Opening Tip!

The semester is well underway and has been very busy as Spring Break approaches. The major news in the department is the upcoming groundbreaking for the new North Recreational Sports Complex slated for later this month. However, this has also been an active time for many of our alumni who report news of their own. We are still in the process of trying to reclassify our Assistant Director for Marketing and hope to begin the search process later this Spring. Please read on and keep us posted on any personal updates you may wish to share. – DG

Groundbreaking Ceremony Set for New Outdoor Complex

The date the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new 130 acre North Recreational Sports Complex will be held is Wednesday, March 29th at 1:00 pm out on the property adjacent to 264/264 Alternate. Phase 1 of the project includes 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. The remaining areas will be maintained in a natural state until further developed. This initial phase will also include a Field House of 4,882 square feet under roof with 2,048 square feet enclosed for restrooms and storage areas and a Maintenance Facility of 1,740 square feet for grounds equipment maintenance, storage and office space. Additionally, 2,400 square feet of open air storage for grounds vehicles, equipment and supplies will be available. The groundbreaking ceremony will be one of the activities associated with Founders Week on the campus.

Jimmy Heritage Officiates Regional Basketball Tournament at Washington State

Intramural Sports Official Jimmy Heritage made the longest trip ever by an ECU official when he journeyed to Pullman, WA for the Washington State Regional 5-on-5 Basketball tournament over the weekend of March 3-5. Heritage worked both a men’s semifinal game and the women’s championship while representing our department. Jimmy has been with Recreational Services in three separate tenures between 1998 and the present time and has officiated flag football, basketball, and softball. Previously he has been selected for regional and national tournaments in flag football.
National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day Celebrated at ECU

February 22nd is annually recognized as National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day designed to coincide with the formation of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association. Across the country many institutions develop specific programming to observe the date and promote participation in recreational sports. This year ECU actively participated in the effort with a variety of offerings. A Membership Appreciation date included a treasure hunt throughout the SRC as well as a “Goal Setting” workshop executed in conjunction with Fitness. Fitness also programmed a highly successful Masterclass on courts #1 and #2 of the Sports Forum, which featured highly popular guest instructor Roz Singleton and packed the two courts with about 150 participants. In Adventure, an outdoor camping/adventure information/exhibit attracted approximately 80 people while a Kayak Roll Session in the indoor pool brought in another 30 people. Intramural Sports was able to set up their 5-on-5 Basketball program to conclude with all the divisional championships on this date. These games saw the front two courts packed with spectators and exciting action that included excellent play, good sportsmanship, and a number of special halftime contests. The Slam Dunk contest was the best in recent memory with one participant dunking after a partner headed the ball soccer-style up in the air. Not to be outdone, another participant executed a dunk where the ball was dropped from the track on the 2nd level, bounced on the floor, and was slammed through with one hand. It was an extremely successful day which boosted the profile of our department on the campus.

New ECU Ice Hockey Club is Instant Success

In its first year in existence the ECU Men’s Hockey Club has enjoyed tremendous success and media exposure. Joining up with local rink “Bladez on Ice” the team has gotten off to an astounding start aided by an influx of students from the north with significant hockey experience. The Pirates played in the Blue Ridge Hockey Tournament in Wilmington in late February. They enter the tournament as the 3rd seed but are ineligible for the national tournament since they are a first year program. Several times during the Spring semester the team has received media coverage either through the local Daily Reflector newspaper or on local TV sports.

Staff Members Attend NIRSA State Workshop

Staff members Todd Riddick, Mark Parker, and Gray Hodges traveled to Raleigh, NC on Friday, February 24 for the North Carolina Recreational Sports Association state workshop hosted by North Carolina State University. This workshop had previously been scheduled for September but was rescheduled due to state travel limitations imposed due to the gas shortages that resulted from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This one day workshop included a variety of educational sessions, the state business meeting, and extensive networking opportunities with other recreational sports professionals and students from around the state. Also among the delegates at this workshop was former Assistant Director for Intramural Sports, William Ehling, who currently is the Director of Campus Recreation at the University of Central Florida as well as serving as the NIRSA Region 2 Vice-President. After the workshop, Willie visited our campus to see the Student Recreation Center and Blount Fields.
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@mail.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.

- Justin Best, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, is a Teacher’s Assistant at New Hanover HS in Wilmington, NC.
- Scott Bethune, former Intramural Basketball Official, is currently stationed in Iraq commanding a gun truck for convoy security. Before being mobilized he was attending UNC-Chapel Hill working on a masters/doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. He is married and currently makes his home in Garner, NC.
- Richard Chadwell, former Intramural Sports Multi-sport official and Site Manager, is continuing to keep busy in Graduate School at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. In addition to his work as a Graduate Assistant in the Recreational Sports program he has also become the mascot (Panther) for the intercollegiate basketball team.
- Zac Dean, former Utility Worker, Adventure Center staff, Trip Leader, and Challenge Course Facilitator, and Summer Camp staff, recently accepted a new position in Charlotte as a Director of Youth Ministries at Carmel Presbyterian Church and began work on December 16. Prior to this change he had been working in a similar position in Washington, DC.
- Shay Hayes, former ARISE Graduate Assistant and Intramural Sports Volleyball/Basketball Official, is continuing another successful season as Head Women’s Basketball Coach at Farmville Central High School where her Lady Jaguars have advanced to the 2-A NCHSAA State Final. This is her fourth consecutive year reaching the Eastern Regionals and third time in four years in the state finals.
- Julie Kroger, former Marketing Graphic Artist, and Brian Reed, former Intramural Sports Supervisor and Official, got in engaged to be married in mid-January. The wedding will be August 12, 2006. Julie is still working with marketing for a Table Tennis company in Wilson, NC but will be moving to Wilmington, NC after the wedding.
- Matt Malone, former Intramural Sports Basketball Official, got engaged on December 15th and is planning a Spring 2007 wedding.
- Braxton Patterson, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official and Site Manager, got engaged on Christmas morning to Cara Tortora, former ECU Club Field Hockey Team Member, of Congers, NY. A Summer 2007 wedding date is anticipated.
- Stephen Smith, former Intramural Sports Site Manager, multi-sport official, and Office Assistant, was recently promoted to Senior Planner at the City of Greenville County Planning Department. In addition, he and his wife Amy are also expecting their second child (a girl) in May.
- Melissa Toretch, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Office Assistant, and husband Brian have moved into a new house.

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

East Carolina University
Department of Recreational Services
128 Student Recreation Center
Greenville, NC 27858-4353
(252) 328-6387 (phone), (252) 328-6562 (fax)
gaskinsd@mail.ecu.edu, http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/recserv/index.cfm?load=hommalalu