Opening Tip!

The Spring semester is over! This issue is getting out a little later than normal simply because the end of the year has been extremely hectic. As always, we graduated some outstanding seniors and will be undergoing a couple of staff changes by next Fall. There are also three staff members who, with their spouses, are expecting the birth of a child. All of that and more is shared in this month's issue. - DG

We Are Now "Campus Recreation & Wellness"

After about a decade as "Recreational Services" the name of our department has now officially been changed to "Campus Recreation & Wellness." The new name, which became effective last month, is designed to better describe the scope of our offerings and services now that the Campus Wellness component was added last July. The proposal for a name change was passed through our Advisory Council and received approval from the Division of Student Life. A few of the historians may remember that the Department was "Intramural-Recreational Services" back in the 80's before dropping the "Intramural" part of the name.

Staff Members Attend NIRSA Annual Conference

Staff members Mark Parker, David Gaskins, Joanna Ezzell, and Alex Langley were among the attendees at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Annual Conference from April 4-8 in Louisville, KY. Parker presented a session with several other professionals about effective communication while Gaskins was one of the presenters for the Basketball Officiating Pre-Conference workshop. A variety of professional sessions were available as well as an Exhibitor's Hall, social functions, recreational opportunities, networking, resource tables, and Association business. During that time a number of former ECU Campus Recreation & Wellness staff members had the chance to get together and renew acquaintances or meet other generations of department employees. Among those in attendance other than the current staff members mentioned above were Terri Houck (UNC-Charlotte), Jason Spivey (NC State), William Ehling (University of Central Florida), Mark Ritter (Florida Institute of Technology), Richard Chadwell (University of Southern Illinois at Edwardsville), Dana Moore (San Jose State University), Melissa Toretch (Ohio University), Shomari Kee (University of Illinois and now GWU), and Summer Talley (Medical College of Georgia). During that time most of the group had a chance to get together for dinner at a local restaurant. Talk has also been renewed on the possibility of bringing back the Alumni Reunion for the upcoming Fall. This will be discussed in greater detail over the next few months.
Shomari Kee receives his Sports Officials "Wall of Fame" plaque

ECU Staff members, past and present, got together for dinner at the NIRSA Annual Conference
Staff to Welcome New Additions

Three Campus Recreation & Wellness staff members will welcome new additions this summer to their families. In a previous edition, we reported that Todd and Mary Beth Riddick anticipated their first child in mid-June. However, since that time news has broken regarding two other summer babies. Coordinator of Fitness Suzanne McDonald and husband Robbie are expecting their first child in August while Coordinator of Customer Services Jenny Gregory and her husband are looking forward to their second child in August.

5th Graders Visit the SRC with Project YEAH

A number of 5th grade classes from various Pitt County Elementary Schools are once again enjoying special visits to the Student Recreation Center as part of a collaborative venture with Pitt County Schools that rewards students that demonstrate outstanding participation in physical activity. Students in the schools earn points throughout the year for participation in various forms of physical activity and top classes are rewarded with a fun and exciting trip to the SRC for games, the climbing wall, cart races and other unique activities with our student staff. Lynn Briley is serving as the Coordinator of this year's program, which is funded by a grant.

Alpine Tower to Be Constructed This Summer

Utilizing Leadership money available through the Division of Student Life, Campus Recreation & Wellness has been able to get funding for a new Alpine Tower which will be constructed at the site of our current Challenge Course behind the Blount Field Sports Complex sometime in June. Current plans call for setting a schedule to do some site preparation and then have the construction group come to campus and erect the tower. Once built this structure will replace the High elements on our current challenge course and open up a host of new programming opportunities including making our course more attractive to corporate groups. The Challenge Course, as it has on many other campuses, represents a great deal of potential for generating revenue for corporations seeking leadership training. We will also be seeking facilitators to lead groups through the course. Training will be provided. Interested individuals should contact Tom Burkiewicz at (252) 328-6387 or by email at burkiewicz@ecu.edu.

Amyette to Leave Full-Time Staff

Chris Amyette, Housekeeping Supervisor, will be leaving the full-time staff on May 19 to go to WaterGuard, a chlorine and bleach company based Wilson, NC that supplies pool supplies (we are a current customer). His departure marks the end of a nine-year tenure with our Department as an undergraduate student and professional employee. Chris started briefly as an Intramural Soccer Official and then moved over to Customer Services before being promoted to a Facility Manager. After graduation he assumed the Housekeeping Supervisor position. He has made exceptional contributions to the program over a period of years and has been extremely instrumental in continuing to keep the Student Recreation Center retain its "like new" look despite being a nine year old facility.
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=hommalu

- Dusty (Whitehurst) Anderson and Geouf Anderson, former Intramural Sports Site Managers and multi-sport officials, are both teaching and coaching at Bunn High School where Dusty is an Assistant Coach for Volleyball and Head Swimming Coach. She took six swimmers to the State Championship. Geouf continues to work as Head Baseball Coach. They are also in the process of building a house and are expecting a second child on November 25.
- Heather Biggerstaff, former Intramural Sports Volleyball Official, is the Youth Director for the Goldsboro Family YMCA.
- Amie Briley, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Supervisor, is working as a Social Worker at the Durham VA Hospital.
- Suzanne (Uzzell) Byrd, former Sports Care Attendant, spent a number of years after graduation working as a college basketball coach and now is teaching and living in Greenville, TN. She has also started in basketball officiating and worked high school games this past year.
- Ellen (Day) Cline, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Basketball Official, will be having her first child and is due on or around November 18th.
- Shomari Kee, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, Site Manager, and Supervisor, has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Intramural & Club Sports with the Department of Recreational Sports at George Washington University in Washington, DC.
- Waverlyn Nixon, former Main Office Assistant and Customer Services Attendant, will be starting in Graduate School at ECU in the Fall.
- Aaron Thorpe, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Supervisor, is the CHANGE Director at the Goldsboro Family YMCA. “Change for Children” is a weight loss program for children ages 6-16. This program is designed and supervised by the Goldsboro Family YMCA in conjunction with Goldsboro Pediatrics, Wayne Memorial Hospital and Wayne County Health Department.

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

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