Students Gain Concessions Experience During Baseball Opening Weekend

Undergraduate students were given the opportunity to gain experience in concessions during the Sunday game of what proved to be one of the busiest home series for Southern Miss baseball. During the final game of the opening weekend against Mississippi State, the students provided drinks and snacks of all kinds to a sold-out crowd of approximately 4,900 fans at Pete Taylor Park. Various jobs included running cash registers, wrapping cooked foods, restocking individual stands, and hawking through the stands. The students received several positive comments throughout the game and in the days following on the effectiveness of the concessions work that day. All of the hard work paid off to provide fans with a great game-day experience and to witness the Golden Eagles sweep in-state rival Mississippi State!

Stay connected with us!
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Pontiff

Graduation Year: Undergraduate 2013; Graduate 2014
Current Employer & Position: Mississippi State Athletics - Associate Director of Marketing

How did the USM Sport Management program prepare you for the career you have now?
Attending the University of Southern Mississippi as a whole has made a lasting impact on my current career. I was able to make connections with Division I Athletic Administration while studying. My teachers were able to know me by name and give me advice on best practices. I am not sure that I would of gotten that one on one attention at any other university. Another part of the program that was extremely helpful was the Sports Management Club. As an organization, we were able to network with all of the surrounding organizations which led to future job prospects.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time in the program?
I think my favorite memory would have to be the summer I studied abroad with Dr. Phillips in London. London has to be one of my favorite places to travel; however, when I went with BSP we were able to explore venues that most only dream about. I was also able to attend the 2012 Olympic games with my classmates which I still keep up with today.

What advice would you give to students in the program now?
I would always recommend "saying yes" to those looking to pursue a career in collegiate athletics. Make yourself visible and willing to go above the call of duty because college athletics is an extremely competitive field. Also, if possible, I would encourage those that can continue their education to do so as soon as possible. Lastly, if they are looking to work in marketing, I found that learning photoshop to be a great skill.
The Introduction to Sport Management undergraduate class had a slightly different structure during one of the class meetings. Graduate assistants from various departments within athletics hosted a Q&A session. Students were given the opportunity to ask the graduate assistants questions about their day-to-day jobs, the balance of work and school, and their journeys from undergraduate to their current graduate careers. The assistants were also able to provide valuable advice for those students interested in continuing their education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring Break- March 12-16
- Second Term 8Wk Classes Begin- March 19
- Good Friday Holiday- March 30
- Easter- April 1
- Entrepreneur of the Year- April 6
- Southern Miss Bass Classic- April 14

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

Happy Spring!