



Pictured l. to r.: Dr. Brett Wright, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Development, Clemson University, Fran P. Mainella, Visiting Scholar at Clemson University and former Director of the National Park Service, and Dean Larry Allen, College of Health, Education, and Human Development, Clemson University. Clemson University visiting scholar Fran Mainella, former director of the National Park Service, has been honored with a Cornelius Pugsley Medal from the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration.

## **Clemson scholar receives national recognition**

By [Heidi Cenac](#), *Anderson Independent Mail*

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Clemson University visiting scholar Fran Mainella, former director of the National Park Service, has been honored with a Cornelius Pugsley Medal from the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration.

Ms. Mainella began her career as a playground leader and became the first woman to serve as director of the National Park Service when Pres. George W. Bush appointed her to the position in 2001. She also served as director of Florida State Parks and executive director of the Florida Recreation and Park Association.

By the time she left the National Park Service to join Clemson's faculty, Ms. Mainella had overseen more than 6,000 maintenance and restoration projects.

In addition to the Pugsley Medal, the academy announced that Ms. Mainella has been added to its Legends of Parks and Recreation Program, a list of individuals whose contributions have added to the professional growth and capabilities of those in the field today.

Presentation of Pugsley Award to Fran Mainella

Sept. 27, 2007

Indianapolis, Indiana

Indiana State Museum

By Jane H. Adams

It is an honor to be part of this prestigious event and to be presenting this Pugsley Award to a friend and colleague.

Fran Mainella's first job in parks and recreation was much like mine – a playground leader. She became an assistant community center director – as did I. Then she became a director – me too. We became executive directors of state associations, Fran in Florida and I in Wisconsin, at almost the same time. But then our careers turned in different directions.

Fran returned to public service as state park director for Florida State Parks. She held that position for 12 years. In 2000 the State Park system won a Gold Medal award. She served in many leadership positions during that time – most notably as President of National Recreation and Park Association and as President of the National Association of State Park Directors. Fran received a Pugsley Award in 1998 for her contributions as Florida State Park Director.

Tonight we are honoring Fran for her work as the Director of our National Park Service. Fran is the 16<sup>th</sup> director of the Park Service and she is the first woman to hold that position.

Fran's tenure at the Park Service has resulted in several significant changes in the way the Park Service does business. The first is:

1. Director's Order 75A which mandates civic engagement and public involvement. Fran believes partnerships are central to progress in resolving contemporary park and conservation challenges. The Park Service now has a collaborative culture – it is the way they do business.
2. Another change came when Fran resisted the Administration's efforts to outsource jobs. Through Fran's efforts, the Park Service reviewed and improved its management practices that resulted in significant savings as the Park Service demonstrated it was operating more efficiently than the private sector could. Thousands of Park Service jobs continue to be done by public employees.

3. Finally, Fran worked tirelessly to promote a seamless system of parks. This was evident in 2000 when the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service and the US Army (Corps of Engineers) all came together at a national conference in Los Angeles. It was amazing to see the leadership of these prominent park and conservation agencies all on one stage promoting this seamless system of parks, water based recreation, and forests.

You don't have to spend but 3 minutes with Fran before you realize you are in the presence of a person who lives and breathes parks and recreation. You are taken in by her warmth, her charm, her passion for people, and her desire to help you. Fran is action-oriented – she will press you to perform but she is working just as hard.

Fran is now joining the ranks of Stephen Mather, Horace Albright, Conrad Wirth, George Hartzog, and William Penn Mott as recipients of a Pugsley Award.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in presenting this Pugsley Award to Fran Mainella.