REBOOTING PLAY

THE PLAY CONFERENCE 2016

NEW DATES • NEW APPROACHES • NEW OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 3-6, 2016, CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

A partnership to promote the VALUE OF PLAY throughout life
Conference Center Layout
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About Us:
The US Play Coalition is a partnership to promote the value of play throughout life. We are an international network of individuals and organizations that recognize play as a valuable and necessary part of a healthy and productive life. Our membership is diverse – including educators, parents, physicians, health scientists, park and recreation professionals, psychologists, landscape architects and many more. Membership is free, and simply requires a declaration of shared commitment to the value of play.

Learn more about us and get involved at: http://usplaycoalition.org/

Continuing Education Units (CEU)
Clemson University awards CEUs for your participation in sessions at The Play Conference 2016. Each keynote, PLAYtalk, featured and educational session is worth .05-.075 CEUs to those whose attendance is verified. There is no additional fee for CEUs at this conference.

How to earn your CEUs:
1. Pick up a CEU form from the registration desk.
2. Have your CEU form signed at the beginning and end of each keynote, PLAYtalk, featured and educational session.
3. At the end of the conference, return your completed CEU form to the designated area on the registration desk.

You will receive confirmation of your complete CEUs via email following the conference. Please give us several weeks to complete the process.
# Need a Ride?

Shuttle service schedule between the Holiday Inn Express (HIE) and the Madren Center

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Welcome from the US Play Coalition

As your hosts for The Play Conference 2016, we are excited to welcome you to the main event. Whether this is your first or fifth conference, we are glad you have joined us on our journey to promote the value of play for people of all ages and abilities.

This year, our theme is “Rebooting Play.” We are thrilled with the many sessions that will reframe the way we think about play through the sharing of knowledge and experience in the field. We continue to advance play with our great sponsors and partners. Collaboration is the key to our success, and we are excited that play has creatively united so many of our individual efforts.

To date, we have funded $35,000 in grants, and we look forward to increasing that total during the conference. Please join us at the closing banquet on Tuesday night to learn who receives the 2016 action and research seed grant awards.

Of course, our conference would not be possible without you. You are the heart and soul of the modern play movement. With two keynote addresses, three PLAYtalks, nine featured speakers, and over 75 educational sessions to choose from, and two “play” hours, we are confident you will gain new knowledge and build meaningful connections with your peers. We also invite you to attend as many of our open committee meetings as you can; participating in these will position you to be an even greater leader in your community or organization in the future.

Thank you again for being with us. Thanks, as well, to our sponsors, partners, volunteers, committee chairs, steering committee, and everyone who has played a role in making this event a success.

Let’s PLAY!

Brett Wright
Co-Chair

Fran Mainella
Co-Chair

Stephanie Garst
Executive Director
Welcome from Joe Frost, PhD, Honorary Conference Chair

As the Honorary Program Chair and on behalf of the US Play Coalition and its steering committee, I am pleased to welcome you to The Play Conference 2016. I hope you will join me in thanking Coalition Co-Chairs Fran Mainella and Brett Wright, Executive Director Stephanie Garst, our volunteer steering committee, our sponsors, our partners, and Clemson University for making this terrific event possible. Few professional organizations have progressed so far or so fast as USPC in promoting, creating and expanding collaboration for the value of play across generations.

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend in person this year; Betty and I hope to be with you in 2017. Our sincere wishes for an informative, constructive, and enjoyable three days as you work to expand knowledge of productive play in homes, neighborhoods, and schools. In closing, I would like to leave you with this reminder: Children are born to play. It’s value for health, development, and well-being never fades away.

Dr. Joe Frost
Parker Centennial Professor Emeritus, University of Texas

Be sure to visit our website regularly for ongoing updates about the play movement and Coalition activities!

usplaycoalition.org

Also follow US Play Coalition on social media!
Keynote Speakers

Lenore Skenazy
Lenore Skenazy is founder of the book, blog and movement, “Free-Range Kids” (www.freerangekids.com), which launched the anti-helicopter parenting crusade. A public speaker, she has lectured everywhere from Microsoft headquarters to the Sydney Opera House. She's also a frequent guest on talk shows and has written for everyone from The Daily News (where she was a reporter for 14 years) to Mad Magazine. Yep. The Mad Magazine. She's funny. The holiday she invented, “Take Our Children to the Park...And Leave Them There Day” is now celebrated around the world. She has been profiled in The New York Times and The New Yorker, and was featured on The Daily Show. Woo hoo! A graduate of Yale and Columbia, she lives in New York City with her husband and teen sons who are half-Free-Range and half social media addicts. Then again, so is she.

Rue Mapp
Rue Mapp is the Founder of Outdoor Afro, a social community reconnecting African Americans with natural spaces through outdoor recreational activities. She oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of 30 men and women who represent 16 cities around the US. Through Outdoor Afro, her non-profit organization with offices in Oakland, CA, Rue, as CEO, shares opportunities to build a broader community and leadership in nature. Her important work has generated widespread national recognition and support. Originally beginning in 2009 as a blog, Rue has since captured the attention and imagination of millions through a multi-media approach, grounded in personal connections and community organizing. From its grassroots beginning, now Outdoor Afro enjoys national sponsorship and is recognized by major organizations for the importance of diversity in the outdoors. In 2010, Mapp was invited to the White House to participate in the America’s Great Outdoors Conference, and subsequently to take part in a think-tank to inform the launch of the First Lady’s “Let’s Move” initiative. Mapp’s work has been featured in publications including The Wall Street Journal, Backpacker Magazine, Ebony Magazine and Sunset Magazine and many others. Mapp remains in high demand to speak around the country and in Canada about her innovative approach that has successfully connected thousands, especially from the African American community, to nature and the benefits of spending more time outdoors. She is proud to serve on the Board of Rails to Trails Conservancy and American Camp Association. Most recently, Rue was appointed to the California State Parks Commission by Governor Jerry Brown. A graduate of UC Berkeley (with a Degree in Art History), Rue’s skills and background make her a unique voice via the programs she has instituted through OA and enlightened a diverse community to the wonders and benefits of the outdoors. Rue resides in Oakland CA, and is the proud mother of three active teenage children.
Peter Gray
Peter Gray, research professor of psychology at Boston College, has conducted and published research in neuroendocrinology, developmental psychology, anthropology, and education. He is author of an internationally acclaimed introductory psychology textbook (Psychology, Worth Publishers, now in its 7th edition), which views all of psychology from an evolutionary perspective. His recent research focuses on the role of play in human evolution and how children educate themselves, through play and exploration, when they are free to do so. He has expanded on these ideas in his book, Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life (Basic Books). He also authors a regular blog called Freedom to Learn, for Psychology Today magazine. His own play includes not only his writing and research, but also long distance bicycling, kayaking, cross country skiing, and vegetable gardening. Before joining the faculty at Boston College, he earned his undergraduate degree at Columbia College and Ph.D. in biological sciences at the Rockefeller University, and taught at Hunter College and City College in New York.

Jean Margaret Smith
Smith is Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Administration for Nickelodeon. For more than a decade under her direction, Nickelodeon championed Worldwide Day of Play, an unprecedented annual event in which all Nickelodeon channels suspend programming and the network and its partners host grassroots events with the message: “get up, get out and go play.”

Jean Margaret Smith is responsible for managing the network’s strategic relationships with social advocates, elected officials, and public opinion leaders, as well as spearheading the company’s overall public affairs agenda, including signature pro-social initiatives and overall corporate responsibility. She has helped craft several long-term, strategic initiatives to address social concerns impacting children and their families including HALO Awards, Beyond the Backpack and Get Dirty. She sets the company’s corporate social responsibility agenda. Smith spearheads outreach to key public affairs external constituencies for all Nickelodeon television brands and businesses, including Nick Jr, TeenNick, and Nicktoons. In addition, she works closely with the Nickelodeon digital brands such as Nick.com and TeenNick.com on incorporating pro-social content, managing digital and online privacy and safety issues, and raising other public awareness issues. Smith also oversees the company’s relationships with key partners including the Afterschool Alliance, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA to amplify the network’s commitment to kids and families.

Justin Bogardus
Justin is an award-winning independent filmmaker Producer / Director / Editor with over 12 years experience producing and creating compelling, entreating, and thought-provoking television, documentaries, comedies, ads, promotional films, artwork, and videos. After working for 7 years in NYC, producing and editing documentaries (including award-winning TV series about wrongful conviction), NGO promo pieces, and reality TV, Justin moved to Boulder, CO to follow his other passion of teaching Buddhism (which he currently does as a part time teacher at Naropa University) and continuing his film and production career in scenic Colorado. Justin still maintains his film/video career in NYC and travels to the big city and Boston several times a year for film/video production work.
Featured Speakers

Lisa Bailey-Davis Dr. Bailey-Davis received her Bachelor’s in Nutritional Science from the Pennsylvania State University, her Master’s in Nutrition Education from Immaculata College and her Doctor of Education in Adult Education also from Penn State. Her work in obesity prevention in public health started at the Pennsylvania Department of Health where she led the development and implementation of Pennsylvania’s plan to prevent and reduce obesity and related chronic disease and founded the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity that engaged 80% of Pennsylvania schools in policy and programmatic changes to promote healthy, active living. In 2012, her research interests became more focused on multi-level interventions for primary prevention of obesity she moved to Geisinger Health System where she is now the Associate Director of Maternal and Pediatric Obesity Research in the Geisinger Obesity Institute. Her work centers on designing pragmatic trials that test multi-level health interventions to prevent and treat obesity, examining systems dynamics to understand the correlates and determinants of obesity, and the developing precision health concepts to bring together environmental, biologic, clinical, and societal factors to improve patient-centeredness and improve population-level outcomes. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, and supporting her sons’ as they play, participate in sports, and develop into young men.

Patrick Lee Patrick Lee has been involved with Play since 1996, and he is owner of CT-ART Creation Pte Ltd in Singapore. His experience with Play started as Husband and Wife Team on the Playground business and educated themselves as the first Asian Certified Playground Safety Inspectors. One of his first project was a 30 feet high Playground at a Destination Park and thereafter created many more unique and exciting play environments. He continued to educate the buyers on Safety, the Need for Play and successfully created a movement for Inclusive Play. With many more projects being developed in Singapore, Patrick Lee has acquired much knowledge to share and provide for the future of Play.

David Gould David Gould is the University of Iowa’s first Obermann Center Public Scholar and a member of its adjunct faculty. His courses explore higher education’s role in helping students find meaning and purpose. In 2012, he was presented the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences’ Star Volunteer Award and the Iowa Outstanding Staff Award. In 2007 he won an award for outstanding teaching at the University. He was also a nominee for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 Lola Lopes Award for Undergraduate Student Advocacy, and the 2008 President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence. In 2009, Mr. Gould was profiled in the University of Iowa’s Be Remarkable Campaign, and from 2010-2015 graduating seniors at the University of Iowa recognized him as one of the top faculty and staff members who had a positive effect on their lives. Mr. Gould is a sought after public speaker, whose presentations include the commencement address for the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Educating 21st Century Adolescent Learners (keynote, Tokyo, Japan), Next Gen. Summit (keynote), and TEDxUNI. During his tenure with the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Mr. Gould organized a Faculty Institute, designed to help faculty connect their teaching and research with the social challenges facing the modern city. He was also instrumental in developing the University of Iowa’s Interdepartmental Studies: Engaged Social Innovation major.

Debbie Rhea Debbie Rhea is Professor and Associate Dean for Health Sciences and Research at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. She taught physical education and coached in the public schools for 12 years prior to earning her doctorate in pedagogy and sport/exercise psychology. She is well-published on physical activity, eating disorders, and adolescents with a primary emphasis on diversity, behavior change, and motivation. Her newest project is The Link Project (Let’s inspire innovation ‘N kids): More play, more character development.
Ken Kessler  
Kenneth Kessler, Ph.D. is a licensed clinical psychologist and an Associate Professor of Psychology at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. As a professor, Dr. Kessler teaches students from a variety of disciplines including psychology, medicine and pharmacy science. His role as a professor has taken him as far away as Uganda, Africa where he and five graduate students trained local peer counselors to treat PTSD in refugees. Dr. Kessler is an attending doctor at the University’s Interprofessional Community Clinic, a no cost healthcare home where many patients are seen who have preventable causes of illness. Dr. Kessler has long recognized the benefits of play and the outdoors in his own life and in the lives of his family members and he has begun prescribing the outdoors to many of his patients.

Bob Johnson  
Bob Johnson’s patented experiential tools comprise the elements of his seminars and workshops. Most noteworthy is the Bcube™, an experiential, team dynamics, tabletop tool, which has been used by business leaders on four continents to rediscover and accelerate learning. Researchers have shown it to be effective in teaching the elements of play and collaboration as vital problem-solving skills. Bob is a member of the Duke University Corporate Education faculty and of the faculty of CEO Space International. He is the lead facilitator for the Blumenthal Leadership Institute for Change.

Joan Almon  
For almost 30 years Joan Almon was a Waldorf early childhood teacher and consultant, placing a strong emphasis on child-initiated play. However, across the country she saw a serious decline in play and a rise in a number of physical and mental disorders among children. In 1999 she worked with a wide range of educators and health professionals to found the Alliance for Childhood. As its founding director she focused on the restoration of play to children’s lives. She continues to serve as a consultant with the Alliance and is focusing on the new wave of play opportunities that are spreading across the country. She is currently working on a book that will feature a number of these play initiatives.

Morgan Leichter-Saxby  
Morgan Leichter-Saxby, M.A. is a UK-trained playworker. While at University College London, Morgan began ethnographic research at an adventure playground, then quickly joined staff teams in some of the UK’s most deprived areas. In 2010 she co-founded Pop-Up Adventure Play to help translate playwork for application in her home country. Since then, their pop-up adventure playground model has been employed in 21 states and 17 countries so far, fostering more playful communities at the grassroots level. The online Playworker Development Course has students in 15 countries and is growing fast. As part of Pop-Up Adventure Play, Morgan recently completed a world lecture tour and co-authored The New American Adventure Playground Movement. She is currently working towards her PhD in Playwork, and blogs at www.playeverything.wordpress.com.

Janice O'Donnell  
Janice O’Donnell, who began her career as an alternative (free) school teacher and served as Executive Director at Providence Children’s Museum from 1987 through 2014, now directs Providence PlayCorps for the City of Providence and consults for several child-centered organizations. As a Rhode Island Foundation Leadership Fellow, Ms. O'Donnell studied playwork, the art of supporting children’s free play without directing it, in the UK and applies playwork techniques in her work in inner-city parks.

Pat Rumbaugh  
Officially kicked off her quest to promote play March 2009 when she started a play committee in Takoma Park, Maryland. 2011-2012 Pat went on sabbatical from the Washington International School where she taught and coached over a thirty year period. Over these years Pat saw the decline in fun free play in both children and adults. 2013 Pat’s children book, Let's Play at the Playground was published. 2014 was a pivotal year for Pat, the play committee known as Takoma Plays was officially now a nonprofit known as Let’s Play America. Pat gave two TEDxTalks on PLAY and was the Grand Marshall at Takoma Park’s July 4 Parade. Currently Pat has organized and led over 60 fun free play events in Takoma Park; Play Days, closed streets to play and joined other events by adding play. Pat has gone around the country to speak about the importance of play. Pat has received several awards and in 2015 led fourteen events, one of these events was the NBC4 Playful Cookout. 2016 is looking to be another big year for Pat—AARP is writing a national article on her advocacy for play, she will be speaking at the 2016 National Head Start Conference and The First Lady’s Head Scheduler has sent Pat a letter saying she would like to attend a play event.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>1:00-1:45</td>
<td>NaturePlay in your Parks and Community Centers - J. Kinch</td>
<td>Playing with Your Food: How an Urban Food Desert is Recovering from a Natural Disaster through Healthy Life-Style Choices and Play - A. Malkusak</td>
<td>Boosting Play and Learning with Post-Secondary Environments: A Research Study on Faculty’s Beliefs and Teaching Practices in Early Childhood Teacher Education Programs in Canada - M. Blom, M. D’Amico</td>
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<td>2:00-2:45</td>
<td>Promoting Physical Activity through Multigenerational Play - I. Palacios</td>
<td>Family Homelessness and the Contextual Nature of Play - S. Schlembach</td>
<td>Play is Power: Play-Based Preschool in a Climate of Educational Emergency - C. Gardner, B. Dalbey</td>
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<td>3:00-3:45</td>
<td>“It’s Gonna Hurt”: Roughhousing and Risk in Play (A Video Documentation) - J. McCullough</td>
<td>From Past to Present: The Value of Play Across the Lifespan - S. Cosco</td>
<td>Understanding Preschool Teachers’ Beliefs about Outdoor Play and Naturalized Playgrounds and Practices for Young Children - J. Oh</td>
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<td>5:00-6:15</td>
<td>Sneak Peek of the new Award Winning Documentary “NaturePlay” (Auditorium)</td>
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<td>6:15-7:00</td>
<td>Fireside Chats - mix and mingle with friends and colleagues about PLAY</td>
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<td>7:00-8:30</td>
<td>Kickoff Tailgate Party and Opening PLAYtalk (Ballroom)</td>
<td>Peter Gray: Play Deficit Disorder: A National Crisis and How to Solve it Locally</td>
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<td>Nature-Based Child Centered Play Therapy - S. Smith-Adcock, J. Swank</td>
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<td>Using Books to Encourage Play: A Bibliographic Adventure - A. Grant</td>
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<td>Playworking the Children's Museum: Beyond Play-Based Learning - M. Dickerson</td>
<td>The (Seemingly) Unprepared Environment: A Montessori School's Journey to Revolutionize Play - M. Seagle</td>
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<td>Making the Case for Play Policy and Practice: Evidence-Based Indicators - D. Stegelin</td>
<td>From Fascination to Torture: Children's Interactions with Bugs During Play - N. Shipley, R. Bixler</td>
<td>Young Children and Playing with History - S. Swigart</td>
<td>Evolution Not Revolution: Working within the Educational Establishment to Contribute to the Play Revolution - A. Nickell</td>
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Sunday, April 3, Session Descriptions

1:00-1:45

“Nature Play in your Parks and Community Centers” - Jennifer Kinch
This presentation will be about how establishing Nature Play groups or family clubs can boost attendance and incentive for families to engage in natural setting and unplug from technology. The Greenville Zoo founded one of the area’s first family nature clubs and has over 60 active families that meet together in natural settings to develop family bonds and empathy for nature in children.

“Playing with Your Food: How an Urban Food Desert is Recovering from a Natural Disaster through Healthy Lifestyle Choices and Play” - Antonio Malkusak
In the wake of a natural disaster, see how a local not-for-profit, City Government, local businesses and loads of volunteers worked tirelessly to transform reclaimed abandoned City lots into an urban farm where play is a vital ingredient of the space.

“Boosting Play and Learning with Post-Secondary Environments: A Research Study on Faculty’s Beliefs and Teaching Practices in Early Childhood Teacher Education Programs in Canada” - Marleah Blom, Miranda D’Amico
A research study on faculty members’ beliefs about play and learning and related teaching practices when teaching in post-secondary early childhood teacher education programs in Canada will be presented. Details about the study will be provided including key findings, which contribute to understandings of play and learning in post-secondary education.

“Nature-Based Child Centered Play Therapy” - Sondra Smith-Adcock, Jacqueline Swank
Play is a child’s language and nature is a child’s playground. This presentation focuses on child-centered play therapy (CCPT) within the natural environment. The presenters will discuss key components of this approach and findings from a single-case design research study examining outcomes of CCPT and nature-based play therapy with schoolchildren.

“Promoting Physical Activity through Multigenerational Play” - Ines Palacios
By intentionally and thoughtfully creating outdoor environments with fitness in mind, communities can dramatically impact their efforts to promote less sedentary lifestyles across generations. Uncover innovative solutions, case examples, evidence-based programs, and unique design strategies that inspire people of all ages to live healthier, happier lives through active engagement.

“Family Homelessness and the Contextual Nature of Play” - Sue Schlembach
How do mothers perceive young children’s play in a shelter for women and children experiencing homelessness? This session offers an examination of the unique characteristics of child homelessness and the contextual nature of shelter play. Suggestions for future research and implications for policy and practice will be discussed.

“Play is Power: Play-Based Preschool in a Climate of Educational Emergency” - Courtney Gardner, Ben Dalbey
All young children are capable learners who construct their own knowledge through play. Unfortunately, the dominant approach to early childhood education regards young children as empty and inadequate. We will investigate this contradiction and identify steps to advocate for and create space for play in early childhood.

“Using Books to Encourage Play: A Bibliographic Adventure” - Anne Grant
Books can set fire to a child’s imagination. In this session, a Clemson Librarian will provide a list of books, reading activity ideas, advanced search techniques, and tools for locating children’s literature so that participants can find new ways to use books to encourage play in young children.

“Playworking the Children’s Museum: Beyond Play-Based Learning” - Megan Dickerson
Playworkers - skilled play professionals - are driven by a deep understanding of play processes, and not by prescribed educational outcomes. Megan Dickerson of The New Children’s Museum will share how a playwork approach, which challenges dominant developmental paradigms of play, can help museums embrace the benefits and uncertainty of children’s play.

“From Past to Present: The Value of Play Across the Lifespan” - Sarah Cosco
The second installment from my Master’s thesis, this presentation explores the value of play expressed by an international sample of participants aged 20 to 70 years. How do everyday people value play? What does play mean to them? How does the value of play impact how we can promote play?

2:00-2:45

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“It’s Gonna Hurt”: Roughhousing and Risk in Play (A Video Documentation) - Jim McCullough
Embracing “play” means embracing chaos or anarchy. And while this uncontrollable energy shows up in all forms of true play, it shows up dramatically in roughhousing and risk taking. In this session, you will be privy to a series of video clips of kids engaging in all manner of roughhousing and/or risky play. There will be lots of smiles, but remember, “It’s gonna hurt”.

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The second installment from my Master’s thesis, this presentation explores the value of play expressed by an international sample of participants aged 20 to 70 years. How do everyday people value play? What does play mean to them? How does the value of play impact how we can promote play?
“Understanding Preschool Teachers’ Beliefs about Outdoor Play and Naturalized Playgrounds and Practices for Young Children” - Ji Hyun Oh
This study describes individual preschool teachers’ personal experiences with regard to outdoor play on a more naturalized playground that is newly developed in their work site. In this session, the findings generated from the in-depth teacher interviews and continued research will be discussed.

“Making the Case for Play Policy and Practice: Evidence-Based Indicators” - Dolores Stegelin
This session provides an overview of key interdisciplinary research findings related to the benefits of play and documents the importance of advocating for play policy and practice through the research.

“From Fascination to Torture: Children’s Interactions with Bugs During Play” - Nathan Shipley, Robert Bixler
Insects and other invertebrates (bugs) are the focus of much of childhood play. Integrating previous research, current research projects, and writings of educators/naturalists, this presentation outlines the value obtained from creating a heightened awareness of the most diverse creatures on earth, and how play promotes fascination with rather than fear of bugs.

“Young Children and Playing with History” - Stacey Swigart
Do you remember what you ate for lunch yesterday? Some young kids don’t—so how can they understand “history”? Objects and experiential learning through play are ways that young kids can be introduced—and start to understand the past. Discover some ideas, concepts and plans one children’s museum is utilizing in teaching history.

“Evolution Not Revolution: Working within the Educational Establishment to Contribute to the Play Revolution” - April Nickell
Because our current education system leaves little room for play, many proponents of play are left to choose Revolution (alternatives) or Evolution. This talk takes a close look at how the characteristics of play can serve as a recipe for creating a more playful classroom while satisfying government mandated educational standards and expectations.

“Playing in the Park: A Coalition Workgroup’s Efforts to Increase Youth Play Opportunities” - Morgan Hughey
LiveWell Greenville’s ‘At Play’ coalition workgroup represents an important collaboration of key stakeholders to promote play through parks and recreation opportunities across Greenville County, SC. Park Hop is an innovative park-based scavenger hunt that has demonstrated positive impact on park discovery and usage for youth and families.

“Play Strong: A Medically-Based Physical Activity Program” - Travis Gallagher
Play Strong at Nationwide Children’s Hospital treats physically inactive patients living with and recovering from cancer, diabetes, heart diseases, bone/joint disorders, and weight issues. Through play, exercise, and guest instructors, we attempt to change perceptions of physical activity while improving fitness, functional movements, confidences, and healthy habits for long-term health.

“Rethinking Play on Elementary School Grounds” - Alice Reese
Childhood has changed dramatically with a significant deterioration in children’s play and health. Research shows play and unstructured play are critical to development, meaning it’s time for designers to rethink the school ground environment. This session will explore how school grounds can be designed to provide quality play at school.

“Using an Outdoor Classroom to Extend Learning through Play!” - Kristine Jenkins
Provide opportunities for your children to have creative outdoor play experiences using low-cost, reclaimed and natural materials! Create an outdoor classroom where their play and learning is only limited by their imagination! Follow our experience in developing an outdoor classroom, then plan your own!

“Bernheim’s Children at Play Initiative: A Community Approach to Change” - Claude Stephens
Learn how a non-profit created an initiative to explore the value of free play in nature in order to increase the collective regional capacity to understand, promote, design and champion best practices in outdoor play environments that promote healthy childhood development and connect children directly to nature for life.

“Bestowing the Value of Play through Literacy, Science, and the Arts” - Megan Phelan, Sydney Jenkins
Play has become obsolete for many families, especially those that are underserved. A vocabulary-based initiative in Charlotte aims to reverse this trend while giving families tools to help their children learn at home. Participants will learn about ways to increase vocabulary through play and get caregivers playing with their children.

“Teachers’ Perceptions of LiINK Project Benefits for K-2 Children” - Deborah Rhea, Alexander Rivchun
This session will present findings from the LiINK Project, a multi-school initiative based on Finland’s educational model in which children have recess four times daily. Qualitative interviews with participating K-1 teachers indicate academic, social, and emotional benefits of multiple recesses. Implications for researchers and educators will be provided.

7:00-8:30
Kickoff Tailgate followed by Opening PLAYtalk:
“Play Deficit Disorder: A National Crisis and How to Solve it Locally” - Peter Gray
### Monday Morning, April 4

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>8:00-9:15</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker (Ballroom)</td>
<td>Lenore Skenazy, “Free Range Kids: Raising Safe, Self-Reliant, Playful Children without Going Nuts”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:15</td>
<td>Round Tables - Topic centered discussions facilitated by industry leaders (Ballroom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>“Singapore - A Great Place to Play” - P. Lee</td>
<td>Mapping Playspaces in Springfield, Missouri - J. Mooney, M. Novik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:45</td>
<td>PLAYtalk 2 followed by Lunch</td>
<td>Jean Margaret Smith, “Nickelodeon’s Worldwide Day of Play: Its Impact and Its Future”</td>
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### Keynote Speaker Lenore Skenazy—“Free Range Kids: Raising Safe, Self-Reliant, Playful Children without Going Nuts”

“The Importance of Good Design: A Comparison of Play in London versus New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles” - Meghan Talarowski By comparing 8 playgrounds in London to 8 in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, we found that those in London, with more unique designs and a wider range of equipment and surfaces, had 55% more visitors and 16-18% higher moderate to vigorous physical activity in children and teens.

“Using Play to Promote Physical Activity” - Toni Liechty, Kerri Schiller Scholars have argued that focusing on fun and using the language of play can improve the effectiveness of efforts to increase physical activity among children. This presentation will discuss the potential for using play to promote long-term physical activity participation among adults, presenting the example of an adult kickball league.

“For All Ages, Play as a Key Element in Teaching and Learning About the Natural World” - Stephen Houser, Bruce Lampright Session participants will recognize how the Family Nature Summit staff members use play as a tool for teaching and supporting people of all ages in being thoughtful stewards of the earth.

“The Kinesthetic Classroom: Why, How and When?” - Deborah Smith The purpose of this presentation is to examine the process of assisting play educators in the use of kinesthetic learning techniques. The presentation will look at:
1-Why should play educators use kinesthetic activities? 2- How can play educators use movement?, and 3- When can activities be used throughout the day?

“Water: Discovering the Extra Dimension of Play” - Marie-Catherine Dubé Water is a fundamental element - essential for life! In this session we’ll explore the impact of water play on children, adults, and communities as a whole. From the development of motor and cognitive skills in early age groups to the revitalization of entire neighborhoods, come discover the extra dimension of play: water.

“What’s Wrong with a Little PLAY in the Work Place?” - Katrina Black, Gage Berry, Skye Arthur-Banning This session intends to remind professionals that PLAY can be a part of the work environment along with taking care of business. We will discuss the four philosophies that boost morale and utilizes the motto “Work made fun gets done” adopted from the infamous Pike Place Fish Market.
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For All Ages, Play as a Key Element in Teaching and Learning About the Natural World - S. Houser, B. Lampright

The Kinesthetic Classroom: Why, How and When? - D. Smith

Water: Discovering the Extra Dimension of Play - M. Dubé

What's Wrong with a Little PLAY in the Workplace? - K. Black, G. Berry, S. Arthur-Banning

Forensic Playwork - The Art of Reading the Signs of Play - M. Armitage

Rethinking the Play (Recess) Privilege: Good Kid vs. Bad Kid - J. Brelsford

Inclusive Playspace Design a Planning Guide - J. McConkey


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| 11:30-12:15| “Singapore - A Great Place to Play” - Patrick Lee  
Singapore has benefitted from the Play initiatives from the USA and Europe. The presentation is a sharing experience to view the density and magnitude of Government and Private investments into Play for all. See how Singapore has a balance of risk and challenges, nature and modern play, the young and old multi-generational play areas. |
| 11:30-12:15| “Mapping Playspaces in Springfield, Missouri” - Jon Mooney, Melinda Novik  
This presentation will focus on the playspace mapping and prioritization projects, including how playspaces were further examined and how prioritization decisions were made. Finally, a discussion of the next steps of the playspace assessment project will be discussed, with focus on open-use agreements with churches. |
| 11:30-12:15| “Reboot Summer Camp Healthy Habits” - Lindsey Jorstad, Monica Griffin  
This session will provide best practices for developing Wellness-Blueprints through adoption of healthy habits, increasing staff education, implementing camp challenges and collaborating with healthcare providers. The goal is to lead youth participants, their families and staff towards making healthier food selections, limiting screen-time and increasing physical activity and water consumption. |
| 11:30-12:15| “Forensic Playwork - The Art of Reading the Signs of Play” - Marc Armitage  
Forensic Playwork is the technique of reading the physical signs left behind after play in order to assess what, how and where children are playing in a given space. Some of these signs are obvious, some less obvious, and others positively bizarre. |
| 11:30-12:15| “Rethinking the Play (Recess) Privilege: Good Kid vs. Bad Kid” - Jeannette Brelsford  
The “bad kid syndrome” begins when we fail to create a curriculum and a pedagogy that connects with students, that takes them seriously as intellectuals, that lets students know we care about them, and a place that gives them the chance to channel their pain and defiance in productive ways. |
| 11:30-12:15| “Inclusive Playspace Design a Planning Guide” - John McConkey  
The playground should be a place for laughter, friends and fun, for all. Unfortunately traditional playgrounds do not meet the needs of a growing population of children and their families. Many parents of children with emotional and developmental disabilities report they simply do not go to the playground. Even universally accessible playgrounds tend to focus only on accessible design and age appropriate play activities. This presentation will focus on the opportunity parks and recreation professionals have to design playgrounds offering a higher level of inclusive play. |
This presentation shares key findings from the recent research into parents' perspectives on play and uses the Genius of Play 2015 campaign as a case study to demonstrate how the value of play message can be successfully communicated to today's parents through a variety of digital and social media. |
| 12:30-1:45 | PLAYtalk2 followed by Lunch  
“Nickelodeon’s Worldwide Day of Play: Its Impact and Its Future” - Jean Margaret Smith
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<td>3:00-3:45</td>
<td>&quot;The LiNK Project: Going Against the Grain of Testing through Play and Character in Elementary Schools&quot; - D. Rhea</td>
<td>&quot;Making Parks Relevant&quot; - K. Cook</td>
<td>&quot;Stressed Adults, Stressed Children: The Connection&quot; - J. de Graaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-4:00</td>
<td>&quot;Snack and Gab&quot; Refreshment Break - grab a snack and gab about how YOU are inspired to REBOOT play!</td>
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<td>5:30-6:15</td>
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<td>US Play Coalition Committee Meetings (Open to All)</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30</td>
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<td>Meet, Greet, and Out to Eat (dinner cost not included)</td>
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<td>8:45-10:00</td>
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**Monday Afternoon, April 4**

"Play, Passion, and Purpose: A New Arc for Education" - David Gould
How we ultimately steer the preadolescent and adolescent years has a direct impact on the way we’ll live the rest of our lives. This presentation explores the natural development from play to passion to purpose and its implications on education.

"Connecting Children and Nature Through Art-based Environmental Education" - Lincoln Larson
This session will (1) discuss the value of art in EE programming and evaluation, (2) examine the impacts of art-based EE on children’s environmental attitudes and awareness, and (3) explore methods, materials, and resources that can be used to enhance art-based EE, thereby fostering stronger connections between children and nature.

This presentation outlines a study of two playgrounds: one site designed and built by adults, where there have been multiple injuries; the other an adventure playground constructed by children and with access to tools, heights, rough and tumble, and with zero injuries during the same 5 year period.

"Healthy Way to Grow: Increasing Physical Activity in Early Care & Education Programs" - Tris Barber
This session highlights the impact of physical activity education in early care and education programs. Presenters will discuss research on the health implications on children birth - five of physical activity interventions and share lessons learned from two years of providing technical assistance in six communities nationally.

"We Should Talk... Communicating the Why of the Power of Play" - Kent Callison
Explore proven strategies to effectively communicate the value of play to stakeholders, potential funders, and community members. Participants will learn how social media has given an expanded voice to every play advocate and how a multi-channel communication strategy can raise awareness, fund initiatives and create meaningful play experiences for people of all ages and abilities around the world.

"Advocacy & Awareness: An Overview of a 20 Year Project Promoting Safe, Inclusive, and High Quality Outdoor Play Areas for Children" - Heather Olsen
The National Program for Playground Safety was founded in 1995 to raise awareness about playground safety. This presentation will provide insight into the legacy of their work. The presentation will investigate standards and guidelines supporting SAFE and inclusive play and discuss future interest in research and project collaborations.

"The Power of Play in Developing Emotional Intelligence for Leadership Success" - Patricia Hohlbein
Join me in understanding how your play experiences (past and present) influence your emotional intelligence development over your lifetime.
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**MOVE! A Playful Approach to Learning - Y. Kusters**

| Tinkering: Constructivist Play Across the Life Span” - O. Jarrett | “New Games: The Foundation of Cooperative & Non-Competitive Play & Games” - J. LaRue |

**3:00-3:45**

“The LiNK Project: Going Against the Grain of Testing through Play and Character in Elementary Schools” - Debbie Rhea

This presentation will focus on the programming considerations and challenges when implementing a longitudinal project that goes against the educational grain of testing. The LiNK Project (Let's Inspire Innovation 'N Kids) is a research project focused on implementation of four 15-minute unstructured, outdoor recesses daily and three 15-minute character development lessons weekly.

“Making Parks Relevant” - Kevin Cook

Let’s get everyone outdoors to play! This is a misleading and ultimately dangerous cliché. We in outdoor recreation spend precious resources on groups unlikely to respond. This presentation will discuss the who and why of going outdoors, and what this means for the future of the industry.

“Stressed Adults, Stressed Children: The Connection” - John de Graaf

American children are among the most stressed out in the rich world, despite the fact that their parents spend more time with them than in other countries. What's going on? Using broad international data, this workshop connects the dots concerning overworked adults and stressed out kids and suggests that good parenting starts with the parents' playing more themselves.

“Recess Revolution - Rethink the Way You Play!” - Kristin Shepherd

Recess Revolution enriches environments to engage minds. Have you ever wondered how loose parts could enhance your school recesses or after-school settings? I’ll tell you how to prepare your staff, manage your stuff and, get parents on board and change the play culture of your school. Start your own Recess Revolution - Rethink the Way You Play!

“Child's Play: Creating Nature Based Outdoor Play Space in Family Child Care Settings” - Alexa Bosse, Peg Szczurek, Megan Talarowski

The intimate scale and diversity of a family child care provides an alternative to traditional child care centers. However, with smaller spaces, fewer assets, and challenging logistics, the outdoor space is often overlooked. How can you introduce nature based learning into the small confines of a prototypical urban yard?

“Letting Inmates Run the Prison - Lessons from Giving Democratic Free Play to an Inner City School” - April Nickell

In South Central LA, students were invited to participate in a democratic free-play program. Evidence of the emotional and social growth of students and the effect on campus teachers not in the program will be presented, as well as a template for participants to create similar programs in their communities.

“Playing in School: The Principal's Perspective” - Laura Klenk, Adena Sexton

Elementary principals hold extensive influence over the curriculum and activities in classrooms. In order to enlist them as allies in support of play-based learning, especially in early childhood classrooms, principals were interviewed to gain a better understanding of their perspectives on opportunities for play in school.
### Tuesday Morning, April 5

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<td>8:00-9:15</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker - Rue Mapp; Play for Everyone: Creating A New Narrative (Ballroom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:00</td>
<td>Coffee Talk - Grab a drink and TALK about what we are DOING for play!</td>
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<td>10:00-10:45</td>
<td>“The Play Rx: This is Your Brain on Play” - K. Kessler</td>
<td>“Roots and Wings: Exploring Intergenerational Play” - J. Agate, S. Agate, L. Cochran</td>
<td>“Designing Fitness-Focused Playgrounds: A Stealth-Health Community Wellness Solution” - J. McConkey</td>
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<td>12:00-1:30</td>
<td>PLAYtalk 3 followed by Lunch (Ballroom) - Justin Bogardus, “Does Nature have a Marketing Problem?”</td>
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#### 8:00-9:15  Keynote Speaker Rue Mapp—“Play for Everyone: Creating a New Narrative”

*“The Play Rx: This is Your Brain on Play” - K. Kessler*  
This presentation will review the empirical evidence as to why the Play Rx is necessary and why it is an effective prescription for the treatment of several major health conditions. Limitations in the literature will also be discussed.

*“Roots and Wings: Exploring Intergenerational Play” - Joel Agate, Sarah Agate*  
Intergenerational play has received little attention from researchers, but remains a meaningful avenue for play opportunities. This session will focus on intergenerational play from the perspectives of children and their grandparents—mechanisms and its many benefits.

*“Designing Fitness-Focused Playgrounds: A Stealth-Health Community Wellness Solution” - John McConkey*  
Designing playgrounds that get kids and their families active and keep them staying and playing longer can offer a “stealth-health” solution. Parks professionals will gain from the latest evidence-based practices to design “Fitness-Focused Playgrounds” that make a positive, healthy impact on their communities.

*“The Need for Play in Psychological Rehabilitation” - Jesy Cordle*  
This presentation discusses the importance of providing opportunities for play to individuals in psychological rehabilitation. While play varies by the type of institution or program, it can be used along with treatment in psychiatric hospitals, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, therapeutic schools, and wilderness programs.

*“Physical Literacy is the Gateway to Play” - Lynn Campanella*  
Physical literacy is thought to be the gateway to activity, equipping all children with movement skills opens the door for an opportunity to learn, be active and Play. Discover how Play is instrumental in this learning journey.

*“Play for All II: A Journey of Community Connection and Program Evaluation” - Kate Zmich*  
Connection is key! Join Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse as they describe the work done to develop and refine their play advocacy to vulnerable populations through their Play For all program. Learn how the tools of program evaluation, and cultivating a greater awareness and understanding of Smith’s target audience continue to transform the shape and delivery of the message of the value of play.

*“Where Design Comes Into Play: Improving Access to Play through Innovation” - Alexa Bosse, Peg Szczurek*  
Play is an essential part of every child’s life and a vital component of learning. How can we bring nature, creativity, and risk-taking back to urban play spaces? Learn how the Collaborative’s Play Space initiative engaged dialogue and promoted innovation to re-imagine play spaces within the city of Philadelphia.
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**SILENT AUCTION CLOSES AT 10AM!**

- “The Need for Play in Psychological Rehabilitation” - J. Cordle
- “Physical Literacy is the Gateway to Play” - L. Campanella
- Play for All II: A Journey of Community Connection and Program Evaluation - K. Zmich
- “Where Design Comes into Play: Improving Access to Play through Innovation” - A. Bosse, P. Szczurek

- “Come Play with Me! Mutual Benefits of Intergenerational Play Between Young Adults and Older Adults” - Y. Liang, N. Tipton
- “Play Initiative: Before, During, and After School with Family and Educational Leaders” - J. Brelsford, C. Clemson
- “Building a Community of Play: A Collaborative Educational Public Project” - D. Wisneski, E. Buglewicz
- “The LiNK Project: The Effects of Play and Character Development on Classroom Behaviors and Attentional Fatigue in Public School Grades K & 1” - D. Rhea, A. Rivchun

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**11:00-11:45**

- **“The Bcube Experience: Accelerating Organizational Performance”** - Bob Johnson, Melanie Bargar
  The Bcube experience aids in making play and collaboration tangible tools for accelerating learning, business performance and resilience. This session is essential for anyone who wants to learn how Bcube has been used by Clemson’s Youth Learning Institute with business clients to accelerate team growth and business performance.

- **“The Hands-on-Nature Anarchy Zone and Other Stories of the US Adventure Play Renaissance”** - Rusty Keeler
  An exciting look at the current US adventure playground movement through the eyes of the Hands-on-Nature Anarchy Zone at Ithaca Children’s Garden — a place where kids can climb trees, build forts, dig in the dirt and more. All that plus latest reports from new adventure playgrounds projects popping up across the country!

- **“Play Everywhere: Making Play the Easy Choice”** -  David Flanigan
  KaBOOM! is inspiring and influencing cities to incorporate play everywhere. Play should not be limited to a multi-million dollar park renovation. This session will highlight innovative and replicable projects from places across the country that are ensuring all kids have access to play wherever they are.

- **“Come Play with Me! Mutual Benefits of Intergenerational Play Between Young Adults and Older Adults”** - Yating Liang, Natalee Tipton
  Play is not just for kids - it’s across life span! Think it’s boring to play with those who are at your grandparents’ age? Think again. Learn how college students can have fun playing with older adults! It is win-win for all.

- **“Play Initiative: Before, During, and After School with Family and Educational Leaders”** - Jeannette Brelsford, Christen Clemson
  Would you like to learn how to involve the public school system, not for profit, for profit, health care systems, and local colleges while empowering the family unit through play? Learn the formative, cumulative, and summative steps taken in Central PA that have affected the lives of over 38,000 students!

- **“Building a Community of Play: A Collaborative Educational Public Project”** - Debora Wisneski
  What happens when corporations, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and an early childhood education university program team up to educate the public on the value of play throughout the lifespan? This session will share the planning process and community/educational outcomes of an extensive collaborative PLAY exhibit implemented in 2015 in Omaha, NE.

- **“The LiNK Project: The Effects of Play and Character Development on Classroom Behaviors and Attentional Fatigue in Public School Grades K & 1”** - Deborah Rhea, Alexander Rivchun
  The LiNK Project has implemented four-15 min recesses daily and three character development lessons weekly in grades K and 1 of four large elementary public schools with matching control schools. Classroom behaviors and attentional fatigue comparisons will be shown by grade, gender, and school.

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**12:00-1:30**

**PLAYtalk 3—“Does Nature have a Marketing Problem?”** - Justin Bogardus
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<td>3:30-4:30</td>
<td>Unstructured Play - Come out and PLAY!</td>
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<td>4:40-5:30</td>
<td>US Play Coalition Committee Meetings (Open to All)</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30</td>
<td>Reception with Poster Presentations and Book Signings (Grand Hallway) - Posters listed on p. 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-8:30</td>
<td>Closing Dinner Banquet (Ballroom) Grant winners announced</td>
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**Tuesday Afternoon, April 5**


There’s a new world of play opening up and children and parents are responding with enthusiasm. We will examine the nature of loose parts, the role of playworkers, approaches to training, and ways to bring these new ventures into diverse communities. The presentation will be illustrated with slides and short videos of some of the new play ventures.

**Research Grant Winner 2015 - “Pilot Study of an Outdoor Play Prescription Program for Children” - Richard Christiana, Joy James, Rebecca Battista**

The medical community can take an active role in getting children healthier through prescribing outdoor play. A pilot study was conducted to test the effectiveness of a prescription program for children 5-13 years old. This session will discuss the prescription program, study methods, results, and future directions.

**“The Power of Neighborhood Play” - Katharine Sherrard, Andy Sherrard**

Explore the critical life experiences gained through neighborhood play and how it is declining in our country. We will have a candid discussion of the causes of the decline and possible solutions given the restraints of time, money, politics and popular opinion.

**“Use Your Inside Voice and Your Outside Mind II: Playful Instruction and Classroom Management” - Blake Wanger**

In this interactive workshop participants will use playful thinking to create engaging lessons and take the stress out of classroom management. Participants will laugh and learn as they play spontaneous educational games and explore playful management strategies through a framework for building a playful classroom or homeschool environment.

**Action Grant Winner 2015 - “Right to Play’s Play at the Core Program: Learning through the Power of Play” - Emily Rea, Hewetté Moore**

Play at the Core seeks to support and build the skills of the most important adults in a young child’s life. Using intensive training and coaching for early education professionals, participants are empowered to harness the power of play to improve educational quality, academic achievement and bridge opportunity gaps.

**“The Relationship of Added Recesses, Physical Activity Levels, and Positive Emotional States in K-2 Aged Children” - Laura Clark, Deborah Rhea**

This presentation will delineate the significance of methods used and results obtained from a Thesis project entitled, “The relationship between added recesses, physical activity levels, and positive emotional states in K-2 aged children.” A discussion will follow outlining the physical and emotional outcomes of four 15-minute unstructured, outdoor recesses daily.
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**2:45-3:30**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:45-3:30</td>
<td><strong>“Help Change the World, Invite your Community to Play”</strong> - Pat Rumbaugh</td>
<td>The Play Lady invites you to listen, laugh and play with her as she takes you through experiences of planning a play event in your community. Plan a play day, close a street to play or join an organized event by adding play.</td>
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<td><strong>“The Nexus of Policy and Play: A Reboot for the Future”</strong> - Linda Rhoads</td>
<td>This session will describe the policy landscape focusing on how health and wellness, transportation, education and land conservation policies are working synergistically to increase opportunities for play. Learn how to leverage creative strategies that advance play for children of all ages in parks, urban areas, and schools.</td>
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<td><strong>“The Play Cycle - The Invisible Thread that Weaves through Playing”</strong> - Marc Armitage</td>
<td>This session explores the role of the adult in children's play and tackles the tricky question of when, how and whether to intervene whilst children are playing using the Play Cycle – a method of describing the process that children pass through while playing.</td>
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<td><strong>“Playing is Learning: How Inclusive Playgrounds Support Language Development”</strong> - Marnie Norris</td>
<td>Language and play are natural partners. Unfortunately, in impoverished homes, language acquisition lags significantly behind higher-income homes. For children with disabilities, the gap can be wider. Join Shane’s Inspiration and discover how language development comes alive on our inclusive playgrounds, which encourage parents and kids to talk while they play!</td>
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<td>Action Grant Winner 2015 - “Providing Appropriate Play Experiences for Children with Autism” - Rebecca Woodard, Zachary Burt</td>
<td>This presentation provides an update of the progress made toward the development of the Missouri State University and Rivendale Center for Autism partnership to help children with ASD develop play skills, leading to enhanced inclusion in their communities and schools. Successes and failures will be discussed along with suggestions for instructor preparation, games, equipment, facilities, and goal development.</td>
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<td><strong>“We Want You... To Attend the US Play Coalition Mid-Western Play Conference”</strong> - Heather Von Bank</td>
<td>This workshop will encourage attendees to learn more about the first regional US Play Coalition affiliated Mid-Western Play Conference, taking place on June 25th 2016 in Southern Minnesota. The session will reveal details about the conference and will offer guidance when developing a regional play conference.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Wednesday Morning, April 6

6:30-8:00  Breakfast provided at the James F. Martin Inn and Holiday Inn Express

7:00-9:00  Steering Committee Meeting

Have a safe trip home! Play on! If you have arranged shuttle transportation to return you to the airport, check with the registration desk to be sure you are set for your trip.

Poster Sessions

“Play and Social Skills Interconnected” - Arlene Puryear, Kay Hanson
“Developing A Quality, Indoor Recess Kit!” - Valerie Rush, Danielle Martin
“Play and Family Homelessness” - Sue Schlembach
“Single and Ready to Mingle” - Natalee Tipton
“The ‘First Day Hike’ Phenomenon: Family Play on New Year’s Day?” - Sarah Wilcer, Lincoln Larson, Jeff Hallo
“The Land: An Adventure Play Documentary” - Erin Davis, Morgan Leichter-Saxby
“From Camps to College” - Joey Goodman
“Real Authentic Play Opportunities and The Need for Them” - Heather Hansen-Dunbar
“Creating Your Own Play Day: Strategies & Hurdles” - Kay Hanson
“The Theory into Practice of Loose Parts on the Playground” - Jane C. Hart, Mary J. White
“Gaining Parent Participation in the Educational Play Movement” - Stephanie Krause
“What can we learn from playing video games?” - Juan Li
“Missouri State University and the Importance of PLAY” - Ryan Mitchell, Audrey Cova
“The Life of Young Children: An Examination of Child Care and the Outdoor Experience” - Heather Olsen

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE PLAY CONFERENCE 2017 - APRIL 2-5, 2017!!
Giving Thanks

Special thanks to the following organizations, who are important partners in planning The Play Conference 2016: Rebooting Play.

The following people are also deserving of our special thanks:

Much gratitude to all our silent auction donors and patrons too!

Inaugural US Play Coalition Midwest Play Conference
Saturday, June 25, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Minnesota State University - Mankato
plus a Reception at the Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota, 4:30 pm – 7:00pm
For more information, email heather.vonbank@gmail.com.

Play Facilitator Certificate of Completion Training Online Program
Individual Online Training $59/person. (Department Trainer Option $300)

Play Facilitator Certificate of Completion training is an introductory course that will help you incorporate play through two facilitation roles: supporting and directing. This introductory training is purposefully designed to meet the needs of seasonal, part-time, and temporary workers at camps, playgrounds, and after-school programs. The program is also beneficial as a training tool for full-time staff that work with and lead those individuals.

Learn more on our website - usplaycoalition.org/play-facilitation-training

#WePlayChat on Twitter
Once a month, social media savvy play advocates meet in cyberspace to “chat” about a current issue or trend in play. Our #WePlayChat has drawn participation from FIVE COUNTRIES and no one ever left the comforts of their home or office. Join in the conversations around the value of play during our #WePlayChat. This FREE professional learning opportunity is a great way to connect with fellow play enthusiasts, teachers and experts from the across the globe!

Find us on Twitter @USPlayCoalition
US Play Coalition Steering Committee

A special thanks to our volunteer Steering Committee, who dedicated an incredible amount of time, energy and commitment to making The Play Conference 2016 happen, and who do so much throughout the year to further awareness of the value of play in the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

Jodie Adams - Past President of NRPA, former Director of Springfield-Greene County Park Board in Springfield, MO
Joel Agate, PhD - Assistant Professor, Recreation and Leisure Studies, SUNY College at Brockport
Lawrence Allen, PhD - Professor, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University
Joan Almon - Alliance for Childhood
Bob Becker, PhD - Retired Academic Program Director, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University
Richard J. Dolesh - Chief of Public Policy, National Recreation and Park Association
Jackie Epping - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Joe Frost, PhD (Honorary Conference Chair) - Parker Centennial Professor Emeritus, University of Texas
Stephen Hamelin – Vortex Aquatic Structures International
Dan Hendy - CPSI, Site Masters Inc.
Teri Hendy - CPSI, President, Site Masters Inc.
Tom Kalousek - Director, Safe Play for All
Ingrid M. Kanics - OTR/L, Kanics Inclusive Design Services LLC
Kenneth S. Kutska - Executive Director, International Playground Safety Institute, LLC
Fran P. Mainella (Coalition Co-Chair) - Visiting Scholar, Clemson University, Former National Park Service Director
Tony Malkusak, ASLA, CPSI, President and Landscape Architect for Abundant Playscapes, Inc.
Danielle Marshall - Executive Director, Playworks Maryland
Tom Norquist - Senior Vice President of Marketing, Design and Product Development GameTime
Eric W. O’Brien - Chairman, O’Brien & Sons, Inc.
Lynn Pinoniemi - Director of Marketing, Landscape Structures
Peggy Riggs, Co-Director at Brio2 Solutions
Dolores Stegelin, PhD - Professor, Teacher Education, Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University
Michael Suk, M.D. - Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Geisinger Health System
Rita Watts - The Play & Playground Encyclopedia
Brett Wright, PhD (Coalition Co-Chair) - Interim Dean, College of Health, Education & Human Development, Clemson University
Playful Notes:
Thank you to our sponsors and partners!

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