

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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SASA T-Shirts Available for Pick Up

Sport Administration Student Association (SASA) members who have not already done so may pick up their t-shirts by stopping the KSS office (HC 106 & 107) and asking for Dr. Vermillion.

SASA Memberships Still Available, Worth the Money!

Memberships in SASA continue to be available for the 2006-07 academic year. Memberships are \$20 and member benefits include a SASA t-shirt, invitations to special members only events and a subscription to a weekly listing of job and internship announcements.

SASA enjoyed a productive fall semester with its kickoff social at North Rock Lanes, a "tailgate" cookout with members of the WSU athletic department staff at a WSU volleyball game, and a planning meeting that included a report on the Denver Road Trip sponsored by the Office of Cooperative Education. Information about SASA events for the spring semester will be announced soon!

Membership flyers are available on the Sport Administration bulletin board, and the fee (cash or check) can be paid to Mary Myers in HC 106.

Experiential Learning Opportunities Available

Students interested in conducting an internship or a cooperative education assignment this spring may want to consider one of the following two opportunities.

The first is for an event manager at Butler County Community College. The job would require 12-15 hours each week and would center of managing home athletic events (basketball, baseball and softball). A stipend is available and interested students should contact Bill Rinkenbaugh, vice president for students services at BCCC, at 733-3297.

The second is for a marketing assistant to work with a sport memorabilia auction benefiting the Law Enforcement Memorial of Sedgwick County. Responsibilities would primarily relate to securing auction items and promoting the event. Interested students should contact Mark McKee at 461-9555.

As always, please consult with your assigned faculty advisor regarding how to best proceed!

Faculty Q & A with Dr. Mark Vermillion

Dr. Mark Vermillion, assistant professor of sport administration, is nearing completion of his first year as a full time faculty member with the sport administration program. Dr. Vermillion obtained his MA from Wichita State, and recently received his doctorate in sociology from Oklahoma State. He teaches the graduate and undergraduate sociology of sport courses, and serves as the undergraduate program coordinator for the program.

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

Q. You're nearing completion of your first year as a full-time faculty member in the Sport Administration program, but you have taught an on-line course here previously. What has been the most difficult part of moving from a part-time instructor to a full-time professor?

The most difficult part from moving from a part-time instructor to a full-time professor is also the most rewarding part of the job- making time to interact with students. While teaching the online course, most student interaction was via emails. Being able to sit down with someone and illustrate a point or explain something in greater detail allows me the chance to see the proverbial "light bulb" go off, and that is great. Trying to meet with all my students at various times throughout the week can be difficult, but it is well worth it.

Q. You recently completed your Ph.D. in Sociology. How does that relate to sport administration?

Sociology simply deals with the study of people in groups. Inherent to our discipline or industry, sport and sport-related organizations are composed of numerous social interactions on a daily basis. Sociology not only helps us to answer questions about who participates in sport; does sport causes deviance/violence; and how does race and gender affect sport participation opportunities; but also it helps us to better understand the sport organizations our students will be working within. Understanding work environment dynamics; how economic issues influence sport; and the role the media has in "making" or "breaking" a particular sport, can all be better understood by examining the world through a sociological lens.

Q. You received your masters degree here at Wichita State. How has the university changed since then?

In only a few short years, WSU started the transformation process from a "commuter" school to a more traditional college campus. The recent success of the WSU sports has drastically influenced how excited both the school and the community gets for WSU related events. Early on, you would lots of KU and K-state shirts and hats being worn by WSU students on campus. Now you see a lot more black and gold in classes!

Q. What are some sociological issues you feel sport administrators will need to address in the future?

There are two "buzz" words that are sociologically based and extremely relevant to all managers, but especially sport managers: inclusiveness and diversity. Inclusiveness deals with more than making a building accessible with wheelchair ramps. It is an ideology that stipulates integrating more opportunities for individuals with cognitive, physical, or emotional disabilities in sports by encouraging them to participate in sport and sport related organizations. Diversity, in a similar way, encourages more racial, ethnic, and gender representation in not only athletics, but also the sport business place. Additionally, a lot of students see Title IX and desegregated sports and believe that everything is equal. Just because things are changing for the better, does not mean that all accolades, resources, and power dynamics are equal across all aspects of sport. Students entering this new sport business work environment already know about inclusiveness and diversity. They will be asked, however, to take the spirit of these ideas and translate them into practical applications for their sport organizations.

Q. Any words of advice for students as they head into their finals?

Regarding finals: over-studying was always a problem for me. Chances are, if you have been going to class, staying engaged in class discussions, and turning in your assignments, you know what instructors/professors want you to know. My advice: study hard, but schedule in some down time for your brain to relax!

Chris Presson, Jim Schaus speak to KSS 112 students

Chris Presson, General Manager for the Wichita Thunder CHL Hockey team, was a guest speaker at the Introduction to Sport Management class in September. He

spoke to the class about his experiences in the profession, and answered questions from students. He discussed the characteristics of a successful sport administrator, stating the most important thing students in the field can do is get experience. "Internships are important in learning how the business side of a sport organization is run. Most people only see the product on the field, court, or rink, when actually there is so much that takes place behind the scenes in order for the event to happen in the first place" he stated.

Wichita State Athletic Director Jim Schaus also took time out of his busy schedule to address the class on the intricacies of managing in intercollegiate athletics. He mentioned running a college athletic program is similar to running a normal business in many aspects, particularly from a financial standpoint. Mr. Schaus even addressed the issue that is on everyone's mind – will Wichita State field a football team in the near future? He summarized his response by saying "I realize many in the community want to see football reinstated, but in reality it's just too much of a financial burden at this point in time."

Good luck on finals and have a safe, enjoyable holiday break!