Faculty Bios

Stuart J. Schleien, Ph.D., LRT/CTRS, CPRP
Professor and Department Chair
Director of Graduate Study
University of Maryland, 1982

Stuart J. Schleien, Ph.D., LRT/CTRS, CPRP, is a Professor, Chair, and Director of Graduate Study in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 1997. He also serves as an Executive Director for InFocus, an advocacy organization that empowers individuals of varying abilities who are marginalized by society to create more welcoming, accessible, and accommodating communities. As a Licensed Recreational Therapist and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, he has pioneered innovative approaches that have helped parents and professionals design inclusive recreation, physical activity, friendship, and volunteer programs for children and adults with diverse skills and abilities. He has specific expertise as a systems change agent for inclusive service delivery, helping agencies manage successful organizational change and development. Dr. Schleien has published extensively on recreation, friendship, and advocacy skills development in support of the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in valued community roles and settings. He has written seven books and over 125 journal articles and book chapters on these topics. He has presented his work throughout the U.S. and Canada, and in Australia, England, Germany, Israel, Spain, and Sweden. He received the 2010 Marina Wilder Distinguished Service Award and the 2008 Victor Hall Leadership Award from The Arc of Greensboro for exemplary leadership in the field of developmental disabilities. He was also recognized as the "Researcher of the Year" by the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, "Educator of the Year" by the Minnesota Arc, and was the recipient of the "Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for Excellence in Recreation and Park Research," the most prestigious award bestowed upon a researcher by the National Recreation and Park Association.
Leandra A. Bedini, Ph.D., CTRS, LRT  
Professor  
University of Maryland, 1986

Dr. Bedini is a Professor and Director of Therapeutic Recreation in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation. She is NCTRC certified and licensed as an LRT with the NC Board of Recreation Therapy Licensure. She has worked as a recreation therapist with children and youth with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities in hospital, school, and community recreation settings. Her primary research interests include the relationship of leisure to the health of family caregivers and physical activity for girls/women with disabilities. She is the author of several book chapters in areas of research, diversity, and magic as a therapeutic intervention. Her research has been published in the Therapeutic Recreation Journal, Annual in Therapeutic Recreation, Leisure Sciences, Leisure Studies, Journal of Leisure Research, Schole, Tourism Management, American Journal of Recreational Therapy, Topics in Geriatric Rehabilitation, and Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration. She has been the recipient of the Professional Research Award from the National Therapeutic Recreation Society, the Scholarly Achievement Award from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association, received the Centennial Leader Award from East Carolina University, and is a Fellow of the Academy of Leisure Sciences and Distinguished Fellow of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association.

Candice M. Bruton, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
North Carolina State University, 2013

Candice M. Bruton, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation. Community recreation has been the focus of Dr. Bruton's career as both a professional practitioner and as a scholar. Her experience as a practitioner has included positions in non-profit and municipal agencies. In the non-profit arena she has managed youth and adult sports, after school care, and day camps. In municipal recreation she has planned and managed trails and greenways, special events, and has led system-wide park planning and development efforts. Dr. Bruton's primary research interest is understanding how public parks and facilities promote physical activity and well-being among residents of urban environments. She examines the characteristics of built and natural environments as well as landscape preferences associated with each. Her secondary area of research examines relationships between the availability and quality of public parks and facilities across area race/ethnicity and income compositions and health disparities. Dr. Bruton's research has appeared in the Journal of Urban Health, Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration, Loisir, and World Leisure. Currently, Dr. Bruton is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North
Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA). Previously, she has served as a NRPA Southern Regional Council Representative.

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Nancy J. Gladwell, Re.D., CPRP
Associate Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Indiana University, 1984

Dr. Gladwell is an Associate Professor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation. Prior to entering academia, she worked in municipal recreation, commercial recreation, and corporate recreation. She brings her experience as a professional practitioner into the classroom to demonstrate the linkage between theory and practice. Her teaching foci are management and community recreation. Her research interests focus on the role of leisure in improving caregivers’ health and wellbeing; financing of local governmental recreation and parks agencies; and management-related issues. Currently, Dr. Gladwell is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA). Previously she served on the NRPA National Forum, was a member of the of the Society of Park and Recreation Educators (SPRE) Board of Directors, was vice-chair and a member of NRPA’s National Certification Board, served on the NCRPA Board of Directors, and was chair of the NCRPA Professional Certification Committee. Her research has appeared in the Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, Journal of Leisure Research, SCHOLE: A Journal of Leisure Studies and Recreation Education, Tourism Management, Journal of Tourism Research, American Journal of Recreation Therapy, TRENDS, The North Carolina Review, and American City and County.

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Judy S. Kinney, Ph.D., LRT/CTRS, CCLS
Assistant Professor
Temple University, 1996

Dr. Judy Kinney is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, as of August 2015. She is a Licensed and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, as well as a Certified Child Life Specialist. She has an undergraduate degree in Recreation with a Therapeutic Recreation emphasis from Virginia Commonwealth University, a master’s degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Southern Illinois University, and a doctorate of philosophy in Educational Psychology with a dual emphasis in psychometrics and child development from Temple University. She has over 15 years of teaching experience, first teaching as an adjunct faculty in the Therapeutic Recreation program at Temple University, as an
associate professor in Therapeutic Recreation at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, taught as a visiting associate professor in Child Life at the University of Southern Mississippi, and most currently was a lecturer and internship coordinator in Recreation Therapy at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Judy has close to 20 years’ experience as a CTRS working in a variety of settings, including Behavioral Health inpatient and community based programs, inpatient Pediatric Rehabilitation, and a residential facility working with individuals with intellectual disabilities. Her research interests include pediatric pain management, the impact of disability and hospitalization on child development, complementary and alternative medicine interventions, curriculum standardization, violence prevention in schools, and assessing student learning.

Ms. Kimberly D. Miller is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a master’s degree in Recreation and Park Management, and a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation. Prior to her current role, she served as Project Coordinator for Therapeutic Recreation And Inclusive Networks (TRAIN), a personnel preparation grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Kim also spent 6 years coordinating a U.S. DOE funded community partnership fostering inclusive volunteering. Her research interests include inclusive post-secondary education, inclusive recreation, community inclusion, and participatory action research with individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) (e.g., Photovoice). She enjoys empowering individuals with ID and their families to advocate for more inclusive and welcoming communities. Ms. Miller’s research has been reported in professional journals such as Therapeutic Recreation Journal, Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration, Annals of Leisure Research, Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities, and The International Journal of Volunteer Administration. She was the lead author of A Community for ALL Children: A Guide to Inclusion for Out-of-School Time, which introduces basic premises and practices of inclusive community recreation to parents, family members, careproviders, and practitioners.