

HORN HAPPENINGS

THE PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF HORN FIELD CAMPUS



"BE A YARDSTICK OF QUALITY. SOME PEOPLE AREN'T USED TO AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EXCELLENCE IS EXPECTED."

-STEVE JOBS

The mission of Horn Field Campus is to offer an outdoor educational environment that is committed to extending Western Illinois University's mission of academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

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To get the latest information on upcoming programs at HFC, refer to our website: wiu.edu/hfc or call (309) 833-5798

Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration



A NOTE FROM MINDY

When you receive this newsletter, you have probably already unboxed the winter hats, gloves and coats, and decorated for the holidays....but let me take you back to September and October for a moment. What was your favorite season at Horn? Without a doubt, fall is mine. The weather is a welcome change from summer's heat and humidity, and this past warm, dry season made for a remarkable semester at Horn. Every weekend at Horn had several activities scheduled. One weekend in October was particularly active and during that vibrant weekend, I remember thinking..."I should try to capture the spirit of this weekend's activities in words for the next newsletter." So here it goes:

The TKE fraternity participating in a teams course on the playfield, the Blandinsville United Methodist Church Youth Group on the climbing tower, the Plainfield East High School's madrigal retreat, complete with hearing their beautiful voices coming from the lodge, and of course, people of all ages coming and going from the corn maze. All of this occurred on a beautiful Saturday afternoon that truly made me stop in my tracks and give thanks for being a part of the outdoors and assisting people in enjoying it. It was a diverse group of individuals all together on one property, partaking in positive healthy outdoor leisure activities!

That was not the only vibrant weekend this fall as we had the corn maze open every weekend, which attracted nearly 2,000 people; held our first fund

raising gala, "Harvest Moon on the Prairie"; hosted four different campus volunteer groups who helped mulch trails; hosted three family events in the lodge and a veteran's night "meet and greet" barbeque around the campfire; and accommodated several RPTA classes that utilized the corn maze and/or the challenge course. Every fall, we host events for Mom's Weekend and Family Weekend, Knox College brings their TRIO Achievement Program participants for the high ropes course, and Carl Sandburg College's Upward Bound students use the teams course. Other annual fall groups that utilize HFC include the Macomb- Denmark Student Exchange day, the Macomb Youth Leadership Organization, Monmouth College, Scout groups, middle school and university sports teams, Macomb Altrusa, WIU Student Alumni Association, and the Forestry 209/409 class. As state before several RPTA classes utilize HFC, from Leadership to Outdoor Recreation Perspectives as well as Kinesiology's 135 class for their semesterly teams course, high ropes course and climbing tower training.

While the list above is not all inclusive, hopefully I've given you a "flashback" to when you were here sharing the field campus with the students, faculty and community members and it serves as a reminder that part of your academic endeavors included being a part of the life of RPTA and Horn Field Campus. Now get back to the holidays, knowing that the tradition lives on at Horn after all these years, and carries on your spirit of the love for the outdoors. Peace be with you and yours!

SPOTLIGHT

QC WOMEN'S OUTDOOR GROUP

"The Quad Cities Women's Outdoor Club had a fantastic time at Horn Field Campus. The price is right, the staff is phenomenal, everything is clean and organized. The night hike and the high ropes course were the highlights of our visit in August 2011. We are already planning a date to come back in the spring to try the climbing tower, the swing, and then maybe staying two days so we can get some hiking and paddling in at Lake Argyle. Check out Horn Field Campus, it is a great opportunity to commune with nature and learn something new about yourself."

-Christine Ciasco '99, '04, '08





WESTERN
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Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

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"The sun is shining, the birds are singing . . . it's a great day to be alive"

GRAD ASSISTANT BIOS

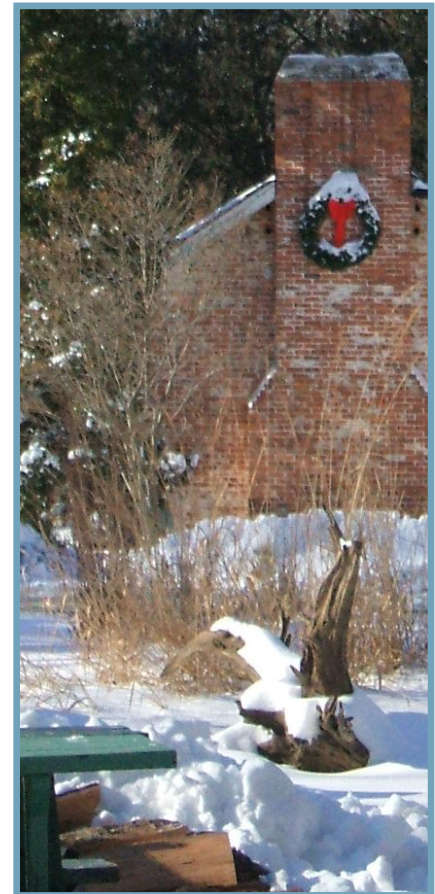
Joshua Bruecken | Facilities Manager



From the early age of ten, my parents would load-up the conversion van with camping equipment and my four other siblings; we would travel anywhere from Acadia National Park in Maine to the Sequoia National Park in California and stop at any national or state park in between. As I grew older, I knew I wanted to provide a way so that everyone could enjoy the experience of wandering through the Red Woods or hiking through the Grand Tetons. Unfortunately, I viewed this as a childhood dream, which I discounted as silly fantasy. So when I started my search for colleges I chose the "practical" field of business management at Iowa State University. I grew and learned in the college of business, but I always had a desire to switch my major to park and recreation. In the summers, I found myself applying to internships at state parks instead of insurance agencies. Eventually, it culminated my last semester at Iowa State University when faced with the decision of entering the

job market as a well-to-do manager, or pursue my true passion of recreation. With the guidance of several friends and family members, I decided on graduate school at Western Illinois University.

As I navigate the busy months of graduate school, I hope to advance my knowledge of recreation; specifically, in the direction of managing parks and recreation departments on a city-level basis. I believe a job like this will allow me to fulfill my childhood dream of providing a means for people to enjoy the natural environment and recreation in ways that will be fulfilling to them. In addition, I would like to spend my time at Western Illinois University researching what makes vacations satisfying and stressful. This study may be difficult because it is very subjective material, but I believe broad trends will emerge that could be useful in the recreation or tourism industry. Finally, I am looking forward to meeting new people that share the same enthusiasm for the outdoors.



Jordan Blevins | Challenge Course Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/18 Outdoor Skills Seminar**
- 3/3 - 3/4 Wellness Weekend**
- 3/10 - 3/18 WFR**
- 3/1 - 3/21 WFR Re-Certification**
- 4/4 Environmental Summit**



I have lived half my life in Texas as well as a few years in Colorado where I first started in the Park and Recreation field at Colorado State University. I came to WIU in 2008 and received my undergraduate degree here in 2009 with a major of RPTA and minors in natural resource management and law enforcement and justice administration. Since getting my diploma in 09, I have been the general manager of a restaurant in Springfield. I am excited about coming back for graduate school as well as being the graduate assistant at Horn Field Campus as the Challenge Course Manager.