

Dr. Natalia Buta

Contact Information:

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Research Interests:

- Outdoor recreation and community and ecological well-being
- Management of visitors, concessionaires, and tourism in parks and protected areas
- Community engagement in natural resource planning and management
- Marketing of ecotourism and nature-based tourism destinations

Academic Background:

2006 – 2010	University of Florida , Gainesville, FL Ph.D. , Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management Concentration: Natural Resources Recreation Minor: Community Development Dissertation Title: <i>Local Communities and Protected Areas: Social Dimensions of Pro-environmental Engagement in Retezat National Park, Romania</i>
2004 – 2006	Central Michigan University , Mount Pleasant, MI Master of Arts , Recreation and Parks Administration, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services Title of Project: <i>A Study for Establishing an Academic Program in Recreation and Leisure Services at University of Oradea, Romania</i>
1998 – 2002	University of Oradea , Romania Bachelor of Science , Marketing, College of Business Diploma Paper: <i>Public Relations and Communication Strategies Implemented by Non -Governmental Organizations</i>

Professional Experience:

Aug. 2017 – Present	Chair and Associate Professor , Department of Kinesiology and Recreation Frostburg State University, Frostburg MD <i>Graduate Coordinator</i> , RPM Online Graduate Program since July 2013 <i>Undergraduate Program Coordinator</i> , RPM Program since August 2016 <u>Responsibilities:</u> Chair of the Department and coordinator of both the undergraduate and graduate program in Recreation and Parks Management (RPM); teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in the RPM program, advising students, conducting research and engaging in service endeavors.
Aug. 2011 – 2017	Assistant Professor , Department of Kinesiology and Recreation Frostburg State University, Frostburg MD

Undergraduate Coordinator, Recreation and Parks Management Program since August 2016

Graduate Coordinator, RPM Online Graduate Program since July 2013

Responsibilities: Teaching various courses (Introduction to Recreation and Parks, Park and Facility Design and Maintenance, History and Philosophy of Outdoor Recreation, Program Planning, Principles of Ecotourism, Environmental Interpretation, Research Methods and Evaluation in RPM, Thesis Preparation), advising undergraduate and graduate students, conducting research and engaging in service endeavors.

Aug. 2010 –
May 2011

Lecturer, Department of Recreation and Parks Management

Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD

Responsibilities: Teaching four courses (Introduction to Recreation and Parks, Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation, Park and Facility Design and Maintenance, Program Planning) and advising students.

2006 – 2010

Graduate Teaching/ Research Assistant, Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management, University of Florida

Responsibilities: Teaching undergraduate courses; conducting research projects in collaboration with faculty; acting as a research assistant for Center for Tourism Research and Development at the University of Florida.

Summer 2007

Marketing Consultant, Center for Protected Areas and Sustainable Development, Bihor, Romania

Responsibilities: Developing the ecotourism product offerings for the Rosia – Remetea region and creating a touristic visual identity (including slogan and logo) for the area as part of the *Alternatives for Biodiversity Conservation in the Rosia – Remetea Region, Padurea Craiului Mountains, Romania* project.

Summer 2005

Marketing Consultant, Apuseni Experience, Romania (ecotourism agency)

Responsibilities: Developing a strategic marketing plan for the agency, with a focus on identifying target markets and developing ecotourism offerings to respond to target market needs.

2004 – 2006

Graduate Research/ Teaching Assistant, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services, Central Michigan University

Responsibilities: Directly involved in departmental projects, faculty research projects, assistance with the development of a marketing textbook, and teaching responsibilities.

2002 – 2003

Human Resources Assistant, Insolv Expert, srl, Oradea, Romania (company providing accounting services)

Responsibilities: Maintained personnel records, salaries, and payroll administration.

2001 – 2002

Office Assistant, Insolv Expert, srl, Oradea, Romania

Responsibilities: Data entry, maintenance of financial records and accounts.

1996 – 2004

Member of the **Romanian Scout Organization**

As a member of the Romanian Scout Organization, I assumed multiple responsibilities over the years:

- **President of the Local Scout Center (Oradea)** of the Romanian Scout Organization between 2000 and 2003. In this role, I was a leader and organizer of a series of community programs and outdoor recreation activities for youth.
- **Member of the National Program Team** of the Romanian Scout Organization between 2000 and 2003.
- Coordinator of the Department of Imagine and Communication for the International Scout Camp “Europadis 2003” (300 participants being involved from four countries).
- Initiated and coordinated educational projects in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, Ecotop (on ecological issues), Multiple Sclerosis Organization, Life Organization (on youth assistance and involvement). Also volunteered for these organizations.
- Represented the Romanian Scout Organization at the European Scout Forum (Spain, 2001). Participated at international seminars and training courses on program development, adult resources management, public relations and image (Switzerland, 2001; Brasov, Romania, 2001; Hungary, 2000).
- Leader and organizer of multiple international youth exchanges between Romania and other countries, youth exchanges focused on environmental concerns, sports, and leisure: Germany (2004), Poland (2004), Italy (2003), Sweden (2002), and Italy (2000).

Teaching Experience:

Fall 2010 -
Present

RECR 201: Introduction to Recreation and Parks

RECR 221: Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation

RECR 342: Park and Facility Design and Maintenance

RECR 382: Program Planning

RECR 393: History and Philosophy of Outdoor Recreation

RECR 488: Principles of Ecotourism

RECR 681: Research Methods and Evaluation in RPSM (Online Graduate Course)

RECR 490: Special Topics – Environmental Interpretation

RECR 490 Special Topics in Recreation and Parks: New Zealand - Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment (Summer 2015; 2016)

RECR 683: Thesis Preparation (Online Graduate Course)
RECR 700: Research Project or Thesis (Online Graduate Course)
 Frostburg State University, Recreation and Parks Management Program

Spring 2010 Instructor	LEI 3546: Park Management University of Florida, Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management LEI 6931: Marketing in Hospitality and Tourism (teaching assistant)
Fall 2009 & Spring 2008 Instructor	LEI 3400: Recreation Programming Design University of Florida, Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management
Fall 2007, Spring 2007 & Fall 2006 Instructor	LEI 2181: Leisure in Contemporary Society University of Florida, Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management
Spring 2006 & Fall 2005 Co-Instructor	RLA 180: Introduction to Backpacking Central Michigan University, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services

Professional Service:

Invited Reviewer Journal Manuscripts - *Society and Natural Resources Journal*
Journal of Forestry
Journal of Park and Recreation Administration
Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Leisure Sciences: An Interdisciplinary Journal
Journal of Sustainable Tourism
The Sport Marketing Quarterly
SAGE Open

Conference Program Committee member – *National Outdoor Recreation Conference (2018) hosted by the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals*

Reviewer Scholarly Conference – *Southeastern Recreation Research (SERR) Conference*

Member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (2017 – present)

Member College of Education Curriculum Committee (2017 – present)

Member of the Academic Monitoring Committee (College of Education) (2017 – present)

FSU Graduate Council – Secretary (2013 – present)

FSU Faculty Development and Sabbatical Subcommittee – Vice-president (2015 – May 2016); Committee Chair (May 2016 – present)

Chair of the 2nd Annual Graduate Research Symposium at Frostburg State University, May 12, 2016

Member of the FSU Faculty Senate (August 2016 – present); member of the FCC committee (August 2016 – present)

Member of the FSU Provost Search Committee (October 2016 – December 2016)

Member of the FSU Strategic Planning Task Force (October 2016 - present)

Member of the FSU Adventure Sports contractual faculty search committee (Spring 2016)

Student Organization Advisor: Recreation Society (2010 – present), Frostburg State University; former advisor of the Climbing Club

Home Ground (a non-profit organization promoting outdoor recreation in Allegany County, MD – **Board member** (2012 – 2016); Discover Allegany Outdoors Program Coordinator

Member of the Cumberland Recreation and Parks Department Advisory Board (2011-2017)

Member of the Savage River State Forest Advisory Board (2011-2017)

Committee member: Climbing wall Team - Directly involved in the design and planning process for the new climbing wall at FSU (2013-2014)
President's Task Force on Leadership – Steering Committee Member; Frostburg State University (2012)
Member of the Leadership Studies Minor Advisory Committee (2012-2013)
Student Research and Creative Endeavors, An Exhibition. Central Michigan University, College of Education and Human Services (2004 and 2005)
Summer Job Fair. Central Michigan University, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services (2005 and 2006)

Research Projects:

Visitation and Economics of Recreation/Tourism in Western Maryland State Forests (October 2016 – June 2019)

- Project funded by Appalachian Regional Commission and Maryland Heritage Areas Program – Total funding: \$40,158.
- Technical report and presentations completed.

El Yunque National Forest Visitor Carrying Capacity Study (July 2013 – 2014)

- Principal investigator: Dr. Natalia Buta; Co-PI: Dr. Taylor Stein, University of Florida
- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, quantitative and qualitative data collection, data processing, data analysis, data interpretation.
- Outcomes: so far, two journal articles in preparation, 3 conference presentations, technical report, a project findings presentation/ workshop at El Yunque National Forest.
- Funding US Forest Service: \$29,634.98

Local Communities and Protected Areas: Social Dimensions of Pro-Environmental Engagement in Retezat National Park, Romania (Summer 2009 – Dissertation Work)

- Principal investigator: Dr. Natalia Buta
- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, quantitative and qualitative data collection, data processing, data analysis, data interpretation.
- Outcomes: four journal articles and multiple regional, national, and international conference presentations; new community projects to engage the public with the park.
- Dr. Linda Thornton Scholarship: \$1,000

Tampa Super Bowl – Spectator Survey (2009)

- Principal investigator: Dr. Kyriaki Kaplanidou
- Role: Research assistant

- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, on-site and online data collection, data processing, data analysis, data interpretation.
- Outcomes: one national conference presentation.

Athens Classic Marathon – Participant Survey (2008-2009)

- Principal investigator: Dr. Kyriaki Kaplanidou
- Role: Research assistant
- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, online data collection, data processing, data analysis, writing technical report.
- Outcomes: technical report and one international conference presentation.

Ecotourism Certification: An Examination of Online Marketing of International Ecotourism Operations (2008-2009)

- Principle investigator: Natalia Buta and Co PI: Tinelle Bustam
- Responsibilities: Research design, data collection, data analysis and interpretation.
- Outcomes: one journal article and four conference presentations (national and international).

Paddle Florida-Participant Survey (2008)

- Research team: Tinelle Bustam, Natalia Buta, Seohee Chang, & Joel McCormick
- Faculty supervisor: Dr. Heather Gibson
- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, data collection and processing, data analysis, writing technical report.
- Outcomes: technical report, an abstract publication and four conference presentations (national and regional).

Team 21 After-School Program Evaluation Survey (2007-2008)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Ariel Rodríguez
- Role: Research assistant
- Responsibilities: IRB protocol, instrument development, data processing, data analysis, writing technical report.
- Outcomes: technical report and three conference presentations (international and regional).
- Project funded by the Wyoming (MI) Public Schools

A Model Assessment of the Leisure Experience Causal Influence on Life Satisfaction (2007-2008)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Ariel Rodríguez
- Role: Research assistant
- Responsibilities: Research design, IRB protocol, instrument development.
- Outcomes: one international conference presentation.

Anticipated Leisure Experience and Activity Participation (2007-2008)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Ariel Rodríguez
- Role: Research Assistant
- Responsibilities: Research design and data analysis.

The Status of the Aging Content Knowledge in the Outdoor Recreation Curricula (2006-2007)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Beland
- Role: Research Assistant
- Responsibilities: Research design, collecting, processing, and analyzing data.
- Outcomes: one national conference presentation.

A Study for Establishing an Academic Program in Recreation and Leisure Services at University of Oradea, Romania (2006)

- Principal Investigator: Natalia Buta
- Responsibilities: Research design, data collection and processing, data analysis and interpretation.

The Benefits of a Gift: An Evaluation of the Gifts Provided by the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan (2005-2006)

- Project funded by the Research and Creative Endeavors Committee at the Central Michigan University.
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Mary Lou Schilling
- Role: Research Assistant
- Responsibilities: Processing and analyzing data, writing technical report.
- Outcomes: technical report.

Establishing a One Mile Interpretative Trail as Part of the Green Pine Pathway Natural Area in Clare County, Michigan (2005)

- Project initiated by the Clare County Recreation and Parks Department, Michigan
- Role: Member of the project team
- Responsibilities: To develop a self-guided, mile long, interpretative nature trail for Clare County Recreation and Parks Department
- Outcomes: A brochure was developed to help guide the tourists through the ten stops along the loop.

Books:

Jensen, C., Naylor, J. H., **Buta**, N., & Decker, A. (2005). *Opportunities in Recreation and Leisure Careers* (Rev. ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Peer Reviewed Publications:

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- Buta**, N., Kaplanidou, K., & Holland, S. M. (2014). Local communities and protected areas: The mediating role of park attachment for pro-environmental civic engagement. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 5(6), 1-10.
- Buta**, N., Holland, S.M., & Bustam, T.D. (2013). Residents' interactions with Retezat National Park, Romania: Implications for perceived environmental responsibility. *World Leisure Journal*, 55(2), 151-166.
- Buta**, N., Holland, S. M., & Brennan, M. A. (2013). An assessment of citizen differences in conservation attitudes, affective response, and pro-environmental engagement: Findings from rural Romania. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 31(2), 6-27.
- Buta**, N., Brennan, M. A., & Holland, S. M. (2012). A mixed methods investigation of community attachment in rural Romania. *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*, 27(1), 24-51.
- Bustam, T. D., **Buta**, N., & Stein, T. V. (2012). The role of education in ecotourism certification: An assessment of international ecotour operators' internet promotion. *Journal of Ecotourism*, 11(2), 85-101.
- Bustam, T.D., Thapa, B., **Buta**, N. (2011). Demographic differences within race/ethnicity group constraints to outdoor recreation participation. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, 29(4), 53-71.

Abstract Publications:

Bustam, T. D., **Buta**, N., & McCormick, J. (2010). Involvement in outdoor recreation and perceived safety on public lands. *Journal of Forestry*.

Articles in Preparation:

- Buta**, N., Stein, T.V., & Bustam, T.D. (To be submitted). Assessing Crowding Perceptions and Satisfaction among Visitors at El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico. Prepared for *Leisure Sciences Journal*.
- Linhart, J. B., **Buta**, N., Stein, T. V., & Bustam, T. D. (To be submitted). Assessment of Satisfaction with Site Conditions, Quality of Recreation Experience, and Preferred Management Actions among Visitors at El Yunque National Forest, PR. Prepared for the *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*.
- Buta**, N., Stein, T.V., & Bustam, T.D. (In preparation). Visitor Perceptions of Crowding and Conflict at El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico. Prepared for *Tourism Analysis Journal*.
- Buta**, N. (In preparation). Resident's Images and Perceptions of their Community and a Neighboring Park. Prepared for *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*.
- Buta**, N. (In preparation). The European Union framework for nature conservation: Governance across level of scale. Prepared for *Society and Natural Resources Journal*.

Paper Proceedings:

- Bustam, T. D., **Buta**, N., & McCormick, J. (2009). Involvement in outdoor recreation and perceived safety on public lands. In the *2009 Society of American Foresters National Convention Proceedings*. Orlando, FL: SAF.

Technical Reports:

- **Buta**, N., Stein, T. V., Linhart, J., & Stone, M. (2014). *El Yunque National Forest Visitor Carrying Capacity Study*. Submitted to El Yunque National Forest management team.
- **Buta**, N., & Kaplanidou, K. (2009). *2008 Athens Classic Marathon*. Submitted to SEGAS (Hellenic Athletics Federation).
- Bustam, T., **Buta**, N., Chang, S., & McCormick, J., & Gibson, H. (2008). *Paddle Florida March 2008 Survey Report*. Submitted to Paddle Florida Organizing Committee.
- Rodriguez, A., **Buta**, N., & Wu, T. B. (2008). *Team 21 After-School Program Evaluation*. Submitted to City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department and Wyoming Public Schools.
- Schilling, M. L., Sarigiani, P., VanValkenburg, J., **Buta**, N., & McDowell, A. (2006). *The benefits of a gift: An evaluation of the gifts provided by the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan*. Submitted to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan.

Research Presentations (* Denotes the presenter):

International (Refereed)

- *Stein, T. V., **Buta**, N., Bustam, T. D. (2015). Understanding crowding and tourism management in a popular tropical rainforest. *Paper presentation at the 24th Nordic Symposium in Tourism and Hospitality*, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 1 – 3, 2015.
- ***Buta**, N., Stein, T. V., & Bustam, T. D. (2014). Assessing crowding perceptions and satisfaction among visitors at El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico. *Paper*

- presentation at the 7th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV)*, Tallinn, Estonia, August 20-23.
- ***Buta, N.**, Stein, T. V., & Bustam, T. D. (2014). Visitor perceptions of crowding and conflict at El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico. *Paper presentation at the SAF National Convention and IUFRO World Congress*, Salt Lake, Utah, October 8-11.
 - ***Stein, T.V., Buta, N.**, Baraoidan, S., Macrellis, A., & Bustam, T. (2014). Assessing the attitudes, motivations, and perceptions of visitors to El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico. *Paper presentation at the SAF National Convention and IUFRO World Congress*, Salt Lake, Utah, October 8-11.
 - ***Buta, N.** & Kyriaki Kaplanidou (2013). Local communities and protected areas: The mediating role of park attachment for pro-environmental civic engagement. *Paper presentation at the SORP & IUFRO – Forests for People Conference*, Traverse City, MI, May 19-23.
 - ***Buta, N.** (2013). Global aspects of natural resource planning: Case study Romania. *Paper presentation at the SORP & IUFRO – Forests for People Conference*, Traverse City, MI, May 19-23.
 - ***Buta, N.** (2010). The European Union framework for nature conservation: Building a “puzzle” of governance narratives. *Paper presentation at the 16th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management*, Corpus Christi, Texas, June 6-10.
 - ***Kaplanidou, K.**, Funk, D., **Buta, N.**, & Goutzioupas, G. (2009). The event image of the Athens Marathon from the sport tourist marathon runners’ perspective: A qualitative and quantitative approach. *Paper presentation at the 17th Annual European Sport Management Conference*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 16-19.
 - ***Buta, N.** & Bustam, T. D. (2009). Commitment or practice? An examination of certified and non-certified ecotourism operators’ online sustainability messages. *Paper presentation at the 15th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Meet Old and New Worlds in Research, Planning, and Management*, Vienna, Austria, July 5-8.
 - ***Bustam, T. D.**, & **Buta, N.** (2009). Raising awareness of sustainability: the role of education in ecotourism certification. *Paper presentation at the 15th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment*, Daytona Beach, FL, July 8-11.
 - ***Rodriguez, A.**, **Buta, N.**, Latkova, P., & Sun, Y. Y. (2008). Relationship between anticipated leisure experience and activity participation. *Paper presentation at the 10th World Leisure Congress*, Quebec, Canada, October 6-10.
 - ***Rodriguez, A.**, **Buta, N.**, & Wu, T. B. (2008). Are some outdoor recreation activities better at helping individuals improve their quality of life? *Paper presentation at the 14th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, People and Place: Linking Culture and Nature*, Burlington, VT, June 10-14.

National (Refereed)

- ***Buta, N.** (2018). Visitation and Economics of Recreation/Tourism on Western Maryland State Forests. *Poster presentation at the 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference*, Burlington, VT, April 23-26, 2018.
- ***Buta, N.** (2017). Maryland State Parks Diversity and Inclusion Efforts: Staff Perspectives and Media Reporting. *Paper presentation at the 2017 National Outdoor Recreation Conference*, Scottsdale, AZ, May 1-4, 2017.

- ***Buta, N., & Law, A. (2016).** Destination image and visitor satisfaction with recreation experience at El Yunque National Forest. Paper presentation at the 28th Annual Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Annapolis, MD, April 3-5.
- ***Buta, N., Stein, T. V., & Bustam, T. D. (2015).** Assessment of satisfaction with site conditions and preferred management actions among visitors and tour operators at El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. *Paper presentation at the 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference*, Annapolis, MD, April 12-16.
- ***Shillingburg, T., & Buta, N. (2015).** A needs assessment of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jennings Randolph Lake. *Poster presentation at the 2015 National Outdoor Recreation Conference*, Annapolis, MD, April 12-16.
- ***Buta, N., & Kaplanidou, K. (2013).** Resident's Images and Perceptions of their Community and a Neighboring Park. *Paper presentation at the 2013 George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*, Denver, Colorado, March 11-15.
- ***Buta, N. (2013).** Perspectives on online teaching and learning in a Master Program. *Paper presentation at the 2013 George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*, Denver, Colorado, March 11-15.
- **Invited paper: *Buta, N., & Holland, S. M. (2011).** Residents' interactions with Retezat National Park, Romania: Implications for perceived environmental responsibility. *2011 George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites*, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 14-18.
- ***Bustam, T. D., & Buta, N. (2010).** Contemporary challenges to public land management: The implications of crime on outdoor recreation involvement and place attachment. *Poster Presentation at the 2010 Society of American Foresters National Convention*. October 27-31, 2010.
- ***Bustam, T. D., & Buta, N. (2010).** How effective is ecotourism certification in supporting sustainable development?: Defining ecotourism and principles of sustainability. *Paper presentation at the 2010 Society of American Foresters National Convention*. October 27-31, 2010.
- ***Kaplanidou, K., & Buta, N. (2010).** Event image perceptions among Super Bowl spectators: A dynamic image formation approach. *Poster presentation at the North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM) Conference*, Tampa, June 1-5.
- ***Bustam, T. D., & Buta, N. (2009).** Learning from ecotourism?: The utility of education in ecotourism certification. *Paper presentation at the 2009 Society of American Foresters National Convention*, Orlando, FL, September 30-October 4.
- ***Bustam, T. D., Buta, N., & McCormick, J. (2009).** Involvement in outdoor recreation and perceived safety on public lands. *Paper presentation at the 2009 Society of American Foresters National Convention*, Orlando, FL, September 30-October 4.
- ***Buta, N., Wu, T. B., & Rodriguez, A. (2009).** Relationship of television watching and video/computer gaming on social/personal outcomes. *Paper presentation at the 2009 AAHPERD National Convention and Exposition*, Tampa, FL, March 31-April 4.
- **Rodriguez, A., Kim, M., Wu, T. B., & Buta, N. (2009).** Effects of running on life satisfaction in elementary school-aged children. *Paper presentation at the 2009 AAHPERD National Convention and Exposition*, Tampa, FL, March 31-April 4.
- ***Buta, N., & Bustam, T. D. (2009).** Understanding visitor images of the Florida Suwannee River Wilderness Trail as a tourist destination. *Paper presentation at the 2009*

George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, Portland, OR, March 2-6.

- Beland, R., & *Buta, N. (2008). The status of the aging content knowledge in the outdoor recreation curricula. *Poster presentation at the 2008 National Recreation and Parks Association Leisure Research Symposium*, Baltimore, MD, October 14-18.

Regional (Refereed)

- *Buta, N. & Holland, S.M. (2012). Assessment of age differences in pro-environmental attitudinal response: Perspectives from rural Romania. *Paper presentation at the 2012 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*, Cooperstown, NY, April 1-3.
- Bustam, T.D., & *Buta, N. (2010). Principles and practices: The role of environmental sustainability in ecotourism certification. *Paper presentation at the 32nd Annual Southeast Recreation Research Conference*, Greenville, February 21-23.
- *Bustam, T. D., & Buta, N. (2009). What good is ecotourism certification? An examination of online marketing of international ecotourism operations. *Paper presentation at the Southeast Chapter of Travel and Tourism Research Association Annual Conference and Tourism Research Symposium*, Montgomery, AL, March, 24.
- *Bustam, T. D., & Buta, N. (2009). Paddling for place? The influence of outdoor recreation involvement on place attachment. *Paper presentation at the 31st Annual Southeast Recreation Research Conference*, Athens, GA, February 22-24.

Grants:

Buta, N. (PI). *Recreation Management on Public Lands – Learning from US Forest Service and the National Park Service in Washington, DC.* Proposal for Provost's Experiential Learning Enhancement Program. Total funding: \$900

Buta, N. (PI). *Soofa Solar Powered Bench.* Proposal submitted to the Frostburg State University President's Advisory Council for Sustainability (PACS) (2017). Total funding: \$4,000

Buta, N. (PI), Stein, T. (Co-PI) & Linhart, J.B. (Co-PI) (Approved). Proposal submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission and Maryland Heritage Areas Program. *Visitation and Economics of Recreation/Tourism in Western Maryland State Forests.* Total funding: \$40,158.

Buta, N. (PI), & Law, A. (Co-PI). Proposal submitted to the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE). *Exploring the outdoor recreation decision making and pro-environmental behaviors of university students from the United States and Romania: A cross-cultural study.* Total amount requested: 9,980. Not funded.

Buta, N. (PI) & Stein, T. (Co-PI). *El Yunque National Forest Visitor Carrying Capacity Study* (July 2013 – July 2014). Funded by US Forest Service; Total amount: \$29,634.98

Faculty development and research conference presentations grants (Frostburg State University) – Total: ~\$5,000

Buta, N. (PI) (2009). Graduate Research Travel Grant – The Center for European Studies at the University of Florida (\$1,000) – Dissertation Research: *Local Communities and Protected Areas: Social Dimensions of Pro-environmental Engagement in Retezat National Park, Romania.*

Honors & Awards:

- Thomas and Ruth Rivers International Scholarship (awarded by the World Leisure Organization), June 2010.
- Dr. Linda Thornton Graduate Scholarship (\$1,000), University of Florida, FL, 2010

- Student Registration Scholarship - International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, April 2010
- Graduate Assistantship, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 2006-2010
- Graduate Assistantship, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, 2004-2006
- Certificate of Outstanding Achievement (awarded by the University of Florida International Center) – March 2007

Conferences, Short Courses, and Seminars:

November 2018	Invited Speaker - Maryland/Delaware Society of American Foresters Conference (November 1, 2018; Allegany College of Maryland, Cumberland, MD) – Presentation entitled: Economic Impact of Recreation and Tourism on Western Maryland State Forests.
September 2017	National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) – Annual Conference (September 26-28) – attended the COAPRT Program Training and COAPRT Visitor Training
November 2016	Invited speaker – Panel Discussion - DNR Fall Park Manager’s Meeting at New Germany State Park, MD. November 16, 2016
November 2015	Frostburg Science Discovery Center. Presentation entitled: 100% Pure” – Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment in New Zealand by Buta, N., & Zbel, C. November 12, 2015.
May 2015	Graduate Research Symposium at Frostburg State University. Presentation entitled: Assessing the Relationship between Frequency of Visitation, Visitor Satisfaction with Resource Conditions, and Preferred Management Actions at El Yunque National Forest, PR by Linhart, J. B., & Buta, N. May 15, 2015
June 2014	Project Findings Presentation & Workshop – El Yunque National Forest Presentation entitled: Visitor Carrying Capacity Study; June 1-8, 2014
April 2014	Frostburg State University Earth Week - Focus Frostburg Presentation entitled: El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico: Reflections on Visitor Experience and Resource Protection Presentation done in collaboration with Jenna B. Linhart, a graduate student at FSU, April 23, 2014.
October 2013 & 2015	Invited Presentation – University of Maine, School of Forest Resources, International Protected Area Systems course Presentation entitled: Global aspects of natural resource planning: Case study Romania (presentation done through Skype); October 18, 2013 and October 20, 2015
April 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018	Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference Participant
April 2016	Frostburg State University Earth Week - Focus Frostburg Presentation entitled : “100% Pure” – Sustaining Human Societies and the Natural Environment in New Zealand Natalia Buta and Cari Zbel (undergraduate student); April 20, 2016.

- April 2016 Frostburg State University Earth Week - Focus Frostburg
Presentation entitled **Sustainability Practices in Recreation and Parks Management: Examples from Montgomery County**;
April 18, 2012.
- April 2012 Frostburg State University Earth Week - Focus Frostburg
Presentation entitled: **Leave no Trace Principles: Preserving the Outdoor Recreation Experience for Future Generations**;
Presentation done in collaboration with John T. Baxter, President of the FSU Recreation Society; April 18, 2012.
- April 2012 Invited for a roundtable discussion entitled: **Engaging Stakeholders through Social Science: International Case Studies in Parks and Protected Areas** at the 2012 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Cooperstown, NY.
- November 2011 **National Recreation and Parks Association Congress**
Participant
- April 2011 Frostburg State University Earth Week - Focus Frostburg
Presentation titled **Ecotourism: Examples of Sustainable Tourism and Travel Initiatives**; April 20, 2011.
- April 2011-2016 **Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference**
Participant
- September 2010 Invited speaker at the **Appalachian Festival and Trident Initiative 2010**. Panel discussion – **Reveling in Regionalism: Ecotourism and Adventure Sports Respond to Growing Demands**;
September 17, 2010.
- February 2008 **Mini-Symposium on Heritage Tourism in Spain and Slovenia**,
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Participant
- January 2008 **Distinguished Speakers Series** organized by **The Working Group on CHM in Africa and the Developing World (CHMAD)** at University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Participant
- February 2005 & 2006 **Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Annual Conference**
Participant and academic exhibitor
- March 2005 **Training Course - Project Learning Tree and Project WET** (Water Education for Teachers), Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI
(Certification received)
- December 2004 **Student Research and Creative Endeavors - An Exhibition**,
Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI
Poster Presentation: *Importance of Social Interaction at the Inn Sport Program*

Professional Membership

Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals

Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
 National Recreation and Park Association
 Maryland Recreation and Park Association
 Frostburg State University Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Graduate Students' Committee Chair and Member

Siemek, Stephanie (Committee member, Ph.D., University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences UMCES) - Assessing riparian forest buffer system (RFBS) function in western Maryland: an evaluation of their economic value with the goal of determining optimal location of buffer installation based on the hydrology and hot spots of nutrient reduction within the Ridge and Valley.

Carpenter-Driscoll, Amy (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2018) – Program Design and Development: Park Watch Program Proposal: A Community-Based Solution for Safety in Public Parks

Serrano, Noelia (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2018) – Program Design and Development: Virtual Fitness for the Rockville Senior Center

Bardou, Peter (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2018) – Facility Design and Development: Joseph F. William Memorial Park Splash Pad Design

Guell, Samantha (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Research Project: Effectiveness of Web-Based versus Non-Web Based Exercise Programs

Law, Annalee (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Research Project: An Evaluation of Six Specific Camper Outcomes at Teton Valley Ranch Camp, Wyoming

Gerlach, Bussey Gabrielle (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Business Plan: Vitality in Motion (VIM) Wellness Center

Metelski, Christine (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Case Study: A Historical Case Study on the Giant Forest Village Reconstruction Project Sequoia and Kings National Parks, California

Beaumont, Shawn (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Program Design and Development: Maintenance and Operations Professional Development Series (MODS)

Hutchinson, Stephen (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2017) – Program Design and Development: Mass Audubon Pilot Field Naturalist Certification Program Proposal

Sajauskas, Julija (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Program Design and Development: Environmental Sustainability Education Program

Corning, Scott (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Facility Design and Development: Blandair Skatepark, Howard County, Maryland.

Heeter, Zachary (Chair, Interdisciplinary degree Business and Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Heeter Homestead Business Plan

Rafey, Joy (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Program Design and Development: Maryland Master Naturalist Program: Impact Indicator Identification & Tracking/Reporting Program Proposal

Graves, Earl (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Facility Design and Development: Henrico County Multisport Stadium

Brown, DeVon (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Program/Facility Development: Rita Church Community Center, Baltimore.

Vagnoni, Amy (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2016) – Facility Design and Development: Middletown Skate Spot, Frederick County, Maryland.

Rooks, Katie (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) – Historical Case Study: Exploring the Transition to Fiscally Sustainable Recreation on the Tongass National Forest, Alaska.

Jackson, Jerome (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) - Program Design and Development: RecPRIDE Montgomery - Uniting Youth through Recreation

Duck, David (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) - Program Design and Development: Hanover Youth - Cultural Exploration Program.

Riley, James (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) – Facility Design and Development: Native Wildflower Meadow and Pollinator Educational Trail at Herrington Manor State Park.

Evans, Diana (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) – Program Design and Development: Interpretive Outdoor Programming at Curt Gowdy State Park, Wyoming.

Serfass, James (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) – Program Design and Development: NatureBridge Summer Programming in Shenandoah National Park.

Dawson, Paul (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2015) – Strategic Plan: A Framework for the James Peak Wilderness Management Plan.

Linhart Balogh, Jenna (Chair, Interdisciplinary degree Recreation and Parks Management and Conservation Biology, 2015) – Research Project: Assessing the Relationship Between Experience-use History, Visitor Satisfaction with Resource Conditions, and Preferred Management Actions at El Yunque National Forest, PR.

Shillingburg, Tony (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Research Project: A Recreation Needs Assessment for Jennings Randolph Lake, West Virginia

Langlois, Kevin (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Research Project: Examining Preferences, Expectations, and Hindrances of College Outdoor Programs

Patterson, Robert (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Research Project: Management Perspectives on Vandalism at Recreation and Parks Facilities

Matthews, Eva (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: Business Plan - Lowcountry Heritage Environmental Education Center, LLC

Perry, Derrick (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: Business Plan – Superstar Sports

Bennett, Joshua (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2013) – Research Project: Attitudes, Motivation, Empowerment, and Pro-environmental Behaviors of Chinese University Students

Green, Jessica (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2013) – Project Title: The Strategic Plan for the Otter Point Creek Alliance

Edwards, Virginia (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2013) – Project Title: Exploring Youth Year Round and Summer Recreation in Culpeper, Virginia - Community Satisfaction and Current Needs

Thornton, Jason (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2013) – Research Project: Mobile Technology and Social Media Use in Parks and Recreation

Manner, Michael (Chair, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2012) – Research Title: Parental Constraints to Children's Participation in Summer Camp Programs at J. Edward Mack Scout Reservation

Berry, Shawnte (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: Emergency Volunteer Corps Program Proposal

Carter, Caley (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: Athletic Event Management for Home Events for Centenary College of Louisiana

Thornton, Bakahri (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: The City of Coppell Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan

Zastrow, Tanya (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2014) – Project Title: Bioblitz at the National Arboretum - Biodiversity is more than just plants!

Hewitt, Emily (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2013) – Project Title: “Master Raptors”: An Inner City Education Initiative

Armstrong, Corey (Committee Member, MS Recreation and Parks Management, 2012) – Project Title: A Case Study Analysis in Developing an Environmental Education Facility - Evergreen Heritage Center, MD

Other Skills:

Languages: Fluent in Romanian and English, basic knowledge of French.

Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, SPSS, LISREL, MPLUS and SAS.

Personal Hobbies:

Hiking, backpacking, canoeing, running, and traveling.