**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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Other Faculty & Spring Lecturers

Dr. Alan Aagaard, CI 541
Dr. Greg Buell, KSS 770
John Lee, KSS 525
Mike McCoy KSS 528
Dr. Martin Perline, Econ 611
Steve Shaad, KSS 520

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**Lori Miller Receives University Honor**

Dr. Lori Miller, professor of sport administration, recently received the President’s Distinguished Service Award, during a luncheon held on the WSU campus. Awards are given annually to faculty and staff at WSU who excel in serving the institution, their profession and the broader community.

Even a quick glance at Dr. Miller’s academic vitae shows a teaching and administrative career heavy on service. In their co-written nomination, her
colleagues in the sport administration further expressed the many ways Miller has advanced the university she has served since 1995.

Associate professor Clay Stoldt, instructor Jeff Noble and assistant professor Mark Vermillion note that, in her first five years as chair of KSS, she facilitated a bachelor's and a master's of education sport administration degree programs.

Miller's overall performance for KSS led to an appointment as associate dean of the College of Education, where she helped the college receive national reaccreditation in 2005. She also led the college's effort to earn additional teacher education licensure programs through the state Department of Education.

In 2001, she was recognized as a North American Society for Sport Management Fellow, meanwhile continuing her service to the Sport, Recreation and Law Association as executive director.

These are just a few of the accomplishments her colleagues pointed out. In addition, she earned a law degree in 2003 from the Presidents College School of Law in Wichita to deepen her understanding of legal issues in sport administration.

In her outreach to students, including establishing the sport administration student club, she also has been heavily involved in the Wichita community in sports-related capacities and in volunteering through the Wichita school district's Reading is Fundamental program for elementary schools.

**Sport Administration Career Fair A Success**

Employers from throughout the Wichita sport community met with more than 50 students during the 2007 Sport Administration Career Fair April 11. Co-sponsored by the Sport Administration Student Association and WSU’s Office of Cooperative Education and Work-Based Learning, the career fair was open to all students interested in jobs or internships in sport settings.

Both the cooperative education office and WSU’s career services department had booths at the event. They were joined by most of Wichita’s most prominent sport organizations, including the Wichita Thunder, the Wichita Wranglers, Genesis Fitness Center, the Derby Recreation Commission, the WSU Athletic Department, Newman University, 81 Speedway, the Wichita Wild, the Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission, and WSU’s Heskett Center.

**SpAd Students, Alum Honored at KSS Awards Night**

A number of sport administration majors and an alum of the program were honored at the Ninth Annual Kinesiology and Sports Studies Recognition Night on April 25th. The Department hosts the event each year to recognize outstanding contributions to the four program areas in the department – exercise science, athletic training, physical education, and sport administration – by students and practitioners in the field. Those receiving awards from the sport administration program are as follows:
Kip Smith – Undergraduate Major of the Year
Shunsuke Miyamura – Graduate Major of the Year
Abigail Cress – Practitioner of the Year and an alum of the program

Two other students were awarded scholarships from the department. Beth Gerstner received the Gladys Taggart Scholarship, while Nicole Lloyd received both the Physical Education Alumni and Bill Umphrey Scholarships.

Faculty Q & A with Dr. Jeff Noble

Dr. Jeff Noble is an instructor of sport administration in his third year at Wichita State. His teaching load includes intro to sport management, organization and administration of sport, and the graduate sport finance and sport leadership and management classes. He is also the editor of this newsletter, and thus interviewed himself for this article.

Q. Your experience prior to coming to Wichita State has primarily been in coaching. What does coaching have to do with sport administration?

Most people think of sport administrators as athletic directors, general managers, owners – the business side of sport, which of course it is. Coaches, especially today, are expected to play a role in all administrative aspects of their respective teams. In addition to their coaching, their responsibilities include marketing, fundraising, public relations, compliance, and a number of other things that are traditionally associated with persons in administrative positions.

Q. With your background in college athletics, what do you feel are some of the more important issues future college athletic administrators will be faced with?

I think the college athletic directors of tomorrow will have to deal with the same issues AD’s face today – gender and racial equity, compliance issues, institutional control, and commercialism, to name a few. As athletic programs strive to become more successful, they are spending more money on salaries and facilities. This “arms race” will need to be addressed and dealt with by those in leadership positions in the near future.

Q. As the instructor for the Intro to Sport Management class, you educate students on the opportunities available in the sport industry. What is the most important piece of advice you want these students to take from your class?

On the first day of class I try to set the stage for students to become successful in the sport industry. I inform them of the importance of getting out and gaining experience in the field, and networking with as many practitioners as possible in order to get noticed. I have a mantra that they all know, or should know, by heart – “it’s not who you know, it’s who knows you.” Getting out and gaining experience lets people in the industry know who you are, and what you can do.

Q. You are a graduate of Iowa State, a fan of the Chicago Cubs and KC Royals – all programs known for their lack of athletic success. Care to comment on why you associate yourself with such athletic ineptitude?
No. This interview is over!

**Sport Administration Courses Invite Practitioners to Share Wisdom**

A number of practitioners have taken time out of their busy schedules this past semester to speak to students in various Sport Administration courses about their experiences in the industry. Following is a list of people who have stopped by:

- Abigail Cress, Marketing Coordinator, Wichita Wranglers
- Myles Gallagher, President, The Superlative Group
- Bob Lutz, Columnist, The Wichita Eagle
- Mitch Guthrie, Regional Director, Special Olympics
- Nick Taylor, Paralympic Gold Medalist
- Brad Del Barba, Professional Scout, Milwaukee Brewers

**Alumni Update**

Leigh Ashman (G 2004) has joined American National Bank as marketing coordinator for the western region of Colorado. ... Nick Garner (G 2005) is now a staff member with Sooner Sport Properties in Norman, Okla. ... Earl Greene (FS 99) has taken a position in business development at E2 Inc. ... Les Myers (G 2003) has accepted a new position as football academic advisor at the University of New Mexico. ... Josh Todd (G 2007) has been hired as the sport manager at the Ottawa Recreation Commission (KS). ... Jon Weinman (UG 2005) is now working as an account executive with the Kansas City Royals.

**Faculty Update**

Dr. Martin Perline, professor of economics, and Dr. Clay Stoldt have co-authored an article titled "Competitive Balance and Conference Realignment: The Case of Big 12 Football" appearing in the spring issue of *The Sport Journal.*