Opening Tip!
Exams and Spring Graduation have ended and the summer is upon us. The past month and a half has been energetic, active, and extremely busy. The end of the semester has also brought the departure of a number of outstanding student employees who are graduating and moving on to the next phase of their lives. Their enthusiasm and experience will be missed but we also look forward to the next group of incoming employees who we expect will make a mark of their own. However, as all of you know, we consider everyone who has contributed to our successes over the years to always be part of our department. The next few weeks represent the transition between the end of Spring and the start of summer classes. There is a great deal to report since the last update as one staff member has departed, a number of noteworthy programs have been implemented, and a major facility change has been completed. As one chapter closes another begins. - DG

Wellness Center Grand Opening Held on March 28th
In February, construction was completed on the Campus Wellness Center on the 2nd floor of the Student Recreation Center. The area directly above the Center Court Juice Bar which has previously housed cardiovascular equipment and served as a stretching/exercise area has been walled off and converted into a dedicated space for Campus Wellness. Initially, two offices were constructed toward the back of the area to provide space for the Director and Assistant Director of Campus Wellness. With the rapid expansion of the Campus Wellness program, it quickly became necessary to locate more space and to develop an area that would enhance the quality of services available. The official "Grand Opening" of the center was set up to coincide with the 10 year anniversary of the SRC and included a variety of programs and events on Wednesday, March 28 including tours of the facility, prize giveaways, the "Food Fight for Your Health" wellness event, and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Center. The Campus Wellness Center is designed to be a one-stop shop for health and wellness resources. The center will be operated by Campus Wellness Education Leaders (CWELs), students who have been trained as certified peer health educators to give accurate health information to students, faculty and staff. The Wellness Center will be open to all ECU students, faculty and staff free of charge, and will include:
- Materials to check out such as books, videos and models
- Free health screenings
- Educational resource packets for research projects and papers
- Nutrition diet analysis and referral
- Educational programs on various health topics

We are very excited to make this important addition to the facility as we continue to serve the health and wellness needs of the university.
Ski and Snowboard Club Place in National Championships

The ECU Ski and Snowboard Club competed in the U.S. Collegiate Ski and snowboard National Championships held March 4-10 in Winter Park, Colorado. The club competed in both the men and women's division. The women placed 2nd in the nation behind the strong performances of Whitney Sullivan (10th), Jordan Britt (12), and Jennifer Shoe (12). Whitney is also an employee in CRW working in the Adventure program. The men placed 12th overall in the championships. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding athletes.

Blair Peck to leave staff

Blair Peck, our Coordinator of Adventure Programs for the last two years resigned her position and left the department on April 27. Blair came to us from UNC-Greensboro where she completed both her Bachelor's and Masters degree while also working in their Adventure program as a student employee and Graduate Assistant. She made some tremendous contributions while at ECU including a number of procedural changes that improved the operation of the Adventure Program Center and equipment inventory. During her tenure she provided leadership to the Adventure Center, worked with the trip program, assisted in challenge course programming, supervised many of the student staff, and managed the climbing wall. Blair loved visiting far off places, enjoying natural beauty, and gathering experiences that many of us only see on television. The winds of her newest challenge are blowing her to the Kenai Peninsula just south of Anchorage, Alaska where she will work for the summer.

Additional Staff News

While we are experiencing one departure from the department, we continue to enjoy the skills and abilities of two long term employees who recently passed significant milestones when they received service awards. Pat Cox, Associate Director for Facilities, was recently recognized for 30 years of service to the state and Gray Hodges, Assistant Director for Facilities and Club Sports, was recognized for 25 years of service. Gray spent some time initially teaching in the public schools but has been with CRW for approximately 19 years.

As we recognized these two fine individuals, another staff member celebrated news of a different nature as Mark Parker, Coordinator for Intramural Sports for the past two years, announced his engagement to Nikki Lankford who also spent a number of years as a student employee in the department as a facility manager and sports official. They became engaged on April 20 and are planning a wedding on Saturday, October 6.

As always, the end of the spring semester marked graduation and a time where many outstanding student employees leave the program. The following seniors were recognized for their service to the department at our Student Employee Appreciation Party on Wednesday, April 25: Yolanda Mitchell (Customer Services and Summer Camps), Erica Payton (Campus Wellness), Laura Guyton, Katie Scandura, and Joanna Ezzell (Main Office), Nathan Sams, Gillie Bailey, Chris Glieson, Melissa Crabtree, Paris Kee, Rebecca Allen, Sanna Delphonce, Caroline Hunt, Robin Moore, Morgan Whitehurst, and Troy Barnes (Fitness), Alison Macdonald and Michelle Latimer (Club Sports), James Coffey, Chris Riddle, Britney Cobb, Nikki Jones, Ash Hollar, Charlie Kessel, Jeffrey Rogerson, and Jay Bissette (Intramural Sports), Tricia Councilor, Adam Driscoll, William French, Anna Kearney, Chris Parker, Angela Klimas, and Ethan Seracka (Adventure), and Phillip Stitt, Shannon Lowe, Kate Mattocks, and Lauren Davis (Aquatics and Utilities). Three Outstanding Volunteers from over 80 that did work in the department over the past year were also recognized. Tamette Farrington, Megan Priddy, and My Le were cited for their outstanding service over the past year in a volunteer role.
Keri Brockett Elected SGA President

Intramural Sports Site Manager Keri Brockett was elected to the position of Student Government Association (SGA) President in election results that were completed on Wednesday, March 28. Keri will make the transition from SGA Secretary, a position which she held during the current year. She captured the election by 453 votes over the next closest candidate. Keri expressed her excitement at having the chance to continue representing the university and SGA in a feature story in The East Carolinian campus newspaper when she said, "This is such a great opportunity for me to give back to ECU as well as to keep working on everything currently with SGA." During the fall Keri was also selected as the Homecoming Queen. Unfortunately, due to these extensive student leadership responsibilities, she is not expected back as an employee in the fall semester.

Intramural Sports Officials News

Chris Riddle and James Coffey participated as officials in two National Basketball tournaments in the second half of the Spring semester. Chris traveled along with David Gaskins to Columbus, Ohio on April 13-15 and was among 32 officials who worked the NIRSA 5-on-5 Basketball National Championships hosted at Ohio State University. Despite the long nine hour drive the opportunity to work top level play, learn from clinicians gathered throughout the nation, and see some amazing facilities made it worthwhile. Games were conducted in Ohio State's RPAC facility which consisted of approximately 600,000 square feet of recreational space. This new building is approximately four times the size of ECU's facility. Gaskins and Riddle also made a side trip to the famed Ohio Stadium (known as "The Horseshoe") to see the scene of numerous great gridiron battles.

Meanwhile, Riddle also joined James Coffey at the American College Intramural Sports (ACIS) National Championships at UNC-Chapel Hill over the weekend of April 27-29. This second "national" tournament is sponsored by a marketing firm (ACIS) that previously was affiliated with our national association (NIRSA). Due to some business disagreements, the two entities split several years ago and host separate championships. Both officials worked on the final day of the tournament and represented ECU in excellent fashion.

In other officiating news from ECU, all-campus softball officials were selected at the end of the Spring semester. Coffey, Bissette, Jordan Arnold, Phelan Fletcher, Dan Rosenblum, and Justin Waters joined Jimmy Heritage with taking home the honors. Heritage has experienced three separate tenures with the program and has now accumulated an amazing 14 all-campus honors between basketball, softball, and flag football.

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 directly to David Gaskins at gaskinsd@ecu.edu

- **Rebecca Allen**, Group Fitness instructor, former Facility Manager and Fitness Trainer, will be starting a new job in August as General Manager at Fitness Unlimited in Washington, NC.
- **Andrea (Allen) Grieve**, former Club Sports/Youth & Family intern and Adventure Center employee, is married to BJ Grieve, formerly a participant in our Cycling Club. They are living in Montana where Andrea works as the Coordinator for Youth Programs at a Wellness Center.

- **Abby Hoffmann**, former Group Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer, will be getting married to Jacob Eastman on Sunday, May 20 in Sherman, CT. They will continue to live in Virginia Beach, VA where Abby works as a Fitness Director at the Jewish Community Center. She also teaches for Old Dominion University.

- **Shelley (Teachey) Kiger**, former Intramural Sports Supervisor, and husband Dayton celebrated the birth of their first child, Avery, on August 23. She is now six months old and doing well.

- **Todd King**, former Assistant Director of Marketing, and wife Jennifer are expecting the birth of their second child around Thanksgiving.

- **Robin Moore**, former Group Fitness Instructor, is graduating with an M.D. from Brody School of Medicine at ECU and will be starting her residency in Emergency Medicine in New York City at New York Methodist Hospital. She plans to be there for three years before completing the residency.

- **Laura Spivey**, former Coordinator and Assistant Director for Intramural Sports is leaving her position as an Academic Advisor at ECU to accept a position as a Lecturer in Recreation & Leisure Studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

- **Brian Weingartz**, former Coordinator of Intramural Sports and multi-sport official, continues to be the Commissioner of the Greenville Little League Baseball program. He was recently in the news as his program secured a number of major corporate donations, including one for $10,000 from Embarq to help support district and state tournaments that will be hosted this summer in Greenville.

- **Alexandra Wipf**, former Intramural Sports Basketball Official, is leaving her job at Telekurs on May 1st and will be traveling around the world for the next year. This journey can be tracked complete with text and pictures. Please let me know if you want to get the URL address.

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