

# Wichita State Sport Administration Program

## Sport Administration News

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**Sport Administration Mission:** To provide students with knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the sport industry that will provide career advancement opportunities. The tools and resources provided to the students will occur in a positive learning environment combining both theory and practice.

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Dr. Greg Buell, KSS 465

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### SASA Hosts First Two Events of Semester

The Sport Administration Student Association (SASA) started the semester by hosting a pizza and bowling social at North Rock Lanes August 28. Many students enjoyed meeting and conversing with sport administration faculty, bowling, and free pizza and soda courtesy of SASA. On September 22 SASA hosted a members only tailgate before the Shocker volleyball match against Northern Iowa. Members got to

meet and speak with athletic department personnel and enjoy burgers, hot dogs, and drinks before attending the game.

### **SASA Membership Update**

Memberships in the Sport Administration Student Association are now available. SASA memberships are \$20 and members receive a SASA t-shirt, weekly lists of jobs and internships available in the field, and invitations to SASA "members only" events. Membership brochures are available on the Sport Administration bulletin board. Membership fees should be paid to Mary Myers in the KSS office (Heskett 106).

### **Spaces Filling Fast for Colorado Trip**

WSU's Cooperative Education & Work-based Learning program is sponsoring a trip to Denver and Colorado Springs November 5 - 7. This trip includes visits to a number of prominent sport organizations, including the Denver Broncos, Denver Outlaws LaCrosse, Colorado Rockies, Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets, and the Olympic Training Center. To qualify undergraduate students must be either a sport administration or exercise science major, have completed 60 credit hours of course work and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Graduate students must be admitted to the Sport Administration or Exercise Science Master's programs. Students must also attend a mandatory information session. To sign up, contact the Co-op office at 978-3688.

### **Sport Administration Program to Host First KSS Lunchtime Lecture**

The Lunchtime Lecture Series is a series of lectures conducted throughout the academic year, with each program in the department of Kinesiology and Sports Studies hosting one lecture. The first KSS Department Lunchtime Lecture will be Thursday, September 28 beginning at 11:15 in the upstairs lobby of the Heskett Center. It will focus on the upcoming trip to Colorado. Faculty from the Sport Administration program will be on hand to discuss the benefits of the trip for students, and Cathy Ellsworth from Co-op Education will also be on hand to provide information to students interested in learning more about the excursion. All students are welcome to attend, and pizza will be provided.

### **Faculty Q & A with Dr. Lori Miller**

Dr. Lori Miller, professor of sport administration, was eager to return to the faculty role this fall after serving as an administrator for the last eight years, first as department chair and then associate dean for the College of Education. Dr. Miller has been internationally recognized for her scholarship, teaching, and service excellence. She has received many awards, honors, and recognitions, including for example, designation as a North American Society for Sport Management Research Fellow (the highest research status awarded by the sport management profession), Sport Management Council's Outstanding Achievement Award, Sport and Recreation Law Association (SRLA) Leadership Award, SRLA Honor Award, WSU's College of Education Research Award, University of Louisville's (U of L) Young Investigator Award, and U of L's School of Education Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Miller also has authored or co-authored almost 100 articles, book chapters, or texts; and has presented at international, national, regional, and state conferences. In addition, Dr. Miller currently serves as the SRLA Executive Director, a position held since 2001.

Dr. Miller recently took some time to respond to a few questions.

**Q. What's the most exciting aspect of returning to a faculty role in the sport administration program?**

A.

I find great enjoyment and inspiration in all three aspects that typically define the role of a faculty member, i.e., teaching, scholarship, and service. I have a genuine passion for the law and an equally intense passion for continual, ongoing learning. Teaching enables me to share law related knowledge and insights with prospective and current sport management employees, while also allowing me to learn from the student's own professional experiences. The intellectual stimulation resulting from the design, creation, and distribution of scholarship is always great fun. Similarly, I reap tremendous intrinsic satisfaction and joy when helping students achieve their career aspirations via advising, internship discussions, successful course completion, etc. while also facilitating service initiatives at all levels (e.g., membership in and leadership roles assumed in professional associations, working with practitioners to best meet their respective needs, and similarly, working on university and department level committees).

**Q. Several years ago, you completed a juris doctorate degree to go along with your Doctor of Education. In what ways has your law school experience enhanced your teaching and research?**

A.

I definitely have a more comprehensive understanding of the law and its many facets. I also think law school enhances a person's ability to think and problem solve in unique ways. In addition, I think the law school degree compliments nicely my undergraduate degree in business, the MBA, the master's degree in education, and the doctoral degree in education. As a result, I believe I possess a uniquely well-rounded perspective of various legal issues. In comparison to my other earned degrees, the law degree was by far my most enjoyable academic experience. If anyone has even an inkling of interest in law school, I highly encourage him/her to give genuine consideration to actually attending law school. If you are considering it, I can assure you that it will be an educational blast! (*Caveat: no oral contract intended or established, of course, by the above statement ☺.*)

**Q. What do you think are the "hottest" issues in the area of sport law today?**

A.

Six issues immediately come to mind and are briefly identified below.

- (1) The continued and expanded globalization of sport;
- (2) Heightened challenges regarding the amateur status of the NCAA Division I athlete;
- (3) Constitutional challenges regarding rules and regulations governing the high school and collegiate athlete; e.g., athletes use of the Internet (for example, myspace.com); attempts to regulate the off campus activity and behaviors of student-athletes (e.g., imposing penalties for violating drinking regulations off campus, curfews, etc.); drug testing, etc.;
- (4) Any and all issues pertaining to the Internet (e.g., the use of electronic signatures, use of email while on the job, Internet activity occurring while not on the job; employee accountability for emails and respective email content);
- (5) Ways to find liability or responsibility for the aberrant employee actions (e.g., inappropriate interactions with children or colleagues; bringing guns to work or the sporting arena; etc.) and a resultant deterioration of states' interpretation of

their respective governmental immunity statute, i.e., a conflict with the original intent of the statute; and

- (6) Continued heightened accountability for those employed in a sector of the education industry (e.g., proof that students are learning material needed to be successful in the student's respective career or industry).

**Q. What do you think are some of the most important opportunities available to students in the sport administration program?**

A.

Similar to prior years, students graduating with good references and impressive dispositions (e.g., work ethic, character), coupled with experience in any aspect of sales, will continue to be given favorable employment consideration. However, sales and non-sales employment opportunities for talented, qualified students are so much more abundant in 2006 than what they were pre-21<sup>st</sup> century. In large part, the increasing domestic and global opportunities are a result of the practitioners' recognition of, and appreciation for, the sport management degree and their improved understanding of the program's curriculum and the resultant knowledge, skills, and abilities of program graduates. In other words, practitioners now routinely seek and desire prospective employees who possess an earned sport management degree versus, for example, sport industry employers who are unaware of the sport management degree's existence, or even worse, sport industry employers who seek or desire to hire a person with an earned business degree instead of the sport management degree. Further, as noted above, society's heightened interest in organizational and employee accountability will continue to increase the number of career opportunities (both domestically and globally) available to the sport management student who possesses admirable personal dispositions (e.g., hard work, respect, integrity) in addition to a strong resume that reflects an ardent history of experience (paid or volunteer) in sport business settings.

**Q: Any concluding statements or thoughts?**

A:

It is a blessing to work with the students, practitioners, and all of my professional colleagues; an opportunity I am thankful for on a daily basis. *Best wishes to you all!*  
Genuinely and sincerely, Dr. Miller! ☺

**SAAA Officers Named**

A new slate of officers is in place for the Sport Administration Alumni Association. The new Executive Committee, which will serve a two-year term, is comprised of:

President: Rod Scheer (G 2000)

Executive Vice President: James Nicas (G 2001)

Vice President – Special Events: Kristy Nunn (G 2002)

Vice President – Marketing: Angie Elliott (G 2002)

Treasurer: Nick Garner (G 2005)

Secretary: Deuane Howard (UG 1999, G 2001)

This marks the second term served by James Nicas (formerly president), Deuane Howard (formerly executive vice president) and Kristy Nunn (returning as vice president – special events).

The new Executive Committee will be meeting next month to initiate the 2006-07 membership drive and scholarship selection process. Thanks to all of the new and returning officers for their commitment and service to the program!

## **Sport Administration Alumni Update**

Charlie Beets (UG 2006) has secured a position with the NFL's Carolina Panthers as the team's scouting coordinator. ... Brandon Buehne has been hired as the assistant aquatic director at the New Canaan YMCA in Connecticut. ... If you have a job announcement you'd like to have included in future alumni updates, please contact a member of the sport administration faculty.