Early Summer Update
From RPTS

Comings and goings

Dr. Kelly Jiang, Research Assistant Professor, has left TAMU to take up a position as Senior Research Manager for Destination DC in Washington, DC.

Dr. Ian Li, Postdoctoral Associate, has been appointed Assistant Professor at the University of New Orleans.

Congratulations to both!

We are pleased to welcome Koy Moser as Program Coordinator in RPTS. Koy graduated from University of Houston with a BS in Sports Management and brings experience in marketing, social media, website editing, and events. He will be the initial contact for prospective graduate students, and will work closely with advising to ensure smooth acceptance into RPTS. Please welcome Koy to our RPTS family.

Awards

In April, Daniel Pilgreen has been awarded an NSF doctoral dissertation improvement grant for a proposal he submitted earlier in January. Trang Le also received one this year. These are very prestigious awards and a major vita item. Congrats to the both of you!

Congratulations to dearly beloved Mrs. Ann Williams Alexander on receiving the Ed Guthrie Advising Award 2022!

Congratulations to incoming graduate student, David Claverie, on being awarded a College Excellence Fellowship for the fall of 2022!
**Recognitions**

D. Kay Evans has selflessly gifted RPTS a donation in June which has been established as the Willa M. and Keith J. Evans COADC Endowed Scholarship. This will be used to provide one or more scholarships to good standing RPTS undergrad students!

Appreciation for Dr. Jun Wang from the USDA!  
[Click here to read](#).

With June being Pride Month, RPTS celebrated the freedom and equality of everyone to be themselves.

Buc-ee’s Creator Giving $50 Million For Hospitality Entrepreneurship Program At Texas A&M!  
[Click here for read](#).

**In Press**

Dr. John Crompton has just written his new book “Parkland Dedication: Optimizing an Underutilized Resource.” Congratulations John! You can view the AgriLife Today article highlighting the book at the link below.  
[Click here to read](#).

Gary Ellis and his student, Thomas Eck, had an article published from his dissertation. The study was accepted and recently published in the Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.  
[Click here for read](#).

A great story in Conde Nast Traveller which talks about our A&M curriculum assistance and also makes extensive quotes from our colleague Jim Mikulca and Emeritus Professor Bob Stanton.  
[Click here for read](#).
Dr. Brian King and Dr. John Crompton recently visited the wonderful Marguerite Van Dyke. In 1999, a group of former graduate students teamed up with past faculty as well as current faculty and students to create the Marguerite Van Dyke graduate scholarship.

In the dedication of John’s book, he wrote "This book is dedicated to Marguerite Van Dyke who has been the spirit of Aggieland and the guardian angel of Aggies in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences..."

This was a great opportunity to visit with one of the most loved individuals here at Texas A&M, and one who has had an impact on so many lives.

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Dr. Brian King caught up with Dr. Arjun Singh as they toured the Texas A&M campus and the Bush Library.

Dr. Arjun Singh is a Professor and Founding Director of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. With over 20 years in Hospitality Higher Education, he has over 150 publications to his credit and co-authored four textbooks, on International Hotel Management (2008) and Hospitality Asset Management (2009, 2015), and Best Practices in Sustainable Hotel Development and Operations was published in March, 2011.

We are so glad Dr. Singh was able to stop by!
On Wednesday, June 29th, the RPTS family came together to celebrate Independence Day early. Many brought dishes from their countries of origin to share different cultures, as well as the American food classics. This was a great experience for the department to all come together and celebrate one of the most important days in American history!

**Former Students making their mark**

Anthony Martinez (RPTS Tourism Management minor, Class of ’22) just received a full scholarship to pursue his Masters Degree at the University of Kentucky. Anyone who had Anthony in class knows what a charismatic and hardworking student he. So deserving!

Elia Espinosa (RPTS Minor, Class of ‘22) has been just accepted to the American Airlines Cadet Program to start her flight training on her way to become a First Officer with Envoy/American airlines.

Elis Santaella, (RPTS Major, Class of ’19) became certified to fly the Embraer 145 as a First Officer for Envoy Air this week! He also completed the American Airlines Cadet Program as well.

**General Updates/FYI**

We have been working on small changes to the RPTS website. These minor changes are to add clarity of terms such as “Advisor” which has previously been used to describe the advisors in the advising office as well as the faculty advisor/chair.

The college deadline for department head approval of Faculty Development Leave applications is Thursday, September 22, 2022. If you’d like to be considered for FDL, please submit your application by the due date.
Request for potential donors to invite to 2022 Texas A&M football games

We are looking for recommendations on potential invitees to these football games during the 2022 season:

- Texas A&M vs. Miami
- Texas A&M vs. Ole Miss
- Texas A&M vs. Florida
- Texas A&M vs. LSU

If you have any recommendations for potential donors to invite, please reach out to Debbie, Deanna, or Koy. We are looking forward to these great opportunities!