

ABSTRACT

KRUMENAUER, K. L. A brief history of the formative years of the recreation discipline at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, 1944-1968. M. S. in Recreation, 1986. 40 pp. (William O. Otto)

This study traced significant events which occurred within the recreation discipline at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse from its inception in 1944 through 1967. Significant events included: state recreation leaders requesting that La Crosse establish a recreation leadership training program to help meet the growing recreational needs of society after World War II; formulation and approval of the first recreation curriculum, a double major in physical education and community recreation; hiring new staff; student activities including establishment of the Recreation Majors Club in 1960; developing and refining new recreation courses and curriculum into a non-teaching major in 1962; the establishment of the Department of Recreation and Parks in 1967; and the development of two major areas of concentration in Recreation and Park Administration and Recreation Program Leadership.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORMATIVE YEARS OF THE RECREATION DISCIPLINE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - LA CROSSE
1944-1968

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Kay L. Krumenauer

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - LA CROSSE
College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Candidate: Kay L. Krumenauer

We recommend acceptance of this thesis in partial fulfillment of this candidate's requirements for the degree:

Master of Science in Recreation

The candidate has completed her oral report.

William O. Otto 5-14-86
Thesis Committee Chairperson Date

John L. Ross 5-14-86
Thesis Committee Member Date

Vivian L. Munson 5-14-86
Thesis Committee Member Date

This thesis is approved for the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

John C. Mitchem May 14, 1986
Dean, College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Date

Howard C. Rose May 15, 1986
Dean of Graduate Studies Date

PREFACE

This study is dedicated to past, present, and future University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Recreation Discipline administrators, faculty, and students.

A special thanks to the thesis committee chairman, William Otto, thesis committee members, Jean Foss, Vivian Munson, and A. B. Culver, and the Board of Editors, Rosie, Sue and Janine, for the time spent in helping to make this all possible.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

Background

The Recreation Discipline at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse originated on October 9, 1944 (H. G. Danford, personal communication). On November 24, 1944, The Board of Regents of Normal Schools approved the discipline as "...a double major in Physical Education and Recreation beginning in September, 1945" (Wisconsin State Teachers College Board of Regents - Report of Proceedings Sept. 1934 - May 1949, November 24, 1944, p. 20).

The first recreation curriculum, courses towards a double major in physical education and community recreation, was announced and listed under the Division of Physical Education in the March 1945 La Crosse State Teachers College Bulletin (pp. 22-23). After much discussion, the curriculum committee approved a final version of the new recreation curriculum on April 23, 1945 (minutes of the curriculum committee meeting, April 23, 1945).

Seventeen years later, the recreation discipline became a major on its own. "A non-teaching major in recreation with a minor in sociology or political science" (The Racquet, February 8, 1962, p. 7) was announced. In 1964, Wisconsin State University, as it was then called, "...accomplished a complete administrative reorganization...establishing some 28 departments, each with an elected chairman" (Graff, 1984, pp.

12-13). During this reorganization, the recreation discipline was departmentalized.

In the twenty-three years between the inception and departmentalization of the recreation discipline at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, several significant historical events occurred within the discipline. These events helped formulate the recreation discipline, curriculum, and department as it is known today at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to systematically collect, record, analyze, and trace information regarding significant historical events during the origin and early years of the recreation discipline at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

Need for the Study

The recreation discipline at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse has grown, developed, and expanded since it was instituted in 1944. It has been providing education and training in recreation to students for over forty years. With the current emphasis on leisure time activities and fitness, recreation leaders are still in demand.

The formative years merit study because they are the basis of the recreation discipline at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. In addition, a history of the recreation discipline has not yet been written.

Delimitations

The focus of this study was on the early years of the recreation discipline because of the opportunity to document and interview primary sources still available. Five University of Wisconsin - La Crosse faculty members were interviewed.

Limitations

Limitations of this study, as with any historical study, included the fact that:

there is always the possibility that even the most reliable witness to an event erred in perception or memory. At best, then, one can only ascertain a high degree of probability that the data that has been collected are 'true facts' (8:477). Also while organizing and interpreting data, it was possible for personal biases to either consciously or unconsciously have an effect on the ultimate conclusions as presented in this study. (Oaks, 1976, p. 7)

In cases where it was not possible to obtain primary sources, i.e. individuals, secondary sources of data were utilized.

Definition of Terms and Abbreviations

For the purpose of this study, discipline was defined as "n. systematic training under direction and control" (Webster, 1977, p. 284).

The following abbreviations were used throughout this study:

LSTC - La Crosse State Teachers College

WSC - Wisconsin State College, La Crosse

WSU - Wisconsin State University - La Crosse

UW-L - University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

HPER - Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

WRA - Wisconsin Recreation Association

NRA - National Recreation Association

Review of Related Literature

The following related literature and historical studies were reviewed: G. H. Bahr, A Brief History of the Division of Physical Education at Wisconsin State College, La Crosse, 1913-1953; C. T. Bertholf, A History of Recreation and Athletics for Disabled Students at The University of Illinois; A. B. Culver, Walter J. Wittich: Physical Educator, 1885-1953; S. D. Hudson, George Hjelte Recreation Administrator; T. J. Leahy, The Development of the Recreation and Parks Program at The Pennsylvania State University from 1946-1976; R. C. Oaks, The Evolution of the Campus Recreation Department at The University of Montana, an Historical Analysis; W. H. Washington, A History of Physical Education at South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, 1901-1969; and A. F. Revoy, The Evolution and Growth of the Park/Recreation Organizational Movement in Wisconsin.

Other local historical studies reviewed besides Bahr's and Culver's were: S. R. Adams, The Historical Development of Student Activities and Student Centers at The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse from 1909-1973; G. R. Gilkey, La Crosse, A Half-Century of Higher Education in Wisconsin's Coulee Region and The First Seventy Years: A History of The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, 1909-1979; and P. A. Mertens, Edith J. Cartwright: Dean Among Deans.

The above cited literature demonstrates that over the years several researchers and writers have attempted to historically analyze

individuals, disciplines, programs, curriculums, and institutions in the fields of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

CHAPTER II

THE ORIGIN OF THE RECREATION DISCIPLINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - LA CROSSE, 1944-1945

The second great war of the century began for many countries in 1939 and came to America in the winter of 1941. For La Crosse State Teachers College, as for most others in the nation, the conflict became its foremost concern. Enrollments steadily declined from a high of 697 in the fall of 1941 to a low of 317 during the second semester of 1943-1944. Of that low figure there were but 27 men. A year later there were 33. From the nadir, enrollments rose to 574 for the second semester of 1945-46 and to 959 the following fall as the veterans returned to swell the campus population. By the fall of 1947, La Crosse passed the 1,000 mark for the first time in its history.²³ (Gilkey, 1981, p. 131)

Gilkey stated later:

In 1944 only 31 students graduated. This was the second smallest number in the school's history; the smallest was 12 at the first commencement in 1910. (p. 145)

During the fall of 1944 the Recreation Discipline was instituted. This was the same year that LSTC had experienced a low of 317 students, of which twenty-seven were men, and the same year that the school graduated the second smallest number of students in its history. On October 9, 1944, Mr. Howard Danford (personal communication) sent a letter to LSTC President, Rexford S. Mitchell. Danford had established an impressive background in recreation. He was Director of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Safety for the Madison Public Schools, Madison, Wisconsin, and he was also Chairman of the Wisconsin Recreation Council.

Danford explained in the letter that the Council consisted of a variety of representatives from state organizations and agencies which were interested in the field of recreation. He went on to explain that the Council was organized because various communities in the state were concerned about meeting the recreational needs of their people and looking for assistance in the establishment and implementation of recreation programs to meet those needs.

Local communities had expressed a concern about being able to find adequately trained people for these positions. The Council was aware of institutions that offered courses which could be helpful to the individual attempting to work in a recreation position, but the Council was not aware of any state institution which was offering a major or minor in recreation at the time.

Danford stated:

In many cities full time employment is available to persons competent in this field. In smaller communities public schools are in need of teachers who can furnish leadership in recreation.

At the August meeting of the Wisconsin Recreation Council held in Madison a resolution was passed directing the executive board to petition the several institutions of higher learning to consider the needs for recreational leadership training, and to establish programs for meeting the need as soon as feasible.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you and your faculty give this matter consideration. We believe that the demand for trained personnel will increase following the war, and we hope that some of our institutions will 'rise to the occasion' and help meet this demand.

In response to Danford's request, Hans C. Reuter, faculty member in the Physical Education Division of LSTC, wrote a letter to the National Recreation Association, which had been founded in 1906 as the

Playground Association of America. This letter told of the possibility of establishing a four-year recreation leaders course at LSTC and requested information on setting up such a program (G. D. Butler, personal communication, October 30, 1944).

George Butler, a representative from the NRA responded to Reuter and explained that the Association felt that in addition to considering the types of subjects that should be offered, a school interested in providing a recreation degree should also study what types of positions would be available for employment upon completion of the course. Schools should also assure that they had faculty and resources to adequately present necessary course content. Butler also included a bulletin from the Association which contained major subjects recommended for a four-year curriculum. Reuter was requested to please send twenty cents for this and another enclosed publication.

Butler closed his letter by suggesting that even if a school did not have a four-year curriculum, it would be wise to offer a couple of courses in recreation to the whole student body. The two suggestions were a course in leisure and one in recreational activities. The Association felt that students taking those courses would convey the meaning of leisure and pass on recreational skills to those with whom they work. Butler also stated that Introduction to Community Recreation was widely used as a college text, and that the Association would be interested in continuing to hear from and helping La Crosse regarding their proposed recreation curriculum.

Mitchell requested permission from the Board of Regents to include a recreation curriculum at LSTC. At 9:45 A.M., Friday, November 24,

1944, the Board of Regents of Normal Schools met in the office of the Board on call of the Board president. At that meeting:

The Educational Committee reported the following resolution as approved. Regent Sundquist moved its adoption, Regent Warner seconded, and the resolution was passed with all regents voting in the affirmative.

Resolution 977: Resolved, That the Teachers College at La Crosse is hereby authorized to offer a double major in Physical Education and Recreation beginning in September, 1945.

(Introduced by R. C. Davidson)
(Wisconsin State Teachers College Board of Regents Report of Proceedings, Sept. 1934 - May 1949, November 24, 1944, p. 20)

After approval of the new double major in physical education and recreation, curriculum committee meetings included information regarding recreation courses. On January 17, 1945, a meeting of the curriculum committee for the Teachers College at La Crosse was called to order by Wittich (curriculum committee minutes). First order of business recorded in the minutes of that meeting by Secretary Anna Thomas was that it was "moved and seconded that the President appoint a new secretary for the year. Appointed - Ann Thomas."

This writer spoke with Thomas (personal communication, December 11, 1985) regarding the origin of recreation as a discipline at LSTC. Thomas stated she had been hired at La Crosse in the fall of 1943 and remained there through the spring of 1970. Thomas was aware that a letter had been sent to La Crosse requesting the college start a recreation curriculum. She recalled that state leaders in the recreation field had visited La Crosse to formulate and approve the joint physical education and recreational curriculum that was offered in the fall of 1945.

As secretary of the curriculum committee, Thomas recorded several meetings including a "special meeting of the curriculum committee" (April 14, 1945) at which sub-committee members reported on the progress of the recreation curriculum to the committee as a whole. The special meeting of the curriculum committee also involved Mr. G. M. Phelan, Director of Recreation, School Administration Building, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Miss Dorothy Enderis, Director of Recreation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Mr. Howard Danford, Director of Recreation, Madison, Wisconsin.

Prior to the latter three visiting the La Crosse campus, Mitchell (personal communication, March 31, 1945) sent a letter to the WRA requesting assistance in establishing a recreation curriculum.

Dyer, Secretary of the WRA, responded to Mitchell's request by submitting the names of Phelan, Enderis, and Danford. In a letter to Phelan, Enderis, and Danford, Mitchell (personal communication, April 5, 1945), requested that these three recreation professionals come to La Crosse to meet with the curriculum committee. In that way all members, not just members of the sub-committee, could participate in studying the recreation curriculum.

Mitchell wrote in his letter:

Mr. Wittich has just informed me that Miss Enderis is to be the speaker at the annual banquet of our Physical Education Club next Friday evening, April 13. It has occurred to me, therefore, that this weekend might be a good time to arrange a meeting of our groups.

We are wondering, Miss Enderis, if you would be willing to stay over for a part of the next day. If so, perhaps Mr. Danford and Mr. Phelan could arrange to come up Friday afternoon, be our guests at the banquet, and then help us the next morning with the curriculum program. In the hope that this can be arranged, I am asking the members of our curriculum

committee to reserve next Saturday morning for such a meeting. We should, of course, plan to pay the expenses of Mr. Danford and Mr. Phelan. I understand that the Physical Education Club is making arrangements to do this for Miss Enderis.

Arrangements were made and the special meeting of the curriculum committee was held on April 14, 1945. Wittich presided at that meeting. He introduced the curriculum committee and the recreation project:

...subjects each candidate for the Double Major would be required to take in addition to the special subjects allocated to the field of recreation. (curriculum committee minutes, April 14, 1945)

Minutes of that meeting revealed Danford was not pleased that La Crosse had set up the recreation curriculum as a double major. He felt that people should be able to major in recreation without having to major in physical education. Mitchell and Wittich responded to his concerns.

Dr. Mitchell raised the point that he had understood that Dr. Danford had suggested on his previous visit that smaller communities would need the teacher-recreation person combination, and felt that our set-up made them better prepared. (p. 2)

He also stated that many of the students that would graduate with a double major would no doubt go on to school at the graduate level in recreation.

Wittich responded:

An individual, trained in this particular set up, can be ready to organize a recreation program in the smaller communities as well as be prepared to teach there, or he can assist in the larger systems. (p. 1)

Danford then requested that La Crosse "...eventually give the chance to major in Recreation to others than just the physical education people" (p.2).

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the core subjects which would/should be offered and admission requirement suggestions.

An article which appeared in The Racquet regarding the special curriculum committee meeting reported the following information:

Core subjects in Recreation are to take the place of the subjects that are ordinarily taken in an academic major or the place of electives taken in the Supervisor's course. Some of the core subjects will be drawing and design, introduction to recreation, drama and music, organization and administration of public recreation, social leadership, group and camp leadership, adult education and practice teaching in recreation.

Also, each student will be expected to specialize to a certain extent in one of the following three fields: Music, Dramatics, and Arts and Crafts. Included under these specialties are such subjects as class piano instruction, music for children, music appreciation, radio programs, play production, stage craft, art appreciation, drawing and painting, and arts and crafts.

To most physical education students this sounds like an ideal course. Much enthusiasm has been expressed already by many students. Students with a lot of pep, initiative and aggressiveness or those who tend to be extroverts will perhaps be the best type of person for such a course.

As yet, however, all the plans have not been formulated for transferring upperclassmen into this field. For freshmen of this year it may be very simple to change to the joint major, but for others it will no doubt require work in summer schools.

Remember this new opportunity when you register for next year. Mr. Wittich is chairman of the curriculum committee planning the course. (April 27, 1945, p. 7)

A subsequent meeting of the curriculum committee held on April 23, 1945, was chaired by Wittich. Discussion at that meeting included suggestions from the State Recreation Committee for name changes for some recreation courses and credit value of others. After making the necessary changes:

Mr. Wittich called for action on the curriculum as a whole: Moved by Mr. Reuter, seconded (Angell) that the present plan for the Curriculum for Recreation and Physical Education Major be adopted. Carried.

Mr. Wittich brought up the matter of handling those who would wish to transfer into this course. Mr. Miller suggested that it would be an administrative problem to be handled as the present transfers are handled.

Anna Thomas identified the following curriculum committee members as being in attendance at meetings when the new recreation curriculum was discussed in January and February 1945: Walter J. Wittich, Physical Education; Milford Cowley, Chemistry; Wilbur H. Glover, History and Social Science; Orris O. White, English; Marie Toland, Speech; Thomas Annett, Music; Merton J. Lyon, Manual Arts; Leon Miller, Physical Education; Rena Angell, Art; Emma L. Wilder, Physical Education; Arthur G. Hoff, Chemistry; Anna L. Thomas, Physical Education; Hans Reuter, Physical Education; Virginia Congreve, Physical Education (La Crosse State Teachers College Bulletin, March, 1945, pp. 3-6).

CHAPTER III

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE RECREATION DISCIPLINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - LA CROSSE, 1945-1968

The effects of World War II on recreation were both positive and negative. Manpower and material shortage curtailed the development of facilities, and travel restrictions imposed by gas and tire shortage drastically limited out-of-town travel to outdoor recreation areas. On the other hand, recreational activities were emphasized by the Armed Forces. Professionally trained recreation leadership personnel were in demand for programs conducted by the Armed Forces and for the administration of USO Centers.

Immediately after World War II, the demand for recreation services and the resulting need for people professionally trained in recreation increased rapidly. Additional recreation curriculum were established by a number of colleges and universities including the University of Wisconsin in Madison (Revoy, 1977, pp. 11-12) [and the State Teachers College at La Crosse, Wisconsin].

Planned in the latter part of 1944, the recreation curriculum at LSTC was approved in the early part of 1945, and a full time faculty member was hired the same year to start teaching recreation courses for the fall semester.

According to an article in The Racquet (September 21, 1945), Miss Alice De Bower was the new faculty member "filling the new position created by the addition of a recreation major [double major]..." (p. 2)

She was a member of the Physical Education department at the 'U' of Minnesota. She served with the USO in 1943 and 1944, was assistant director of Recreation at Northwestern in 1941 and has taught at Evanston High. She received her bachelor's degree at the 'U' of Illinois and her master's at Northwestern.

De Bower (personal communication, January 16 and 17, 1986), a member of the faculty at La Crosse from 1945-1973, was professionally active at the state and national level.

According to an article in the La Crosse State Teachers College Bulletin (May 1946), in 1945 a large number of freshman and sophomore students had been attracted to the new recreation curriculum. Because it was a new program and courses for it had not been offered previously, it was impossible for upper level students to transfer to this course [without losing credit]. Whereas, sophomores "...could make the transfer without much loss of credit..." (p. 1).

Earlier in the 1945-46 school year, President Mitchell (personal communication, October 24, 1945) wrote a letter to Dyer stating he had received a copy of the Wisconsin Recreation Association Bulletin announcing the Sixth Annual Conference and was wondering if he and department faculty members from La Crosse could attend the conference and become members of the Association.

In the same letter, Mitchell went on to state:

You doubtless [sic] will be interested in knowing that our recreation major is already under way. We now have 20 sophomores and 35 freshmen enrolled in it. As you requested some time ago, I have asked Mr. Wittich to send you complete information concerning the major. It should reach you before many days. We'll appreciate any publicity you may decide to give it.

Dyer (personal communication, October 25, 1945) responded to Mitchell assuring him that the WRA would be happy to have him and the members of his faculty attend the Recreation Conference. He explained that Mitchell and any members of his faculty teaching recreation courses

would be eligible for membership in the organization. However, "the school is not eligible to departmental membership."

The letter went on to state that Dyer was happy to hear about "...the splendid enrollment in your course" and if Wittich would send him "...complete information concerning the major," he would "...issue a special bulletin on it".

Dyer also expressed his concern about speaking to various communities that wanted to implement recreation programs, but "at present there are no experienced or trained people available" to carry them out. In one case, a community's committee had requested that Dyer:

...confer with them in outlining and setting up their program and are going ahead without trained leadership. I am very fearful of the consequences of such procedure.

Hoping to see you or some representative of your faculty Friday, November 2...

Minutes of the curriculum committee (January 28, 1946 through May 23, 1949) recorded by Thomas, who remained secretary of the curriculum committee throughout that time period, revealed recreation curriculum concerns such as course substitutions:

...consideration [of] the revised course in Physical Education and Recreation major (December 6, 1946), ...and changes in the Physical Education-Recreation major course (January 12 and 17, 1948-1949).

De Bower wrote an article which appeared in the La Crosse State Teachers College Bulletin (March 1948) and stated the following:

During this three year period a number of changes have taken place. The curriculum has been revised with new courses added and others shifted to more strategic places, thus providing a better sequence in instruction. Course content for all new courses has been developed. Planning now includes more opportunities for practice. These include supervised field experience in such various situations as the La Crosse Community Recreation Program, some Social Agencies and Institutions,

Civic Groups, and the conducting of special programs of various types. Since opportunities in Industrial Recreation are expanding and as an increased number of men students are interested in this phase of the program, plans are developing for some practical experience in this field.

The first group of Recreation Major [double major in physical education and recreation] students will be graduated this June, 1948. Sixteen individuals at the close of their freshman year chose to enroll in this new course and agreed, in so doing, to attend summer school to make up the two required freshman Recreation courses. Thirteen of this original group will have completed the course in June. (p. 3)

Beginning in the early 1950's, evidence of recreation major students sponsoring campus activities and attending state, regional, and national conferences began to appear in The Racquet. Articles reported that recreation students were sponsoring card parties to raise money to send two students to the National Leadership Camp at Camp Ihduhapi, Loretta, Minnesota for one week and directing a series of family recreation programs at the Cargill House.

According to Gilkey (1981):

By the 1950's three curriculum committees, which determined the courses for rural and elementary, secondary, and physical education, had emerged [at La Crosse]. As enrollments increased and curriculum became more sophisticated, the three committees were subordinated to a curriculum coordinating committee. (p. 99)

Minutes of the 1949-1953 physical education curriculum committee, chaired by Wittich through May 1953 and then by Wilder also reflected recreation curriculum student petitions, problems, and policies. "Mr. Wittich was requested to appoint a committee to further study the recreation course possibilities" (May 19, 1952).

A sub-committee made up of Miss De Bower (ch), Miss Wilder, Mr. Miller, Mr. Steinhoff, brought up the matter of the next step in the disposal of the matter of the recreation offerings for women, since the Division of Letters and Science refused to set up such a course in its division. From the discussion,

the need for a complete study was apparent. Mr. Miller made the motion that the report prepared be studied, and that the class of 1952-53 be allowed to come into the recreation major as it was (prior to May 6, 1952). Miss Wilder second [sic] this motion, the motion carried. (May 23, 1952)

In a subsequent meeting it was noted:

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of a revised curriculum in Recreation. Miss De Bower as chairman of the sub-committee appointed to study the problems of the Recreation offerings discussed the proposals of the sub-committee. No decision was reached by the curriculum committee. In order to complete the above unfinished business, another meeting was scheduled for December 10 at 4:15 p.m. in Mr. Wittich's office. (December 3, 1952)

Minutes of the December 10th meeting show:

Motion -- Mr. Vickroy; Second -- Miss Greene; Carried. That a sub-committee be appointed to study the recreation major and to present recommendations for revision to the P. E. Curriculum Committee.

Motion -- Mr. Miller; Second -- Miss De Bower; Carried. That the sub-committee appointed to study possible revisions of the recreation major prepare a written report, submit it to individual members of the Committee for study (corrections, changes or approval) and returned to the sub-committee for final writing.

Evidence of a major recreation curriculum change appeared in the Wisconsin State College Bulletin (April 1955) in an article written by Wilder.

Offerings in recreation have undergone changes. A minor in recreation, recently developed, is available to those who wish to supplement an academic teaching minor and the physical education major. We anticipate that this may serve to enhance personal interests and abilities as well as to promote better understanding of community recreation. Women, after marriage, are ready to assume leadership in community services. With this opportunity to take basic courses, plus a chance to build in the field of music, dramatics and art, it is expected that real direction may be felt from this lay leadership. (pp. 1-2)

In the fall of 1955 an article in The Racquet (September 30, 1955) stated that De Bower was taking a leave of absence the first semester to

attend the University of Indiana. "Rounding out the list of new faculty members is Fred E. Lengfeld, who will substitute for Alice De Bower of the Physical Education Department" (p. 3).

De Bower returned during the 1955-56 spring semester and Lengfeld was retained (The Racquet, January 20, 1956, p. 3). Later that year, Lengfeld left WSC at La Crosse.

Mr. Fred Reick has been just recently added to the department of physical education. Mr. Reick has had extensive experience in his field, and comes to LSC [sic] from Two Rivers, where he has been head of the Recreation program. Mr. Reick replaces Fred Lengfeld who has accepted a position with the U. S. Air Force which will take him to every A. F. installation throughout the world. (The Racquet, September 14, 1956, p. 3)

Lengfeld returned to La Crosse after a one year absence and at that time resumed duties "...divided between physical education and recreation" (The Racquet, October 17, 1957).

Other physical education faculty were also called upon to teach specific courses within the recreation curriculum.

Graff (1984) noted:

A multitude of changes in mission, programs, organization and resources at La Crosse took place during the 1960's and early 1970's. The changes were responses to the numerous pressures and priorities, both external and internal, which demanded our attention and action. Principal among them was a burgeoning student enrollment which increased from just over 2000 to more than 7000 in the 1960's! As this writer [Graff] often put it at the time, our problem was that of attempting to keep a 25 pound parcel contained in a 10 pound wrapper. With the increasing enrollment came demands for new programs and services, reorganizations, more faculty and staff, vastly expanded physical facilities, improved communication. (pp. 11-12)

In 1960, recreation students actively participated in the Great Lakes District Conference held at Saint Paul, Minnesota. This Conference had approximately 1,000 delegates in all phases of recreation

in attendance. The following states were represented: Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, and Michigan.

The Racquet (April 7, 1960) reported:

Miss Alice De Bower, who made the trip with the students, took part in the section called 'Learning the Ropes.' Her topic was entitled, 'The Philosophy and Purposes of Activities for Women and Girls.' The text of it included the basic concepts and principles of an inservice training program of recreation leaders for girls and women. (p. 1)

A year later:

La Crosse State's Recreation majors, under the direction of Miss Alice De Bower and Fred Lengfeld, initiated plans for a Recreation Club at their annual fall social held Wednesday, October 18 [1961]. Purposes and objectives of the organization include the offering of recreation services to the student body, increasing students' awareness of the impact of leisure time on modern society, and creating a professional organization which will offer opportunity to all recreation students to practice recreation skills. (The Racquet, October 26, 1961, p. 1)

Evidence of the impact the Recreation Majors Club had on students and campus in general was very apparent when one read the 1960's editions of The Racquet. There was scarcely an issue which did not mention the Recreation Majors Club and its activities.

Recreation Majors Club activities included electing officers, scheduling professional recreation speakers, providing recreation programs for the student body, including card parties and the annual Songfest, and traveling to state and national recreation conferences and conventions.

During the same school year in which the Recreation Majors Club was established, another new development in the recreation discipline was announced: "...a non-teaching major in recreation with a minor in

sociology or political science" (The Racquet, February 8, 1962, p.

7) would now be offered.

The program, planned by Miss Alice De Bower, who is chairman [of the non-teaching major curriculum committee], Miss Beatrice Baird, and Fred Lengfeld, is based on the philosophy that it is the function of the recreation leader to make it possible for the people to enjoy the wholesome kinds of recreation which they desire. It is the purpose of a recreation curriculum to educate leaders who are intelligently concerned with the well being of people in their non-working time and who promote the development of a healthful and satisfying community life. (p. 7)

The new non-teaching major, still administered by the Division of Physical Education, Health, and Recreation (Wisconsin State College La Crosse Catalog, 1962-1964, July 1962, pp. 73-77), would not require a major in physical education or certification for teaching by the State of Wisconsin.

According to Graff (1984), in response to a prior North Central Association Accreditation visit for the graduate program in physical education, Wisconsin State University:

...accomplished a complete administrative reorganization in 1964, establishing some 28 separate departments, each with an elected chairman. The departments were grouped into three separate schools - Elementary and Secondary Education, Health - Recreation - Physical Education and Arts-Letters-Science. Each was headed by a Dean. A Graduate school headed by a Dean was established. (pp. 12-13)

Glenn M. Smith was Dean of the School of Health, Recreation, and Physical Education.

During this administrative reorganization Recreation and Parks emerged as an autonomous department. Linn R. Rockwood, who joined the School of Health, Recreation, and Physical Education faculty in 1966 to instruct recreation courses, became the first Recreation and Parks Department Chairperson in 1967.

Rockwood, who had prior "...experience in the field of recreation as a park and recreation director on a municipal level" (The Racquet, October 6, 1966, p. 6) had received a Bachelor and Master of Science from Brigham Young University and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Utah in 1967.

After departmentalization, students majoring in recreation had the opportunity to select a Recreation and Parks Administration or Program Leadership Concentration area (Wisconsin State University La Crosse, 1968-70 Catalog, July 1968, pp. 95-97). Rockwood remained chairperson of the newly formed Recreation and Parks Department for one year and then returned to Utah. He was succeeded in that position by William O. Otto (personal communication, April 1, 1986) in 1968.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS

Summary

This study chronologically documented important historical events which occurred within the formative years of the recreation discipline at UW-L.

Conclusions

Based upon an analysis of the evidence included in this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. In 1944 state recreation leaders requested that LSTC establish a recreation leadership training course as soon as possible due to the growing need for trained recreation professionals to implement recreation programs in Wisconsin communities based on the belief that this need would escalate following World War II.

2. The Board of Regents of Normal Schools authorized a double major in physical education and recreation to begin in September 1945 upon the request of LSTC president, Mitchell.

3. The LSTC curriculum committee, under the leadership of Chairman Wittich and the direction of President Mitchell, with input from state and national personnel and resources, formulated the first recreation curriculum approved in 1945.

4. De Bower, Lengfeld, and Rockwood were responsible for providing the majority of education and training in the recreation discipline during the formative years with the exception of those specialized courses which were designated to be taught by assigned instructors with specific areas of expertise.

5. The Recreation Majors Club established in 1960 under the direction of De Bower and Lengfeld influenced campus recreation activities and provided recreation major students with valuable professional leadership experience.

6. The recreation discipline grew from a double major in physical education and recreation to a non-teaching major with areas in recreation and park administration and recreation program leadership.

7. In 1967 recreation became an autonomous department within the School of HPER.

Recommendations

Based upon an analysis of the conclusions, the following are recommendations for further study.

1. A history of the later years of the Recreation and Parks Department.

2. Trace the growth and development of the Recreation Majors Club.

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REFERENCES CITED

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Fifteen teachers joint LSC faculty. (1956, September 14). The Racquet, LVII(1), p. 3.

Joint major in phy. ed. and recreation to be added. (1945, April 27). The Racquet, XXXVII(14), p. 7.

La Crosse State's recreation majors initiate plans for Recreation Club. (1961, October 26). The Racquet, LII(4), p. 1.

LSC offers non-teaching major in recreation. (1962, February 8). The Racquet, LII(8), p. 7.

Mr. Lengfeld back again. (1957), October 17). The Racquet, LVIII(4), p. 7.

Recreation Majors Club holds first meeting. (1966, October 6). The Racquet, LVII(2), p. 6.

Seven new faculty members added to LSC teaching staff. (1955, September 30). The Racquet, LVI(1), p. 3.

Six new faculty members added to college staff. (1956, January 20). The Racquet, LVI(6), p. 3.

32 recreation majors attend St. Paul conference April 5. (1960, April 7) The Racquet, L(12), p. 1.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

H. G. Danford, Personal Communication

THE MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MADISON WISCONSIN

PHILIP H. FALK
SUPERINTENDENTDepartment of Health, Physical Education,
Recreation, and Safety
HOWARD G. DANFORD, DirectorOFFICES - 351 W. WILSON
PHONE - FAIRCHILD 6100

October 9, 1944

President Rexford S. Mitchell
La Crosse State Teachers College
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Dear President Mitchell:

The Wisconsin Recreation Council consists of representatives of various state organizations and agencies which are interested in recreation. It was organized because of the widespread and growing concern for meeting recreational needs in the various communities of our state, and because of their desire for help in setting up and carrying on recreational programs.

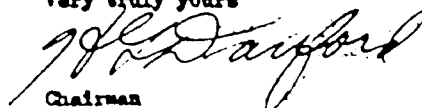
One difficulty encountered by local communities is that of securing adequately trained personnel. To our knowledge no educational institution in our state offers a major or a minor in recreation, although certain departments in various institutions offer courses that are helpful.

In many cities full time employment is available to persons competent in this field. In smaller communities public schools are in need of teachers who can furnish leadership in recreation.

At the August meeting of the Wisconsin Recreation Council held in Madison a resolution was passed directing the executive board to petition the several institutions of higher learning to consider the needs for recreational leadership training, and to establish programs for meeting the need as soon as feasible.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you and your faculty give this matter consideration. We believe that the demand for trained personnel will increase following the war, and we hope that some of our institutions will "rise to the occasion" and help meet this demand.

Very truly yours


Chairman
Wisconsin Recreation CouncilHGD
k

Appendix B

G. D. Butler, Personal Communication

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION*Founded 1906 AS THE PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*

315 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

October 30, 1944

Mr. H.C. Reuter, Instructor
 Dept. of Physical Education
 State Teachers College
 La Crosse, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Reuter

We have your letter telling of your tentative plans for establishing a Recreation Leaders Course and note that you would like suggestions as to the kind of a course that will be most useful. A number of questions need to be considered by any institution studying the desirability of setting up a four-year recreation course. In addition to considering the types of subjects that should be offered, it seems advisable to us for a college to make a study of the probable employment possibilities in the region from which its students are drawn or in which they are placed in order to secure an idea as to the nature and extent of the probable positions to be available. Naturally, the resources of the college in terms of qualified faculty will have a bearing on the ability of the college to present adequately the various types of courses that will be most useful in the training of recreation leaders.

We are sending you a bulletin issued by this Association listing the subjects that are considered to be of major importance in training students for service in the field of recreation and also a suggested four-year curriculum. We believe you will find some helpful suggestions in this bulletin. The statement, "Recreation Leadership as a Field of Work" also contains information that should be of interest to you. Perhaps you will be willing to remit 20 cents for these two publications.

Regardless of whether a college deems it wise to establish a four-year curriculum, we believe that the college can render effective service by offering one or more courses designed for the entire student body. For example, a course in leisure, its significance and use should be helpful in giving students an understanding of the importance of leisure and the nature and scope of recreation activities that will not only help the student to make more effective use of his own leisure after leaving college but will also give him an understanding of the place of recreation programs in his community. One or more courses designed to give students an opportunity to learn a variety of recreation skills and to expose students to various forms of recreation activity also have great value in preparing the student for satisfactory leisure-time living.

with

Enclosed is a list of our publications, many of which you are.

11, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
 112, SECRETARY OF THE
 113, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Mr. H.C. Reuter

Page Two

doubtless familiar. We would like to call your attention to "Introduction to Community Recreation" which is widely used as a college text.

We shall be interested in hearing from you further as to your plans for the recreation course and hope you will let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely yours

George D. Butler
George D. Butler

GDB/jk
Enc.

Appendix C

Board of Regents - Report of Proceedings

20

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Resolution 976. Resolved, That at the State Teachers College at River Falls an additional position of building maintenance helper II be authorized at a salary of \$1,200.00 per year.

(Introduced by J. A. Richards)

The Educational Committee reported the following resolution as approved. Regent Sundquist moved its adoption, Regent Warner seconded, and the resolution was passed with all regents voting in the affirmative.

Resolution 977. Resolved, That the Teachers College at La Crosse is hereby authorized to offer a double major in Physical Education and Recreation beginning in September, 1945.

(Introduced by R. C. Davidson)

A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Secretary submit to the Emergency Board a request for the transfer from the Teachers Salary appropriation to Operation account a sum sufficient to employ a clerk and maintenance man at Eau Claire, a janitor at River Falls, and a fireman at Whitewater.

President Dempsey then asked for consideration of a building program to be presented to the Governor and Legislature. The building lists adopted by the Board on October 20, 1943 were modified to read as follows, with no consideration of priority.

Eau Claire:

College Building.....	\$350,000.00
Dormitory and Union.....	200,000.00
Boiler and Repairs.....	45,000.00

La Crosse:

Library	150,000.00
Dormitory and Union.....	200,000.00
Land for Athletic Field.....	25,000.00

Milwaukee:

Library and Class Rooms.....	450,000.00
Dormitory and Union.....	200,000.00

Oshkosh:

Gymnasium, Additions and Alterations to Other Buildings.....	250,000.00
Dormitory and Union.....	200,000.00
Furnishing for Dormitory Now Owned.....	5,000.00

Platteville:

Library and Training School.....	250,000.00
Dormitory and Union.....	200,000.00

The Board of Regents of Normal Schools met in the offices of the Board on call of the president at 9:45 A. M., Friday, November 24, 1944.

Appendix D

R. S. Mitchell, Personal Communication

March 31, 1945

C
O
P
Y

Mr. Don B. Dyer, Secretary
 Wisconsin Recreation Association
 3841 West St. Paul Avenue
 Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Dyer:

We appreciate very much the prompt response of the Wisconsin Recreation Association to our request for a committee to assist in formulating our recreation curriculum. I plan to write the members of the committee in a day or so with regard to a meeting. If they can arrange to do so, we should like very much to have them come to La Crosse and meet with the whole of our curriculum committee. We should, of course, plan to pay their expenses. If this cannot be worked out, perhaps we can arrange a meeting in Milwaukee or Madison to which we may send members of the committee.

Thank you also for your letter of March 27. The course of study which Mr. Wittich submitted to Miss Enderis is one which has been tentatively approved by the curriculum committee and the one which we shall submit to your association committee. Mr. Wittich was in Waumata for a bonspiel and he wanted Miss Enderis' reaction. I saw no objection to this being done in advance of the committee meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Rexford S. Mitchell
 President

rem/ep

Appendix E

R. S. Mitchell, Personal Communication

State Teachers College
La Crosse, Wisconsin

April 5, 1945

Mr. G. M. Phelan, Director of Recreation
School Administration Building
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Miss Dorothy C. Enderis, Director of Recreation
1111 North Teuth Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mr. Howard Danford, Director of Recreation
351 East Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin

We were very pleased a short time ago to learn from Mr. Dyer that you three had been appointed as a Wisconsin Recreation Association Committee to advise with you in the formulation of our recreation major.

We should like, if possible, to have your committee come to La Crosse so that you may meet with all of our curriculum committee. Mr. Wittich has just informed me that Miss Enderis is to be the speaker at the annual banquet of our Physical Education Club next Friday evening, April 13. It has occurred to me, therefore, that this weekend might be a good time to arrange a meeting of our groups.

We are wondering, Miss Enderis, if you would be willing to stay over for a part of the next day. If so, perhaps Mr. Danford and Mr. Phelan could arrange to come up Friday afternoon, be our guests at the banquet, and then help us the next morning with the curriculum program. In the hope that this can be arranged, I am asking the members of our curriculum committee to reserve next Saturday morning for such a meeting. We should, of course, plan to pay the expenses of Mr. Danford and Mr. Phelan. I understand that the Physical Education Club is making arrangements to do this for Miss Enderis.

Sincerely yours,

rem/ep
cc—Mr. Dyer

Roxford S. Mitchell
President

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APR 11 1945

Appendix F

Curriculum Committee and Recreation Consultants

Friday, April 27, 1945

THE RACQUET

7



Consultants and curriculum committee members who met to formulate and approve the joint physical education and recreation curriculum to be offered next fall are, seated left to right: Howard Danford, director of health, physical education

and safety at Madison; Miss Dorothy Enderis, director of municipal recreation and adult education and safety at Milwaukee; and G. M. Phalen, recreation director in Kenosha. The curriculum committee standing, left to right, include: Miss

Rena Angel, Thomas Annett, H. C. Reuter, Miss Ann Thomas, Dr. Rexford Mitchell, Miss Emma L. Wilder, Mrs. Arthur Hoff, Leon Miller, Dr. Marie Toland, W. J. Wittich chairman, O. O. White and Dr. M. A. Cowley.

Joint Major In Phy. Ed. And Recreation To Be Added

The "O.K." has been put on the new joint major in Physical Education and Recreation which will be offered here next year. All that needs to be done now is to complete the plans for a few required subjects and electives.

This course will give students an opportunity to major in physical education and recreation so that they can get positions as recreational leaders, for which there is now a growing demand.

Core subjects in Recreation are to take the place of the subjects that are ordinarily taken in an academic major or the place of electives taken in the Supervisor's course. Some of the core subjects will be drawing and design, introduction to recreation, drama and music, organization and administration of public recreation, social leadership, group and camp leadership, adult education and practice teaching in recreation.

Also, each student will be expected to specialize to a certain extent in one of the following three fields: Music, Dramatics, and Arts and Crafts. Included under these specialties are such subjects as class piano instruction, music for children, music appreciation, radio programs, play production, stage craft, art appreciation, drawing and painting, and arts and crafts.

To most physical education students this sounds like an ideal course. Much enthusiasm has been expressed already by many students. Students with a lot of pep, initiative and aggressiveness, or those who tend to be extroverts, will per-

Miss Dorothy Enderis Speaks At Banquet

"Recreation is the thing we do because we want to, not because we must. It's the thing we enjoy doing . . . an activity that recreates, freshens, and strengthens not only the body but the mind and spirit," so spoke Miss Dorothy Enderis, guest speaker at the Physical Education Club banquet. Miss Enderis emphasized the need for recreation and the benefits gained from it. She related her true experiences in the recreation department and closed her talk with the following words: "During working hours man makes a living. During hours of leisure he makes a life."

There were 105 students and guests on hand to hear the words of Miss Enderis and the program by the students of the college. Bettylu Ackermann played a marimba solo and Eleanor Reed sang several vocals. Community singing led by Ardith Inman consisted of songs old and new.

haps be the best type of person for such a course.

As yet, however, all the plans have not been formulated for transferring upperclassmen into this field. For freshmen of this year it may be very simple to change to the joint major, but for others it will no doubt require work in summer schools.

Remember this new opportunity when you register for next year. Mr. Wittich is chairman of the curriculum committee planning the course.

Appendix G

R. S. Mitchell, Personal Communication

October 24, 1945

Mr. Donald Dyer
 Wisconsin Recreation Assn.
 3841 West St. Paul Avenue
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Don:

I have just received a copy of the bulletin of the Wisconsin Recreation Association announcing the Sixth Annual Conference together with a card to be used in making reservations for the luncheon on Friday noon.

We are very much interested but are not sure whether this was mailed to us just as a matter of information, or whether we are eligible to attend the conference and become members of the association.

Is our institution eligible for a departmental membership; or if not, are the members of our recreation department eligible for individual membership? Are members of our department and myself eligible to attend the conference meetings and the luncheon?

You doubtless will be interested in knowing that our recreation major is already under way. We now have 20 sophomores and 35 freshmen enrolled in it. As you requested some time ago, I have asked Mr. Wittich to send you complete information concerning the major. It should reach you before many days. We'll appreciate any publicity you may decide to give it.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Rexford S. Mitchell
 President

rsn/ep

COPY

Appendix H

D. B. Dyer, Personal Communication*Wisconsin Recreation Association*

L. H. GOAN, Business Manager
Insurance Program
740 N. Franklin Ave.
Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin
Tel: Daly 6340

D. B. DYER
Secretary-Treasurer
3841 W. St. Paul Ave.
Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin
Tel: West 3685

October 25, 1945

Roxford S Mitchell, President
State Teachers College
LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Dear Rex:

Your letter of October 24 received, and I wish to assure you that we will be only too happy to have you or any members of your faculty attend the Recreation Conference. The morning session on Friday is devoted entirely to business. At the noon luncheon Mr L E Weir, of the National Recreation Association, is going to speak on the history of the recreation movement. As I understand it, Mr Porter Butts of the University of Wisconsin is going to speak on the recreation leaders' course in which the University is going to offer a major. The other two speakers, Mr Morgan and Mr Kiel, are men from our own department who have been in the armed services as recreation leaders. Mr Kiel will speak on the U S O program in Africa and Italy, explaining the type of work done and the things that appealed to the soldiers overseas. Mr Morgan is going to speak on the recreation program which he had charge of in the military hospital at San Leandro, California. We in the field of public recreation are particularly interested in the type of thing that was being done in a recreation way for disabled veterans. It (eg) Morgan did an excellent job in this particular field. Our Conferences in the past have been divided into small groups for round table discussions in certain fields of activities, but this year, because of so many business problems before the Association, we were unable to arrange our program in that manner.

You and any members of your faculty teaching courses in recreation are eligible to membership in the Association, and we will certainly be happy to have any or all of you with us. The school is not eligible to departmental membership. The departmental membership has a separate meeting on Friday afternoon where questions of departmental administration are discussed and policies are established upon a state-wide basis for the conduct of community activities. We will also be happy to have you with us for the luncheon meeting and Mr Weir's talk.

I am certainly happy to hear of the splendid enrollment in your course. If Mr Wittich will send me complete information concerning the major, I will issue a special bulletin on it. I received a letter only this morning from the Stevens Point Commission, who are frantically looking for a director for their program. I also understand Marinette will start a program in the very near future, but in each case I have no one to recommend. At present there are no experienced or trained


Page 2

Mr Mitchell
10/25/46

people available. Last week I spoke to a group in Hartland, a small community which wishes to start a program connected with the schools, but there is no one there who knows anything about recreation work. Next Tuesday evening I am speaking at Hartford, a community of about 6,000, which is in the same boat. Their committee is asking me to confer with them in outlining and setting up their program and are going ahead without trained leadership. I am very fearful of the consequences of such procedure.

Hoping to see you or some representative of your faculty Friday, November 2, I am

Sincerely yours,


D B DYER
Secretary

dbd ob

Appendix I

K. L. Krumenauer, Personal Communication

1. Beatrice A. Baird, Faculty Emeritus, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (1946-1974), Physical Education Department, April 21, 1986.
2. Alice De Bower, Faculty Emeritus, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (1945-1973), Recreation and Parks Department, January 16 and 17, 1986.
3. Ernest J. Gershon, Faculty Emeritus, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (1946-1982), Physical Education Department, April 21, 1986.
4. William O. Otto, Professor, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, (1964-present), Recreation and Parks Department, April 1, 1986.
5. Anna L. Thomas, Faculty Emeritus, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse (1944-1970), Physical Education Department, December 11, 1985.