The MSU Sport Management program is pleased to announce the launch of a monthly newsletter to help stay in touch with and keep alumni and current students informed about what is happening at MSU. Dr. Jon Lim, the program coordinator, indicates that MSU’s graduate and undergraduate programs are one of the best in the Midwest because not only are they approved by the North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM) and National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), but they also have a dedicated team of faculty and excellent students. Current faculty members are working with students to improve the image and recognition of the program. Students will also be working with the faculty to improve the Sport Management website. The goal of the new website will be to provide an opportunity for current students to communicate with alumni and learn of possible internship and job opportunities in addition to allowing possible future students learn about the high quality Sport Management program offered at MSU.

Featured Alum

Joe Wagstaffe graduated from MSU with Master of Science in Sport Management in May 2008. When asked about his experience with the Sport Management program Wagstaffe commented that what he was taught in the classroom “definitely translates over to the real world”. Currently he is employed by the United States Olympic Committee and works at the Olympic Training Center in San Diego, CA. As a Coordinator of Operations, Wagstaffe deals with the day-to-day needs of athletes as well as organizes all aspects of training trips for National Teams. Before getting the position with the Olympic Training Center, he completed five internships in two and a half years all over the United States. Overall Wagstaffe really enjoys his current job and is looking forward to learning even more about the athletic world in the future.

Scholarship BBQ Is Big Hit

November 20, 2008 marked the third annual MSU Sport Management Scholarship BBQ. The event, held in Myers Field House and brought more than 1,000 in attendance, many of whom waited in line prior to the event starting. Guests enjoyed a variety of BBQ foods including hot dogs, burgers, chips, cookies, and drinks. Aside from the food, there were many different forms of entertainment including quickball, fast pitch and three point contests, free throw competitions, and guest speakers. Ticket sales and proceeds from the silent auction benefited the general MSU scholarship fund. Overall, the Scholarship BBQ was a huge success and has continued to increase in both size and scholarship dollars raised since the inaugural BBQ.

MSU Students Volunteer at Taste of the NFL

On October 20, 2008, Minnesota State continued its strong relationship with the Minnesota Vikings by sending volunteers to help out at the teams Taste of the NFL. The event which was held at Winter Park Vikings Fieldhouse helped benefit hunger relief in Minnesota. While there guests were able to receive autographs and talk with current and former Minnesota Vikings players and coaches as well as sample food and wine from many of the Twin Cities finest restaurants. Minnesota State students had many responsibilities including: parking, checking in coats, watching over merchandise from the silent and live auctions, helping local restaurants, and helping coaches and players with anything they needed. Overall, students had a valuable learning experience in seeing how professional events are put together and executed.
Dr. Jon Lim is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Graduate and Undergraduate Sport Management programs. He has published a number of articles in the national and international refereed journals. He has received more than 15 grants totaling approximately $350,000 in financial support, and has given a variety of presentations at state, regional, national, and international conferences in the areas of sport management, and technology use in education.

Dr. Gary Rushing is the Chair of the Human Performance Department and a Professor of Sport Management. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in Sport Law. His primary research area is also Sport Law and he has published in several law reporters and coaching journals. He has book chapters in the following: Sport Law for Sport Managers, Athletic Protective Equipment, and Successful Sport Management.

Dr. Suzannah Armentrout is an Assistant Professor. She received her Ph.D and her M.A. from The University of Minnesota in 2007 and 2002 respectively. Prior to the University of Minnesota, Dr. Armentrout earned her B.S. at the University of Wisconsin. Her main focuses of teaching are Sport Marketing, Data Analysis of Sport, Legal Aspects of Sport, Graduate Seminar in Sport Management Research interests: Barriers to sport participation and gender issues.

Mr. Bryan Romsa is in his first year as an Assistant Professor at MSU. He received his B.S. in Social Science Education from Concordia College and later earned his M.A. in Sport Management from MSU.

His main focuses of teaching are Foundations of Sport Management, Sport Marketing, and Planning sport Facilities. Bryan also has a passion for coaching both baseball and football.

Abby Maxson is a junior from Maple Grove, MN. As a member of the MSU Varsity soccer team, Abby stays busy and earned All-American Honorable Mention in 2007. Prior to graduating, Abby is strongly considering an internship in New Zealand. She would love to see the world while learning about sports. After graduating in May of 2010, Abby is leaning towards a career in the sports recreation field and has aspirations about helping community members with health through sports.

Katie Bye is in her second year of graduate school at MSU. She hails from Minnetonka, MN. During her graduate school experience, Katie has kept extremely busy with many internships. She was an MSU Sport Management intern, St Paul Saints Game-Day Promotions and Special Events Intern, and is currently a PR intern for the Minnesota Timberwolves. After graduating with her M.A. in Sport Management, Katie hopes to work within community relations for a Minnesota sports team or health club.

The MSU Sport Management program is looking for a new logo. Anyone interested creating a possible logo should email the editors with their design. We hope to include the school colors as well as a unique design, original to the Sport Management program. Please submit entries by January 1, 2009. A winner will be chosen and receive a prize, compliments of the Sport Management program.

To submit information for inclusion in publication, please send it as a text document to Jordan Stolp at jordan.stolp@mnsu.edu or Kristin Johnson at kristin.johnson@mnsu.edu.