Opening Tip!
As I write this a busy and hectic Fall semester has concluded and the Student Recreation Center has been relatively quiet with students gone for the break and many of the staff taking well-earned vacation time. However, with Spring 2007 classes starting on January 5th there isn't a great deal of time to relax and reflect and planning is well underway for a number of programs. It's hard to believe but the Student Recreation Center will celebrate its 10th year beginning in January and the department will be launching a "Celebrating a Decade" marketing campaign to honor and recognize this exciting time as we look back on what has happened since the SRC opening on January 10, 1997. Over the course of the year a number of events will be a part of the Celebrate 10 campaign with the Polar Bear Pool party, slated for January 18th, leading the way. This wonderful tenure has been shaped by so many of you and we are thankful for your commitment and leadership. Please join us in celebrating this exciting time. - DG

Changes Are Coming With Alumni Newsletter
Changes will be in the works during the Spring 2007 semester with respect to the "Alumni Update." At some point next semester we will roll out a new version of the newsletter which will be produced quarterly through our Marketing area. This will be a much nicer publication than what you currently see and we will be working collaboratively with the Alumni office and the Student Life Development officer. Although much of the specifics are not fully determined at this time, the intent is to mail this new version of the newsletter. I have been asked to gather mailing addresses so please send that information directly to me. I have also been asked to get feedback regarding the possible institution of a charge for alumni services. Please know that nothing has been decided at this time but we would like to know how each of you feel regarding the value of this communication and if you would continue to receive the service at a cost. Several other institutions which provide such a publication for their alumni work with their Development offices and simply ask for donations that can go toward a variety of departmental programs. At ECU this could include travel for students to conferences, workshops, or extramural tournament, special event sponsorship, or new equipment or facility enhancements. Please send us your mailing addresses, any personal updates, changes in email addresses and any feedback or thoughts you may wish to share about this change. Your feedback will determine how we move forward with this new approach to the alumni publication. On a personal note, it is with some sadness that I step back from my involvement in this publication because it has truly been a labor of love to remain in touch with so many of our best and brightest former co-workers. When this update started in 2001, there were eight people on the initial list. That list has grown to about 250 over the five year period.
Flag Football Officials to Work National Tournament

For the 18th consecutive year ECU Campus Recreation & Wellness will be represented by officials working at the National Flag Football Championships. Charlie Kessel, who captured his invitation based upon his performance at the UNC-Wilmington regional and Rachel Moser, an at-large invitation, will make the trip to Pensacola, FL from December 28-31, 2006 for the 28th year of this prestigious event. For the first 26 years of the tournament's existence it was held annually in New Orleans. However, when the full impact of Hurricane Katrina decimated the University of New Orleans campus the University of West Florida stepped in and offered to host. It is uncertain whether the tournament will return to New Orleans in 2007 for several reasons. Obviously, the condition of the UNO campus is an important factor but recent acrimonious relationships between the sponsoring organization (formerly Campus Concepts and now American Collegiate Intramural Sports or "ACIS") and the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) have complicated the issue further. At one time NIRSA and ACIS collaborated to produce the tournament but the two groups have now parted ways and NIRSA will be initiating their own national tournament January 4-7, 2007 in Dallas, TX and has garnered support from many of their member institutions. This direct competition has already impacted the participation anticipated at the traditional national tournament and will probably do so to a greater degree in the future. ECU will not be represented this year at the tournament in Dallas.

Staff Changes for 2007

The Spring 2007 semester will be marked by a couple of staff changes and one vacancy still pending. Among the full-time staff, Selena Barrow joined the department on December 11th as the new Housekeeping Supervisor. The position had been vacant since Chris Amyette's departure in the Spring. It will now be her charge to continue the fine tradition of keeping our outstanding facilities looking clean and sharp for the participants and staff. While Selena's arrival is significant, the biggest shakeup occurs with some of the Graduate/Program Assistants where there has been some transition. In the Intramural Sports area, Joanna Ezzell is departing for her final semester to work a grant-funded assistantship in Adapted Physical Education - her major area of study. Her role will be filled for the Spring by two undergraduate Program Assistants as
Justin Waters and James Coffey will begin their new positions in January. In Fitness, Nathan Sams will move from his Program Assistant position to an Intern in his final semester before graduation and Gillie Bailey will join the staff as a second intern as well. The hiring of a second intern will assist in the transition of Suzanne McDonald's responsibilities as she assumes her Assistant Director duties which will be more focused toward instructional programming and personal training. For Club Sports, Susan Doggett completed her class work in one and 1/2 years and will be doing an internship in Georgia in the Spring. Her Graduate Assistant position will be filled by Lacy Grover, who will be starting graduate school and has previously worked in the club sports area as an undergraduate. After one and 1/2 years Denise Migliaccio is departing the staff as Adapted Recreation Program Assistant to complete her degree requirements with an internship at Wake Medical Center. As of the third week in December, that position remains vacant with several candidates expected to interview before Christmas.

Flatlanders' Fling Climbing Competition Renewed at the SRC

The 10th annual "Flatlanders' Fling Climbing Competition" took place at the Student Recreation Center on Saturday, November 4th. Over 30 climbers from ECU, the surrounding Pitt County community, and several other colleges and universities strived to conquer the challenges posed by our 27 foot tall structure and the new routes designed and placed by the Adventure program staff. Blair Peck, Coordinator of Adventure Programs along with student coordinator Hilary Bauer were the primary organizers of the event. A large number of businesses and organizations served as sponsors and supporters.

10th Adapted Sports Day Welcomes ECU Graduate Shawn Hessee

The 10th Annual Adapted Sports Day was conducted on Saturday, November 18th and attracted approximately 120 total participants including over 40 individuals with a disability and over 60 volunteers to gain experience in a variety of adapted sports including rock wall climbing, power/wheelchair hockey, bocce', tai chi, slalom/obstacle course, shuffleboard, beep baseball, hand crank cycling, bowling & billiards, wheelchair basketball/volleyball, dance, and seated aerobics. The keynote speaker was ECU graduate and local power hockey player Shawn Hessee. Shawn delivered an inspirational address which revealed his true pride in being a Pirate and a former participant in our Adapted Recreation programs. This event was a true collaboration with involvement from the Walker Center in the School of Health & Human Performance, Pitt County Community Schools & Recreation, and the Support Team for Active Recreation (STAR) in the local Pitt County community. A huge number of local businesses supported the event and it received considerable coverage from the local media. Among the session leaders/instructors were CRW student employees Allison Hook, Steve Kozicki, and Connie Slack.
Spirit of Volunteering Comes to the Department

For the first time this fall, Campus Recreation & Wellness formalized an organized volunteer program that was available to students and faculty/staff. Executed in collaboration with the ECU Volunteer & Service Learning Center, the CRW program provided a variety of options for volunteers to select. A total of 28 students worked volunteer almost 200 hours performing functions such as helping out at the Customer Services Desk, working as an exercise partner for a participant with a disability, officiating flag football, assisting at events, lending support to weight room closings, and doing office administrative functions. The Adapted Recreation program had another 400 hours of volunteer time from practicum students in various related academic classes. Most of our volunteers this fall came from a variety of academic classes that had specific volunteer or service learning requirements. Each met with a CRW staff member and were assigned responsibilities based upon choices that they made. While the first semester of implementation had some minor issues, it was an overwhelming success and will be continued into the Spring. The Spring 2007 will see a specific dedicated brochure and the eager cooperation of a number of academic instructors seeking to expose their students to opportunities for practical experience. It is our hope that this program will eventually also help in identifying potential employee candidates for the future.

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

- **Chris Amyette**, former Housekeeping Supervisor and Facility Manager, got engaged to Lesley Ann Spruill and plans are underway for a January 13, 2007 wedding.
- **Dawn (Swain) Cash**, former Group Fitness Class Attendant, served as the organizer for the 2nd "Dash for Cash" 5K and 10 mile road race in Greenville on Sunday, December 3rd. The event is named for her husband Chris Cash, who died in combat in Iraq and
proceeds fund a scholarship in his honor. A total of 343 finishers completed the two races making it easily the largest road race in eastern North Carolina.

- **Ellen (Day) Cline**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Basketball Official, and husband Jonathan celebrated the birth of their first child recently. Charlie McNeil Cline was born on Monday, November 11 and was seven pounds and 10 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.

- **Susan Doggett**, former Club Sports Graduate Assistant, will be completing an internship with the Georgia State Games in Kennesaw, GA during the Spring semester as part of her requirements for a Masters' degree.

- **Daniel Finn**, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, finished with an 8-4 record in his first year as Head Varsity Football Coach at Southeast Raleigh High School. Despite losing in the 1st round of the 4-A playoffs Daniel engineered a turnaround from a 5-5 record the previous year.

- **Candice (Voigt) Houlihan**, former Intramural Sports Program Assistant, Site Manager, and multi-sport official, and husband Jimmy are expecting a baby girl on December 28th. This will be their first child. The couple are still living in Boston and Candice has changed jobs. Since June she has been working as a clinician for children and their families at an acute hospital placement.

- **Shomari Kee**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and multi-sport official, got engaged to be married on December 12th and is planning for a wedding on June 9, 2007. He is currently working as the Assistant Director for Intramural Sports at George Washington University.

- **Michelle (Graham) Lee**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Supervisor, has accepted a job with Tri-County Community Health Center and is a floating Physician's Assistant between five rural health clinics throughout eastern North Carolina.

- **Denise Migliaccio**, former Adapted Recreation Program Assistant, will be completing an internship during the Spring 2007 semester at Wake Medical Center in Recreation Therapy as a part of her degree requirements.

- **"Fore" Rembert**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Supervisor, is completing his second year at Madison High School (NC) as Head Football Coach and his team has qualified for the playoffs both years (those are the only two playoff berths in the history of the school). He was also named "Carolina Panthers" Coach of the Week back in September and will be recognized at the Panthers-Giants game in December. In addition, he is a candidate for the Panthers "Coach of the Year" honor as well. He and his wife Mandy also have a 21 month old son. "Fore" was named Athletic Director his high school and will be relinquishing his position as Head Baseball Coach.

- **John Swartz**, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, has left his position as a sports reporter for the Washington Daily News and is now working for the New Bern Sun Journal.

- **William Winstead**, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, is now the Leisure Program Coordinator with Havelock (NC) Parks & Recreation.

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