



METROSCOPE

WINTER 2006

VOLUME 16

NUMBER 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As we begin another year with Metro I want to thank all of you for your continued support and encouragement. There is nothing I like better than greeting members at various functions and hearing how METRO's conferences have been helpful and how you look forward to them. As you know we have made some changes always with the intention of finding better ways to serve you. The general membership meeting now includes a speaker to provide another opportunity to accrue continuing education hours. This fall the topic was on the African-American burial ground discovered in New York City. The speaker was extremely knowledgeable and interesting. The evening continued with open discussion on cultural issues, so important in our field and in our city. Would you like to see another general membership meeting? The board is working on including a fun membership event in the summer, particularly during Recreation month.

We will still have a full day conference, scheduled in March this year. Mini

conferences will start in February. But of course none of this is possible without your input. It is so helpful and necessary when you tell us what topics you would like to see presented. What areas of competency do you need workshops on? Hands on? Discussion? Trainings? The purpose of METRO is to serve the membership, the professionals of NYC and with your input and advice and encouragement we can continue to do so.

What speaker have you heard that you think would be excellent at one of our sessions? Let us know. Do you have a facility where we could do a workshop? New York is a large and diverse area to serve as you know and METRO's workshops are spread around the city to include as many of our members as we can.

Again thank you for all your help and support—so many of you have pitched in so many ways over the years. Please continue to tell us how we have helped you and how we can improve our services. METRO, after all, is your organization.

Sincerely,

Charlynn Willis

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Upcoming State Conferences,
METRO All Day conferences & mini-conferences

DATE: March 14th, 2007
LOCATION: Manhattan - DC
37, 8:30-3:30
TOPIC: *ALL DAY
CONFERENCE*

DATE: Late April 2007
LOCATION: Brooklyn -
Kingsborough Community College
TOPIC: *To be determined*

DATE: March (**tentative**)
LOCATION: Bronx - Aging in
America
TOPIC: *To be determined*

April 22-25, 2007

67th Annual
NYSRPS
Conference
And
Business Expo

Adam's Mark Hotel
Buffalo, NY

Visit

<http://www.nysrps.org/events.shtml>

for more
information.

DATE: *To be determined*
LOCATION: Bronx -
Manhattanville Nursing Home
TOPIC: *To be determined* by
Paul Bufano and Michael
Jendreski

DATE: June 9, 2007
LOCATION: Queens - NYS
Veterans Home at St. Albans
TOPIC: *To be determined*
(tentative)

The Metropolitan NY Recreation & Park Society
Post Office Box 632
Madison Square Station
New York, NY 10159-0632

POSTMASTER FIRST CLASS
Time Perishable NEWSLETTER
Please Deliver IMMEDIATELY



News for Professionals in



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Mini Conference and General
Membership Meeting - 9/13/06

Topic: African Burial Ground Historical -
Film Presentation and Discussion

Speaker: Monique Singletary, Educator
and Editor

As written by Monique Singletary, the African Burial ground is the Nation's earliest known African-American Cemetery, dating from the 17th century. Unearthed during excavation of the federal office building at 290 Broadway in 1991, the African Burial Ground has since been designated a New York City Historic District, a National Landmark and most recently a Monument.

The presentation started with a historical film on the discovery of the African Burial ground in Manhattan. Followed by a discussion on the understanding of how this spiritual, cultural and historical sites discovery can give us greater insight into the societal attitudes and human behavior that shaped our nation. This presentation gave us a better understanding of various diversity factors that affect human behavior and human development.

This was a very informative and interesting conference as reported by the attendees.

NEWS FROM KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Therapeutic Recreation Program

Coursework towards the CTRS Credential and/or CEU's

The Therapeutic Recreation Program at Kingsborough Community College (part of the Program in Physical Education, Recreation and Recreation Therapy) provides coursework that can be applied:

- Towards obtaining the CTRS credential (upon satisfying all of the requirements as determined by the National Council on Therapeutic Recreation Certification).
- For CEU's towards re-certification for the CTRS credential, or,
- Towards an AAS degree in Therapeutic Recreation (for students who matriculate).

You can earn up to 75 hours of CEU's upon successful completion of both courses, or 3 credits toward the CTRS credential for RPE-35.

Enrollment is limited so register early to ensure a place.

RPE-35 (sec. DO1C) Therapeutic Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities: II

3 Credits 45 CEU's \$460 24 sessions

Instructor: Dr. Gail Levine, Ph.D., CTRS, Associate Professor

Tuesday 10:20 - 11:20 and Thursday 12:40 - 2:50

First Class Feb 27th, 2007

This course provides an overview of disorders associated with aging, including dementia and Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, arthritis, diabetes, and macular degeneration. TR programming for these populations in special settings is discussed. Traditional interventions and complementary modalities with various populations are demonstrated, including aromatherapy, relaxation therapy, guided imagery and adapted yoga.

Format: Lecture; experiential and interactive
A class site visit is required

This is an advanced course appropriate for those with prior coursework in therapeutic recreation or in related areas, or with work experience in a related field

RPE-36 (sec. DO1E) Assessment Process in Therapeutic Recreation
2 Credits 2 hours a week 30 CEU's 12 sessions
Instructors: Dr. Gail Levine, Ph.D., CTRS, Associate Professor
 Michele A. Bracco, M.A., CTRS, Lecturer
Tuesday 10:20 - 11:20 and Thursday 12:40 - 2:50
First Class Feb 27th, 2007

This course encompasses the documentation in TR for the long term care and in Psychiatry (DSM IV classification system). Included is systematic training in clinical observation, writing individual goals and treatment objectives, comprehensive care plan procedures and implementation.

This course is designed for those seeking to either learn or to improve documentation skills in TR for health-related settings.

To Register:

Call the Office of Continuing Education at Kingsborough Community College
(718) 368-5050

Or on-line @ www.kbcc.cuny.edu (click on Continuing Education)

Office of Continuing Education
Kingsborough Community College
2001 Oriental Boulevard
Box C
Brooklyn, NY 11235

NEWS FROM THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

PAL HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After over 40 years at PAL (20 of them as the executive director) John J. Ryan officially stepped down as PAL's executive director. His successor was selected from among PAL's ranks - Felix Urrutia.

"I am honored to be appointed Executive Director of the Police Athletic League," said Felix Urrutia. "I share the organization's substantive priorities and welcome the opportunity to further my involvement and commitment to New York City's youth. Growing up in New York City, I understand that children in underserved communities need long-term support to help them become productive adults. Young people need the chance to be creative and inspired."

Felix has taken a very active, hands-on approach to his new position. He has already begun making organizational changes, reviewing the agency's mission with various members of PAL's upper management and streamlining PAL programs and hierarchy. He is making every effort to create a spirit of teamwork and cooperation among all PAL staff. Felix has shared his PAL 2010 plan with PAL's board and staff and is focused on making PAL the premiere child care agency in New York City. He wants to get the word out there that PAL offers programs such as arts & crafts, dance, drama, and educational enrichment as well as the recreational programs for which PAL is so well known. Felix has already made significant contributions to PAL as the Director of the New South Bronx

Center in 1996 when it opened its doors and subsequently as the Bronx Borough Director in 2003. He attributes his appointment as Executive Director to his upbringing and the love and support of his family and friends. Felix is the son of Felix and Esther who moved from Puerto Rico to Manhattan's Lower East Side in pursuit of the American dream. After 15 years of living in tenement apartments and working their way from blue-collar to white-collar jobs, his parents moved Felix and his two sisters, Yolanda and Jacqueline, to the East Village. Due to their strength and determination, Felix excelled throughout his academic years and was inspired to dedicate his career to helping others, especially children.

For eight years, Felix has heightened PAL's presence throughout the Bronx community. As PAL's Bronx Borough Director, his work included interacting with government agencies, community organizations, merchants, faith-based institutions, precinct councils, the media, community boards and elected officials. He led in the development and management of all facility, personnel, program and community relations responsibilities for three full-time PAL centers and four part-time project sites, which served approximately 1,500 youth. Previously, Felix was PAL's Director of Special Operations, where he reorganized the programs, personnel, facility maintenance and media outreach of PAL's Webster-Giannone and New South Bronx centers.

He began his career at PAL as the first Director of PAL's New South Bronx Center in 1996, where he managed annual budgets and supported development

through government grants, public fundraisers and leasing of space and fee-based programs, after he assisted in the planning of the center's construction. He planned, managed and evaluated comprehensive after-school, evening and weekend programs for youth and young adults in socio-economically disadvantaged communities. After a decade of service, PAL's New South Bronx Center currently provides over 3,000 children, parents, adults and seniors with a variety of recreational, educational, cultural and social programs.

Felix spent two years away from PAL and enhanced his youth and community development skills. As Executive Director of the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens for one year, he served as interim Chief Executive Officer, providing support to the Board of Directors in redeveloping organizational priorities and identifying new funding streams. Under his leadership, the Variety Boys & Girls Club was reestablished as a viable youth center. Felix spent a year as Administrative Manager at the Office of the Bronx District Attorney. He started up a truancy prevention center and received accreditation training from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Felix has also made

great strides for other organizations including KZ & Associates, the City of New York's Department of Sanitation, Bronx Council on the Arts and Bronx Venture Corporation.

In addition to his work in the not-for-profit and government sectors, Felix has taught graduate level not-for-profit management at Hunter College for eight years and community recreation and facility management at Lehman College for two years. He lectured on the topic of mission and vision at the 2006 New York State Recreation and Park Society Conference. Felix's civic activities and awards include 2nd Vice Chair of Bronx Community Board 2, member of the New York Police Department 41st Precinct Community Council and a Consultantship with New York City Council's Office of Oversight & Investigations.

Felix received a B.S. in Community and Human Services at SUNY Empire State College and an M.S. in Urban Affairs from CUNY at Hunter College. He was awarded the James Felt Fellowship Award for academic excellence and professional promise. Felix is married to his wife of 11 years, Leah, and lives on Long Island with his two children Sophia Michelle and Felix Antonio III.

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY, INC

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Purpose:

To enable students who have demonstrated exceptional ability and superior performance in their academic program in Recreation and Leisure Studies and who have demonstrated a strong commitment to developing a career as a recreation/leisure services professional to continue pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Recreation/Leisure Services.

Eligibility

1. Must be a member of METRO by at least March 1st of the year in which the award is given.
2. Must be a part time or full time student in a degree granting accredited program in Recreation and Leisure Studies in the New York City Metropolitan area.
3. Applicants must have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 in Recreation course work on a standard 4.0 scale.
4. Must be available to Attend METRO's Annual Awards Banquet in the spring to accept the scholarship.
5. Must submit a complete application with supporting documents by the deadline specified for the year in which you are applying.
- 6.

Prior METRO Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

Qualified applicants will be selected based on the following:

1. Professional goals and interests
2. Participation in Recreation and Leisure Studies Clubs; Conferences; and/or Community Service Work or Civic Work - voluntary or paid
3. Financial Need

Evaluation of the above criteria will be based upon the following required documents:

- Complete application including comprehensive essay
- Official College transcript showing current semester course work and course work completed to date; bursar's receipt for the current semester, and
- Three (3) written recommendations - at least one of which shall be from the Director of Recreation/Leisure Services Program at the college or university in which the student is currently enrolled.

If you are interested in applying, please see or call one of the following:

Prof. Michele Bracco	Kingsborough Community College	(718) 368-5197/5831
Dr. Robin Kunstler	Lehman College	(718) 960-8589
Dr. Gail Lamberta	St. Joseph's College Patchogue Campus	(631) 447-3200
	St. Joseph's College Brooklyn Campus	(718) 636-6868
Prof. Charles Alston	Bronx Community College	(718) 289-5100 x 5147

Applications may be submitted anytime between Feb. 1st and March 15th for the year in which you are applying. There are 3 METRO Student Scholarships available. The presentation of these monetary awards will take place at the Annual METRO Awards Dinner held in May of the year you apply.

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK RECREATION & PARK SOCIETY, INC. (METRO)

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Section I

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (Daytime) _____ (Evening) _____

College Currently Attending _____

Degree to be attained A.A.S. _____ M.S. or M.A. _____
 B.S. or B.A. _____ Ph.D. or Ed.D. _____

Major _____ Minor (if any) _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____ Current G.P.A. _____

Section II

Please respond to the following questions in a brief and concise manner.

1. Please list past and present work experiences in the field of Recreation/Leisure Studies. Please indicate number of hours per week, paid or volunteer and length of experience. Field work internships done as part of the required course work for your degree can be included.
2. Please discuss and extra-curricular activity/ies you feel have contributed to your academic and professional development and why/how (i.e. Day Camp counselor; Scouting; etc.)
3. On a separate sheet of paper, please write a brief essay describing your philosophy of Recreation or Therapeutic Recreation and your career goals and objectives. (Please do not exceed more than one typewritten page).
4. Print and sign your full name and date the completed application.
5. Return the completed application with a transcript and recommendations no later than March 15th of the year you are applying. Send to:

Prof. Michele Bracco
Physical Education, Recreation & Recreation Therapy
Kingsborough Community College
2001 Oriental Boulevard, Room E-115
Brooklyn, New York 11235

For more information or questions call Prof. Bracco at (718)-368-5831

Applicants will be notified in the event that an application is received incomplete. Applicant's will have five days to submit any omitted portion(s), otherwise they will be disqualified.

Deadline for receipt of all supporting documents (i.e. transcripts and letters of recommendation) is **March 15th** in the year for which you are applying.

**METRO 2006-2007
AWARDS NOMINATION**

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____ TITLE: _____

AGENCY _____ BUSINESS PHONE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

AWARD OF THE YEAR PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR SPECIAL
REGOGNITION

CORPORATE AWARD STUDENT AWARD VOLUNTEER
SERVICE AWARD

Reason for Nomination: Please show how the nominee meets and exceeds award criteria by submitting a letter up to 300 words. If necessary, attach a separate sheet with specific accomplishments, etc. Include letters of recommendation and other supporting documentation.
Nomination must be postmarked by April 1, 2006.

AWARD OF THE YEAR: Awarded to any current Metro member in good standing who has displayed a significant role in enhancing the growth of recreation, parks and/or leisure services.

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Is presented to a professional in recreation, parks and/or leisure field who has demonstrated a record of distinguished service both as a professional practitioner and a leader in the profession.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: This award is open to an individual who has rendered exceptional service as a practitioner in a recreation setting, having demonstrated commitment to the field through involvement in the areas of publicity, continuing education and/or professional service.

CORPORATE AWARD: Will be presented to a corporation or manufacturer who has made a significant contribution to the field of recreation, parks and/or leisure services, either through monetary or service contributions, manufacturing equipment or products to assist involvement in recreation activities or providing a service to enhance the provision of leisure participation.

STUDENT AWARD: The nominee shall be a full time student at the college level who distinguishes him/herself by:

1. Academic achievement
2. Service to their school and/or
3. Service to the community or a professional organization

VOLUNTEER AWARD: The nominee will be an individual or a group that has rendered exemplary service as a volunteer in the recreation, parks and/or leisure field.