Opening Tip!

January is past us and the Spring semester is well underway. New Year’s resolutions for exercise programs and cooler temperatures have made us popular both with facility use and program involvement. Robin Owens began work January 3 as the Accounting Assistant replacing Jenny Langley but the Assistant Director for Marketing remains vacant for the Spring. We will be attempting to reclassify the position and embark on a search soon. In the meantime, another staff member has assumed marketing responsibilities on an interim basis. However, despite the open position, participants are still coming fast and furious into the program. - DG

New Participation Record Set in 10th Annual Polar Bear Pool Party!

A stunning 467 participants were involved in the 10th edition of the Polar Bear Pool Party on Thursday, January 19 at the SRC Outdoor Pool. What started with 39 participants as an event designed to celebrate the opening week of the Student Recreation Center in 1997 has grown into an enormous campus tradition. With temperatures fairly reasonable on the days leading up to the event, students and faculty/staff poured through the door for registration. Stephen Gray once again served as “Papa Bear” to lead the jumpers through the rituals of the jump. Approximately a dozen “waves” of about 35 jumpers at a time dove into the icy waters of the outdoor pool for a t-shirt and a chance at various prizes including an iPod Nano. Intramural Student employee Kerri Brockett took the microphone as master of ceremonies and did a fine job replacing the ever-popular Todd King.
Pack the Courts Group Fitness Class
The “Pack the Courts” Group Fitness Class was held on Wednesday, January 18 on Courts #1 and #2 in the Student Recreation Center and attracted about 60 people for a workout divided into multiple short-duration stations with an upbeat tempo and high energy. Sam Combs, Assistant Director for Fitness, and several of his experienced instructors took part in leading the Master Class. A similar program is planned for Wednesday, February 22 to correspond with the Department’s celebration of National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day.

Five Student Nominated for NIRSA William N. Wasson Award
Three undergraduate and two graduate student employees in the Department have been nominated for the 2006 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association William N. Wasson Student Leadership & Academic Award. This award annually recognizes students who have made exceptional contributions to collegiate recreational sports programs while also maintaining outstanding academic credentials and participating in extracurricular activities. Twenty-four undergraduates (four per region) and twelve graduate students (two per region) are recognized nationally each year from nominations that are submitted. Previous recipients from East Carolina University include Jason Johnson, Allison Kemp, Dana Long, Sara Ehlers, Dana Moore, Summer Talley, Shay Hayes, Rebecca Allen, Nicole Lindsay, and Heather Vercoe.

This year’s Graduate Student nominees are current Graduate Assistants Alex Langley (Club Sports) and Joanna Ezzell (Intramural Sports). Both have been prominent and outstanding workers during both their undergraduate and graduate tenures while performing an assortment of duties. The Undergraduate nominees include Eleana Brockett, who is currently serving as the Youth & Family Program Assistant, Matt Hill, the Intramural Sports Program Assistant, and Nathan Sams, the Fitness Program Assistant. Individuals selected for the award should be notified in mid-March.

National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day Celebrated at the SRC
In honor of the formation of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association, February 22nd (the date of the first ever national conference) has been identified as National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day. The celebrate this date on the ECU campus, Recreational Services will be holding a number of events including Intramural Basketball Championships, a Kayak Roll Session, Climbing Wall Workshop, Campout on the MSC Brickyard, Membership Appreciation Day, and the Winter Power Jamm Group Fitness Master Class. This day and its associated events represent just another opportunity to raise the profile of our department on the ECU campus.

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 either directly to David Gaskins at gaskinsd@ecu.edu or by completing the web form on the alumni page off the main Recreational Services page at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/recserv/index.cfm?load=homalu.
• Scott Bethune, former Intramural Basketball Official, is currently stationed in Iraq commanding a gun truck for convoy security. Before being mobilized he was attending UNC-Chapel Hill working on a masters/doctorate degree in Physical Therapy. He is married and currently makes his home in Garner, NC.

• Richard Chadwell, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official and Site Manager, participated in the NIRSA Region 3 Student “Lead On” Workshop in January and will also be on staff for three extramural basketball tournaments later in the Spring semester.

• Zac Dean, former Utility Worker, Adventure Center staff, Trip Leader, and Challenge Course Facilitator, and Summer Camp staff, recently accepted a new position in Charlotte as a Director of Youth Ministries at Carmel Presbyterian Church and began work on December 16. Prior to this change he had been working in a similar position in Washington, DC.

• Robert Grant, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official, was the subject of a January 31 feature story in the Greenville Daily Reflector chronicling a planned summer bicycle ride across America to raise money to fight Multiple Sclerosis and Diabetes.

• Shomari Kee, former Intramural Sports Multi-sport official, Site Manager, and Office Assistant, was the Coordinator for the NIRSA Region 3 Student “Lead On” workshop held earlier in January.

• Julie Kroger, former Marketing Graphic Artist, and Brian Reed, former Intramural Sports Supervisor and Official, got engaged to be married in mid-January. The wedding will be August 12, 2006. Julie is still working with marketing for a Table Tennis company in Wilson, NC but will be moving to Wilmington, NC after the wedding.

• Braxton Patterson, former Intramural Sports multi-sport official and Site Manager, got engaged on Christmas morning to Cara Tortora, former ECU Club Field Hockey Team Member, of Congers, NY. A Summer 2007 wedding date is anticipated.

• Stephen Smith, former Intramural Sports Site Manager, multi-sport official, and Office Assistant, was recently promoted to Senior Planner at the City of Greenville County Planning Department. In addition, he and his wife Amy are also expecting their second child (a girl) in May.

• Melissa Toretch, former Intramural Sports Site Manager and Office Assistant, and husband Brian have moved into a new house.

• Heather Vercoe, former ARISE Program Assistant, is doing a Therapeutic Recreation internship with the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Tacoma Park, MD.

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