Opening Tip!

The Spring has absolutely flown by and we are now in the final weeks of the semester with summer right around the corner. That translates into an extremely busy final month in which many aspects of the program will be wrapping up simultaneous with planning being initiated for the Fall 2006 semester. The Department continues to be challenged with new facilities, initiatives, programs, and people. However, there has always been a common theme of quality that unites all of us that have been involved in the program. One of the current challenges will be to find a suitable candidate for our Associate Director of Wellness Education Promotion (Marketing) position, which was formerly at the Assistant Director level. The position has been reclassified and is currently listed on the job listing web site of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) at www.bluefishjobs.com. Our hope is that the new Marketing person will continue to boost our profile on campus and be an excellent ambassador for our future plans. Please spread the word about this job opportunity if you know of anyone who would make a good addition to the staff.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Set for New Outdoor Complex

History was made on Wednesday, March 29 as the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new North Recreational Complex marked the start of construction for the planned 129 acre Recreational Sports field complex and park. The ceremony included brief presentation by Chancellor Steven Ballard, Vice-Chancellor for Student Life Garrie Moore, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Recreational Services Nance Mize, and SGA President M. Cole Jones. The East Carolinian sent a reporter and photographer and pictures will be posted shortly on the departmental web site. The actual groundbreaking featured a number of student leaders including Ashley Joswick (Marketing), JD Downs (Intramural Sports), Chelsey Lumpkin (Fitness), Becky Hardy (Adventure), Charla Hodges (Wellness), Angie Jusino (Main Office & Club Sports), and Nikki Lankford (Customer Services/Facility Manager). While the initial construction will include only the first phase of the project, once the entire facility is finished it will be one of the largest outdoor recreational sports complexes on a college campus in the nation. Phase 1 will consist of development of approximately 65 acres to include 8 lighted multi-sport activity fields (all 8 fields suitable for soccer/lacrosse with four fields suitable for rugby), a 6 acre lake, field house and separate maintenance facility, roads and parking, and suitable landscaping. Phase 1 is anticipated to be completed by August 31, 2007. The second phase allows for further development to include 8 additional lighted multi-sport activity fields to include 4 softball sized fields quad design) with supporting structure for oversight, scoring, restrooms etc., a multi-faceted ropes challenge course, 18 hole Frisbee disc golf course, additional parking and road construction. This new facility will provide new and expanded recreational opportunities for the ECU community.
Family Fun Day Reaches Out to Adult & Commuter Students

Approximately 14% of ECU undergraduates, 76% of graduate students, and 28% of the entire student body are age 24 or older. These non-traditional students have many challenges not faced by traditional college students in becoming integrated into student life at the university. Many work full-time jobs, some raise families, or commute long distances. In many cases, it is difficult to experience the university beyond attending classes. While most typically students participate in recreational activities according to their own interests, those students with families have to consider the needs of spouses and/or children. Consequently, the Office of Adult & Commuter Students was developed to reach out to individuals within this population and assist them with some of the challenges of college life.

Family Fun Day is an annual event that has been sponsored by the ECU Department of Recreational Services at the Student Recreation Center and the Office of Adult & Commuter Students for the past eight years. Family Fun Day was originally developed as an opportunity to provide specialized programming for students with families and allow them to participate in activities together. Over the last several years, Faculty/Staff and community members have been incorporated to grow the event and be more inclusive while attracting larger numbers of participants. The event features a variety of exciting activities for both adults and children. Activities included fitness, sport games, wall climbing, cart racing, and arts and crafts at the Student Recreation Center. While some of the activities are conducted in a group setting, there are also a number of carnival-type activities that are short in duration allowing participants to sample an extensive array of offerings or spend additional time at a favorite game. Additional opportunities for swimming, drop-in basketball, family games, and bowling at Mendenhall Student Center were also available. At the conclusion of the morning’s activities, a free lunch at the new West End Dining Hall was provided for all participants followed by bowling at the Mendenhall Student Center. This year's event included approximately 91 adult and youth participants encompassing students, faculty, staff, and the Greenville community. Eleana Brockett, Youth & Family Program Assistant, coordinated the event and utilized numerous RCLS student volunteers from Laura Spivey's (former Assistant Director of Intramural Sports) to staff the various games.

Residence Hall Fire Displaces Students

A fire broke out in a third floor room at Clement Hall on Wednesday, March 29 and forced evacuation of more than 300 students from the building. All residents had to be relocated for the evening of the fire. Everyone except those on the third floor were allowed to reenter the hall the following afternoon. Those on the third floor have been moved to other residence halls. The fire drew national attention and had media coverage on "Good Morning America" as one student had to be rescued from the 9th floor by use of a fire truck ladder. Several student employees of Recreational Services were affected by this situation.

Basketball Officials Work Extramural Events

A number of intramural basketball officials received the opportunity to officiate at two separate extramural tournaments during the month of March. Over the weekend of March 10-12 Charlie Kessel and J.D. Downs worked the Mid-Atlantic Regional 5-on-5 Tournament at College Park, MD hosted by the University of Maryland. Kessel reached the men’s quarterfinals while Downs was selected for a men’s semifinal contest. An ECU men’s team also reached the quarterfinal round before being defeated. Alex Langley, a Graduate Assistant and College/High School Basketball official, served as a member of the Officials Staff for the tournament. There were two other tournaments over the weekend of March 24-26 which included ECU officials. Robbie Hopewell and Matt Hill made the long journey to Gainesville, FL for the "Swamp
"Shootout" where Hill worked a championship game and Hopewell reached the semi-finals. Mark Parker, Coordinator of Intramural Sports served as a member of the Officials staff. Meanwhile Chris Riddle and James Coffey traveled west toward Chapel Hill, NC to work the "Thrill-on-the-Hill" on the campus of the University of North Carolina. Coffey worked a quarterfinal game and Riddle reached the semi-final round. Todd Riddick, Assistant Director for Intramural Sports, was a member of the Officials staff for this tournament.

The Pirate Grapevine

Complete with the latest information about happenings related to our alumni, the grapevine is your link to former colleagues. Please submit any Grapevine information either directly to David Gaskins at gaskinsd@ecu.edu or by completing the web form on the alumni page off the main Recreational Services page at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/recserv/index.cfm?load=homalu

- Amanda (Henley) Cash, former Intramural Sports Supervisor, and husband Greg celebrated the birth of their first child on Tuesday, February 21, 2006. The baby is named Graham Everett Cash and he weighed 8lbs 3 oz and was 20 inches long.
- Lynda (McCormick) Flippin and Steve Flippin, both former Intramural Sports multi-sport officials and Site Managers, are expecting their third child (a boy) on July 8, 2006.
- Haywood Dillahunt, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official and Site Manager, was selected to officiate the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Eastern Regional Basketball tournament in March. Dillahunt worked state quarterfinal games at JH Rose High School and Minges Coliseum. In the Men’s game at Minges he ironically officiated a New Hanover HS team coached by former ECU Intramural participant Linc Lyles. After playing and officiating in Minges while both were in school they met years later on the bigger stage.
- Shay Hayes, former ARISE Graduate Assistant and Intramural Sports Volleyball/Basketball Official, was Head Women’s Basketball Coach for Farmville Central High School where her Lady Jaguars captured the 2-A NCHSAA State Championship on a buzzer beater in overtime defeating Salisbury HS 56-55. She had reached the Eastern Regionals for the last four consecutive seasons and made three appearances in the State Finals before winning her first state championship.
- Dana Moore, former ARISE Program Assistant and Intramural Sports Site Manager and multi-sport official, was selected as "Rookie of the Year" for her High School Basketball Officials Association in Northern California. In her initial season with the organization, she worked three state playoff games.
- Braxton Patterson, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and multi-sport official, is leaving Greenville Parks & Recreation and has taken a new job as an Athletic Supervisor with Wilson Parks & Recreation. He will begin employment on April 4.
- Thomas “Fore” Rembert, former Intramural Sports Supervisor and Site Manager, and wife Mandy have a son (Thomas Mayes Rembert, V---nickname Quinn) who is now almost 14 months old. He has worked this past year at Madison High School, about 20 minutes north of Asheville, where he is the Head Football and Baseball Coach. His football Team advanced to the Playoffs for the 1st time in school history in his initial season coaching the sport. He has previously won a state championship coaching baseball.
- Jenn Robinson, former Main Office Assistant, graduated in December 2005 and moved to Baltimore, MD. She recently was hired by the Better Business Bureau of Greater Maryland doing Public Relations.
• Zelton Steed, former Intramural Sports Basketball Official, worked the NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Regional Final between the University of Connecticut and George Mason University that was nationally broadcast on CBS on Sunday, March 26.

• Ann Underwood, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Volleyball Official, has taken a new position as Director of Recreation and Youth Programs at Edgemoor Community Center in Wilmington Delaware. She is also coaching a 14’s Volleyball team.

That is all for this month. Keep the information coming for the update next month.

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