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A message from the advisor...

by Dr. Alan Geist
Faculty Advisor

It is exciting to see the growth we are experiencing within our Sport Management program. In addition to the birth of the Sport Management Organization (including this newsletter and the new website), we have added a number of new courses during this academic year. The students in one of these new courses, Event Planning and Production, are in the process of staging a CU baseball game at Fifth Third Field, home of the Dayton Dragons. They are involved in marketing, ticket sales, entertainment, and other aspects of event production as they work with the staff of the Dayton Dragons to host this event.

During the spring semester, CU students have had the opportunity to interact with a number of professionals from the sport industry, including Mr. Jon Spoelstra, Teams Division President of Mandalay Sports Entertainment and the Dayton Dragons and Mr. Ken Stefanov, Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of the Cleveland Indians.

Later this month, Mr. Jeff Chilcoat, President of Sterling Sports Management (Columbus, Ohio) and Mr. Pat Williams, Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic are scheduled to be on campus. For more information and photos of these events, continue to read the newsletter and go to our SMO website at <http://people.cedarville.edu/stuorg/sportmgt/>.

Praise the Lord for the opportunities we have had and the direction He is providing.

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Intern Update

- SMO President John Hummertsch will be interning with the media relations department of the Milwaukee Brewers this summer. He will be responsible for press releases, box scores, newspaper articles, and their website.

Program News

- The online course "Current Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics" will be added as an elective during this summer. This 3 credit class involves online discussions, a debate project, a book review, and a final exam.

Faculty Profile

Ben Belleman

by Abram Keller

Contributing Writer

1. What is your current position at Cedarville University?

I am an Assistant Professor of Exercise and Sport Science as well as the coach of the men's soccer team.

2. What is your educational background?

I received a B.A. in physical education from Cedarville in 1979 and a M.A. from the University of Akron in physical education with an emphasis on administration.

3. Why did you come to Cedarville?

Being a graduate of the school had a lot to do with it, and obviously there was a job opening.

4. What positions have you held before coming to work here?

I only worked at two other schools before coming here. I worked at a Christian school in Detroit for 3 years. I also worked at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy for 19 years. I taught business and physical education as well as coached soccer and track, and was also the athletic director at Cuyahoga for 10 years.

5. What is most appealing to you about the field of sports?

The simplified version, it is the thrill of competition.

6. What do you think of the Cedarville University Sport Management Program?

It has a huge upside to it with great potential. Very few Christian schools are committed to a specific Sport Management program. It is expanding greatly. Dr. Geist and I have been talking and we think the connections we are trying to make are great. God has been good in bringing us a variety of great contacts which can all turn into great internship possibilities. My main point is this: the degree is on the verge of massive blossoming.

7. What advice do you have for the students?

Get as much practical experience as you can.

Student Profile

Crystal Wiley

by Brent Martin

Contributing Writer



Many of us know Crystal Wiley because of her outgoing personality and interest in others. Her passion for friends, the game of basketball and a sincere love of Christ define her image as a great person. Born in Austin, Texas, Crystal has always enjoyed sports. She started her

collegiate basketball experience at Geneva College before transferring to Cedarville for the last two seasons.

Because of her interest in sports as a business, Crystal chose sport management as her major. She liked the fact that the major was "new and innovative". She has a desire to use her Christian education and knowledge in sports to pursue a career in sports ministry. Her interest in ministry was sparked by her coach, Kirk Martin, and reinforced through a missions trip with Athletes in Action.

Her experience in sport management began with the X-Project for Athletes in Action. She worked as a volunteer at Little Dribbler Camps and has worked summer basketball camps as well. She is also in a leadership position in the newly formed Cedarville University Sport Management Organization. After graduation she will begin a summer job in the "Colorado Leadership Experience". When summer ends, Crystal does not know for sure what God has in store for her life. However, she is fully confident and trusting that He will provide an opportunity for her.

Crystal has enjoyed the Sport Management staff and other students in the major. She regrets not strengthening those relationships, but has this to say to other Sport Management majors, "Always strive for excellence at all times in the classroom and in your daily decisions and build strong relationships with the ones you interact with on a daily basis."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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MY VIEW...

Cleveland Cavs Career Fair

by Jim Sawin

Newsletter Coordinator

Fantasy, Familiarity, and Fun. These three words describe my experience in Cleveland on February 21. After having an open dialogue with Ken Stefanov, Senior Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of the Cleveland Indians, he showed us the GM's office, took us into the clubhouse, and led us onto Jacobs Field. It was like a fantasy come true for many of us as our eyes scanned the stadium.

Also describing my trip was the word "familiarity". After leaving the "Jake", we entered the career fair at Quicken Loans Arena. A large array of teams, companies, and organizations were there to recruit employees and interns. Although I was not interested in a specific company, I spoke with a number of people to develop my communication skills. I'm sure the experience will help me feel more comfortable at future career fairs.



Finally, Cleveland was a lot of fun as you can see by the photo inside the arena. We attended a Cavaliers game after the fair and received free wigs (I still have mine). It was a blast to get the Sport Management majors together and have a good time.

This is just one day in the life of a SMO member at CU. I look forward to what the future will hold for this organization.

Upcoming Events

- April 13 11:00 AM-1:45 PM
- Jeff Chilcoat, President of Sterling Sports Entertainment, will be speaking to the Intro to Sport Management and Legal Issues in Sport classes
- April 19 6:00 PM
- CU Baseball vs. Wilmington at Fifth Third Field in Dayton
- April 28 2:00-3:00 PM
- Pat Williams, Senior Vice President of the Orlando Magic, will be speaking to students in the SSC Theater

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<http://people.cedarville.edu/Stuorg/sportmgt/index.html>

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