Opening Tip!
October is already here and we're almost six weeks into the Fall semester. I'm not sure whether or not the paced has slowed down but it doesn't seem like it. September was packed with a number of special events, some old and some new, that took a lot of energy and effort. Currently three staff members are out of the office on Family Medical Leave after celebrating the birth of new children. Suzanne McDonald is expected to return to work on October 9. We also added a new position recently with Tara Barber joining the staff as an Assistant Director of Nutrition Services. Tara had previously been on campus with Student Health but will now join the wellness team and provide additional resources in our efforts to offer total services for the total well being of the campus community. One of our alumni was in the national news at the beginning of the month but the potentially tragic story had a happy ending. Much is happening so read on and enjoy! - DG

ECU Alumni Disappears, is Found in Biskek, Kyrgyzstan
A former Campus Recreation & Wellness employee was in the national news earlier this month and several days of grave concern ended positively when Major Jill Metzger was found alive after a bizarre kidnapping in which she was held hostage for several days. Jill worked in the Equipment Room and was a Lifeguard at Christenbury Gymnasium while at ECU in the early to mid-90's. Following graduation she embarked on a career in the military and distinguished herself as an athlete as well, twice winning the women's division of the Air Force Marathon. Metzger disappeared while shopping for souvenirs in Bishkek on Tuesday, September 5 and was missing until Friday, September 8. She reportedly told law enforcement officers that she had been kidnapped by three young men and a woman in a minibus and held in a rural area about 30 miles from Bishkek. According to reports, someone placed a hard object in the back pocket of Jill's blue jeans with a note indicating that the object was an explosive device and providing detailed instructions to go to a designated meeting place. Reports differed on how she was found. She had been temporarily stationed at Bishkek's Manas airport. Her normal duty station is Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. Jill has been recently married to Air Force Captain Joshua Mayo and had planned to go on a belated honeymoon after returning to the U.S. later in September. More detailed news accounts are at:

http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/story?id=2411302
September Special Events

The month of September featured a number of special events. Now in its 19th edition (older than many of the participants) King & Queen of the Halls was held on September 7 in the Mendenhall Student Center Brickyard and had another great turnout as hundreds of residence hall students were active in a wide variety of goofy games as they approached the quest of being crowned either "King" or "Queen" of the halls. Some new games were brought into the activity but many of the traditional favorites remain and are as popular as ever. The final Tug-of-War in the Men's division was a classic for the ages. The Adventure Overnight Extravaganza headed completed its 3rd year on September 9 with about 40 participants partaking in a variety of outdoor recreation workshops and enjoying a night climb on the new Alpine Tower. The "TNT NRG Explosion" group fitness master class lit up the first two courts in the Student Recreation Center with a high-energy workout featuring our group fitness instructor team. Concluding the month was the Youth & Family "Family Fall Fling" on Saturday, September 30 conducted in collaboration with the Office of Adult, Commuter, and Transfer Student Services. Approximately 60 students, faculty/staff, community members, and children enjoyed a variety of games, lunch at West End Dining Hall, and bowling and a movie at the Mendenhall Student Center. At the end of October the Student Recreation Center will once again host "Monster Mash", a DJ dance as a component of the Division of Student Life "Midnight Madness" special event. This will be the second year in which the building will be literally transformed into a nightclub.

New CRW Babies Arrive in September

Coordinator of Customer Services, Jenny Gregory and her husband DJ celebrated the birth of their second child on Sunday, September 17 at 2:57 pm. Aaron Charles Gregory weighed seven pounds at birth. Jenny will now be on Family Medical Leave until December. Later in the month Associate Director for Marketing Kathryn Hunt and her husband Joe celebrated the birth of their first child on Monday, September 25. The Gregory and Hunt babies are is the third and fourth children for a Campus Recreation & Wellness staff member in a three month period following Todd Riddick in June and Suzanne McDonald in July. One more new child is anticipated in the next six months.

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

- Steve Bobbitt, former Assistant Director for Adventure Programs, is leaving James Madison University but staying in Harrisonburg, VA and will be starting a new position on October 1 with a company named Endless Horizons. They operate a 300 acre camp, retreat center, consulting business, and also administer three Job Corps program sites (two in Kentucky and one in Texas). His job title will be Director of Outdoor Learning and he will be responsible for directing adventure operations for all sites.
- Ben Cashion, former Adventure Program Center employee, is now a Massage Therapist for ViQuest Center and ECU Student Health.
- Shawn Christenbury, former Intramural Sports Official, is currently working at the law firm of Blanco Tackaberry Matamoros & Combs in Winston-Salem.
• **Craig Faircloth**, former Club Sports Graduate Assistant and Intramural Sports Official, has left Georgia and has recently started a new job at Western Harnett Middle School teaching Physical Education and is also coaching football and baseball. He will be officiating high school basketball out of the local association in Fayetteville.

• **Daniel Finn**, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, has taken his Southeast Raleigh HS football team to a 5-2 record through September in his first year at the helm. In true Finn fashion, he has guided the team to several last minute victories during this first part of the season.

• **Amanda Gibbons**, former Marketing Assistant, has started a new job in Memphis, Tennessee working for the Partners in Public Education (PIPE), a nonprofit children's education advocacy group. She is also a full time Masters in Public Administration (MPA) student at the University of Memphis.

• **Kaley Kowalsky**, former Lifeguard and Swim Instructor, was hired in August to teach business at North Buncombe High School in Weaverville, NC where she is also coaching swimming and track. Kaley started back at ECU in the Master of Arts program in Teaching through distance education and also recently got engaged to ECU alum Jeremy Ballard, who was a School of Business graduate. The wedding will be in July 2007.

• **Michelle (Graham) Lee**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Supervisor, recently completed the Master's Program for Physician's Assistant at ECU through distance education. She has also passed the national exam and is Physician's Assistant certified (PA - C).

• **Bobbie Norris**, former Intramural Sports Site Manager, Intramural Sports Supervisor, and Marketing Assistant, is moving to Washington, DC at the beginning of December. At the end of last year she took another role with her company working on new developments and opening new apartment communities. They have six apartment communities opening in the next year in the DC area.

• **Cliff Ogburn**, former Intramural Sports Graduate Assistant, Supervisor, Site Manager, and Official, and wife Joy recently celebrated the birth of their second child. Ella Grace was born on September 8 and weighed 5 pounds and 15 ounces.

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

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