Athletic Director Pays Class A Special Visit

Southern Miss Athletic Director Jon Gilbert took time out of his busy schedule to speak to one of the Intro to Sport Management classes. Students were able to gain some inside advice and knowledge from Gilbert. Gilbert answered student questions to give them a better understanding of an Athletic Director's duties and how the sports world works.

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Southern Miss Sport Management Club
@usmSMC
Jordan Burgess
Graduation Year: Undergrad 2014/ Graduate 2016
Current Employer & Position:
University of Richmond - New Media Manager

How did the USM Sport Management program prepare you for the career you have now?
The Sport Management program helped me by providing insight into the sport industry. Each class had a unique perspective into the athletics world, which helps in a fast-paced working environment. It also led me to be introduced to different areas of athletics, as well as helped me build connections with different people within the industry. Not only do you get the book knowledge, but the Sport Management program also gives you real work experience by forcing you to get out and see what’s going on in today’s world.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time in the program?
My favorite memory from the program would have to be working alongside the Biloxi Shuckers to help construct a marketing plan for their first-ever home game versus the Milwaukee Brewers. By working alongside key members of the Biloxi Shuckers staff, my group and I were able to build connections while also sharing our ideas with the Shuckers. Seeing the marketing plan implemented into the game was also a very rewarding moment.

What advice would you give to students in the program now?
To all of the students within the program, I would say volunteer with athletics as much as possible. Building connections is one of the most important aspects of working in the sports industry. It’s a very close-knit industry, and volunteering/doing an internship could be your way to stand out in the crowd.
AUGUST IN REVIEW

- Dr. Doug Manning has accepted a new position as Dean of Kinesiology and Athletics at Santa Ana College, in Santa Ana, California.
- Dr. Chris Croft joins the Sport Management Faculty after a distinguished career with Men’s Basketball, coaching at Oklahoma State, UTEP, Nebraska, Washington State, Martin Methodist, and most recently with the Golden Eagles. He will be teaching Marketing and Facility and Event Management during the Fall semester. Dr. Croft earned his Doctorate at UTEP and has extensive teaching experience as well as great college athletic administrative knowledge.
- Dr. Stacey Hall remains as the Chair of Economic Development, Tourism, and Sport Management for the 2017-18 school year. However, she has also been named the Associate Dean of the College of Business replacing Dr. J. Bret Becton who has become the Dean of the College of Business at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- The department recently welcomed its first Graduate Assistant. Leah Williams is a first year Sport Management graduate student. She recently graduated from USM with a B.S.B.A. in Marketing. After completing her Masters degree, she hopes to find a marketing position within the professional sports ranks, preferably baseball.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Experience Business Casually- September 7
Landmark Event Staffing Services Training- September 16
USM Career Fair- October 5
Saints Game (Landmark Trained Workers) - October 15
Comcast Classic- October 21
Sanderson Farm PGA Event- October 23-29
Saints Game (Landmark Trained Workers) - October 29

For more information on these events, please contact the department Graduate Assistant, Leah Williams at leah.d.williams@usm.edu