Welcome!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Red Stocking … a publication providing news and information about the Sport Studies Program (SSP) at Reinhardt College.

The SSP is designed for students interested in the scholarly study of sport, and for students planning to pursue sport related careers.

A signature aspect of the program is an extensive internship allowing majors to earn academic credit while learning in a sport setting.

Combining scholarly activity with authentic experience … that describes the Sport Studies Program at Reinhardt College.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Why The Red Stocking?

Our newsletter name is a tribute to America’s first fully professional sports team … the Cincinnati Red Stockings Baseball Club of 1869.

Contact the SSP:

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The Fabulous Five

A productive (but too brief) era ended for Reinhardt College at the close of the Fall Semester 2007.

The final five (at least for the foreseeable future) Physical Education Teacher Education majors finished their degree requirements and will walk at the May 2008 commencement.

Jennifer Byrd Merges … did the same at Mountain Road Elementary School in Canton.

Chris McConnell … wrapped up his program with a semester at Adairsville Elementary School.

Melissa Peters … ventured all the way to Cochran in middle Georgia for student teaching at Bleckley County High School.

Brandon Rowland … student taught at Jasper Middle School and also coached wrestling and softball at Pickens High.

Congratulations to these fabulous five seniors. The Physical Education Department and the Price School of Education could not have asked for better representatives to close out the degree program.

We are proud of you and all the PETE graduates of the past five years!

Special Interest

PETE Fab Five
Majors Take Field
Shaking with Akers

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Majors take the Field

During Fall Semester 2007, Sport Studies majors toured two of Atlanta’s premier sport venues as part of the PED 350: Sport Administration course. At Turner Field, students took a “Careers in Sport” tour and learned about Braves game operations and organizational job responsibilities while visiting the 755 Club, luxury boxes, the announcers booth, the press box, the Hall of Fame, the Braves clubhouse and locker room, and the field and dugout areas.

At the Georgia Dome, majors enjoyed lunch at CNN Center, before touring the Dome with stops inside corporate suites, a visit to the press box and the Falcons locker room, and (most fun!) time on the Dome field throwing and kicking footballs.

The Dome trip also included a stop on the campus of Georgia Tech for a guided tour of the Student Activities Center.

In addition to the two Atlanta trips, the class also met once at the Cecil Pruett Canton YMCA (in the facility’s Reinhardt Room) where Nicole Lawson led a tour of the Y and discussed career opportunities with the organization.

It was a great semester of fun and study.

Shaking with Akers

Stop by the Physical Education offices upstairs in the gym very early most any morning and you are likely to be shaken fully awake by the music coming from the office of Dr. Ron Akers.

Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Elvis, or any number of more contemporary artists are often wide open as “RA the DJ” prepares music for his popular dance activity classes.

Ron boasts an impressive collection of thousands of songs, which he has categorized and available for play on a moment’s notice. Bring him a blank CD and odds are he’ll put together a free disc of your favorite tunes if you ask!

The walls of Brown Gymnasium aren’t the only things shaking with Akers. His dance classes (social dance, line dance, etc) typically draw large numbers of students ready to shake, rattle, and roll to oldies, classics, country, hip-hop, and other music styles.

Drop in at the main gym to watch Reinhardt rhythm on display in Dr. Akers dance classes … and if you know Dr. Akers, you can guess he’ll have a joke or two to tell you as well!

“Dancers are the athletes of God” … Albert Einstein

Sport History Quiz

With March Madness upon us, the NCAA basketball tournament is the biggest sports story of the month. Once upon a time, the National Invitational Tournament (NIT) for men was just as big a spectacle.

Only one college won the NCAA and NIT in the same season … can you name the team?

Answer on next page!

2007-2008 Sport Studies Interns

Several Sport Studies majors are completing internships during 2007-08.

Camille Thomas completed an internship during Fall Semester with Cherokee County Parks and Recreation.

Mesha Hightower is working as an intern from January through the end of April at the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) headquarters in Reston, VA.

Jaustrin Freeman is working with the Reinhardt College Student Activities Office on campus.

Molly Maull is completing her internship this semester with the Atlanta Thrashers Hockey Club of the Atlanta Spirit Group.

Congratulations to all!
**Visitors to SSP**

The Reinhardt Sport Studies Program and the Sport Administration course welcomed several visitors to campus during Fall Semester 2007.

**Vic Mitchell**, Senior Associate Athletic Director and Women's Basketball coach at Shorter College visited in August. Coach Mitchell provided insights on coaching and administration from his 20-plus years of experience, including being on the coaching staff of the 1983 Georgia Bulldogs Final Four team.

**Dr. Bob Pearson**, Chair of Health and Physical Education and longtime "Czar" of HPE and Athletics at Berry College, charmed the class in September with humor and anecdotes from his 40-plus years in higher education, and offered great leadership wisdom … much of it gained from his book *Stinky’s Tales*, a memoir of growing up in the village of Sodus, NY, in the 1940s and 1950s.

**Bob Westbrook** offered insights into public school teaching and coaching during his visit in October. Bob is the head girls basketball coach at Etowah High School in Cherokee County where his 2005 squad won the Georgia AAAA state championship.

**Ricci Lattanzi** rounded out the guest speaker series in November. Ricci is the Director of Athletic Operations at Shorter College and also served this past year as the Interim Commissioner of the Southern States Athletic Conference. His insights into contemporary issues in athletic administration were well received by students.

For each of the speakers, students completed an evaluation form summarizing the major points gleaned during the presentations.

Thanks to all the wonderful visitors who enriched our Sport Studies Program!

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**Sport Studies News and Notes**

**Advising Week** is March 24-28 ... SSP majors please sign up for an advising time at Dr. Epling’s office (Gym 213).

**Dr. Bobby Epling** appeared as a regular guest on the syndicated Max Howell radio program during college football season to discuss the SEC and national college football news.

**Dr. Ron Akers** hosted the North Georgia District Physical Education workshop at Reinhardt for the Georgia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

**Amanda Clonts**, a graduate of the Sport Studies Program, assumed the Women’s Basketball head coaching position at Reinhardt this season. Her assistant **Mandy Anderson** is also an alumnus; Mandy graduated from the PETE program last year. We are fortunate to have them!

Freshman major **Kinsey Galyon** made the All-Freshman SSAC basketball team. Kinsey and sister **Kelsey** hail from Knoxville, TN, and are the first twins in our program. Epling and Akers promise to be able to tell them apart before they graduate!

**Be fruitful and multiply …** several alumni have been blessed with little ones recently … **Joe Mullins and wife Krista** welcomed son R.J. in December … **T.J. and Erin Rosene** gave little boy **Boston** a baby sister named **Bella** … **Jennifer and Mark Merges** have a future PE Major in son **Myles** … **SSP grad Chris Busby and wife Cassie** are expecting a baby girl in late July.

Please email all alumni info to Dr. Epling (email address: rte@reinhardt.edu), and also forward this newsletter to graduates and friends of the program. We’ll make alumni news a regular part of the Red Stocking!