Club Visits Mississippi Gulf Coast for Conference and Tours

Members of the Sport Management Club recently made a day trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and made a few stops along the way. First on the agenda was the Managing Crowds at Sport and Entertainment Events Workshop hosted by USM’s very own NCS4. These students were able to mingle with security professionals from across the globe during various roundtable discussions and exercises. The conference also featured several important speakers such as William Evans, Executive Director of Public Safety & Chief of Police for Boston College; Paul Foster, Business Development Officer for the London office of FOAMHAND Limited; and Abigail Williams, Team Lead for Critical Infrastructure and Special Events for DHS Counterterrorism Mission Center. Following listening to the speakers and enjoying a delicious lunch from the Hard Rock Biloxi, the next stop was a short drive to MGM Park, home of the Double-A Affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers: the Biloxi Shuckers. Account Executive Layton Markwood and Media Relations Manager/Head Broadcaster Garrett Greene led a behind the scenes tour of the park and answered questions regarding working in baseball and the Shuckers. The club wrapped up the day with a short security tour of the latest technologies used at the Rapiscan Systems Classic located at the Fallen Oaks Golf Course.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sterling Randle
Graduation Year: 2018
Current Employer & Position: Dallas Wings - Director of Communication

How did the USM Sport Management program prepare you for the career you have now?
The Southern Miss Sport Management program really helped me understand the direction I wanted to go working in the athletic field. The classes that I took to receive my master's degree complimented the skills that I had gained from my undergrad and various internships, deepening my skill set that employers would see. The practical and applicable knowledge gained from classes like Policy and Governance, Financial Management in Sports, and Sports Law help me every day as a I go about my daily routine working in the WNBA.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time in the program?
I can't say there's one particular moment, but getting to spend time with classmates, in or outside the classroom, was my favorite. I know that sounds cheesy, but it's true. It's not often that a group of individuals have the same end goal, ours just happened to be working in athletics. Now that we've all gone our separate ways, it's amazing to see what people are accomplishing in their respected fields.

What advice would you give to students currently in the program?
Whatever part of athletics you want to work in, administration, coaching, communications, strength training, athletic training, etc. tell your professors! They're there for you and will help you get to where you want to go. Dr. Phillips, Dr. Croft, and Dr. Allen were some of my biggest cheerleaders. They helped me tremendously while I was finishing my degree and looking for a job.
Our faculty and students helped welcome incoming freshmen to campus at the Office of Admission's Black & Gold Preview Day on Saturday, March 30. Incoming students were able to tour campus and residence halls, speak with various representatives from offices across campus, and meet some of their future professors. We are looking forward to Class of 2023's official arrival to campus!

The undergraduate sport sales class is still hard at work trying to add to the season ticket holder database. The students have been helping the ticket sales team at various baseball games by setting up and manning the sales table. At this post, the team looks to recruit new season ticket holders and educate fans on the different ticketing promotions. The class is also planning to help the Southern Miss athletic department unveil new promotions for the upcoming football season.

Southern Miss Athletics recently experienced the madness of March as both the men's and women's basketball programs were invited to post-season play, and the Sport Management major was well represented during both. The men were invited to travel to Farmville, Virginia, to take on Longwood in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI) Tournament. Graduate student Kevin Holland closed out his fifth year of playing for the Golden Eagles and ended the year as one of the stars of the team. David Cohen, another graduate student, also played a major role by traveling with the team and working as the SID for the entire season.

The Lady Eagles also shared in the excitement by hosting two rounds of the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) Tournament. A few of our graduate students have played huge parts in the team's season. Madelon Allen has acted as the team's SID for the season, while Cameron Corken headed the production and promotions of each game. Even our alumni were in on the action; Drew Cranger is the current Director of Operations for the Lady Eagles and has been with the team for almost 3 years. We are very proud of each and every one of our Sport Management students for their hard work during these exciting basketball seasons!
UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

- Last day for Spring 2019 degree candidates to reserve May commencement seat ($100 fee) - April 18
- Good Friday Holiday (No Classes Meet) - April 19
- Easter Holiday (No Classes Meet) - April 22
- Night Class Exams - April 30-May 2
- Full Term Final Exams - May 6-9
- Doctoral, Specialists, Master's degree Commencement - May 9
- Undergraduate Commencement (Hattiesburg Campus) - May 10
- Undergraduate Commencement (Gulf Coast Campus) - May 11
- Grades Available to View in SOAR - May 15

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

Countdown to Graduation!

37 Days