Rob Dussler, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vita
robdussler@txstate.edu
706-897-0302

Academic/Professional Background

2017 – Current Chief Education Officer and Director of Spring Lake Education - The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University

I currently oversee the operations and strategic direction of an environmental education program at one of Texas State University's six research centers. The Meadows Center resides at the culturally and naturally significant San Marcos Springs and Spring Lake. The education program provides outdoor education experiences for more than 120,000 visitors annually. 30,000 of these visitors include local and regional school children with half of these students originating from Title One schools. We operate historic glass bottom boat tours of the springs and are an iconic tourist destination in central Texas. In addition to our informal science programs, we offer a diverse array of outdoor education experiences including snorkeling, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding and night kayaking for faculty, staff, students, and the general public.

Educational Background

Degree	Year	University	Major	Thesis/Dissertation
BA	1991	St. Edwards University	Psychology	Mandating Sex Education in the Public-School System *Honors Thesis
M.Ed.	2002	Georgia College and State University	Health, Physical Education and Recreation – Outdoor Education Administration	NA
Ph.D.	2014	University of Georgia	Recreation and Leisure Studies	Understanding the Decision-Making Process of Individuals Involved in a Whitewater Critical Incident or Accident: A Grounded Theory Study

College and University Experience

Position	University	Dates
Adjunct Faculty	Texas State University	2019 - Present

Assistant Professor	Young Harris College	2014 - 2017
Department Chair	Young Harris College	2010 - 2017
Instructor	Young Harris College	2003 - 2014

Relevant Professional Experience

Position	Entity	Dates
Director Outdoor Leadership Center	Young Harris College	2008 - 2017
Director of Intramural Sports	Young Harris College	2002 - 2005
Director of Student Affairs	Polestar School	1999 - 2001
English Teacher	Polestar School	1999 - 2001
English Teacher	Hope Center School	1996 - 1999

Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

Wilderness First Responder, National Outdoor Leadership School WMI, Recertified: May 2022

PADI Open Water Diver, Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Obtained: April 2019

Certified Interpretive Guide, National Association of Interpretation, Recertified: February 2022

American Red Cross Adult, Child, Infant CPR First Aid Instructor, Obtained: February 2018

Swift Water Rescue, American Canoe Association, Obtained: November 2017

Whitewater Kayaking Instructor, American Canoe Association, Obtained: May 2006

River Canoeing Instructor, American Canoe Association, Obtained: May 2001

Teaching

Teaching Honors and Awards:

Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award - the highest faculty award for teaching excellence at Young Harris College (comprised of faculty vote, 2008)

Courses Taught:

Texas State University

PHIL 5323 Field Environmental Philosophy
RECR 5340 Social Psychology of Leisure

RECR 5380 Programming Nature Experiences
RECR 4350 Theories and Methods of Supervision in Recreation

Young Harris College

ODLD 2110 Introduction to Outdoor Education
ODLD 2115 A Survey of Wilderness Literature
ODLD 2120 Backcountry Living Skills
ODLD 2140 Wilderness First Responder
ODLD 3120 Water Pursuits
ODLD 3210 Theory and Practice of Experiential Education
ODLD 3220 Outdoor Leadership
ODLD 4110 Wilderness as a Metaphor
ODLD 3996/4998 Special Topics in Outdoor Leadership
ODLD 4310 Internship
PALS 1450 Whitewater Kayaking
PALS 1460 Canoeing
PALS 1470 Rock Climbing
PALS 1480 Fly Fishing
PALS 1500 Tree Climbing

Directed Student Learning:

Independent Study: *Outdoor Leadership Risk Management and Programming* – Sam Clayton, Summer 2016

New Course Development:

APST 2200 Appalachian Trail
ODLD 2115 A Survey of Wilderness Literature
ODLD 2110 Introduction to Outdoor Education
ODLD 2130 Backcountry Living Skills
ODLD 2140 Wilderness First Responder
ODLD 3110 Land Pursuits
ODLD 3120 Water Pursuits
ODLD 3130 Challenge Course
ODLD 3210 Theory and Practice of Experiential Education
ODLD 3220 Outdoor Leadership
ODLD 3230 Environmental Stewardship and Interpretation
ODLD 4110 Wilderness as a Metaphor
ODLD 4120 Senior Seminar
ODLD 4220 Processing the Experience
ODLD 4230 Program Administration
ODLD 399/4998 Special Topics
ODLD 4310 Internship
PALS 1450 Whitewater Kayaking

PALS 1460 Canoeing
PALS 1470 Rock Climbing
PALS 1480 Fly Fishing
PALS 1500 Tree Climbing
PHIL 5323 Field Environmental Philosophy
RECR 5380 Programming Nature Experiences

Other:

Author, Bachelor of Science Degree, Outdoor Leadership – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Proposal – Young Harris College, 2009

SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

Works in Print

Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

Deringer, S. A., Hanley, A. W., **Dussler, M. R.**, Griffin, L.K., Esmiol, A., & Mitten, D (In Press). The Impact of Mindfulness on Nature Connection in Nearby Nature Settings. *Journal of Leisure Sciences*.

Deringer, S. A., Martinez, G. P., **Dussler, M. R**., & Morreale, A. (2023). A pedagogy of place in a contested border region: A qualitative examination of student experiences. *Journal of Experiential Education*, *46*(4), 390-411. https://doi.org/10.1177/10538259231165741

Dussler, R., Williams, J., Massey, S. (2023). Mindfulness and reconnection with freshwater ecosystems at the meadows center education program. In R. Rozzi, A. Tauro, N. Avriel-Avni, T. Wright, & R. H. May Jr. (Eds.), *Field environmental philosophy: Education for biocultural education* (pp. 503-518). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-23368-5_30

Dussler, R., & Deringer, S. A., (2020). Exploring the effects of interpreters' experience of mindfulness interventions on their connection with nature and subsequent environmental interpretation. *Journal of Interpretation Research, 25*(1), 26-45. https://doi.org/10.1177/1092587220963556.

Dussler, R. (2015). Lessons from the river: Utilizing whitewater critical incident and accident case studies to inform decision-making frameworks in outdoor leadership. In P. Parker & N. L. Vaugeois (Eds.), *Innovative leisure practices* (pp. 61-71). Nanaimo BC Canada: World Leisure Center of Excellence.

Other Works in Print:

Deringer, S. A., Martinez, G. P., **Dussler, M. R**., & Morreale, A. (2022). *A pedagogy of place in a contested border region: A qualitative examination of student experiences*. Proceedings of the 2022 Symposium on Experiential Education Research.

Dussler, R. (2018). *Cultivating stewardship through nature exploration*. Texas + Water.

Dussler, R. (2014). *Understanding the decision-making process for individuals involved in a whitewater critical incident or accident: A grounded theory study.* Doctoral Dissertation, University of Georgia.
https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/dussler_marcus_r_201408_phd.pdf

Dussler, R. (2013). Faculty Viewpoint: An Experiential Education. *Echoes, 15 (2),* 22-23.

Works not in Print

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

Deringer, S. A., Martinez, G. P., **Dussler, M. R**., & Morreale, A. (2022). *A pedagogy of place in a contested border region: A qualitative examination of student experiences*. Presentation at the 2022 Symposium on Experiential Education Research, Black Mountain, NC.

Dussler, R. (2021). *Mindfulness and nature connection research.* Presentation at the 2021 Texas Children in Nature Summit, Fort Worth, TX.

Dussler, R. & Wait, M. (2018). *Exploring nature connection through research: An overview of current research projects at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.* Presentation at the 2018 Texas Children in Nature Summit, Corpus Christi, TX.

Dussler, R. (Accepted). *The influence of training and educational programs on decision-making efficacy in whitewater critical incidents and accidents: An opportunity for growth.* Accepted presentation at the 2017 Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education Annual Conference, Roanoke, VA.

Dussler, R. (2016). *The swampy lowlands: Understanding decision-making in whitewater critical incidents and accidents.* Presentation at the 2016 Southeastern Recreation Research Conference, Asheville, NC.

Dussler, R. (2014). *Understanding the decision-making process of individuals involved in a whitewater critical incident or accident.* Presentation at the 22nd Annual Adventure Education Conference. Brevard College, Brevard, NC.

Invited Talks, Lectures, Presentations:

Dussler, R. (2023). *The mindful lens.* Conference Presentation at Climate Science: The Good, The Bad, The Wicked. Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2023). *Ecophilosophy and sustainable systems.* Panelist at Philosophy Dialogue Series, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2022). *Nature connection research at the Meadows Center*. Presented to Bluebonnet Lion's Club, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2022). *Mindfulness and nature connection.* Presented to the Cypress Creek Project, Wimberley, TX.

Dussler, R. (2021). *Mindfulness and freshwater ecosystems and The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment*. Presented to PHIL 6780, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Dussler, R. (2019). *Mindfulness and field environmental philosophy.* Presentation for the Philosophy Dialogue Series, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2019). *Mindfulness and nature connection*. Workshop presented to outdoor educator's network, Shield Ranch, Dripping Springs, TX.

Dussler, R. (2019). *Risk and decision making in outdoor recreation*. Presented to REC 1330 Introduction to Outdoor Recreation, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2019). *Mindfulness and personal narrative.* Presented to the Natural Leader's Summit, Texas State University, March 29, 2019

Dussler, R. (2019*). Mindfulness and environmental interpretation.* Presented to GEO 4323 Conservation Leadership, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Dussler, R. (2019). *The importance of our spring fed lakes: Past, present and future*. Presented to the Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park, New Braunfels, TX.

Dussler, R. (2014). *Professionals from the field: College program creation and development.* Presented to ODLD 4230 Program Administration, Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA.

Dussler, R. (2013). *Professionals from the field: College program creation and development.* Presented to ODLD 4230 Program Administration, Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA.

Dussler, R. (2011*). Outdoor education past, present, and future.* Keynote address at the 2nd Annual Academic Symposium, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, GA.

Other Works not in Print

Funded External Grants and Contracts:

Deringer, S.A., Griffin, L.K., Thomas, A., **Dussler, R.**, Wait, M., Kipp, L., Norton, C. (2022). *Strengthening experiential education opportunities in central Texas.* Texas Parks and Wildlife Co-Op Grant. Grant provides resources to examine the impact of experiential education programming on underserved youth participating in an after-school program. Funded - $59,920

Griffin, L.K., Deringer, S.A., **Dussler, R.**, Thomas, A., & Wait, M. (2019). *Strengthening experiential education opportunities in central Texas.* Texas Parks and Wildlife Co-Op Grant. Grant provides resources to examine the impact of experiential education programming on underserved youth participating in an after-school program and 6-day expedition $49,969.

Dussler, R. (2018). *Non-native species removal kayaking program.* American Canoe Association L.L. Bean Club Fostered Stewardship Grant. Grant provided resources for an environmental education program with underserved youth focusing on STEM and experiential learning $975.

Unfunded External Grants and Contracts:

Forsythe, S., Daniel, K., & **Dussler, R.** (2020) *LoQuest: Transforming local STEM questions into global geoscience journeys.* NSF Grant for Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into the Earth, Ocean, Polar and Atmospheric & Geospace Sciences - Informal Networks (IUSE:GEOPAths – IN) $350,000

Daniel, K., Forsythe, S., & **Dussler, R.** (2020) *Náyade: Learning to tell nature's stories.* Limited Submission - NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE): Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI Program)-IEP Track 2, $500,000.

Forsythe, S, Daniel, K., **Dussler, R**. (2020). *Ways informal science educators are responding (WISER) to COVID-19.* Grant proposal to Spencer Foundation $49,417.

Funded Internal Grants and Proposals

Dussler, R. (2022). Spring Lake Trails, Trees, and Interpretive Improvements. Texas State University Environmental Services Committee Grant. Grant provides resources to improve riparian zone and trails, and install interpretive signage at Spring Lake, $5,338.43.

Forsythe, S., Roundtree, A., & **Dussler, R.** (2019). *The spring lake vr experience: Enhancing environmental education through an innovative virtual reality application.* A Social Innovation Research Accelerator Proposal, Texas State University $7,000.

Dussler, R. (2019). *Three for One: Environmental Protection, Enhancement and Education.* Texas State University Environmental Services Committee Grant. Grant provides resources to improve riparian zones, mitigate run-off, install interpretive signage at Spring Lake, $4,070.80.

Dussler, R. (2018). *Spring Lake Education Revitalized! Monarchs and Mulch.* Texas State University Environmental Services Committee Grant. Grant provides resources to revitalize environmental education programming areas, a certified monarch waystation, develop interpretive opportunities and signage, $4,235.89.

Unfunded Internal Grants and Proposals

Norton, C. L., **Dussler, R**., Deringer, S. A., Griffin, K., & Forsythe, S. (2019). *Center for Nature Research.* Texas State University Big Ideas Proposal. Proposal provides resources to establish a Center for Nature Research which provide education, training, research and community service opportunities for Texas State University faculty and students interested in studying the role that nature plays in promoting health and wellbeing, $570,000.

SERVICE

University:

Member, Coordinator for Outdoor Recreation Search Committee (2021)

Member, Assistant Director for Outdoor Recreation Search Committee (2018)

Texas State University Building Emergency Coordinator (2019- Present)

College:

Member, Safety and Compliance Committee (2013 – 2017)

Member, College Relations Committee (2012 – 2014)

Member, Sustainability Committee (2010 – 2013)

Member, First Year Experience Committee (2009)

Chair, Assistant Professor Outdoor Leadership Search Committee (2009)

Chair, Coordinator Outdoor Leadership Center (2008)

Member, Planning and Assessment Council (2007 – 2008)

Member, Assistant Professor Sociology Search Committee (2007)

Member, Faculty Development and Welfare Committee (2007)

Member, Arts and Assemblies Committee (2006)

Department/School:

Member, Director of Operations for The Meadows Center Search Committee (2020)

Diversity and Inclusion Team Leader, The Meadows Center (2019 to Present)

Policy Development Team Leader, The Meadows Center (2019 to Present)

Advisor, Young Harris College Fly Fishing Club (2015 – 2017)

Advisor, Young Harris College Outings Club (2013 - 2017)

Organization Memberships:

Leadership Team Member, Children in Nature Network Collaborative of Austin (2017- present)

Member, National Association of Interpretation (2017- present)

Member, Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (2020 – 2022)

Member, American Canoe Association (2001 – 2016)

Member, Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (2014-2017)

Member, Association of Experiential Education (2011 – 2017)

Service Honors and Awards

Young Harris College Pacesetter's Award (2014). Presented for service to student organizations at the college.

Texas Christian University Intra-Fraternity Council Distinguished Merit Award (1989). Presented for service to University fraternities alcohol awareness and education program.