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Editor's Introduction and Acknowledgments

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Editors' Introduction and Acknowledgements

Welcome to Volume 7 of *Research in Outdoor Education*! This is the second time that what were formerly known as the *Proceedings*... have been published under this new name. All of the articles and abstracts included in this publication were originally presented at the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors Seventh Biennial Research Symposium. In order to be accepted for presentation, abstracts were submitted for a blind review process. After the Symposium, authors could choose to submit their ideas as revised abstracts or in the form of full papers, which were then subjected to blind peer review, as well. As such, the articles and abstracts contained in this volume have been subjected to the scrutiny of your peers in outdoor education and, we believe, make contributions to our understanding of the field. A tremendous variety of methods are addressed in this volume, and we hope you take the time to be inspired by the creativity of the authors.

A few changes... One, for ease of presentation and readability, we have shifted to a full-page format (rather than two-columns). We hope this makes it easier for you to consume the information within. References and/or bibliographies have been included for the abstracts so that you can identify key sources and you will also find contact e-mail addresses for the lead authors of the abstracts to facilitate asking any questions you may have. Finally, Associate Editors and articles reviewers focused on the presence of a theoretical framework to accept papers for inclusion in this volume. As a result, the articles contained within are grounded in theory and represent the field's efforts to shift toward theory-driven, intentional programming. Congratulations!

The number of people required to make a publication like this possible is staggering. None of this would happen without Andy Young and his colleagues in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at SUNY Cortland. The Research Committee provides solid leadership for the Symposium and the direction of this publication. Camille Bunting coordinated the submission of the initial abstracts. The Associate Editors give of their already limited time to facilitate fair and blind review of the papers. Field reviewers spend hours crafting specific and useful feedback. Authors dedicate themselves to thoughtfully drafting original papers and then thoughtfully responding to reviewers' comments. Dedicated graduate students, like Kelly Bloom, do as much for the project as they could possibly learn from it. Finally, senior faculty members take the time to truly mentor junior faculty through a tremendous learning experience.

If anyone has been overlooked, please accept our humble apologies and most sincere thanks.

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Note: Copies of the first six volumes are still available from the Coalition for Education in the Outdoors. Contact <http://www.outdooredcoalition.org>