Troy approved to offer Ph.D. in Sport Management

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved Troy University's first-ever Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.). The Ph.D. program in Sport Management at Troy University is the first to be offered online in the United States, said Dr. John Miller, Ph.D. Program Coordinator and a Professor of Sport Management.

The Sport Management program will fill a strong, distinct and well-documented societal, education and economic need for students Troy University serves. The doctorate will provide a reputable program that meets the needs of students and working professionals in the sport industry.

The online format provides a high level of accessibility and flexibility to best serve the working sport practitioner who desires a Ph.D. in Sport Management. The program concentrates on developing students to generate the research, critical thinking, and teaching skills necessary for them to be successful in the sport industry and higher education.

The Ph.D. in Sport Management at TROY is designed to enhance your critical thinking, analytical, statistical and research-based skills required for survival in the contemporary sport industry. Students will acquire these skills through engagement in an integrated academic learning and research-oriented environment with highly regarded faculty.

TROY’s Ph.D. in Sport Management will prepare graduates for a broad range of sport management-related positions to include higher education, research, professional or amateur athletics and professional sport industry. Offered online, the program is designed to meet the needs of students and working professionals, which further sets TROY’s program apart from others.
Kelley Curran, a native from Houston, Texas and senior at Troy University, is the 2014 recipient of the HSTM Outstanding Student Award. This award is given to the most outstanding senior in the School of HSTM. Kelly is a three year letter winner on the Troy Women’s Volleyball Team and was the 2013/2014 president of the Sport Management Club. She has been involved in Who’s Who, the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, and was also on the Chancellor’s List four times.

5 questions for Kelley

**What made you choose Troy University?**

I chose Troy because they offered a degree in Sport Management. I am currently in my second semester as a senior and I plan to graduate in December of 2014.

**What are your plans after graduation?**

I hope to go overseas (Europe) to play volleyball professionally for several years. I eventually want to come back to the States for Grad School. After that I want to settle into a career within college or professional athletics administration.

**How did the HSTM program help me achieve my goals?**

First off, the professors have been an invaluable resource both from an academic standpoint as well as serving as incredible mentors. The courses have also been practical and I’ve been able to apply a lot of the information I have learned in the classroom throughout my various internships and real world experiences.

**What advice would you give to a student that is interested in sport management?**

While it’s definitely important to know a lot of people and network, it’s more important that they know you. When someone says your name you want that person to truly know who you are and not have to search their brain for a face. It’s important to know a lot of people but it’s more important that the right people know you and this comes from making a true effort to connect with people and not just collect names and business cards. Also, who you know (or who knows you) will get you there but WHAT you know, will keep you there. As much as we stress networking it is vital that you can do the job once you get there. Never stop learning and take advantage of any and every opportunity that is presented to you.

The School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management congratulates Sara Vogt on winning the College of Health and Human Services Graduate Student Research Poster Competition Award. The Graduate Student Poster Research Competition is an effort to illustrate the significance of research in postsecondary education as well as to acknowledge the various areas of research unique to different disciplines of study. Sara’s research was based on Understanding The Factors Effecting the Choice of Major by Student-Athletes. Vogt’s Model of Student-Athlete Major Choice will assist athletics directors and the NCAA in better understanding factors that are effecting the choice of major by student-athletes.

Sara Vogt, a native of Evansville, Indiana graduated from Indiana University in 2003 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Sports Marketing and Management. She has coached Division I Softball at four different universities over the past 11 years. Following the completion of her Master’s of Science in Sport and Fitness Management next May, Vogt is considering enrolling in the new Sport Management doctoral program.
The Troy University School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management hosted its 6th annual charity golf tournament. This year the event’s objective was to raise money for Project19, which is a charity, established to help Troy University Soccer player Kailani Decock’s battle with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Project19 charity was created in the fall of 2013 after Kailani was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. The Troy Women’s Soccer team promoted Project19 during the 2013 season by distributing special purple bracelets to all student-athletes and they also wore them during games.

Dr. Dixon:
“This is about educating children and parents on an active and healthy lifestyle.”

The Children's Health Field Day is put on by Troy University's Department of Hospitality, Sport, and Tourism Management to help inform children about how to live an active, healthy, and fun lifestyle. This year’s activities included a football toss; relay race, obstacle courses, bouncy houses, face painting, and health education.

The Nick Costes 5k & 10k Run is hosted by the School of Hospitality, Sport and Tourism Management’s event management class. This event honors Nick Costes, who was a former Troy University Professor and Olympic Marathon runner. The proceeds from this year’s Nick Costes were used to benefit Fisher House, an organization which provides comfort homes for military and veteran’s families at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment.
The 10th annual Southern Sport Management Conference (SSMC) was held on March 26-28, 2014 at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, TN. Under the direction of Dr. Fred Green (Troy University) the conference has seen steady growth which has allowed the conference to be held outside of Troy for the first time. This year’s event introduced the Student Career Launch, which was a series of workshop sessions and events geared toward preparing students for entrance into the sport industry. These workshop sessions included events such as academic research and poster presentations, a career and graduate school fair, doctoral student research competition, and networking sessions. Every year the conference selects Lifetime Award winners in the field of academia and sport industry. This year’s award recipients were Dr. Mary Hums and Buffy Filippell. Dr. Hums holds a Ph.D. in Sport Management from Ohio University. She has represented the United States at the International Olympic Academic Educators Session in Olympia, Greece. She has worked with the 1996 Summer Paralympic Games, the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games, and the 2010 Winter Paralympic Games. She also helped the United Nations to develop Article 30.5 of the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Buffy Filippell has helped to recruit over 50,000 people into jobs with sports and live event employers either through her executive search practice or her online network throughout the past 25 years. She was IMG’s first female sports agent where she represented former #2 ranked Tennis player in the world, Andrea Jaeger.
Where Are They Now?

Candice Vaughn

When did you graduate and what did you major in at Troy University?
I received my undergraduate degree in Sport and Fitness Management in Summer 2013.

Where are you working and what are your responsibilities?
I am the ticket office assistant at the University of Memphis. I help take care of customers purchasing tickets and I also put in orders and work many different athletics events.

How did the Sport Management program at Troy University prepare you for your job?
It helped me a lot especially when it came to an interview which is what I liked about the senior seminar class. That class had to have been my favorite because it prepared me for real life situations in the sport industry and in running a business.

What is some advice you would give to incoming Sport Management students?
My advice to those students is to be sure that this is what they want to do. Have a passion for it and push through, gain the knowledge and experience because there are so many opportunities in this industry whether it is on the athletics side, fitness, business, research, etc. The opportunities are out there. And most of all you have to enjoy being involved in the sports world because it's more to it than the competition itself.

Sara Lee

Where are you currently working at and what exactly is your job?
I am currently employed as the Director of Recreation Ministries of The Lighthouse at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church. I am in charge of the day to day operations of the Lighthouse. I manage building usage, coordinate our Upward leagues, coordinate summer programs, maintain our finances, supervise the assistant director and intern, as well as work with the other ministries of the church.

How did you get this particular job?
When I graduated from Troy University, my aunt (who is a member of VHUMC) told me about a part-time position at the Lighthouse. I applied for the position, went through two interviews and got the job. The hardest part for me was starting out part time. Their goal was really just to try me out. As a part timer, if I ended up not fitting, it would be easier to let me go. However, that meant I had to be really flexible and work a lot of weekends.

What advice would you give Sport Management students who are currently enrolled in the program?
There are some things from my Sport Management classes that I don’t use at my current job, but there are a lot of things that I do. Push through the stuff you might not enjoy that much (for me, it was writing papers) and do your best. I’m almost certain I would have never made it to director without the knowledge and experience I was given at Troy University. I owe it all to not only my parents who made me go to college, but also to the professors who got me through college.

What advice would you give students who just recently graduated?
Shortly after I went full-time, my boss told me that I would only become director whenever he decided to leave (His exact words were, “You can have my job when I die.”). He was in his late 40’s, so I just assumed I’d be here a couple of years then move on to become director somewhere else. However, the stars aligned and he found something else he wanted to do in the church. So, after about two years of being assistant director I became director. All of that to say, stay with it and work hard. It’ll be worth it. A lot can change in a year, or even six months. Before you know, you’ll be a director or a manager.

Sara Lee. grew up in the small town of Monroeville, AL. She graduated from Troy University in May of 2010. She also played basketball and softball in high school and was involved in intramural leagues at Troy.
Where Are They Now?

Shabrika Clark (eTroy student)

Why did you choose to pursue your degree online?
I attended Fort Valley State University in Georgia during my freshman year, however, I felt that I was not growing by attending an on-campus university. I knew that if I wanted to break into the Sport Management field I would have to gain valuable work experience. This is something I automatically knew I would miss out on if I continue to attend a university full time. I chose the online program because I could get a jump start on adding work experience to my resume and gain valuable work experience in the process. This is something that I have seen many of my friends miss out on, as they attended four year schools and graduated with no job offers and no work experience.

What are your personal experiences with being an online student?
I have had a very pleasant experience with online learning. I have been able to work full time and complete my assignments throughout the week when my schedule allows. I also have built a better resume for myself, and have been able to network with professionals in my residential area that can open doors for my future. My classes have not been strenuous to the point where I was stressed out about work or school, and I value the fact that I can work at my own pace. Everyone learns differently, and online school definitely caters to that principle.

What are some pros and cons regarding being an online student?
Pros: Being able to work at your own pace, creating your own school schedule, having ample time to complete assignments, being able to work and attend school full time, and creating connections in the area where you live with professionals in your field.
Cons: Missing out on some of the "real college experiences" (ie: living in dorms, making new friends, joining clubs, Greek life, ect)

What advice can you give to other online students?
To make the choice that is best for you. No one can tell you how and when you should learn at this level of education. The choice is yours. If you feel that living on campus and going to a university is the best decision for you, then do so, and vice versa for online school.

Shabrika Clark is 23 years old and currently resides in the Metro Atlanta area. She recently graduated from Troy University with a Bachelor's degree in Sport Management. In addition, she will be obtaining her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education in September at Walden University. Shabrika has attended Troy University for four years and has taken all of her course work online.
The mission of the School of HSTM is to prepare undergraduate students to become future leaders and scholars in the hospitality, sport and tourism industries by providing exemplary integrative and experiential academic preparation in a collaborative environment, to conduct seminal and applied research that impacts the hospitality, sport and tourism industries on a local, national, and global level, and to provide professional and community service.

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