

JONATHAN R. HICKS

CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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RESEARCH FOCUS

I study human-wildlife interaction in leisure settings. Specifically, my work seeks to develop a deeper understanding of how emotionally significant experiences with wildlife impact leisure behaviors and preferences.

EDUCATION

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| Ph.D | 2014 | (projected)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
Advisor: Dr. William P. Stewart
Dissertation: In development |
| M.S. | 2010 | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Recreation, Sport, and Tourism
Advisor: Dr. William P. Stewart
Thesis: Wildlife as a Priority in Park Development: A Study Of Illinois Park Professionals |
| B.A. | 2004 | Western Illinois University
Journalism / Recreation, Park, and Tourism Administration
Honors: Dean's List |
| A.A. | 2001 | Rock Valley College |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Coordinator – 2013 – University of Illinois Office of Recreation and Park Resources

- Conducted human-apex predator interaction research in cooperation with National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in Alton, Illinois. Study sites included natural areas in northern, central, and southern Illinois.
- Responsible for writing proposal, project coordination and design, undergraduate internship supervision, implementation of surveys/interviews, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Assistant – 2012-2013 – University of Illinois Office of Recreation and Park Resources

- Conducted human-wildlife interaction research with Illinois natural resource agencies including all forest preserve and conservation districts with a special focus on returning apex predators.
- Responsible for project coordination, design, implementation of survey research and interviews, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Coordinator – 2012 – Illinois Natural History Survey – Champaign, Illinois

- Conducted human-deer interaction research for natural resource agencies in Boone and Winnebago Counties including park, forest preserve, and conservation districts, NGOs, and leisure-focused stakeholder groups.
- Responsible for writing proposal, project coordination and design, undergraduate internship supervision, implementation of surveys/interviews, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Assistant – 2011 – University of Illinois Office of Recreation and Park Resources

- Conducted human-wildlife interaction research with Illinois natural resource agencies including all forest preserve and conservation districts.
- Responsible for project coordination, design, implementation of survey research and interviews, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Coordinator – 2011 – National Great Rivers Research and Education Center – Alton, Illinois

- Conducted human-wildlife interaction research for natural resource agencies, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Institute (NGO), and Alton Parks and Recreation Department.
- Responsible for writing proposal, project coordination, budget, design, implementation of survey research and interviews, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Assistant – 2009-2010 – University of Illinois Office of Recreation and Park Resources

- Conducted research identifying and assessing recreational and natural amenities throughout Illinois, including all city recreation departments and park, forest preserve, and conservation districts.
- Responsible for coordinating with ORPR Director Robin Hall, communicating with partners at Illinois Department of Natural Resources, survey design, implementation of survey research, data analysis, and presentation of results.

Research Assistant – 2008-2009 – University of Illinois

- Compiled literature related to “connecting decision making to sense of place.”
- Responsible for coordination and organization of “Connecting Decision Making to Sense of Place” workshop in Ashland, WI September 23 – 30, 2008, including transportation, catering, and schedule/agenda. Also responsible for chapter compilation and editing and for creating and updating corresponding website.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE - SUMMARY

Instructor of Record for:

- RST 484 - Internship Practicum
- RST 480 - Introduction to Internship
- RST 393 – Special Problems
- RST 341 - Community Recreation Planning
- RST 330 - Leisure and Consumer Culture
- RST 217 - Public Recreation
- RST 199 - Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Philosophy
- RST 120 – Foundations of Community Recreation

Internship Coordinator — Fall 2013 to present— University of Illinois

James Scholar Supervisor — Fall 2013— University of Illinois

- Oversaw four unique undergraduate projects

Independent Study Supervisor — Fall 2013— University of Illinois

- Oversaw undergraduate student field experience for local television network

TEACHING EXPERIENCE — COMPLETE

Internship Coordinator — University of Illinois

- **Fall 2013 to present**
- Oversees all instruction of RST interns in the field and in preparation for the field.
- Maintains positive relationships with current and potential agency contacts.

Instructor — RST 484 Internship Practicum— University of Illinois

- **Fall 2013**
- Instructed 10 students in an entirely field-based experience.
- Maintained regular contact with students in the field and their agency supervisors.
- Developed course content reflective of department guidelines and expectations.

Instructor — RST 480 Orientation to Internship— University of Illinois

- **Fall 2013**
- Instructed 39 students in hands-on lecture discussion course.
- Developed course content reflective of department guidelines and expectations.
- Instituted social media component in course syllabus.
- Wrote and delivered lectures weekly.

Instructor — RST 341 Community Recreation Planning — University of Illinois

- **Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Spring 2011**
- Instructed 15-36 students per semester.
- Developed course content to be reflective of department guidelines and expectations.
- Conceptualized, wrote, and implemented “internship” project in cooperation with City of Pontiac, Illinois.
- Provided oversight and guidance for undergraduate teaching assistant.
- Wrote and delivered lectures thrice weekly.

Instructor — RST 330 Leisure and Consumer Culture— University of Illinois

- **Fall 2013**
- Instructed 85 students in a lecture/discussion course.
- Developed course content to be reflective of department guidelines and expectations.
- Instituted assignment regimen focused on peer-reviewed literature analysis.
- Wrote and delivered lectures and led discussions thrice weekly.

Instructor — RST 217 Public Recreation— University of Illinois

- **Fall 2013, Fall 2012**
- Instructed 35-40 students per semester.

- Developed course content to be reflective of department guidelines and expectations.
- Instituted Leisure Autobiography semester-long project.
- Wrote and delivered lectures and led discussions twice weekly.

Instructor — RST 199 Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Philosophy — University of Illinois

- **Spring 2013**
- Instructed six students in a reading and discussion intensive course.
- Developed course content to be reflective of department guidelines and expectations.
- Instituted field interpretation element to course expectations.
- Wrote and delivered lectures and led discussions weekly.

Co-Instructor — Fall 2010 — University of Illinois

- Co-taught RST 410 – Administration of Leisure Services with Dr. Ryan Gower.

Teaching Assistant — University of Illinois — Fall 2010

- Assisted Dr. Dawn Trussell in teaching of RST 217 – Public Recreation.
- Graded papers/exams and assisted students in course-related questions.

Teaching Assistant — University of Illinois — Fall 2009

- Assisted Dr. Anton Endress in teaching of NRES 419 - Terrestrial Ecosystems.
- Graded papers/exams and assisted students in course-related questions.

Guest Lectures — University of Illinois

- Spring 2014 – RST 101 – Orientation to Leisure Studies; lecture topics included discussion of internship planning and pursuit processes.
- Fall 2013 – RST 410 – Administration of Leisure Services; lecture topic included grant writing.
- Fall 2011 – Alan V. Sapora Student Institute
- Spring 2010 – RST 341 Community Recreation Planning; lecture topics included discussion of connections and disconnections between leisure research and practice.
- Spring 2009 – RST 341 Community Recreation Planning; lecture topics included human-wildlife interaction and wildlife management in Illinois.

PUBLICATIONS

Hicks, J.R. (2013). More Than A Feeling: How and why emotional connections to wildlife contribute to effectively managing parks and open space. *Parks and Recreation Magazine*, July.

Hicks, J.R. (2012). Managing the Balance Between People and Animals in Parks and Open Space Settings. *Illinois Parks and Recreation Magazine*, July.

SYMPOSIA AND PRESENTATIONS

Hicks, J.R. (2013). Mapping the Connections Between Wildlife, Learning and Emotion. Association for Outdoor Recreation Conference Research and Publications Symposium, November 8, 2013, College Park, Maryland.

Hicks, J.R. (2013). Human Nature and the Wildlife Conduit. Take A Child Outside Community Symposium, September 26, 2013, Champaign, Illinois.

Hicks, J.R. (2013). "Like the return of Elvis": The emotional implications of wolves and cougars in Illinois. International Symposium on Society and Resource Management , June 4 – 8, 2013, Estes Park, Colorado.

Hicks, J.R. (2013). Wildlife as a Priority in City Park Development: Moving forward by taking a step back. Chicago Wilderness / Audubon Wild Things Conference, February 2, 2013, Chicago, Illinois.

Hicks, J.R. (2011). Uniting Human and Wildlife Communities: A Study of Wildlife-related Leisure Along the Great Rivers. National Great Rivers Research and Education Center Summer Symposium, August 1-2, 2011, Alton, Illinois.

Hicks, J.R. & Stewart, W.P. (2011). Wildlife as a Priority in City Park Development: A Study of Illinois Park Professionals. International Symposium on Society and Resource Management , June 4 – 8, 2011, Madison, Wisconsin.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Hicks, J.R., Weisman, C.J. (2012). Work or Play? An Exploration of the Relationships between People and their Service Dogs in Leisure Activities. The Center on Health, Aging, and Disability and the Health and Wellness Research Initiative 5th Annual Symposium, March 28, 2013, Champaign, Illinois.

Hicks, J.R., Weisman, C.J. (2012). Work or Play? An Exploration of the Relationships between People and their Service Dogs in Leisure Activities. National Recreation and Park Association Congress and Exposition, October 16-18, 2012, Anaheim, California.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Music and Environmental Writer — The Rock River Times — Rockford, IL — May 2005 — August 2010

- Accept and pursue music-related writing assignments of local interest
- Coordinate and interview sources
- Write regular opinion columns, "Songs and Scenes" and "Fierce Green Fire"

Forestry Technician (Public Services) — USDA Forest Service – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie — Wilmington, IL — May 2009 – August 2009

- Composed and edited educational and public relations materials for US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie publications.
- Constructed and maintained necessary hiking trail elements including but not limited to bridges and scenic overlooks.
- Facilitated public contact through welcome center tours, informational discussion, book sales, and telephone direction.

Restoration/Stewardship Intern — Natural Land Institute — Rockford, IL — June 2008 – August 2008

- Involved in restoration needs and developing and implementing strategies to maintain and restore a variety of native habitats at a variety of northern Illinois sites.
- Assisted in plant inventory efforts, including locating waypoints and measuring transects in prairie, forest, and wetland ecosystems.
- Assisted in annual bird survey efforts.

Permanent Substitute Teacher — Rockford Public Schools District 205 — Rockford, IL — March 2008 – June 2008

- Developed and taught 2nd grade curriculum at Nelson Elementary.
- Responsible for instruction and discipline of 24 students, including Principal and IEP meetings.
- Met with parents as necessary to ensure student success in and around the classroom.

Environmental Recreation Coordinator — Rockford Park District — Rockford, IL — July 2007 – September 2007

- Provided instruction and direct leadership to program participants in various topics including, but not limited to, nature hikes, archery, river study, teams/challenge course, snow tubing, cross-country skiing, live reptile/birds of prey presentations, and site interpretation
- Assisted Program Manager in coordinating and implementing special events related to environmental recreation for a broad range of participants. Developed, coordinated, promoted, implemented and evaluated environmental recreation programs specifically for teen participants.
- Contributed to the development and execution of the center's annual program and facility budget and operational plan. Performed assigned budget responsibilities.
- All Evening Program Coordinator responsibilities (please see below)
- All Camp Lone Oak Director responsibilities (please see below)

Director — Camp Lone Oak Residential Summer Camp — Rockford, IL — May-August 2006, 2007 — seasonal

- Recruited, hired, trained and supervised camp staff, including assistant director, program specialist, leaders, and Leaders in Training.
- Maintained the camp in compliance with applicable American Camp Association standards
- Development and operation of resident camp programming.
- Responsible for verifying staff time cards, submitting purchase receipts, accident reports, site logs, weekly site attendance, equipment inventory and staff evaluations.
- Regularly inspected camp facilities, vehicles and equipment for damages, cleanliness and maintenance concerns.
- Scheduled and facilitated all staff meetings.
- Worked collaboratively with Atwood support staff (kitchen, maintenance) and other Rockford Park District departments.

Evening Program Coordinator — Atwood Outdoor Education Center — Rockford, IL — May 2005 – July 2007

- All ERE Instructor I responsibilities (please see below)
- Recruited, hired, trained and supervised ERE Instructors during evening class offerings

- Worked closely with program manager and school representatives to ensure a unique, quality experience
- Scheduled all staff and evening activities
- Development of nature-based programming for youth, teens and adults
- Special assignments included:
 - Live Reptiles Program primary caretaker and presenter (ongoing)
 - Live Birds of Prey Program assistant caretaker and presenter (ongoing)
 - Conceptualized, implemented and supervised 2005 Facility Revitalization Remodeling Project
 - Marketing Liaison (ongoing)
 - Website development
 - Promotional publications development (brochures, maps, etc.)
 - Special Event Planning/Implementation (Summer Camp Open House, Fabulous Fall Fun Day, Winter Wanderings) (ongoing)
 - Media Representative
 - Developed new and edited previously existing job descriptions for Environmental Recreation, summer camps
 - Conceptualization, development and implementation of Fierce Green Fire Forum teen discussion group
 - Development and implementation of after school program at Ken-Rock Community Center

ERE Instructor I — Atwood Outdoor Education Center — Rockford, IL — September 2004 – May 2005

- Instructed students in day and evening classes
- Provided input in curriculum and recreation activity development
- Assisted with the supervision, set-up and clean-up of evening meals for the students following food service guidelines
- Monitored the park/facility during work hours, identifying and rectifying (when appropriate) any potential or dangerous conditions

Program Specialist — Rockford Park District Playgrounds — Rockford, IL — May-August 2004 — seasonal

- Developed and implemented ten week nature-based curriculum for free neighborhood park programs
- Served diverse populations of participants age five to 12 Developed program and curriculum manuals

Director — “Teen Time” Summer Camp — Rockford, IL — May-August 2002, 2003 — seasonal

- Responsible for ensuring high standards of recreation for teenaged participants with disabilities
- Supervised, developed, appraised and disciplined nine staff members
- Developed and implemented weekly schedule, including trips and activities
- Conducted weekly staff appraisal meetings
- Maintained budget and monitored monetary concerns, including payroll
- Documented all questionable incidents and close calls

Evening Instructor — Atwood Outdoor Education Center — Rockford, IL — September 1998 – June 2002

- Lead hikes for students, primarily ages 10 – 14
- Instructed students in evening classes utilizing established policies and curriculum

COMMITTEES, SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Founding member of the RST/Campus Recreation Career Fair Planning and Development Committee, 2013-2014
- Faculty member of Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2013-2014
- Elected by peers as PhD Representative for Department of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Graduate Committee, 2012-2013
- Primary developer and contributor of Illinois Wildlife Management Listserv (IWML), in cooperation with State, Local, and Federal recreation agencies, Spring 2012
- Lead consultant and primary organizer of Pontiac, Illinois Route 66 International Plaza Project Group, Spring 2012
- Treasurer and founding member of Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Scholarship and Professional Development Organization, Fall 2011

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students” for instruction of RST 330, RST 217 Fall 2013
- Recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students” for instruction of RST 341, RST 199 Spring 2013
- Recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students” for instruction of RST 217, Fall 2012
- Recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students” for instruction of RST 341, Spring 2012
- Recognized by the Center for Teaching Excellence on the “List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students” for instruction of RST 341, Spring 2011
- Certificate in Foundation of Teaching, awarded by the Center for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2010