Parting Words From DP

As my June 30th, 2018 retirement inches closer and closer, I wanted to share a few thoughts...

My father, mother, sister, and brother-in-law were all teachers. I did not fully understand why they decided to pursue this career. However, over the years I observed their hard work, patience, dedication, countless hours of preparation and counseling students. When I asked each of them why they did it, they all responded with similar answers that could be summed up with “Because what is more important than Education? It is a lifetime pursuit and what makes life interesting. If we can just facilitate, stimulate and motivate a few students to enjoy life more, and learn a few things that will benefit them in their future careers, families, and those around them. . . . then we have served a worthwhile purpose.” Based on the number of former students that attended the funerals of my parents and sister, and shared with me the positive influence of their lives on them, I can assure you they made the right career choice!

After spending over half my life in various levels of education and coaching, I hope that perhaps I have contributed maybe “one or two logs to the woodpiles” of my students and players. In whatever small way I may have contributed positively to the growth of students, I can assure you that you have given much more to me!! It has been a sincere Honor and Privilege to have served you for over forty years, and my life has been immeasurably BLESSED for it! I will miss most of you (except for the urn containing the ashes of former PROBLEM students I have on my desk), and I hope you will contact and see me after I retire if not before.

For those remaining in the program – I have left you in very competent hands. You will continue to be blessed with a strong program with very dedicated faculty that will continue the Sport Management Legacy. SOUTHERN MISS (AND SPORT MANAGEMENT) TO THE TOP!!

Stay connected with us!
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kyle George
Graduation Year: 2013 (Masters)
Current Employer & Position: Troy University Athletics - Associate Athletics Director of Marketing & Sales

How did the USM Sport Management program prepare you for the career you have now?
I’ve always wanted to be in marketing but I believe that my time in the Sport Management program challenged me to look beyond my comfort zones. Classroom discussions and projects pushed me to look at problem-solving from different perspectives and prepared me for dealing with the changing tide within intercollegiate athletics.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time in the program?
Maybe not a memory exactly but I enjoy seeing where my fellow classmates and I have ended up. Everyone had a different goal when they entered the program but you can see that all of us were prepared for the career paths that we pursued. It is fun to see the variety of roles that people can succeed at within athletics and how we are all connected along the way.

What advice would you give to students in the program now?
Find a way to get involved outside of the classroom. Each person has a different path that they want to pursue in their professional careers but make sure that you gain valuable experience while you are in undergrad and grad school. As an employer, I am always looking for someone who went above and beyond their studies. The classroom is extremely important but what you do outside of the classroom is equally important as well.
MARCH IN REVIEW

• Several of our professors travelled to and participated in conferences across the Southeast. Dr. Dennis Phillips attended the 2018 Sport & Recreation Law Association in San Antonio, Texas, to present on legal issues in intercollegiate coaching contracts and leading through crisis. Dr. Chris Croft presented at the 2018 SHAPE America Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. His presentation touched on ways to enhance relationships with mentor-coaches. The last presentation was located in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, at the 2018 Association of Marketing Theory and Practice and explained enhancing fan experience in the sport industry.

• Students traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi, to volunteer with the Rapiscan Systems Classic. The classic is a part of the PGA Tour Champions and hosts nearly 80 top golfers from around the country. The students were able to volunteer with security to maintain a safe, secure environment for all in attendance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Last Day to Withdraw with Grade of W- April 5
• Entrepreneur of the Year- April 6
• Southern Miss Bass Classic- April 14
• Tues./Thurs. Night Class Exams- May 1-3
• Mon. Night Class Exams- May 7
• Hattiesburg Commencement Ceremonies (9 a.m. & 3 p.m.) - May 11
• Gulf Coast Commencement Ceremony (10 a.m.)- May 12
• Grades Available to View in Soar- May 16

For more information on these dates, please contact the department graduate assistant, Leah Williams, at leah.d.williams@usm.edu