



Department of
**PARKS, RECREATION AND
TOURISM MANAGEMENT**



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**Graduate Student Research Poster
Presentation Abstracts Program**

April 29th, 2022

Sirrine Hall | Clemson University

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP STUDENTS

Jamie Arbesfeld

Title: **Put me in Coach, I am Ready to Succeed: Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy Outcome Evaluation**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Reach Incorporated; Program Associate

The Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy is an after school and summer program that uses baseball and softball as a vehicle to foster positive character development, academic achievement, and improved health among youth from underserved communities in Washington, D.C. The Academy opened their doors in 2014 and has reached a point in which it is necessary to assess and measure whether Scholar-Athletes are benefiting from participating in BASE programming and experiencing the stated goals and outcomes in the logic model. This outcome evaluation will use a mixed method sequential explanatory design to measure the Scholar-Athletes academic achievement and Social-Emotional Learning growth. All Scholar-Athletes will participate (n=150) in the quantitative data collection process, taking the SAYO-Y survey and Hello Insight assessment. The Scholar-Athletes' teachers from the Academy's five main feeder schools (n=17) will take the SAYO-T survey. All surveys and assessments will use a pretest-posttest design. Interviews and focus groups will be conducted with both Scholar-Athletes and teachers. A stratified random sample will be used to gather the sample of Scholar-Athletes (n=48). All teachers that were surveyed will participate in the interviews and focus groups. This evaluation has the potential to either prove the Academy's mission successful or uncover areas in need of improvement.

Meghan Barkley

Title: **Junior Master Gardener Beaufort, SC 4-H Pilot Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Clemson Cooperative Extension; 4-H Youth Development Agent

Junior Master Gardener (JMG) is an international youth gardening program that has been developed by Texas A & M AgriLife Extension and adapted into a format that meets the needs of school gardens in Beaufort, SC. JMG engages youth in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening & develop an appreciation of nature. The purpose of the outcomes/impact evaluation is to measure the JMG Pilot Program in Beaufort, SC effects, and assess progress of students as they gain knowledge to make long lasting, healthy habits. The evaluation will use mixed methods to determine if youth participants understand plant growth and development, the impact of Master Gardener mentors, and the programmatic strategies of integration agriculture education into a school curriculum.

Teresa (Tre) Brodsky

Title: **An Outcomes Evaluation of U.S. Army Child and Youth Services-Youth Sports & Fitness at Detroit Arsenal**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Shane English School-Japan; ESL Teacher- Japanese primary-secondary schools

Detroit Arsenal Youth Sports and Fitness (DTA YS&F) falls under the U.S. Army Child and Youth Services (CYS) program which provides military-connected youth with childcare services and enrichment activities to reduce the parental conflict between the mission and parenting responsibilities while strengthening the military family unit. DTA YS&F offers developmentally appropriate opportunities for children and youth ages 3-18 years to be engaged in individual and team sports, competitions, skill building clinics, and nutrition and health classes. The purpose of this outcome evaluation is to measure the impact that current DTA YS&F program offerings have on the socio-emotional and physical well-being of youth. The evaluation will seek to discern whether the intended outcomes of increased military-connected youth resiliency and life-long healthy habits are being met. The population for this evaluation will be 600 military-connected children (Pre-K through high school) who are enrolled in DTA CYS programming. Military families are key stakeholders and will play a vital role in the evaluation process as they are not only subject matter experts (SME) on their children but make up about 75% of volunteer youth league coaches. The evaluation will use program quality as a lens to improve program delivery and outcomes.

Kimberly Bennett

Title: **An Outcomes and Impact Evaluation for Brighter Days Mentoring Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Cultivating a Lifetime of Legacy; Executive Director

This paper explores the findings of improving teacher perceptions of the International Baccalaureate program. Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School is the target of this research as it is one of two High Schools in Brevard County that offers this prestigious program. The International Baccalaureate program prepares young adults to be engaged, civic-minded, and qualitative surveys, interviews, and observations. Surveys will utilize twenty statements on a 4-point Likert-type scale. Current and past students, as well as traditional and International Baccalaureate teachers and parents, will be involved in the research, all groups will use their experiences of their last two years in high school formulate their answers. Overall, there is a understanding if the benefits of the IB curriculum but limited understanding of changing overall traditional teachers' perceptions of the international Baccalaureate program.

Jim DesJardin

Title: **Improving Perceptions of the International Baccalaureate Program at Cocoa Beach High School**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School; Senior Army Instructor - JROTC

In recent years, restorative justice practices have been implemented in schools to address the negative impact of discipline, particularly for Black students (Gonzalez, 2015). The purpose of this paper is to evaluate a charter high school's restorative justice program. This evaluation seeks to address discipline disparities and focus on targeting restorative justice practices as an alternative to punitive punishment. Participants for this study include all school members as stakeholders in determining the quality of programming through one-on-one interviews, surveys, questionnaires, and focus groups.

Lacey Edgerton

Title: **Nonprofit Employee Onboarding & Training**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Director, Summers Scholars Program

Due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations have found it difficult to retain employees in various roles. To help address retention rates, this evaluation will focus on employee socialization and training needs of current nonprofit employees in blood banking. Through interviews, focus groups, and competency assessments, the evaluators hope to explore common themes in training gaps through a mixed methods study. Participants in this evaluation include former and current employees from The Blood Connection (n=29), headquartered in Greenville County South Carolina. Implications of this evaluation hope to provide direction to nonprofit employee training and onboarding programs.

Anna Fennell

Title: **Evaluation of YMCA Counselors Experience on Youth Outcomes**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Self Regional Healthcare; Community Outreach Navigator

The YMCA serves many youths in the Greenwood South Carolina community. Counselors play a key role in helping the youth in the community develop their skills. The importance of counselors getting training to enhance their skills is essential. Hiring staff with youth development skills could only help to enhance the program more. This study hopes to draw a correlation with experience youth development workers and the improvement of youth outcomes through the camping experience. Survey's will be collected to compare youth outcomes as well as a pretest to measure counselors' competency in youth development. Interviews will also be part of this evaluation as this will let staff know how training is going. These studies will be informative and hopefully bring about positive change at the YMCA youth program.

Courtney Foster

Title: **Outcomes/Impact Assessment of Camp Merrie-Woode's Junior Counselor Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Camp Merrie-Woode; Head Counselor/Staff Recruiter & Social Media Coordinator

Older adolescents, who are in a key stage of their development, need opportunities to grow leadership skills. Camp Merrie-Woode, an all-girls, traditional summer camp in Sapphire, North Carolina, aims to meet this need by facilitating a Junior Counselor (JC) program for rising high school seniors. The JC program seeks to provide participants with knowledge, experiences, and tools to be a strong counselor as well as develop leadership skills that translate to counselor life and life outside of camp (Camp Merrie-Woode, n.d.b). The purpose of this evaluation is to examine the development of confidence, competence, career aspirations, and return rate among participants in the JC program. A mixed data approach will be used within a survey administered at the start of the program and six months after program completion. A paired samples t-test will measure program effect. Competence and confidence are measured using the 34 item Positive Youth Development-Short Form Scale, and career aspirations are measured through the Career Aspiration Scale. Open-ended questions, adapted from American Camp Association's Long-Term Impacts of Camp Study, gauge perceptions of camp's influence on career aspirations and skill development. Findings will indicate if program goals are being met or if improvements are needed. Make the program better. This evaluation hopes to provide a correlation between ex youth development

Danielle Halsey

Title: **Evaluating Parent Involvement in Albany County School District No. 1**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Albany County School District – Laramie High School; English Teacher

Recent legislative efforts around the nation have moved to require school districts to publish and annually update all instructional materials on school websites. However well-intentioned these legislative efforts towards parent involvement in education may be, they have sparked tense debate between stakeholders and often lack data to properly inform policymakers' decisions. Albany County School District No. 1 (ACSD1) currently has no formal parent involvement program. Therefore, ACSD1 is in a unique position to respond to families' needs via grassroots program design sans legislation. The development of this needs assessment follows a mixed methods approach to gather information about the factors that influence parent involvement in, current parent involvement practices in ACSD1, and how families' needs change as their child progresses through the public school system in a rural community. Data from the evaluation can be used to articulate strategies that could be used to engage families as a key stakeholder in their child's academic success. This process could also act as a model for leaders in other districts throughout Wyoming and legislators seeking to impact change at the state level.

Olivia Harp

Title: **Sankofa as a Starting Point: Afrocentric Professional Development in Predominately Black Youth Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Prosperity Now; Program Manager, Network Building

Advancing Youth Development Reimagined seeks to support youth development programs east of the river in Washington, DC. Ward 7's population is 91.49 % Black, while Ward 8 has a population that is 91.61% Black (DC Health Matters, 2022). Youth programs east of the river mimic these demographics. While learning opportunity participants frequently cite the Black experience when referencing their programs, it is only explored in the American context. Doing so limits the full scope of Black identity and does not serve Black youth adequately. This is because this approach centers around an understanding of Blackness that begins with slavery. However, the tragedy of enslavement only accounts for roughly 2% of reported Black history. This evaluation plan examines how the delivery of Afrocentric professional development promotes the developmental outcome of self-awareness and spirituality amongst Black youth. The mixed methods include surveys, focus groups, and youth quizzes. The study seeks to establish a program practice of teaching global Black history and perpetuating a Black identity that does not begin with slavery, a DEI professional development approach that further bridges the gap between Black Studies and youth development, and a deeper understanding of culture as an extension of self-awareness and spirituality.

AJ Johnson

Title: **Put me in Coach, I am Ready to Succeed: Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy Outcome Evaluation**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: NC State University; College Advisor

The NC State College Advising Corps (NC State CAC) places college advisers in underserved, rural high schools in NC. A goal of the NC State CAC is to increase the number of underserved students who enroll in and obtain a college degree from higher education institutions. The need for college access programs and resources in underserved communities in rural areas is abundant. Every child deserves the same access, opportunities, and resources to higher education. The purpose of this evaluation is to examine the impact and effectiveness of the NC State CAC. By determining the impact and effectiveness of the program, a decision can be made about whether or not funding should be made available to place more advisers in communities with the most needs. The qualitative methods evaluation includes two surveys that encourage responses from students and staff of schools across NC. Through the use of cluster sampling, a total of 8 schools will be participating in the evaluation. The students' survey allows for comparison of college-readiness and postsecondary intent-to-enroll data between students served by a college adviser and those not. The school staff survey allows for comparison of the college-going culture between schools with college advisers and schools without.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Knudsen

Title: **Here to There Program Evaluation: Implementation Fidelity and Organizational Growth**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Future 5; Director of High School Enrichment

Organizations experiencing dramatic growth often have to make difficult decisions about whether certain programs are continuing to function as designed. Future 5, an organization which helps first-generation high schoolers plan for the future, is currently in this position. Here to There, a mandatory, 6-week orientation program designed to help new members connect to the organization and think critically, has always been a pillar of the organization. However, the program was intended for a small group setting and may no longer serve the needs of new members or the organization. The primary purpose of this evaluation is to understand what elements of the Here to There program are instrumental in providing positive outcomes. The secondary purpose is to determine whether those key elements are sustainable within the current program design if the number of participants continues to increase. In order to understand what Here to There programmatic elements are most influential during participants' experience, a sequential explanatory mixed method design will be employed with a purposeful sample of all Future 5 members from 2013-present. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be analyzed to determine whether the findings can inform if and how Here to There should be implemented and adapted moving forward.

Grant Kraft

Title: **An Implementation Evaluation of Advisory at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Fargo Public Schools; Latin and World Language Teacher

This study is the first evaluation of its kind to be considered within Fargo Public Schools. While teachers work rigorously to ensure their curriculum is up to date and delivered with best and impactful practices in mind, Advisory programming is often disregarded in the review process. It is increasingly demanded of public education to show evidence of effectiveness for every dollar spent. This evaluation, therefore, seeks to help program leaders consider the degree to which Advisory is being implemented with fidelity and the extent to which it may be having an effect on increasing targeted student outcomes. Administrators, teachers, and students will inform the research in this study through the collection of qualitative data.

Abigail (Abbie) Moore

Title: **Evaluating Junior 4-H Camp at the Southwest 4-H Center**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center; Interim Program Director

The Southwest Virginia 4-H Educational Center has been producing summer camp for over 60 years. With summer camp being an impactful experience for youth, there is a need to ensure that Junior 4-H Camp is an effective positive youth development setting. This evaluation plan examines the program delivery process of Junior 4-H Camp at the Southwest 4-H Center. This is a multiple step process that utilizes a sequential, explanatory mixed methods approach. Each of the evaluation steps are intentionally designed to guide the overall process. We begin with a self-reflective facilitation scale, evaluate and observe staff, and end with a retrospective evaluation of the camp experience from the participant perspective.

Grace Nicholson

Title: **A Needs Assessment of Young Souls and Spades: An Intergenerational Youth Mentoring Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta; Academic Support Coach

Isn't the game of bridge only for the retired and elderly? The proposed Young Souls and Spades program in Cherokee County, Georgia is trying to change the narrative surrounding the card game! By connecting local middle and high school students with mentors from over 55 communities, the program would target building the necessary skills for the transition to adulthood. The purpose of this evaluation plan is to assess the community's need to decide if planning, implementation, and creation should continue.

Abigail Phillips

Title: **Helping Youth Grow through Informed Program Planning: A 4-H Needs Assessment**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Clemson Cooperative Extension/4-H; 4-H Youth Development Agent

4-H is the youth development arm of the Cooperative Extension service, seeking to equip youth with the life skills to successfully transition into adulthood through research-based educational outreach programs. Cooperative Extension agents and other 4-H staff members seeking to develop and deliver quality educational 4-H programs must first be informed of what their audience lacks in order to develop the right curriculum or training. Conducting a needs assessment is an essential step in the program planning process. Extension agents are tasked with conducting regular needs assessments to ensure that programs are relevant, focused on stakeholder needs and interests, and to identify gaps in services. This poster will give an overview of a county-level 4-H needs assessment plan that examines needs of local teachers, the issues facing youth and necessary life skills to respond to these issues, barriers for volunteers, and how stakeholders rank the 4-H delivery modes and program areas in terms of importance.

Alyssa Preziosi

Title: **The Evaluation and Assessment of Extending Programs to Youth With Special Needs**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Boys and Girls Club of Hawthorne; Youth Director

With the lack of representation of youth with special needs being incorporated into large organizations, the Boys and Girls Club recognizes this as an issue they would like to change. We recognize the gap that is being created within our communities of the youth that we serve. The goal of this evaluation plan is to expand the Club by 2024 to adding programs or services for youth who have special needs. This evaluation plan will give us a better idea of how to develop a better environment for our youth and staff at the Club. Data will be collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods. A TEPPS scale survey will be distributed to youth along with one-on-one interviews with both the youth and staff at our Club. The data will then be analyzed and coded by multiple coders and through a member checking.

Caitlyn (Riner) Holmes

Title: **A Needs Assessment in a Mid-size Church Setting**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: PrimeVigilance; Pharmacovigilance Administrative Associate

The church community that is the basis for this needs assessment is First Presbyterian Church (USA); a mid-size church located in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The goals of this needs assessment are to provide the youth director with accurate information about participation and a recommendation of how to track and catalog the whole picture of youth attendance. Despite the church's best efforts, the participation from the youth population in youth-specific programs is around 12%. Literature supports the assertion that religious involvement can promote positive youth development. Data will be collected through quantitative and qualitative methods; the methods used are a questionnaire (modified from the Tiffany-Eckenrode Program Participation Scale or a TEPPS), focus groups, and individual interviews. The questionnaire consists of questions in 4 subscales: personal development, voice, safety/support, and community engagement. Questionnaires will be gathered through a population sample of all youth and parents. Focus groups will consist of active participants and individual interviews will be scheduled with non-engaged youth. The data gathered will be analyzed through a series of correlations and through coding by outside auditors.

Alexa Shelton

Title: **Promoting Youth Life Skills**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: The Connect Center; Youth Connections Coordinator

This needs assessment is designed to evaluate The Connect Center's Adulthood 101 program. The population within this evaluation are youth ages 13-24 facing housing insecurity and homelessness. Youth who have been estranged from their guardians most often lack the necessary life skills to be independent and successful. I analyzed the impact of the Adulthood 101 on developing youth life skills. I am also investigating the current youth perceptions of the Adulthood 101 program and its' activities to see what their thoughts are. This is a three-part measurement comparison. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. Through this evaluation I will be able to assess, address, and adapt the Adulthood 101 program to be yield development of youth life skills which fosters youth self-sufficiency.

Chris Sutherlin

Title: **Paula Garay Mentoring: A Qualitative & Exploratory Study**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Paula Garay Mentoring, LLC; Youth Mentor

Paula Garay Mentoring (PGM) works with youth in the juvenile justice system in Canyon County, Idaho. Currently, 24 youth on probation work one-on-one with a caring and supportive mentor from PGM. Mentoring is effective and low-cost assistance for youth struggling with positive development skills and poor decision making (Reposa, et. al., 2019). Young engagement with a positive adult mentor has shown great results for development of positive life skills (Reposa, et. al., 2019).

This exploratory study analyzes the evaluation process of PGM using qualitative methods to find how a mentor influences a child's positive life skill development and ability to overcome limiting barriers while on probation. Initial interview questions, observational field notes, and a post-mentorship interview with the mentees were conducted. Data regarding the mentor-mentee relationship is thematically analyzed to discover common themes of what life skills have been influenced due to the mentoring relationship.

Emily Webster

Title: **Advisement Coaching Program: Needs Assessment**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: Denver Scholarship Foundation: College Advisor

Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) is a college access non-profit organization supporting Denver Public High School students through college enrollment and completion. Twenty-one College Advisors deliver programming from their Future Center classrooms across the district. In early 2021, the College Access Leadership Team designed the Assistant Director of Advisement position to provide coaching for College Advisors with the goal of increasing Advisors' skills, efficiency, and effectiveness through coaching. The purpose of this evaluation plan is to assess the needs of College Advisors and the College Access Leadership Team as related to the Advisement Coaching program. Existing research states that College Advisors provide a vast range of information and support as well as noting the importance of youth-educator relationships. These findings connect with studies regarding the high impact of the following four types of educator support: informational, logistical, emotional, and appraisal. DSF measures advisors' skills by percentages of students who meet certain enrollment criteria. The needs assessment will be completed through qualitative research design including semi-structured interviews with Leadership Team members and focus groups with College Advisors. The results may be used to increase the relevance and quality of coaching interventions which in turn may increase enrollment outcomes for DSF Scholars.

Janice Wilkins

Title: **Program Evaluation of the Talent Development Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: T. Howard Foundation; Senior Training & Recruitment Specialist

After noticing how competitive the industry was, the foundation wanted to continue to provide additional career support and services to both its internship class that may have not obtained an internship and current alumni of the program that were still having difficulty landing full time roles. The Talent Development Program was established. The Talent Development Program provides resources and support, as well as training and advancement opportunities, to recent college graduates and young professionals to help ensure that they are better prepared and qualified for full-time employment. We accept members pursuing all industries and disciplines in accordance with the eligibility requirements. Offering two levels of membership the TDP offers the following services: Online Resource Portal: THF Career Vitamins, career podcast and Skill library Unlimited Access to the THF Job Board Newsletter Annual Meet & Greet Networking Event 60-minute Coaching Session (1) 60 min session or (2) 30-minute sessions Resume Review/Resume Revision Cover Letter Review THF & Partner Networking Events Job Hunt Toolkit Personalized Company Outreach for Select Postings.

Kaliyah Woods

Title: **Evaluation of the South Carolina State University 1890 Extension 4-H and Youth Development Program**

Focus Area: Youth Development Leadership, MS

Advisor: N/A

Current Workplace: South Carolina State University 1890 Extension; 4-H Youth Development Agent

Throughout Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Pickens County, the SC State University 1890 Extension's Upstate Region provides 4-H and Youth Development programming designed to enhance health and financial literacy awareness and knowledge among underserved youth. The Upstate Region's 4-H and Youth Development Program makes an extensive effort to serve underrepresented youth and provide stakeholder requested programming. Still, the program is experiencing a lack of program enrollment and effective evaluation forms. Additionally, the program lacks parental involvement and feedback regarding the program's impact and efficiency. This evaluation aims to examine the implementation of the Upstate Region's 4-H and Youth Development programs being offered to low-income youth in Anderson County and determine the influence program participation has on the youth's health and financial literacy outcomes.

Gillian Bernabe

Title: **Historic Hotels: A Haunted or Heritage Experience?**

Focus Area: Travel and Tourism Management, MS

Advisor: Dr. William Norman/ Dr. Gregory Ramshaw

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant

While most hotels expect guests to check out at the end of their stay, some lodging operations have guests who never leave. Heritage tourism is ever-growing and can be found worldwide (Bucior, 2020). With this creation of historic heritage tourism destinations comes the idea of ghost tourism (Holloway, 2010). What would happen if a historic hotel utilized ghost tourism on their property? Would they attract a new crowd of tourists? Or scare away potential guests? This study aims to determine the impacts of ghost tourism on heritage hotels through a comparative case study. Qualitative interviews, electronic word-of-mouth evaluations, and researcher interviews will explore the practices of heritage hotels that were deemed haunted. The hotels' locations will also be considered, and all studied properties will be in the southern United States.

Tyler Cribbs

Title: **Using Location Based Services (LBS) Data as a Process to Identify and Assess Recreation-Related Impacts to Critical Habitat in the Coastal Areas of the ACE Basin NERR**

Focus Area: Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation

Advisor: Dr. Jeff Hallo

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant

Understanding visitor use has begun to become a major research focus within coastal protected areas (CPAs). Increased visitor use may lead to impacts to the visitor experience and to natural resources. Empirical information and baseline data, collected through rigorous research procedures, is needed to deliberately plan for and manage visitor use to protect reserves' natural resources and the quality of visitors' experiences. This study explores the utilization of location-based services (LBS) data to better understand the capabilities of the technology and to determine if LBS data can be used to answer more detailed management questions (i.e., effectiveness of management actions and monitor the occurrence of prohibited camping) that general visitor estimation at the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in South Carolina. The outcomes and benefits of this study are to create reliable visitor-based data and results necessary to better understand and manage visitor use at ACE Basin NERR. These data are also intended to help inform and guide visitor use management decisions at these reserves and to allow future monitoring of the area to proactively protect both the visitor experience and key resources.

Leslie Heffington

Title: **Camp Staff Perceptions of Employment Skill Development and Training Relevance**

Focus Area: Youth Development, PhD

Advisor: Dr. Barry Garst

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant

Camp counselor training is a diverse topic due to the variety of roles and the various strategies camp directors use to prepare their staff. Camp directors and managers are encouraged to examine the effectiveness of their training and consider which areas of camp life should be addressed during camp training sessions. This project addresses two research questions within this field: (RQ1) How do staff perceive the skills associated with staff training and camp employment? (RQ2) Which dimensions of staff training are most important and relevant for camp employment? 185 camp counselors from three residential summer camps were surveyed in a mixed-methods design. This project used importance-performance analysis to help determine which training topics are effective and which need to be restructured. After the analysis, there is a statistically significant positive difference in staff perceptions of the "experience working with children" skill area from pre-training to end-of-summer. This is a good indicator that the staff program was overall successful. However, findings offer evidence that some topics did not resonate with staff and/or that staff training was not effectively delivered. Improvements in staff training could be realized by making staff training more interactive, more experiential, and better organized

Tristan Jilson

Title: **The perfect fit: benefit attainment and place attachment**

Focus Area: Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation, MS

Advisor: Dr. Matthew Brownlee

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant

In an era where urbanization is on the rise, urban parks possess the potential to provide physical and mental health benefits to users interacting with the outdoors, making these parks vital assets to cities. To activate and enhance the benefits offered by urban parks, park managers need to ensure park settings fit visitors' expectations and demands. This study will use a quantitative survey research design to understand Greenbelt Park visitors' Recreation-Environment fit, current ability to attain benefits, and place attachment to the park. Using structural equation modeling, I will assess the fit of the data to partial mediation, full mediation, and moderated mediation models.

Allison Maynard

Title: **Technologies in Informal Educational Settings: a narrative review**

Focus Area: Parks, Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation/ Generalist, PhD

Advisor: Dr. Matthew Browning

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant

Informal education describes learning experiences that are unplanned, spontaneous, and occur outside of formal education settings. A flux of new immersive devices are being used in museums, zoos, aquaria, and cultural heritage sites. These devices increase users' sense of presence and include live-streams, kinesthetic and tactile feedback sensors, virtual reality, and augmented reality among others.

This narrative review aims to understand what types of emerging immersive technologies are being used in informal education settings and identify how these technologies provide value to visitors and stakeholders. We collected academic and non-academic literature to capture recent technological advances and updates as they were occurring following the five-step process presented by Arksey and O'Malley (2005). Keyword searches were conducted in Web of Science, ERIC, ProQuest, and LinkedIn Pulse posts. Expected results will highlight innovative ways informal education settings can leverage these technologies to better fulfill their educational and cultural directives.

Maira Patino

Title: **Scoping Review: U.S. Undocumented Hispanic/Latino/a Youth and Recreation**

Focus Area: Parks and Recreation, PhD

Advisor: Dr. Harrison Pinckney/ Dr. Corliss Outley

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Instructor of Record

According to the U.S. Census, Undocumented Hispanic/Latino/a youth numbers in the U.S. are increasing (Passel, 2011). By 2050, demographers project that immigrant youth will comprise one third of approximately 100 million children in the U.S. (Passel, 2011). One of the most important aspects for all youth is the opportunity to participate in recreation because recreation increases well-being, improves health, and bolsters morale (Lincoln et al., 2013). However, despite these benefits, undocumented youth are generally understudied, yielding a lack of understanding about how recreation (or lack thereof) influences their lives. Consequently, this scoping review has four aims: 1) examine the relationship between undocumented Hispanic/Latino/a youth and recreation, 2) identify the various types of youth developmental outcomes associated with this relationship to include physical, emotional, psychological, and educational domains, 3) reveal the measures that have been used to operationalize concepts, and 4) discuss the concepts used to describe participants. Using a systematic scoping review process outlined by PRISMA ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extensions for Scoping Reviews) guidelines, 450 articles were screened, and 14 articles were retained for analysis. Major findings and results are pending. Keywords: activity, adolescent, alien, children, immigrants, illegal, leisure, migrants, play, recreation, undocumented, youth

Samantha Queen

Title: **The Human-Animal Relationship Between Veterans and Service Dogs**

Focus Area: Youth Development, MS

Advisor: Dr. Mariela Fernandez

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer

Treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has consisted of medication and forms of therapy (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment US, 2014). According to the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans accounted for 6,139 of the total number of suicide victims in the U.S. in 2017, compared with 5,787 veterans in 2005; averaging to 16.8 suicides per day. Service members and doctors are now turning to service dogs as another form of treatment for PTSD and the symptoms that correspond with the diagnosis (8). The purpose of the study is to examine the effects of service animals on veterans with PTSD. It looks at the human-animal relationship and how it improve or impair Veteran's mental and physical health.

Derek Whaley

Title: **Adaptive Sports as Extraordinary Experiences**

Focus Recreation Therapy, PhD

Advisor: Dr. Jasmin Townsend

Current Workplace: Clemson University; Graduate Instructor of Record

For individuals with disabilities, participation in recreation and sports programming is widely promoted to counteract the negative impacts of disability while fostering a positive self-image and personal identity. Individuals with disabilities have not always had consistent opportunities to participate in mainstream recreation; therefore, they have often participated in adaptive sports and recreation programs. These programs promote improvements in an individual's quality of life and have been reported to provide life-changing experiences. Due to the increase in social media and other societal trends, individuals and organizations have focused on experiences and experience design. Utilizing the Extraordinary Experience Framework and the Extraordinary Impact Measure (EIM), the purpose of this study was to utilize the extraordinary experience framework to measure the impact of adaptive sports experiences on individuals with disabilities and, additionally, identify the objective elements of adaptive sports and recreation programming that facilitate extraordinary experiences. The study was a correlation study by nature and administered a survey to adaptive sports participants recruited through various adaptive sports organizations. The survey consisted of demographics, the EIM, and 42 program characteristics (intrapersonal and structural). SPSS analyzed data; a Pearson correlation and multiple blocked regression were used.