

## IPRA Bestows Its Highest Honors

### *Coffin Named First Slattery/Trueblood Recipient*

2010 began a new tradition like no other in IPRA history. For the first time-ever, we have a co-named award. Our highest professional award formally known as Richard J. Slattery Outstanding Professional Award was renamed the Slattery/Trueblood Professional Award.

Ms. Cindy Coffin is the first recipient of IPRA's highest professional co-named award. Cindy began in 1981 as a program supervisor with the city of Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. In that role, she has been responsible for designing and implementing activities for persons with special needs. She was instrumental in the development of Iowa City's SPI (Special Populations Involvement) program which was the first community based therapeutic recreation program in the state of Iowa. Under her leadership, Iowa City was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation Excellence in 1984 and then again in 1992. This accomplishment has not been met by any other Iowa community.



*Award recipient Cindy Coffin (center), joined by Mike Moran and Waunita Trueblood.*

(Continued on Page 4)

*Our Mission ...  
"To support the advancement of park, recreation and environmental conservation opportunities through education, resource tools and advocacy."*

[www.iapra.org](http://www.iapra.org)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Employment Opportunities	2
The Big Top Rocked	3
Service Club of Excellence Award	4
2010 Scholarship Recipients	5
2010 IPRA Spring Conference Photos	6
Fellowship Recipients	7
Membership Directory Updates & Calendar of Events	8

### *Young Professional Recipient Goes to Josh Larsen*

*Josh Larsen (holding plaque) shown with his family after receiving the Young Professional Award.*



Parks and Recreation Director Joshua Larsen was tabbed as this year's recipient of the Carole Hanson Outstanding New Professional Award. Josh has been actively involved with IPRA as a member of the Special Training and Seminars committee. Most recently, he is serving as committee chair. He has assisted in creating/implementing one-day workshops for young professionals, parks professionals, in addition to community forums geared towards the general membership. IPRA/Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation NRPA Fellowship Grant was jointly created in the summer of 2009. This grant allows a professional who has never attended or at least not

(Continued on Page 4)

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## City of Belle Plaine Parks and Recreation Director

The Belle Plaine Parks and Recreation Board is now accepting cover letters and résumés for the position of Parks and Recreation Director. A unique opportunity to lead a progressive city of 2,800 people. This is a full-time position with benefits and paid holidays. Bachelor's degree in Leisure Services/Recreation preferred or any equivalent combination of experience and training.

**Job Summary:** Directs the operational, financial, personnel and capital improvement activities of the Parks and Recreation Department. Responsible for planning, organizing, supervising and administering a variety of community events and activities, including operating our new Family Aquatic Center.

For more information or questions please contact Joel Formanek at City Hall by calling 319-444-2200 or emailing [parkandrec@netins.net](mailto:parkandrec@netins.net).

Cover letters and résumés can be sent to: City of Belle Plaine, Attn: Les Jacobi, 1207 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Belle Plaine, IA 52208.

All resumes must be received by **May 28, 2010** to be considered.

## Sioux Falls, South Dakota Recreation Manager

**Hiring Range DOQ:** \$2,248.00-\$2,494.40 bi-weekly

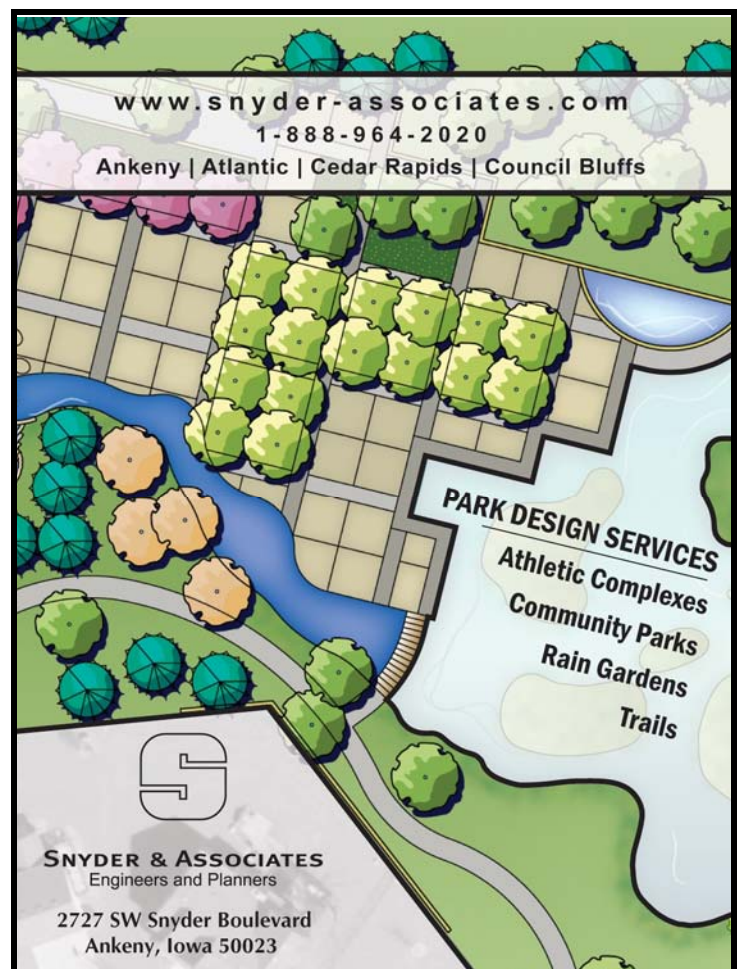
**Deadline for Filing:** Friday, May 21, 2010 at 5:00 pm

**The Position** – Direct, supervise and promote a comprehensive municipal recreation program while establishing and maintaining effective relationships with user groups, employees and department management.

**Minimum Qualifications** – Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in recreation administration or a related field and a minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible management experience in a parks and

recreation department; or any such combination of education, experience and training as may be acceptable to the hiring authority. National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Certified Park and Recreation Professional designation is desirable.

Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation is a nationally accredited agency serving 157,000 residents and a significant non-resident population. The park system consists of 2,913 acres of parkland made up of 72 developed parks, 15 undeveloped sites, 3 support sites, 3 golf courses, a baseball stadium, an ice and recreation center, 5 community centers and 4 enlarged gyms. The city offers a competitive benefit and compensation package. Visit our website to view the job description and a video highlighting more about the position and our park system. Apply online at [www.siouxfalls.org](http://www.siouxfalls.org). Please call 605-367-8740 with any questions.





# THE BIG TOP ROCKED!!!!

It was a circus, but I think everyone went home happy. I hope everyone had a good time, got a chance to see the “new and improved” Sioux City and learned some things. Networking was at an all-time high. The thunder of the drum line got things started and then our keynote speaker, Fran Mainella, reminded us of the importance of play. No one can question that park and recreation professionals “work hard and play harder”.

The dueling pianos brought us all together for a night of fun that we can repeat at the Fall Workshop. The weather was fantastic as we were able to enjoy being outdoors during the off-site tours and golf. The exhibit hall was full as delegates visited with the vendors about their products and services. The awards banquet was memorable with the awarding of the inaugural Slattery-Trueblood Award. With Gil Spence as the Master of Ceremonies and Waunita Trueblood present for the award it was a special moment with emotion and tears. Congratulations to all the award recipients. We capped off the evening with a great auction and raised money for next year’s scholarships.

Our conference facilities offer the walkable ease and convenience of a great experience. I want to thank everyone who attended the conference. I know it takes a special effort to travel this far west but I hope you found it worthwhile once you got back home. Thank you to the following sponsors who helped make it all happen:

## Platinum Sponsors (\$1,500 +)

Boland Recreation      Outdoor Recreation Products

## Gold Sponsors (\$1,000 - \$1,499)

Burbach Aquatics      Musco Sports Lighting

## Silver Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)

Beef Products, Inc.	Chesterman Company	Enter Prizes
Howard R. Green	Olsson Associates	Pool Tech Midwest
Sioux City Eng.	Shade Creations by Waterloo	Shive-Hattery
Waterloo Tent & Tarp	Iowa Amateur Softball Association	

## Bronze Sponsors (up to - \$499)

Argosy Casino	Sport Construction Midwest	Distinctive Gourmet
Kay Park & Rec.	Water’s Edge Aquatic Design	Premier Recreation Products
RDG Planning & Design	Tennis Services of Iowa	Sioux City Convention Center

*Rita Potter greeted the banquet attendees as we celebrated the memory of Terry Trueblood.*



*Keynote Speaker, Fran Mainella*

Without a great Conference Planning Committee this would not have been possible. Thank you to Steve, Mandi, Betty, Debbie, Geoff, Angie, Cindy and Andy. Remember what Gil Spence said at the banquet, we’re privileged to be part of a “noble” profession. Happy trails until we can meet again, hopefully, in Sioux City in 2015.

**Submitted by Terry Hoffman, Parks and Recreation Manager, City of Sioux City, and 2010 Spring Conference Chair.**

## Coffin Named First Slattery/Trueblood Recipient

(Continued from Page 1)

In addition to her passion for Iowa City's SPI program, Cindy has been a driving force in the development of Iowa's Special Olympics organization. She coordinates the Spring Games which are held on the University of Iowa campus every March. Additionally, she coordinates the Soccer Skills Competition for the eastern half of Iowa.

Cindy's thirty years of service to IPRA has included an array of responsibilities, spanning many committees, sections and special events. She has served the TR Section, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, Spring Conference committees in addition to the Board of Directors. Her current responsibilities include chairing the Professional Certification and Continuing Education Board (PCCEB) as well as serving on the NRPA Great Lakes Regional Council.

In a letter of support Ms. Sheba Francis, MSW, states, "Cindy displays many attributes that define her as a professional: highly motivated, sincere, high moral standards, great communication skills, very dependable and an outstanding leader who inspires others to greater achievement....Cindy is a thoughtful, goal-driven, people-first-person. Her passion for helping others in unparalleled."

Her certifications include Certified Park and Recreation Professional and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

Our highest professional award is named after Mr. Richard J. Slattery and Mr. Terry Trueblood. Both gentlemen were extremely devoted professionals and dedicated to the Iowa Park and Recreation Association. Each held virtually every office in the association, including president. Together, they exemplified the spirit of the leisure movement. The goals of the parks and recreation professional is to add to the fullness of the lives of people: likewise, it was their goal to add to the fullness of the lives of those they touched each and every day.



Ankeny Jaycees were announced as this year's recipient. The group is a leadership and service organization for young professionals living in this central Iowa community. Dedicating themselves to making Ankeny a better place to live, work and play earned this statewide acknowledgement. Since 2006, Jaycees gifted \$25,000 to the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex (which helped leverage more than \$650,000 in cash and in-kind), exclusive sponsor of the annual Ankeny Youth Triathlon, gifted picnic tables and grills to the largest outdoor public shelter, organizes the Easter Egg Hunt, and provided volunteers for "Ankeny Unplugged Concert Series". In the words of nominator, Todd Redenius, "with current economic conditions and city budget as they are, having a partner like the Ankeny Jaycees provides parks and recreation the opportunity to add value back into programs without having to raise program fees or cut back on the participant experience". The Service Club of Excellence Award is given to recognize a service group outside of our profession which has supported and contributed to the strengthening of programs and resources of leisure services by outstanding contributions to the park, recreation, and conservation movement. IPRA membership is not required.

## Young Professional Recipient Goes to Larsen

(Continued from Page 1)

attended for seven years the National Recreation and Park Association Congress. First recipient of the Fellowship was Josh. He represented IPRA and IFPR during the 2009 Congress in Salt Lake City. Josh's traits extended well beyond being a consummate professional which endured him as a selected candidate for the IPRA's Leadership Institute.

One trait of a leader is the ability to self-motivate. Josh has been creative with new programming ideas and cultivated collaborative relationships which have generated more resources for an enhanced quality of life for the residents of Huxley.

During his tenure as chair of the Special Training and Seminars committee, he has developed seven new training opportunities for association members to take advantage of. He has reached out to all segments of our profession, focusing on professional training for a variety of disciplines within our profession. In the span of one year, nearly all of the goals within IPRA's three year action plan of the ST&S committee have been reached. New partnerships have been forged through Josh's leadership with the National Program for Playground Safety and the University of Iowa (therapeutic and older active adult recreation).

Amazingly, Josh is able to balance his demanding career with his personal life and not only promotes an active, healthy lifestyle but demonstrates it through his own partnership as a member of the Lance Armstrong LIVESTRONG Foundation. It is not only the citizenry of Huxley that has benefited from Josh's passion, dedication, leadership and tireless enthusiasm but also the service clubs and local organizations where he has volunteered.



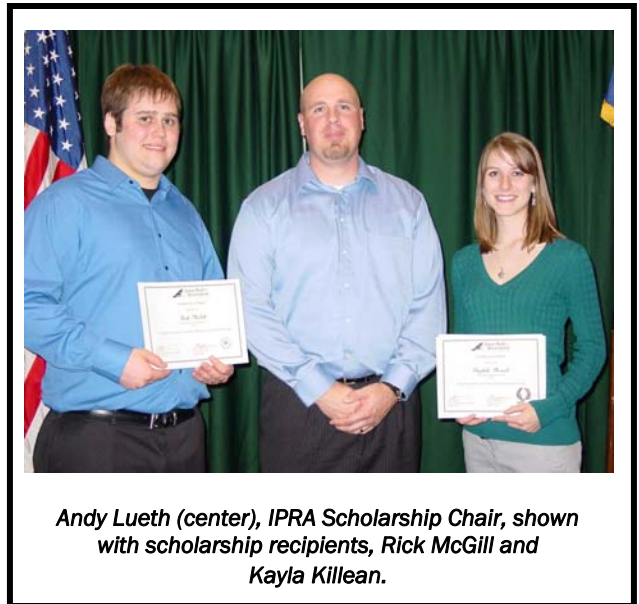
# 2010 Scholarship Recipients

With the restructuring of the higher education scholarship program, the J. Niven Nichols was eliminated. Our NRPA Congress Fellowship grant replaced the Nichols scholarship. Three higher education scholarships were bestowed during this year's awards banquet held on April 13 in Sioux City.

Elizabeth Messerli who majors in Leisure, Youth and Human Services at the University of Northern Iowa is the Kathryn Krieg Membership Scholarship recipient. She hails from Fairfield, Iowa. Expected date of graduation is May 2012. Currently, Ms. Messerli works as the online training coordinator with the National Program for Playground Safety located on the UNI campus. Working for a not-for-profit leisure organization such as the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program or the United Service Organization within the U.S. military is an aspiration. Value of the scholarship is \$1,000.

This year's Musco Sports Lighting and Outdoor Recreation Products scholarship recipient is Ms. Kayla Killean. She is a senior from University of Iowa majoring in Therapeutic Recreation. Her advisor is well-known in IPRA, Dr. Ken Mobily. Ms. Killean's home town is Park Ridge, Illinois. Love for parks and recreation began just five years ago as a camp counselor for her local park district in Illinois. Because of the work ethic, she has been requested to come back each of the past four summers. Just last summer she was promoted to Assistant Site Camp Director. Value of the scholarship is \$750.

Mr. Rick McGill is a two-time higher education scholarship recipient. Last year, he received the Musco Sports Lighting and Outdoor Recreation Products schol-



*Andy Lueth (center), IPRA Scholarship Chair, shown with scholarship recipients, Rick McGill and Kayla Killean.*

**Innovative, challenging playground equipment**

- Fun climbing and overhead events that move!
- Water play features
- Accessible, inclusive play environments

**LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES INC**

**Skatewave™ modular-steel skate park components**

**Vortex Splashpads®**

**Park benches, tables, shelters, grills and more**

**Athletic equipment**

**Superior service since 1979**

- On-site consultations
- Custom design and layout
- Unsurpassed quality
- Serving Nebraska and Iowa

**800-747-KIDS (5437)**  
 1055 N. 204th Ave. ■ Elkhorn, NE 68022  
 Phone 402-289-0400 ■ Fax 402-289-0300  
[www.OutdoorRecreationProducts.com](http://www.OutdoorRecreationProducts.com)

**outdoor recreation products**

ship. This year he is the recipient of the Iowa Amateur Softball Association scholarship. Mr. McGill is majoring in Leisure, Youth and Human Services at the University of Northern Iowa. Expected graduation date is May 2011. A passion for the profession started three years ago as a part-time staffer and volunteer with Independence (Iowa) parks and recreation.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Tom Topping, State Commissioner, Iowa ASA; Mr. Todd Stych, Musco Sports Lighting; Jennifer and Bill Pospichal, Outdoor Recreation Products for their continued support of future professionals. Also, thank you to all those IPRA members who contributed to the Kathryn Krieg Membership Scholarship fund drive.

## Congratulations...

To Doug and Erica Foley on the birth of Brooke Elizabeth Foley, Wednesday, April 21, 2010. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Doug is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the city of Manchester.



Swaying to the "Piano Man" at the Dueling Piano social are Chad Weir, Joel Formanek, Jessica Hamer, Terry Hoffman, Amy Faulkner and Brad Barker.

Enjoying the Tuesday banquet were from left to right: Angie Cole, Cindy Coffin, Becky Spence, Waunita Trueblood, Jessica Hamer, Jane Hoffman, Marie Ware and Chelsea Bengford.



**I  
P  
R  
A**

Angie Cole visits with MSA Professional Services representatives, Kevin Stocker and Justin Vogel



**S  
P  
R  
I  
N  
G**



Li6 Reunion from left to right (front row): Libby Gemberling, Katie "Leader of the Pack" McKinnon, Mandi "Short Cake" Parker, and Rick Courcier. Back row: Chelsea Bengford, Josh Larsen, Sherri Penney, Mindi "Eating for 2" O'Hern and Mitch Aalbers.

It was a great day on the Green Valley Golf Course for D J Bylund, Matt Beatty, Chad Weir and Mindi O'Hern. Of course, Mindi carried the team.



**C  
O  
N  
F  
E  
R  
E  
N  
C  
E**

**2  
0  
1  
0**



Where were the rest of you when Terry Hoffman and Josh Larsen worked out at 5:30 a.m. in the YMCA spinning class???

# SPRING CONFERENCE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS SHARE EXPERIENCES

*(Through the generosity of the Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation, two individuals received grants to help defray costs of attending the Spring Conference. This year's recipients, Jessica Hamer and Chelsea Bengford, share experiences of attending IPRA's largest annual educational and networking event.)*



**Jessica Hamer, Office Coordinator, Iowa City Recreation Division:**

WOW! WOW! WOW! What an awesome opportunity the IPRA Spring Conference was for me!

I was able to attend very informative and interesting sessions, meet some vendors and see what new and exciting products they had to offer, eat lots of good food and enjoy the company of some terrific Parks and Recreation professionals from all over the state!

I am not sure how I got lucky enough to be paired up with Angie Cole as my mentor, but the girl did an amazing job at introducing me to people, answering my questions and teaching me how to schmooze the exhibitors.

I want to thank the foundation for the awesome opportunity! I look forward to networking more in the future with my new-found friends/colleagues, bouncing ideas off each other, attending IPRA Forums, IPRA Leadership Institute, meetings and social gatherings in order to continue gaining knowledge about how to improve the Iowa City Recreation Division.

I would personally like to thank the Foundation Board Members for offering and extending the fellowship to me. Thank you Gil Spence, Chris Page, Pete Downs, Angie Cole, Steve Grimes, Pat Prevenas, Terry Hoffman, Jennifer Pospichal, Sherri Proud, Duane Randall, Mark Jennings, Ward Stubbs, Jerry Gazaway, Terry Gray, Doug Bylund, Ben Page and last but not least, Steve Jordison.

I want to extend a special thank you to Terry Hoffman, who hosted the IPRA Spring Conference in Sioux City this year. Terry (and his crew) put a lot of thought and hard work into this year's conference and it showed!

I was very fortunate to have attended the conference as it was dedicated to my former boss, Terry Trueblood. At Tuesday's banquet, I was able to sit at the same table as Terry's widow, Waunita, and hold her hand and cry during the emotional tribute to Terry. I also got to share in seeing Cindy Coffin (my co-worker) receive the first Slattery-Trueblood Award. What a touching and wonderful experience to be a part of! Thank you, again!

**Chelsea Bengford, Director, Sac Community Center:**



First of all, I would like to thank the IFPR board members for granting me the opportunity to attend the 2010 IPRA Spring Conference. I am so grateful that I was able to meet a number of outstanding parks and recreation professionals. Since I am new to the field, I value all of the resources that IPRA has to offer its members. I am impressed by how friendly and helpful everyone is.

A special thank you goes out to Cindy Coffin who was my mentor for the conference. I enjoyed getting to meet her, and I know that she will be a great resource for me in the future. I would also like to thank Matt Salvatore who has had a strong influence on my interest in IPRA.

I enjoyed all of the educational sessions that I attended, as well as the evening socials. It's refreshing and eye-opening to have the chance to visit with other professionals about the successes and failures within their departments. I am excited to implement what I have learned and to participate in future IPRA events. I would encourage anyone who has not attended a Spring Conference to do so in the future. It's definitely worth the time away from the office! Thanks again to everyone who helped make the 2010 IPRA Spring Conference a success.

## Janet Ellerbrock Received Recognition

For nearly two decades Ms. Janet Ellerbrock served IPRA members and non-members from behind the scenes. Her giftedness in the world of aquatics was acknowledged by President Ben Page (DSM) during the awards banquet held in conjunction with the Spring Conference. Primary leadership was serving as the IPRA on-site coordinator for all Certified Pool Operator

**Ben Page congratulating award recipient Janet Ellerbrock.**



courses in addition to Aquatic CEU Workshops. During the course of any given year, IPRA conducts 11 Aquatic CEU Workshops followed by 10 CPO courses with more than 500 yearly attendees. Her talents were also lent to chairing the IPRA Aquatics Committee. Thanks, Janet and future best wishes.



1534 Penrose Street  
Grinnell, IA 50112

Phone: 641.236.3917  
FAX: 641.236.6779  
www.iapra.org

*IPRA Today* is produced by the I.P.R.A.  
Publications Committee Chair, Mindi O'Hern,  
[rechbt@ci.humboldt.ia.us](mailto:rechbt@ci.humboldt.ia.us).

Layout design by  
Cathy Shutts,  
[cshutts@pcpartner.net](mailto:cshutts@pcpartner.net)



## IPRA Calendar of Events

### May

- 10 CEU/Aquatic Workshop—Cedar Rapids
- 11-12 Certified Pool Operator's Course—  
Cedar Rapids
- 21 Pool Manager's Workshop—Clive
- 26 Personnel Committee mtg.—Des Moines
- 26 Iowa Foundation for Parks & Recreation mtg.—  
Des Moines
- 31 State Office Closed—Memorial Day

### June

- 7 CEU/Aquatic Update—Fort Dodge
- 8-9 Certified Pool Operator's Course—Fort Dodge
- 18 IPRA Board Meeting—Grinnell

## *Membership Directory Updates*

- *Marshalltown Parks and Recreation has moved. New location is 10 W State Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158*
- *Lori Swan, Administrative Assistant, Inspector, Washington County Environmental Health, P. O. Box 889, Courthouse, Washington, IA 52353 (correct mailing address)*
- *Jeff Thomann, Administrator, Washington County Environmental Health, P. O. Box 889, Courthouse, Washington, IA 52353 (correct mailing address)*
- *New Member: Barry Dodd, Project Coordinator, All Inclusive Rec, P. O. Box 72, Farmington, MO 63640; e-mail address: [air@allinclusiverec.com](mailto:air@allinclusiverec.com).*
- *New Member: Richard Steinke, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Cedar Rapids Parks & Recreation; e-mail address: [r.steinke@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:r.steinke@cedar-rapids.org).*
- *New Member: Melissa Russell, Recreation Director, West Branch Parks and Recreation; e-mail address: [recdirector@westbranchiowa.org](mailto:recdirector@westbranchiowa.org).*
- *New Member: Frank Heys, Sales Representative, Musco Sports Lighting, 100 1st Avenue W, Oskaloosa, IA 52577; e-mail address: [promotions@musco.com](mailto:promotions@musco.com).*
- *New Member: Wesley Holtkamp, Recreation Associate, Coralville Recreation Center; e-mail address: [kamper06@hotmail.com](mailto:kamper06@hotmail.com).*