needed to stay out of trouble! The plan is to make about a mile of the trail through the zoo accessible, and although the mile will not cover the entire zoo and all of the animals, it will provide the opportunity to encounter each type of animal living at The Belize Zoo. As with most outdoor facilities, attention will be given to the trail surface, access to boardwalks, and places to rest and/or view the animals. The transformation will also result in a new entrance to the main building, gift shop, and expanded restaurant as well. We were treated like royalty! Everyone at the zoo knew who we were and why we were there, and many excellent conversations took place about the possibilities. It was so refreshing to have the “how can we do this” conversations rather than the “why do we have to do this” conversations. We are truly honored to be even a small part of the process.

Here’s the plan for the SUNY Cortland students. Although much of the accessibility work will be completed by the end of December, the parking lot and the route of travel from the parking lot to the building entrance are being saved for our students! We have been asked to raise the funds and then come down in March during our spring break and do the work. During Spring 2013, Vicki will teach a 3-credit class that will feature a week of service learning at TBZ, actually making the parking lot and route of travel to the entrance accessible. Prior to the trip, the students will complete the full-day Inclusion U training and read [The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw: One Women’s Fight to Save the World’s Most Beautiful Bird](#) to learn more about Sharon Matola and The Belize Zoo.

Thank you to the Belize Zoo staff for including us as you transform The Belize Zoo into a nature destination accessible to ALL the people of Belize and beyond.

Help Us Raise the Funds for the Belize Zoo Transformation Project

We are selling AWESOME tie-dye shirts (with IRRC & Belize Zoo logos with jaguar paw prints) and survival bracelets to raise funds for the Belize Zoo Transformation Project. Email Deanna or Sarah at InclusiveRec@cortland.edu if you want to purchase either or both. Be cool, be hip, and help!





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We're on the Web!

www.InclusiveRec.org

**We're on Facebook,
too!**

www.facebook.com/InclusiveRec



Special Issue of Social Advocacy and Systems Change Journal

Dr. Lynn Anderson guest edited a special issue of the online journal, *Social Advocacy and Systems Change Journal* with a focus on "Leisure, Inclusion, and Ability." This special issue of *Social Advocacy and Systems Change Journal* addresses an important life area for people with disabilities - leisure. The importance of leisure, recreation, and play has been documented by philosophers, scientists, practitioners, and people with disabilities and their families. This issue focuses attention on several aspects of leisure through the lens of inclusion and a social model of disability. The issue includes articles and videos, written and recorded from multiple perspectives, many from people with disabilities themselves.

You can enjoy the journal at this

link: <http://journals.cortland.edu/wordpress/sasc/>

Meet Our Staff

Dr. Lynn Anderson, CTRS, CPRP is the director of the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center and a Distinguished Service Professor at SUNY Cortland. She can be reached at lynn.anderson@cortland.edu.

Dr. Vicki Wilkins, CPRP is Center faculty and a Professor at SUNY Cortland. She can be reached at vicki.wilkins@cortland.edu.

In January, 2012, the IRRRC welcomed its first AmeriCorps staff member, **Deanna Moore, CTRS**, to the team. Deanna is a recent graduate from SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies Department with a Bachelor's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation.

In September, 2012, **Sarah Olear**, who is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation in SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department, joined the Center.

Deanna is full-time and Sarah is quarter-time with the Center. They are involved in all aspects of our work and we are so proud and lucky to have them on board. They both are enjoying their terms of service with us so much, they agreed to another term of service with AmeriCorps! [Learn more about AmeriCorps.](#)

