

Dear alumni and friends,

On behalf of the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration it is my pleasure to cordially invite you to an Alumni & Friends Gathering on Friday, January 20, 2017 at Howells & Hood.

This casual event will provide opportunities for you to engage with current students and faculty in a fun and festive environment located in downtown Chicago, near the 2017 IPRA/IAPD Conference. Several recognitions, including the recipient of the annual Jim Berousek award will be made. Howells & Hood is located at the base of the Tribune Tower and has been recognized for its architecture, great food and large selection of craft beers.

Howells & Hood  
435 N. Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312.262.5310  
howellsandhood.com

Visit with us anytime between 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm. At around 6:00 pm that evening, I will provide a brief departmental update and the Berousek Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented.

While I wish the department was able to absorb all costs for this event, it cannot. Your \$10 registration fee will allow us to provide a variety of delicious appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. In addition, part of your registration fee will be used to subsidize current students attending the event. Registration is appreciated so we know how many appetizers to order. Please register [here](#). If the link does not work correctly, please register at <https://goo.gl/forms/LyIAWHYQ48KWYLN2>

Last year around 25 of our students were able to attend the IPRA/IAPD Conference. I promised that with your help we would have even more students at this year's conference. With your donations we are going to be able to fulfill our pledge. You will see a bunch of RPTA students at the conference. And with your continued support, we will have even more at the next conference.

It's an exciting time in our department. In addition to this gathering we have several other events I'd like to highlight.

On January 26, 2017 the department will be hosting the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Camp Job Fair. Day and resident camps are invited to visit campus and interact with students, including a large number from the Chicago area. Attending the fair provides camps wonderful opportunities for recruiting students from a wide variety of majors, and networking with other camp directors and our faculty. Last year more than 35 camps attended and met with over 250 students. We hope this year's event will be even bigger. If you are interested in learning more about Summer Camp Job Fair, please contact Matt Cerone, Graduate Student for Tourism and Events, at [mm-cerone@wiu.edu](mailto:mm-cerone@wiu.edu).

Our annual Professional Development Conference will be taking place on April 7, 2017. There are some exciting possibilities for this year's conference. We are trying to use the day conference as a recruitment tool as our conference is open to all students. We will also be presenting our departmental and alumni awards at the Professional Development Conference Luncheon. We will

be honoring wonderful alumni who have distinguished themselves since graduating and current students who demonstrate wonderful capacities for contributing to the future of our field. If you are interested in presenting at and/or attending our Professional Development Conference, please contact Jeremy Robinett, Assistant Professor, at [jl-robinett@wiu.edu](mailto:jl-robinett@wiu.edu)

Sincerely,

Dan

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