

# Recreation Major is Instituted at Abbey

Belmont Abbey College this year is offering a recreation major.

Mike Reidy is chairman of the department, and is assisted by Pam Allison. The department has 27 students, 10 of whom are seniors.

Miss Allison is head of the outdoor recreation section of

the major, a popular feature of the program.

The general objective of the program at Belmont Abbey is to prepare persons to serve in a society in which recreation plays a more important role. The student will have more versatility and capacity to handle a variety of professional

roles, or to enter into advanced study.

"I am very pleased with the overall program in so far as the wide variety of academic subjects in the curriculum. There are also practical courses that are useful to the recreation professional," said Reidy of the new major.

The program is designed for those students who wish employment in governmental, commercial, voluntary, and private recreational programs.

A great deal of emphasis is placed on understanding and appreciation of organizational procedures; leadership techniques; scope of activities; psychological, social, spiritual, physical, and mental values; motivational techniques; resources; safety procedures and practices, equipment and material.

Each student, prior to graduation, is required to spend nine weeks in an internship program at a recreation department in Gaston and Mecklenburg counties. This enables the student to use the skills in a practical situation and allows the student to gain practical experience.

"We have a great deal of interest in the program," said Reidy. "There are inquiries coming from areas all along the east coast. It is a growing profession because people have



MIKE REIDY, head of the new Recreation Department, and professor Pam Allison discuss ideas for the new program.

## The Need for Recreation Leadership

**Editor's Note:** The following article, written by Jimmy Raffa, a recreation major at Belmont Abbey College, discusses how the new recreation program fits into the curriculum at BAC.

Since the end of World War II, sharp progress has been made in developing a formal academic education for recreation leaders.

Recreation leadership must take its place among professions by setting standards of education. These opportunities and methods are designed to ready people for recreation leadership, and most of the preparation is from colleges and universities, such as Belmont Abbey College.

The recreation profession has adopted standards that make a college degree necessary. Recreation has just recently shown an academic concern for preparing men and women for recreation positions. Even today little consideration has been given to the problems in administration and organization of municipal recreation departments.

Administrative and organizational knowledge are the key issues that make recreation an academic subject. Many people hear recreation and automatically think of sports or physical education. Recreation is not a sport or physical education, but it's a profession, just as history, philosophy, literature, and languages are.

Liberal arts colleges offer the recreation professional the well-rounded training he or she needs to perform competently in his or her field. Personnel in the recreation major should not be restricted solely to courses in recreation, but they should be distinguished from the sciences and technical schools, which dwell on only a few subjects that relate principally to one field.

Recreation is theoretical because it needs plans to work smoothly and effectively, and the knowledge must be present before the practicality can take place.

The need for academic recreation professionals is great. The growth of cities, with their crowds and congested neighborhoods, where playgrounds are few and have little professional supervision, demand well-trained recreation professionals. When the cities get too crowded many people move to the suburbs, where recreational facilities and professionals are frequently small in number, and a new need is created.

Changing home conditions in communities also increases the need for the recreation professional. Washers, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, electric light, stoves and telephones revolutionized house keeping trends. Hours that were needed to keep the house in order are now leisure hours for many, and trained recreation personnel are needed to fill this void. The 40-hour or less work week creates more leisure time for most Americans. Specialization and automation in industry creates more leisure time. Approximately 99 percent of the total useful work energy of our country is performed by machines. This percentage also lowers the demand upon the worker's physical and mental powers.

With the demand being less, a beneficial program must be established to make their surplus of energy perform up to the individual's standards.

The population change has created the problem of developing recreational services for more people of all ages. A rising economy gives the recreation movement another shot in the arm, because a rising economy allows individuals to spend more of their income on recreational activities.

The above shows why the recreation movement needs professional people. Recreation's potential has just started to be felt. No longer can a physical education instructor be asked to deal with man's leisure time.

Physical educators deal directly with the human body. Recreation is concerned with man's mind and spirit as well as with his physical attributes. While the shift turns from physical education to recreation, the importance of having trained personnel in the field is mandatory.

A liberal arts college such as Belmont Abbey offers the recreation professional basic needs that a specialized college cannot offer. It offers courses in psychology, philosophy, English, history, sciences, languages, mathematics, sociology, political science, art and other basics.

These courses are needed by the recreation professional because they offer the individual many tools he or she needs to handle the growing need for recreation in man's leisure time.

more leisure time. Recreation is a science. People are going to spend their leisure time in some type of recreational project. This is the reason for the interest in this area."

The program is young, but Reidy sees it growing. "I can see us expanding in the future. I'm satisfied with the number of

majors we have in the program.

Growth of the program will depend on the interest of the students. Needless to say, we're very happy with the support the Administration has shown toward the program, and hopefully we can continue to be a viable part of educational programs at BAC."

### Please Help Us Update Our Alumni List

You will notice below an expanded form which requests information we have not attempted to gather in several years. As you may surmise, we at the Abbey look upon the Centennial year 1976 as a year of opportunity for the College in many directions, and we hope, with your help, it will become also a memorable time for all

those who have passed through.

Our need for this information stems from (1) a sincere desire within the several departments to evaluate and seek to improve the quality of instruction and career preparation; (2) a renewed effort to involve alumni in a greater numbers as we plan Centennial events; and,

(3) the hope that we can effectively organize a Belmont Abbey Alumni association as a working arm of the College, as well as a resource for its members.

I cannot refrain from adding that we sincerely hope the response to this plea through Crossroads will be better than ever. We are eager to serve you.

Name _____	Home Phone _____
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Children _____	Wife-Husband's Name _____
Employer _____	
City _____	State _____
Bus. Phone _____	Job Title _____
Does Employer match gifts? _____	
Year of graduation or last year attended Abbey What was your	
Degree? _____	Major Field _____
When you left the Abbey, did you attend another college?	
Name of School _____	Degree _____ Field _____
Current Salary Range (Please Circle) Salary Range will remain confidential	
\$5,000 - 7,000 7,000 - 9,000 9,000 - 12,000 12,000 - 15,000 15,000 - 20,000 20,000 +	