

Western Connection

A PUBLICATION FOR
CAMPUS RECREATION ALUMNI

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WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Greetings from Campus Recreation!

What an exciting time it is to be a part of Western Illinois University, and especially Campus Recreation! We have some energetic relatively new staff members who complement our already hard working team! I am fortunate to work with such great people who all bring positive thinking and diverse skill sets to our department. It is truly fun and invigorating to build this new team in transition to a new era for Campus Recreation at Western. Keeping with the Western tradition, we have excellent graduate assistants who we selfishly want to keep for our own. They have been very instrumental in selecting and developing our student staff and creating a fun and customer-friendly environment for everyone. I think we have a winning mixture of enthusiasm and professionalism.

As Campus Recreation marks its 10th anniversary in the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center, we have celebrated **The Power of X** with year-long special events and features.

Our most exciting news—which we are all eager to see completed—is that of our expansion. The Spencer SRC will be bigger and provide new programming opportunities. The elevated track will be almost twice as long. We will have an additional multipurpose court, an additional fitness area, and our cardio area will be expanded. The weight room will be much roomier with the latest in weight training equipment.

Excuse our expansion mess!

Opened on October 3, 1997, the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center (Spencer SRC) has been the recreational hub of Western Illinois University providing undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to pursue a healthy lifestyle and explore recreational interests through a variety of programs and services.

In recent years, the demands on available space has outgrown the 78,000 square-foot facility: the Weight Room is precariously crowded; the Court Rooms are booked solid; the cardio equipment is never idle. Even though Facility Manager, Sara Winship, works continuously to keep the Center in tip-top shape, the fact remains additional space is desperately needed. Campus Recreation will be able to offer students more opportunities for recreation with the 21,000 square-foot expansion slated for completion in fall 2008.

Unfortunately, this construction project has—and will continue to—hamper our programming in the Spencer SRC; however, we hope to meet the needs of our students and members in a professional and amiable manner. Their patience will be rewarded when they have access to one of the finest university recreation centers in Illinois.

Memberships now available to Western Illinois University Graduates

Western Illinois University graduates can now purchase a Campus Recreation membership to the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center (Spencer SRC). For those who still live or work in the Macomb area, this is an economical way to incorporate a fitness routine into their daily lives. Everything from Aquatics to Group Fitness classes are accessible to members. Graduates of Western, as well as their spouses or domestic partners, may purchase memberships at the Spencer SRC Front Desk.

A fall or spring semester membership costs \$120.00, a summer semester membership costs \$75.00, and a yearly membership is \$275.00. Ten-visit punch cards are also available for \$30.00. For more information on memberships, please contact the Campus Recreation Business Manager at 309/298-2797 or stop by the Front Desk. Payment can be made by cash or check to Campus Recreation.

The Spencer SRC is open from 5:30 AM to 11:00 PM, Monday through Thursday; 5:30 AM to 9:00 PM on Friday; 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Saturday; and Noon to 11:00 PM on Sunday, with exceptions for holidays, breaks, and construction constraints.

Graduate Assistant Nicole

Kroot was the named
Division of Student Services
Employee of the Month in
January 2008.

Connie Van Dyke was
named the Civil Service
Employee of the Month in
January 2008.

Julie Terstriep was named
Division of Student Services
Employee of the Month in
December 2007.

Congratulations and thank
you to John Washo, who
hosted the State of Illinois
Extramural Basketball
Tournament sponsored by
Nike

Lauren Carrier was one of
two winners of the IIRSA
Scholarship and will receive
a \$285.00 registration
stipend to attend the NIRSA
National Conference.

Josh Fugitt was named as a
William Wasson
undergraduate winner in
Region III in 2007

Nick Knowles was named
RPTA Outstanding
Graduate Student of the
Year 2007.

Ceal Majeres retired

Ceal Majeres started in the Advising Center at Western in 1992. She began her career at Campus Recreation in August 1993. "I enjoyed getting to know the students involved in the activities sponsored by Campus Recreation. They kept the job interesting," she said.

Up until October 1, 1997, Ceal remembers, "hoc soc, slide-a-puck, a basketball league for people 5' 9" and under, line dancing, aerobic dance (fitness classes), student workers checking IDs in the Horrabin Hall gym or covering lunches in the Western Hall Equipment Room, floor hockey in Simpkins Gym (and Jim Ashton, equipment attendant, repaired the broken sticks), free weight lifting in the Western Hall gym (now the racquetball courts), racquetball games on the north balcony of Western Hall, sharing the gyms in Brophy and Western Hall with the athletes, and tent rentals. (Jim also repaired the tent poles!)"

When the Student Recreation Center opened in 1997, Ceal remembers that "students never had it so good--their own weight room with 65 new pieces of Cyber equipment, modern electronic exercise machines, the running track, four arena courts for their exclusive use, 4 real racquetball courts, a golfing area, and an updated pool, which would eventually include a sauna and a hot tub. Outdoor facilities were also upgraded. Changes included fences on the ball diamonds, rugby goal posts, sand volleyball courts, more outdoor volleyball courts and basketball hoops, a roller hockey court, soccer fields, and eventually portable latrines. They even built a new "shed" on the intramural field with water and electricity."

Named the Civil Service Employee of the Year in 2002–2003, Ceal Majeres has left her mark on Campus Recreation at Western. She is now doing volunteer work, enjoying her three grandchildren, and spending more time with her husband, Ray, who retired from the Department of Psychology last year.

Recent Additions to Campus Recreation

Ryan Hansen joined us as the Assistant Director of Intramurals and Sport Clubs on July 1, 2006. Ryan completed his MS in Sports Administration at Central Michigan University while working as a graduate assistant for University Recreation in Intramural Sports. He is also an IHSA registered basketball and wrestling official. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children Emmi, Reed, and Elli.

Connie Van Dyke joined our staff on June 19, 2006 as the Secretary to the Director. She is completing her 18th year here at Western and previously worked in Extended Learning and Student Activities. Her three sons and her daughter-in-law have graduated from Western IL University. In her free time, she loves to visit her granddaughter, Grace, work in her flower beds and gardens, and spend time with her sisters and friends.

Jody Zscheck joined Campus Recreation as a secretary on July 10, 2006 after having worked for one year in a temporary position at Document & Publication Services. She earned her BA from WIU in 2004. She and her husband, Steve, have been married for 24 years and have three children. The Zscheck family has lived in Macomb since 1989.

Jason Ruehle was hired as the Assistant Director of Facilities & Aquatics in June 2006. Jason completed his undergraduate degree in Sport Management from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL. After returning from the Middle East in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Jason earned his Master's Degree in Sport Management from Western.

Nick Knowles was hired as the Coordinator of Sport Clubs & Special Events in July 2007. A native of Macomb, Nick served in United States Marine Corps from 1994-1998. He has a bachelor's and Master's Degree in Recreation, Park, Tourism, and Administration from Western. He enjoys lifting weights, golfing, and spending time with his wife, Liz, who is the Director of Patient Financial Services at McDonough District Hospital, and also an alumnus of Western.

Big Pink Volleyball Tournament raises \$7,485.50 for breast cancer



The 7th Annual Big Pink Volleyball Tournament boasted 107 teams with over 822 participants. Thanks to the generosity of WIU students, \$7,485.50 was donated to both the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which has been renamed Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the McDonough District Hospital Mammogram Assistance Program.

RSPS T-shirt auction

The Recreational Sports Professional Society (RSPS) wants to give a big thank you to everyone who donated t-shirts for our fifth annual t-shirt auction. With all of your help, approximately \$1600.00 was generated in t-shirt sales! This money will help fund professional development opportunities such as, attending the NIRSA Annual Conference in Austin, TX this year. We appreciate your support and look forward to meeting plenty of new faces, and catching up with all of the familiar faces affiliated with Campus Recreation at Western at NIRSA.

Special Event Success

This semester we have seen a lot of participation in our special events. For Trivia Bowl in January, we had 162 participants on 44 teams in a battle of wits. In March, Dodgeball for Diabetes was remade as "eXtreme" Dodgeball for Diabetes and played 3-on-3 in the racquetball courts. We had 220 people on 45 teams this year. Twenty nine students traveled to Andalusia, IL in February to ski at Ski Snowstar. The timing was perfect as we had snow storm that week that left a fine powder of snow on the slopes, which made for perfect skiing conditions. As part of Disability Awareness Week in March, ten teams signed up for Wheelchair Basketball Tournament this year (approximately 60 people) and we borrowed sport wheelchairs from the University of Illinois.

Commemorative bricks line walkway

The Division of Student Services invites you to purchase an engraved brick that will line the walkway into the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center and leave a lasting legacy of your Western Illinois University experience. The bricks are \$125 each and include a message of your choice with up to 13 characters on each of two lines. Memorialize someone that may have had a significant impact on you or a special friend.

Commemorate your organization, department, or business. Honor your family name along with your year of graduation. Proceeds from the sale of bricks go to support Campus Recreation Student Development Grants. Make checks payable to Campus Recreation Foundation Account. Campus Recreation, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455.

WESTERN AT NIRSA

Last year, along with nearly 2100 attendees from across the country, three Campus Recreation professional staff members and nine graduate assistants attended (and enjoyed) the 2007 National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In addition to Joshua Fugitt winning the William N. Wasson Student Leadership & Academic Award for Region III, two of our graphic designers were recognized for their talents. Matt Malinoski won a blue ribbon for his Duck Club t-shirt design and Matt Budreau won second place for his Get Fit Stay Fit t-shirt design for our fitness program co-sponsored with Sodexo.

This spring, five Campus Recreation professional staff members, eight graduate assistants, and two undergraduates will attend the conference in Austin, Texas, April 2-4.

Stop by the IHOP Restaurant (located just seconds from the Austin Convention Center at 707 E. Cesar Chavez, Austin, TX 78701-4100) at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2008.



Campus Recreation Alumni

Doug Arrowsmith, MS is the Campus Recreation Facilities Coordinator at Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

Brian Baxter, MS '01, and Jackie of Gifford, IL announce the birth of their second child, Raya Grace. Brian is an Assistant Director of Strength and Conditioning for the University of Illinois-Champaign, Division of Campus Recreation. (BBaxtr@uiuc.edu)

Shane Bennett, MS '04, and Tena (Wurdeman) Bennett, MS '99 have moved to Marion, IL. Tena is working in Facilities/Recreational Sports and Services at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Shane is an account executive for a minor league team in Marion. (tenab@siu.edu)

Mike Chadee, MS '07, is the Assistant Director of Intramurals Sports at Texas A&M University-Commerce. (Mike_Chadee@tamu-commerce.edu)

Brian Collier is the Event Coordinator for Facilities at the Chicagoland Speedway/Route 66 Drag Strip in Joliet (bcollier@chicagolandspeedway.com)

Deborah Crandall, BS '06 is working on her MBA at University of Illinois Springfield. She is currently working as an accountant for the school newspaper. (dcran2@uis.edu)

Shelby (Schoonover MS '00) and Tom Crow ('02) were married on Sept. 2, 2006. She is a Community Economy Development Coordinator for the University of Illinois Extension in Quincy. (sschoon@uiuc.edu)

Sarah W. Daugherty, MS '03, is the Campus Recreation Facility Director, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. (swdaugherty@eiu.edu)

Chris Davis Schneider, '00, and Ron Schneider, '99, of Freeport, IL have a daughter named Sarah Anne. (rschneider@freeportparkdistrict.org)

Chris Davis, MS '00 is the Assistant Director of the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center, The University of Virginia's College at Wise. (cdd3s@uvawise.edu)

Kelly Day, MS'06, has completed her internship at Disney's Wide World of Sports. (kmday@hotmail.com)

Marty Falkenberg, MS'97, of Winchester, MA is a team sales representative for the World Boxing League in Clearwater, FL. (gond90@comcast.net)

Jill (Maxa) Gabbert, MS '99, and Scott Gabbert, MS '99, have a daughter, Jacqueline Marie.

Betsy Guin, MS '05, and Jeff live in Boynton Beach, FL. Betsy is busy with their two-year old twins, and Jeff is a basketball coach with the Florida Atlantics. (betsyguin@hotmail.com)

Alex Hamneby, MBA '01, and Jazmin (Barreto, MA '01) Hamneby live in Bristol, WI. Alex is still with Siemens in Buffalo Grove, IL, but has been promoted to a commodities manager. (aleXhamneby@hotmail.com)

John K. Howard of Littleton, CO is the Director of Intramurals and Club Sports in a 100,000 sq. ft. facility that includes a 40 ft. climbing wall. (JKHoward@Mines.edu)

Karen Huseman, BS '02 is the Residence Life Coordinator for Stangel Murdough at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX ". . . a complex of 950 predominately first-year students with a staff of 22 CAs." (karen.huseman@ttu.edu)

Cassie (Killip, BS '02) Daly of Quincy, IL, is an admissions advisor for John Wood Community College. **Scott Daly, MS '02**, is a teacher and coach for the Quincy Public Schools. They have a son named Cullen. (sdaly24@hotmail.com; kkillip10@hotmail.com)

Cassie Kinnamon (Mosley), MS '01, Quincy, IL, is a commercial credit analyst at 1st Federal Bank in Quincy. (ckinnamon@hotmail.com)

Nick Knowles, MS '07, was hired as Coordinator of Sport Clubs and Special Programs in Campus Recreation at Western in July 2007. (NS-Knowles@wiu.edu)

Pam Kochis, MS '06 just finished a job with the Highlands Ranch Metro District as a Recreation Coordinator for the youth and adult sport programs. She is looking for a new position within the field of sports or recreation in the Denver Metro area. She is also in the planning process for her wedding coming up in July. (kochis99@yahoo.com)

Mabel Kreps, MBA '02, is a Faculty Assistant at Western Illinois University in the Institute for Rural Affairs. She and her husband, Brian, have a son, Payton, who is four and a one-year-old daughter, Camryn. (MR-Kreps@wiu.edu)

Dawn Kunkel (Roberson), MS '98, and Keith announce the birth of their second son, Kai. (dawn_roberson@yahoo.com)

Amy McCallister, MS '00 is the Community Health Director of the McDonough County Health Department in Macomb (AmyMcCallister@mchdept.com)

Jim Miner, Director '00-'05 was honored as the 2006 recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award from the National Association for Campus Activities. (JB-Miner@wiu.edu)



Jessica Newton (Reynolds), CSP '04, and **Curt McReynolds, MS '04.** Curt is the director of marketing and membership at the Alfred Campanelli YMCA in Shaumburg, and Jessica is an Admissions Advisor at the Keller Graduate School of Management. (curtunc98@hotmail.com; Jessica.mcreynolds@gmail.com)

Mike Oblinger, MS '07 is the Donor Relations Representative at University of Memphis in the Athletics Development Department. (mblinger@memphis.edu)

Lauren Ogata, MS '05 has been promoted to Recreation Manager for Pop Century and Caribbean Beach Resorts. She will oversee lifeguards, the marina, children's activities, and anything else recreation! (logata22@aol.com)

Jim Phillips, MS '99, of Freeport, IL, is now the Transfer Coordinator at Highland Community College. (jwpwui@hotmail.com)

Nikki Pope, '02, received her MA in Physical Education from Ball State. She is a program director for the Boone County Family YMCA in Lebanon, IN. (npope14@hotmail.com)

Mark Powell, MX '90 has been promoted to Associate Director for External Relations at the University of Nebraska, Campus Recreation (mpowell@unlnotes.unl.edu)

Trish Renken, MS '03, is a Training Specialist with the Iowa Workforce Development in Burlington. (renken79@hotmail.com)

Larry Rhodes, MS '05, is a Marketing Associate Manager at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando. (ripit3@hotmail.com)

Denise Schrecke (Jelinki), '99, is the fitness director at the Rich Port YMCA in LaGrange, IL. (dschrecke@hotmail.com)

Evan Slagsvold, MS '04 is the Coordinator, Intramural and Club Sports at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA (eslags@excite.com or slagsvold@lynchburg.edu)

Joel Storm, MS '07 has completed his internship at Ohio State University Department of Recreational Sports and is working in Iowa City.

Matt Suellentrop, MS '07 completed an internship with the Burlington Bees last summer and is working for the Peoria Park District in Illinois.

Denise Swenson, BS '83 is working at University of Illinois in the Employee Relations and Human Resources in University Administration (jdsenson@net66.com)

Jeff "JT" Timmons, MS '01, is the Director of Campus Recreation at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Kristin Tripicchio, MS '05, is a fitness coordinator at Illinois State in Normal and is working with **Rene Lockenour, MS '86,** Associate Director. (kmtropi@ilstu.edu)

Richard Tylicki, MS '92 is the Director of Stadium Operations for the Binghamton Mets baseball club in NY. He was promoted to Company Commander with the Army National Guard stationed in Scranton, PA. (bmets@bmets.com)

Scott Vandermoon, MS '06, is the Coordinator of Intramural Sports and Sport Clubs at the University of IL at Chicago and **Greg Kaefer, MS '81,** is the Associate Director. (scottv@uic.edu; gkaefer@uic.edu)

Ashley Voiles, BS '06 works for Bobroff, Hesse, Lindmark & Martone, P.C. in Glen Carbon, IL. She was married to Brian Hires last September.

John Washo, MS '03 is the Assistant Director of Intramurals, Club Sports, and Special Events at DePaul University in Chicago (jwasho@depaul.edu)

Robert Ward, MS '98, and **Melissa Turner (Ward), SSP '00,** have a daughter named Olivia Georgia.

James M. Wayne, MS '05 is the Coordinator of Sport Clubs and Intramural Sports at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. (jwayne@semo.edu)



J.T. Timmons, Director of Campus Recreation at University of Illinois Springfield gave us a tour of the new facility, TRAC.