

Dr. Ryan Kyle Gower

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Office: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2008 – Present **Director of Undergraduate Studies**
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Responsible for all administrative aspects related to the undergraduate program including: Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, curriculum revision, outcome assessment & accreditation.

June 2007 – Present **Founding Co-Director**
Office of Alumni and Career Services
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Provide leadership and direction for the newly established Office of Alumni and Career Services. Responsibilities include alumnae development, networking, coordinating virtual mentoring system, forging partnerships with field related employers, communication of job opportunities to alumni, and coordinating special events and reunions.

December 2005 – Present **Lecturer/Internship Coordinator**
Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Responsible for the instruction of multiple undergraduate and graduate courses including: RST 100, Society and Leisure; RST 110, Delivery of Leisure Services; RST 216, Leisure and Technology; RST 410, Administration of Leisure Services; RST 480, Orientation to Practicum; RST 484, Practicum; and RST 502, Foundations of Parks and Recreation. Serve as the coordinator for the Senior-Level capstone internship experience for all students graduating from the department. Develop partnerships with employers and site preceptors, and serve as the liaison between the department and the profession. Serve on a number of departmental committees including the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the departmental advisory board for the Global Campus (online learning) Initiative. Proficient with Angel, Desire 2 Learn, Compass and Blackboard instructional technologies.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Fall 2003 – Present

Instructor

Bridge Transition Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Undergraduate instructor for RST 100, Society and Leisure and RST 110, Delivery of Leisure Services. Served as an instructor for students from diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds to assist them in developing the skills necessary to excel in post-secondary education. Developed courses with high-levels of student/instructor interaction, incorporating alternative educational pedagogies, and increased emphasis on communication and analytical skills. Students enrolled in the Transition Program have been identified as having tremendous academic potential, but significant weaknesses that might jeopardize their academic success without exposure to mentoring and additional academic assistance.

July 1999 – December 2005

Academic Advisor/Lecturer

College of Applied Health Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Responsible for all aspects of academic advising in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism. A partial list of duties include: Assessment of students' academic preparation and placement into appropriate courses on campus, charting and monitoring student progress toward degree completion, approve or deny applications for transfer or re-admission into the department, provide career and internship counseling to undergraduate students, answer student questions regarding departmental or university resources, review and clear undergraduate degrees upon completion of curriculum, promote the department and its programs at various campus and community events, advise the department and college on issues of accreditation and curriculum revision. Instructor for RST 101; Orientation to Recreation, Sport and Tourism. Instructed students on issues related to university & department history; campus resources; time management skills, curriculum and graduation requirements; internship opportunities; career opportunities; job search strategies; and graduate school opportunities. Served on various departmental, college, state and university committees including the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Campus Career Counsel, Student Affairs Advisory Panel, and the Departmental Awards Committee.

Fall 1997 – Summer 1999

Teaching Assistant

Department of Leisure Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Served as the teaching assistant for RST 280, Orientation to Practicum; RST 310, Administration of Leisure Services; and RST 484, Practicum. Taught classes, graded papers, and established linkages between the department and professional organizations. Reworked and revised the internship program assignments and reporting schedule. Assisted more than 150 students in finding internships to fulfill their graduation requirements.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (continued)

Summer 1998

Assistant Project Manager

Illinois Rural Recreation Development Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Coordinated the Illinois Rural Recreation Development Project's (IRRDP) summer initiatives. Activities included: Searching for and hiring of Recreation Directors and Youth Recreation Leaders. Planned, implemented and evaluated the summer training for project staff. Guided Recreation Leaders in the programming of their summer camps and special activities. Evaluated camps for safety and quality of supervision. Worked with local city governments in developing long term goals and objectives for the development of a sustainable recreation plan. Developed marketing and public relation pieces for local television and radio stations promoting the IRRDP and the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism. Worked closely with several members of the Illinois House of Representatives, philanthropists, and local businesses to procure funding for the program.

Summer 1997

Recreation Director

Illinois Rural Recreation Development Project
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Served as the Recreation Director for the city of Edinburg, Illinois. Planned, implemented and evaluated recreational programs and events for 70 children. Supervised three Youth Recreation Leaders, and worked with various business organizations and state agencies to raise more than \$5,000 to fund recreational activities for children from financially underprivileged homes. Assisted the city in developing a grant proposal which resulted in partial financing to purchase a two acre park and new playground equipment.

Summers 1994, 1995, 1996

Assistant Director; Summer Camps

Champaign Park District

Worked in cooperation with three other full-time assistant directors to oversee operation of 12 summer camps at 5 different locations. Responsible for interviewing and hiring, training, and supervising staff of more than 70 part-time counselors. Processed payroll and developed marketing materials to be distributed to parents. Inventory management and allocation of materials needed for daily operations. Planned and implemented recreational activities ranging from sport leagues to math marathons for summer campers.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D., Leisure Behavior

Dissertation topic: The Senior Year Experience of Students in Recreation, Sport and Tourism; Exploring Internships as a Means of Personal and Academic Development.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Master of Science, Recreation Management

Thesis topic: Leisure and Recreation in Rural Settings

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Science, Leisure Studies

Concentration in Program Management

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
Member, Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA)
Member, Resort and Commercial Recreation Association (RCRA)
Member, National Society for Experiential Education (NSEE)
Member, International Special Events Society (ISES)
Member, National Intramural and Recreational Sport Association (NIRSA)
Member, National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)
Member, Illinois Academic Advising Commission (ILLIAC)
Life Member, University of Illinois Alumni Association

RECOGNITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2007 Recipient of the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2007 Recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award; College of Applied Health Sciences
2004 Recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Advising Award; College of Applied Health Sciences
2002 Recipient of the Association for Sport, Tourism and Recreation (STAR) Faculty Appreciation Award
1999 Recipient of the Master of Science Graduate Student Award
1997 Recipient of the Teaching Assistant of the Year Award
1996 Elected Vice President for the Association for Leisure and Recreation (ALR)
1995 Elected Treasurer for the Association for Leisure and Recreation (ALR)

Named to the “Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students”

2007, Spring – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 110A & B, Delivery of Leisure Services
2006, Fall – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 216, Technology and Leisure
2006, Fall – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 110A, Delivery of Leisure Services
2006, Fall – Recreation, Sport and Tourism, 110B, Delivery of Leisure Services
2006, Fall – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 100B, Society and Leisure
2006, Spring – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 110A, Delivery of Leisure Services
2006, Spring – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 110B, Delivery of Leisure Services
2006, Spring - Recreation, Sport and Tourism 216, Technology and Leisure
2005, Fall- Recreation, Sport and Tourism 100; Society and Leisure
2005, Fall – Recreation, Sport and Tourism 110A, Delivery of Leisure Services
2005, Fall - Recreation, Sport and Tourism 216, Technology and Leisure
2004, Spring – Leisure Studies 100B, Society and Leisure (Bridge Transition Section)
2002, Spring – Leisure Studies 199CM, Orientation to Leisure Studies
2001, Fall – Leisure Studies 210, Human Resource Management in Leisure Services
2000, Spring – Leisure Studies 199CM, Orientation to Leisure Studies

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Bregel, B., and Gower, R. “Students! Is Grad School in your Future?” Illinois Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, January 2008.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Gower, Ryan K. "Advising Students for Success; Education and Attainment". Illinois Academic Advising Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2004.

Gower, Ryan K., and Firkins, Carol A. "Quality Advising; Foundations for New Advisors". National Academic Advising Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX, November 2003.

Gower, Ryan K. "Quality Internships for Students; What to Look for and Where to Begin." Illinois Academic Advising Association Annual Conference, Bloomington, IL October 2002.

Gower, Ryan K. "Internships as a Developmental Tool." Campus Academic Advisory Commission (CAAC), Champaign, IL, April 2000.

Gower, Ryan K., and Brademas, David J. "Internships; The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly." National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, October 1999.

Gower, Ryan K., and Brademas, David J. "Internships; The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly." Illinois Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, December 1998.

Gower, Ryan K., and Brademas, David J. "The Student Perspective on Internships." National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO, October, 1997.

CLASSES INSTRUCTED

Fall 2008	RST 110 (274 Students) RST 393 RG (2 Students) RST 484 (17 Students)	RST 216 (65 Students) RST 480 (57 Students) RST 502 (18 Students)
Summer 2008	RST 484 (67 Students)	
Spring 2008	RST 100 (34 Students) RST 480 (34 Students)	RST 110 (254 Students) RST 484 (56 Students)
Fall 2007	RST 110 (263 Students) RST 393 RG (3 Students) RST 480 (57 Students)	RST 216 (61 Students) RST 410 (65 Students) RST 484 (7 Students)
Spring 2007	RST 110 (275 Students) RST 480 (56 Students)	RST 216 (63 Students) RST 484 (52 Students)
Fall 2006	RST 100 (34 Students) RST 216 (67 Students) RST 484 (12 Students)	RST 110 (234 Students) RST 480 (65 Students)
Summer 2006	RST 100 (26 Students)	RST 484 (54 Students)
Spring 2006	RST 110 (245 Students) RST 480 (61 Students)	RST 216 (54 Students) RST 484 (51 Students)
Fall 2005	RST 100A (231 Students) RST 110 (216 Students) RST 480 (34 Students)	RST 100B (22 Students) RST 216 (45 Students) RST 484 (23 Students)

CLASSES INSTRUCTED (continued)

Fall 2004	LEIS 101 (112 Students)	LEIS 100B (23 Students)
Spring 2004	LEIS 101 (57 Students)	LEIS 100B (21 Students)
Fall 2003	LEIS 199CM (112 Students)	LEIS 100B (20 Students)
Spring 2003	LEIS 199CM (48 Students)	
Fall 2002	LEIS 199CM (93 Students)	
Spring 2002	LEIS 199CM (43 Students)	
Fall 2001	LEIS 199CM (82 Students)	
Spring 2001	LEIS 199CM (38 Students)	LEIS 210 (66 Students)
Fall 2000	LEIS 199CM (82 Students)	LEIS 210 (54 Students)
Spring 2000	LEIS 199CM (14 Students)	LEIS 280/LEIS 284 (68 Students)
Fall 1999	LEIS 199CM (74 Students)	LEIS 280/LEIS 284 (74 Students)

Results from teacher evaluations:

Rate the Instructor's Overall Teaching Effectiveness 4.93/5.0*

Rate the Overall Quality of This Course 4.75/5.0*

***Combined average of all ICES forms completed for classes from Fall 1999 to the present.**