Transitions and Opportunities
Editors’ Notes

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The *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education and Leadership (JOREL)* continues to expand its reach within related scholarship by increasing its reviewer pool, processing ongoing associate editor applications, publishing papers in different submission categories, and including scholarship from around the globe and across varied contexts. In addition, the journal faces unique opportunities as its editorial team enters a transition. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Will Hobbs of Georgia College as the new managing editor; he will take over this role completely with the first issue in 2018. In addition, the JOREL Advisory Board recently selected Dr. Bruce Martin of Ohio University to serve as the next editor-in-chief beginning with a transition phase throughout 2018 and officially starting in January 2019. All of these transitions present unique opportunities for *JOREL* as it continues to add to the literature.

We are pleased to present this issue, which includes one Research Note; one manuscript in the category of Essays, Practices, and Commentaries; and three Regular Papers. First, Morgan, Masters, Rochelle, Ruden, and Gookin present a Research Note, examining the relation between dietary intake and changes in participants’ body composition during a National Outdoor Leadership School course. Body composition, height, and weight were measured pre- and post-trip and participants completed food logs to record daily dietary intake. Their findings represent a growing focus on dietary practices within wilderness and adventure programming and may be useful to similar programs.

Second, Brgoch and Lower present a paper in the Essays, Practices, and Commentaries category. They analyze the *Fleury v. IntraWest Winter Park Operations Corporation (2014)* case and provide risk management recommendations for adventure recreation. They explore how an “inherent danger or risk of skiing” as described in the Ski Safety Act of 1979 has been interpreted differently by various parties, giving rise to legal action. This case showcases an important area for outdoor enthusiasts and providers regarding the interpretation of the statutory definition and the liability attributed in this case to the skier versus the resort operator. Furthermore, it has set precedent for similar cases.

Next, we present three manuscripts in the Regular Paper category. Gagnon, Stone, and Garst examine the strengths and weaknesses of common statistical approaches within recreation
and leisure research. They investigate the factors that best predict parental endorsement of competition climbing among a sample of parents of youth competition climbers and compare three methodological approaches to determine how each may result in contradictory conclusions. Their results suggest that a more detailed examination of self-report questionnaire data may be useful in investigations of complex leisure and recreation constructs; their methodology may be helpful to others exploring similar questions. In another paper, Stuhr, Lecomte, and Sutherland investigate social and emotional learning (SEL) in college students during a 3-day outdoor and adventure-based program. The students experienced relationship skills and social awareness through the 3-day program, and add to the literature utilizing SEL within an adventure-based program.

Finally, Taniguchi, Bennion, Duerden, Widmer, and Ricks present a study conceived out of their own reflections as teachers whereby they had observed that “writing students seem more emotionally honest when their writing class is accompanied by an outdoor recreation component.” They suggest that confidence gained in risk taking in outdoor experiences might affect students’ confidence in their reflective writing. Their results indicate significantly greater growth of self-efficacy scores pertaining to risk taking in writing among students who participated in the outdoor experience along with their writing class. Their study is helpful for those who work with college writing courses and are interested in the effect of outdoor adventure programming on risk taking in other contexts such as reflective writing.

As always, we appreciate the contributions of all involved with the submission and review process, editorial support, and advisory oversight of JOREL. We hope you will consider serving as a reviewer, associate editor, and/or authoring a manuscript. Please also encourage your academic institution to maintain a current subscription for its library.

Thank you for supporting this journal,

Andrew Bobilya, PhD, Editor-in-Chief
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