Join Us!  
NIRSA 2013

Viva Las Vegas!

It’s that time of the year again! The 2013 NIRSA National Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from March 4-8. Our staff and students are very excited for the upcoming conference. We will be taking six professional staff, nine Graduate Assistants, and six undergraduate student employees. As you know, NIRSA is an opportunity for our staff to learn new and exciting things that we can bring back to our programs at WKU. The educational sessions and roundtables offer each of our programs a chance to learn what is and is not working for our colleagues in effort to advance our programs. Everyone is looking forward to this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as professionals in the field of Intramural-Recreational Sports.

Also don’t forget about the Alumni Social! We will be hosting the Annual Intramural-Recreational Sports Alumni Social during the conference where our WKU Intramural-Recreational Sports family can come together to enjoy some good food and great company. The social will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at the Planet Hollywood Restaurant which is located inside Caesar’s Palace. The event will begin at 7:30 PM for WKU Staff and Alumni only. During this time we will have an update on happenings at WKU and present the Alumni of the Year Award. At 8:30 PM the guests of WKU staff and colleagues from Kentucky Institutions are welcomed to join us. Also, if you know of any former WKU IM-REC student employees or staff, feel free to invite them. We hope to see everyone there!
Corner

Brad Stinnett

“I will always cherish my time with Intramural-Recreational Sports. The experiences that I have gone through and the relationships that I established at the Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center have made me a better person and professional.”

Brad has been affiliated with WKU for over 20 years. Whether it was graduating from the University or becoming the Assistant Director of the Preston Center, Brad has done it all. Recently Brad decided to take up one of his other passions in becoming a professor. He has now been hired as an assistant professor in the Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation Department here at WKU. We wish him the best and hope he will still stop by the Preston Center frequently.

Kathryn Steward

“You can’t control everything that happens to you in life, but you can control how you react to it.”

Kathryn Steward held a number of positions while working at Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center. She started off as an Intramural official, then moved on to work in the “Weight Room”, which is now the Fitness Center, and lastly worked the six A.M. shifts at the front desk. Steward is now the Assistant Director of Health Education here at Western Kentucky University. She would like to offer advice to current employees, “every job, no matter how insignificant it seems, can have the potential to help you in the future.”

Heard It Through the Grapevine

Justin Anderson is getting married in May

Drew Winters is the Facilities and Services Coordinator at Georgia Southern University

Brandon MacCalum will be getting married this summer

Taylor Moad recently got engaged

Tobias Abel will be marrying Jill Weatherholt this coming summer

Dustin Bray is the Marketing and Special Events Coordinator at the University of North Carolina

How To Support IM-REC Sports

How to Give to IM-REC Sports
1. Go to www.wku.edu
2. Click ‘Make A Gift’ on the top of the page
3. Enter your amount and then choose, “select the fund(s) for your gift”
4. Scroll Down to Student Affairs and check the box for Intramural and Recreational Sports
5. Complete the form and press continue.

How to Join the Alumni Association
1. Go to www.wku.edu
2. Click Alumni on the left side toolbar
3. Click on Membership on the top left of the page
4. Select the Join Now option
5. Once again, select the Join New option
6. Complete the form and submit
“The SEB’s goal is to unify the departments...”

What Is the SEB?

The Student Employee Board is composed of undergraduate students from each program within the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department, and is overseen by the Graduate Assistant and the Intramural Coordinator, Sean Sherwood. The SEB’s goal is to unify the departments within Intramural-Recreational Sports by providing professional development resources such as networking and leadership opportunities through student-led activities and to act as a voice for the student employees. Student employees of the Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center lead this group through service on designated committees. Each student chooses which committee he/she wishes to work with. These committees were established based on the various goals of the SEB. Currently, there are five active committees: Alumni, Social, Community Service, Professional Development, and Fundraising.

Each committee that the students are involved in has its own responsibilities that help contribute to the overall mission of The SEB. The Alumni Committee is responsible for the publication of the bimonthly Alumni Newsletter, assisting with the organization of the Homecoming Alumni Picnic, and keeping an updated contact list of all alumni of Intramural-Recreational Sports Department. The Social Committee plans several social events for all student employees of the Preston Center. These events include the Annual Preston Center Olympics and the End of the Year Student Staff Appreciation Banquet. These events are intended to bring all student staff together for good times and fellowship. The Community Service Committee, which was created this year, helps the students get involved in the community and finds ways to give back to the University as well as the city of Bowling Green. Their first project was organizing a team for the local Relay for Life that raised money for the American Cancer Society. Other projects proposed for this committee include volunteering at local soup kitchens and the Humane Society. The Professional Development Committee arranges for guest speakers to attend in-service meetings and special events that are held for student employees. These guest speakers may address a variety of topics including how being a Preston Center employee can help a student develop into a professional in any field. They also offer mock interview sessions and resume building workshops to student employees. The final committee is the Fundraising Committee. This group arranges various forms of fundraisers to assist with the funding of events that are hosted by The SEB. Some of these fundraisers include Penny Wars, corn hole tournaments, and percent nights at local restaurants.

Every year the SEB reaches new heights. More and more students are getting involved as they see firsthand the good things that the SEB is providing for the student employees of the Preston Center. We are constantly learning and growing in hopes that this board will assist current and future student employees of WKU Intramural-Recreational Sports Department.

A Word From Steve

Alumni and Friends

It’s that time of the year when the staff prepares for their annual trip to the NIRSA National Conference.

This year’s conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada during the dates of March 4-8, 2013. It’s a great opportunity for us to network with our colleagues across the country, learn what’s new in the field of recreational sports, and meet with the many equipment vendors that will assist us in improving our many programs, services, and facilities at WKU.

It’s also the time of year when we are able to meet with our alumni who will be attending the conference or who live in the area. For those of you who cannot join us in Las Vegas this March let me update you on two outstanding events that occurred this past fall and spring semesters.

First, we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center during WKU’s Homecoming in October. It was a grand event as we had former students and employees from a span of 40 years attend the ceremonies not to mention those of you assisted in the opening of the Preston Center in 1992.

Second, I want to inform everyone that Brad Skinnett who served for the past twenty years in the role of an undergraduate employee, graduate assistant, coordinator of facilities, and assistant director of facilities resigned this past January. While it was a sad day for WKU Intramural-Recreational Sports it was an outstanding opportunity for Brad to become a member of the faculty within the department of kinesiology, recreation, and sport at WKU. He started his new professional endeavor on January 14, 2013. We wish Brad the very best and we thank him for his exemplary service to the department throughout the many years of service.

In closing, let me wish everyone the very best in your future endeavors. Please stay in touch with us and hopefully we will see you in the not so distance future.

Steve