



# **Lock Haven University Sport Studies Alumni Newsletter**

**Keeping you up to date on news,  
happenings, and events in the LHU  
Sport Studies Department.**

**Fall 2013**

**Volume II, Issue I**



## **In This Issue.....**

- **LHU Sport Admin students meet industry leaders**
- **Master of Science in Sport Science excels in its first year**
- **Master of Science in Sport Science celebrates first graduate**
- **Alum Grecco becomes one of youngest High School Athletic Directors in PA**
- **Undergraduate and graduate students showcase their work at annual Celebration of Scholarship**
- **Alum Brock Makes his Mark on Sports Radio World**
- **Sport Studies Introduces Freshmen Mentoring Program**
- **Alum Dixon breaks into Collegiate Athletics**



## **Sport Admin Students Meet Industry Leaders**

Lock Haven University Sport Administration students recently took trips to two of the most prominent conferences in the sports industry. In November, several students took their talents to the Ivy Sports Symposium. The symposium, which started in 2006, is one of the premier



sports events in the business. It boasts some of the most recognized names in the business and allows students to network and learn from their insights and experiences. This annual opportunity routinely takes place at a selected Ivy League School campus, and this year Columbia University was the host. The New York City institute is regarded as one of the education hubs of the world. LHU students attended several sessions and had the

opportunity to network with professionals and students from other schools. Among the main speakers at the symposium were Greg Brown, the President and CEO, of Learfield Sports and Val Ackerman, the Founder of the WNBA. The Symposium was a one day event and allowed the students to get inside the minds of the sporting industries' finest.

LHU Sport Administration also showed a strong presence at the Sport Industry Networking and Career Conference. The conference was held at George Washington University in the heart of Washington, D.C. This conference, like the Ivy Symposium, introduces students to business ideals of leading professionals in the sport industry. The day was full of career and internship information and was capped off with a trip to a Washington Wizards NBA game. The students had an exciting time and got to interact with people from some of the most important sports companies. Among the well-known attendees were administrators from Comcast-Spectacor, Washington Redskins and Nationals, The Aspire Group, and Turner Sports.



## **Master of Science in Sport Science Excels in its First Year**

With the introduction of the new Master of Science in Sport Science, LHU can now provide advanced instruction and experiential learning essential to success in its two tracks: Sport Administration and Sport and Exercise Psychology. The initial response to the program was outstanding and classes were fully enrolled in weeks. The first two academic semesters have been filled with groundbreaking and exciting moments of learning and professionalism. From Athletic Directors to Corporate Sales personnel, the program is filled with a vast array of professionals from the sports world. The program is designed to advance the careers of working professionals and traditional students alike. It prepares you for careers in Sales, Event Planning, Marketing, Event Management, Applied Sport and Exercise Psychology, and Athlete Development and Support. Jerry Falco, then Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, boasted about the success of the program. "We have had a great response to our Sport Science Program; it shows all the signs of a great program." LHU Sport Science is definitely on its way to making its mark on the sports education world.

**It takes several easy steps to apply to the Master of Science in Sport Science program. To complete the admissions process students need only submit:**

- **Online Application**
- **Official Transcript**
- **Three Letters of Recommendation**
- **Statement of Professional Goals**

**All inquiries and material can be sent via mail or e-mail to**

**Terry Wolfe, Graduate Admissions**

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**570-484-3869**



## **Master of Science in Sport Science Celebrates its First Graduate**

We sat down with Tyler Rumsey, who was a Graduate Assistant in Sports Information at LHU, and discussed his experiences in the Master of Science in Sport Science program and career plans. After becoming the first official graduate of the Master's program, Tyler was hired as LHU's Public Relations Associate of External Relations and Communications.



1. **Hometown:** I was born and raised in Mansfield, PA which is just a little over an hour north of Lock Haven.
2. **Describe your undergraduate study (where you went, and why you chose that institution)** I received my B.S. in Business Administration from LHU in 2011. I chose LHU because it was close to home and I liked the small town feel. I also wanted to play baseball and believed I had a chance to walk on to the team at LHU.
3. **Describe your career experience (Jobs, Internships, Volunteer work)** I have had all sorts of jobs throughout my life. In sports alone, I have worked at baseball camps at Mansfield and LHU. I am also a big basketball fan and have worked as a referee for intramurals here. I have spent time helping out with numerous high school and college basketball teams. I did my first internship this summer on campus in the sports information department.
4. **What role did sports play in your life and your career path?** Sports have had a huge impact on my life. I played all sorts of sports growing up including soccer, basketball, football, baseball, golf and hockey. It seemed like I was always outside participating in some kind of sport. At Mansfield High School, I competed in baseball, basketball and football. Upon my arrival at LHU, I was able to walk on to the baseball team, where I was starting pitcher for four years. I still play pick-up basketball and summer baseball whenever I can. I love competing and having fun and the life lessons I have learned from athletic competition will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Sports clearly played a big role in my career path as well. From the time I can remember I always wanted to work in sports. Like any kid, I wanted to be a pro athlete. Once I realized that was not possible, I knew I had to find another way to work in sports. I always knew I had to find a career I was passionate about.

5. **What made you choose Sport Science for your Master's Degree?** I chose the Sport Science program because of my love for sports and how well it fit into what I want to be – a Sports Information Director. When I heard the Sport Science program was being launched this



year, I was ecstatic. I knew I had to get into those classes because they would greatly benefit my future.

6. **Describe your experience in the Sport Science Master's Program and how it is going to help you succeed.** The Sport Science program was great. I was working in athletics and was able to take what I was learning in class and apply it daily to what I was doing. I am grateful that the program was introduced while I was still in school and that I have the opportunity to further my education in something I really love.
7. **How and why did you first get started in Sports Information?** I started in Sports Information the spring of my junior year. I met our current Sports Information Director, Doug Spatafore, while playing baseball. I needed a job at the time and asked Doug if he needed any help. I did a few small things during the spring semester but it was tough with baseball. I stayed in Lock Haven over the summer of 2010 and I fell in love with the job. It was the first job in which I was truly invested. I was lucky to receive a graduate assistantship under Doug when I started the grad program.
8. **What is your favorite part about working in Sports Information?** There are a lot of things that are great about sports information, but two of them really stick out to me. First, I get to go to sporting events as a job. That concept to me alone is outstanding. Yes, there is a ton of behind the scenes work that goes on to make these events run smoothly but going to work every day knowing that I'm going to get to watch a sporting event is great. Second, is the satisfaction you get from promoting the athletic programs, coaches and athletes. There is a great feeling in seeing our programs, athletes and coaches represented around the conference, state and country for the amazing things that they do.
9. **What is the negative side to working in Sports Information?** The only negative thing about sports information is the time commitment. There is always something that needs to be done, whether it is events, starting games, updating our website, writing releases, creating programs. There is never any down time but it is definitely well worth it.
10. **What advice would you give to any young students who want to be involved in Sports Information?** The biggest advice I can give to students who want to be involved in Sports Information is to get involved early and stay involved. The earlier you get involved and get used to the daily routines of sports information, the better off you will be. I have seen students who wait until their senior year to get involved and others who start early and never show up again. It is the student who starts early and sticks with it that really understands the job and will gain the greatest satisfaction from doing it.



## **Alum Grecco Becomes One of Youngest High School Athletic Directors in PA**

Many students who step foot onto campus here at LHU aspire to be something great. Being able to return home and contribute to the lives of others is a great accomplishment. For Pete Grecco, this has become a reality. The LHU Sport Admin alumnus is currently the Athletic Director at Brockway High School in Brockway, PA. Grecco was interested in sports and its administration from the very beginning. He originally chose Sport Administration as his major because of his love for sports and business, therefore making his program of study an easy choice. Grecco is new on the scene in Athletic Directing, but has learned fast in this hectic lifestyle. Upon graduation in 2009, Grecco was offered the Athletic Director Job at Dubois Central Catholic. After a short stay there he moved onto Brockway High School. He was officially the youngest Athletic Director in PA, which speaks volumes about the experienced LHU grad. Among his daily tasks as a busy administrator are overseeing all athletic scheduling, making sure transportation is set for all athletic events and for the district, coaching evaluations, league scheduling, 22 sports and contract PIAA athletic events and officials. Grecco claims the best part of his job is seeing the young athletes develop into adults. As with every job there are some negatives and he says situations with parents can be a tough task to handle. Being a High School Administrator is no easy task. Mr. Grecco has a word of advice for anyone looking to become one, he says "Be ready to work a lot of hours and be dedicated to your job. Also be very flexible and be very organized or you will never make it." Wherever Mr. Grecco goes in his long future ahead we know he will be working hard and representing LHU with great integrity.



## **Undergraduate and Graduate Programs showcase work at annual Celebration of Scholarship**

The annual Celebration of Scholarship that takes place every April is the premier academic event on campus. The event allows students to display their hard work and projects to the campus and local community. This year the Sport Studies Department was well represented as both the undergraduate and graduate programs presented work at the event. The undergraduate program showcased their yearly endeavors on campus which give students opportunities to gain real world experience including the annual Turkey Trot 5k run/walk, the Floor hockey league and tournament, and the Powder Puff Football League. These events are resume



builders for Sport Admin students while part of the proceeds are donated to charitable causes and part used to support conference and internship/job fair attendance.

Sport Studies Graduate Assistants displayed their accomplishments this year which included marketing the new graduate program, designing a graduate student handbook and field experience handbook, starting an alumni network, and introducing this alumni newsletter.



## **Alum Brock Makes his Mark on Sports Radio World**

Alumni Ken Brock talks to us about his break into sports radio.

1. **Hometown?** Phoenixville, PA
2. **Year of Graduation from LHU?** Winter 2010
3. **Why did you pursue a career in sports?** Growing up, sports were always a mainstay in my life, whether it was participating, attending, or watching at home. This 24/7 attention to sports turned into a passion which lead to a career.
4. **What originally made you choose LHU?** A close friend of mine was attending LHU at the time I was looking to transfer and he spoke very highly of the Sport Admin program.
5. **What are some of your best memories of the Sport Admin Program at LHU?** One of the best memories I have with the program was the trip to Canton, OH where a large group of my classmates volunteered to help run the DIII National Swimming and Diving Championships. The work we did and time spent with my professors were





great learning experiences, and it was also a great way to get to know my fellow classmates better.

**6. What made you choose a career in Radio? How did you first become involved in radio?**

That people were actually paid to talk about sports all day, every day intrigued me. The semester after I arrived at LHU, the radio club was looking for someone to do a sports talk program. I was a bit uneasy at first. I could talk for hours with friends but to put my opinion out there for others to hear was a bit daunting. After some prep time, I decided to try a four-hour show. I wouldn't classify the first show as a disaster but it was definitely a reality check on what really goes into show preparation. I think the first show lasted an hour. As the weeks went by, I got into a groove where I actually started booking guests and away we went.

**7. Could you tell us about your career so far in radio?**

I interned for the heritage sports talk radio station in Philadelphia – 610 WIP (which then switched to FM 94WIP) on the Midday Show with Anthony Gargano and Glen Macnow from May until August 2010. I went to the studios in Bala Cynwyd, PA from noon until about 6pm every day and did whatever was necessary: printing out box scores from the previous night's games, researching the main topics for the show and preparing questions for their 4 for 4 tournaments callers played. It was a tremendous experience where I learned not only a great amount from them but even more from their producer Jamie Lynch. At that time, interns weren't privileged enough to run the board but Jamie gave me a little bit of insight on what it took to do what he did on a daily basis. After the internship, I went to Plymouth, England for 4 months to study Broadcast Journalism which was another life changing experience. I learned that there are some major differences between media here in the US and the UK. Upon returning home, I called the chief engineer at WIP in hopes that he would remember me from my internship and consider training me for a producer position with the station. He thankfully remembered me and I began training right away. For two months, I made that same drive to Bala Cynwyd as I did as an intern, but this time at night. I learned under the evening producer Raheem Verden, who essentially taught me the ins and outs of running the board, not only for shows, but for the Philadelphia 76ers, Philadelphia Flyers and Philadelphia Phillies games. This again, was unpaid training which is a bit of a theme in the radio industry. It didn't bother me though because I was doing what I wanted and enjoying every minute of it. Slowly but surely I was left alone to run different games and shows until finally I was given the Friday and Saturday overnight shows as my own. For almost two years I worked at WIP, doing whatever was necessary along with working a full-time, 40 hour per week 9-5 job to pay the bills. I was essentially paying to work at WIP but again I didn't care because it



was exactly where I wanted to be. Around October 2012, I applied for a position with the CBS Sports Radio Network. I interviewed on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45. It wasn't until December 12<sup>th</sup> that I received an offer from the Program Director. I don't think he was able to get through asking me if "I needed time to think it over" before I blurted out that I accepted the position. Since then, I have worked for the CBS Sports Radio Network on the Damon Amendolara Show from 2am-6am EST as the Associate Producer/Technical Operations Director. We launched on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 and just a few weeks ago, we surpassed 130 affiliates throughout the US and Canada.

8. **What are the best parts about working in sports radio?** Last week, I went to the Chicago Bulls @ Brooklyn Nets playoff game for work. Later that week, I covered my first NFL Draft which was a surreal experience. The following week, we took calls every night after the Boston Marathon bombings from people across the country. They were pulling together and showing support and solidarity for Boston, which was a truly humbling experience. Those are the types of experiences I am thankful for every day, getting to wake up and come to work to talk about the world of sports.
9. **What are some of the negative aspects of working in sports radio?** I wouldn't classify it as a negative per say. When you first start out and even a few years in, the daily grind for barely any pay can be very humbling. If you are truly passionate about working in this field, then you will make it work and enjoy the opportunity you have been given.
10. **What advice would you give to any aspiring sports radio professionals?** You do not know everything. I have come across people getting started who think they know it all. You may have an uncanny amount of knowledge about your favorite sport but unfortunately, people are not interested in your opinion when you are just getting started. Is that too harsh? Maybe, but it is the honest truth. Go in, do your work, keep your head down, keep your ears open and do whatever is necessary. Anthony Gargano said to me while we were on remote one day: "You're a good kid and you have a bright future, because you speak when spoken to, do the work you're given plus more, and are always listening."

### **Sport Studies Introduces Freshmen Mentoring Program**

The transition from high school to college can be challenging. We can all remember our first day on campus and our hope for academic success. To alleviate these first year jitters, Dr. Patricia Lally and the Sport Studies Department introduced a mentoring program for incoming freshmen. Successful upperclassmen are selected based on their academic standing and



proven excellence outside of the classroom. Mentors contact freshmen over the summer to introduce themselves, provide encouragement, and answer any questions. The program is designed to provide freshman with a stable support system before arriving on campus. One of the important aspects to the Freshmen Mentoring Program is to get students comfortable with the college setting and focused on their classes and future careers.

## **Alum Dixon breaks into Collegiate Athletics**

We talked to Whitney Dixon who is currently serving on the Athletic Communications staff at the University of Michigan.

1. **Hometown:** Geneva, N.Y.
2. **Graduation year:** 2010
3. **Why did you pick LHU and why did you choose Sport Admin as your major?** I knew I wanted to pursue a career that would allow me to work with people and incorporate my passion for athletics. When I visited campus, I got the feeling my education was important to the professors and they were passionate about helping me shape my life and my career. Majoring in sport administration opened my eyes to so many new avenues within the sports business field and I couldn't be happier with my decision to attend LHU.
4. **Describe your professional experience?** I began working in the Sports Information Department at LHU at the end of my sophomore year. With guidance from Sports Information Director, Doug Spatafore, I learned a great deal and took on more and more responsibilities over the next two years. As a graduation requirement, I completed a three-month internship with the Detroit Pistons in Group Sales and Brand Marketing. I knew I wanted to pursue a career in sports information and about a week after graduation, I accepted the Athletic Communications Assistant position at Syracuse University. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, working with the track and field, cross country, women's tennis, women's ice hockey, men's basketball and men's lacrosse programs. I grew tremendously as a person and a professional working with incredible mentors which led me to my current position as Assistant Director of Public and Media Relations at the University of

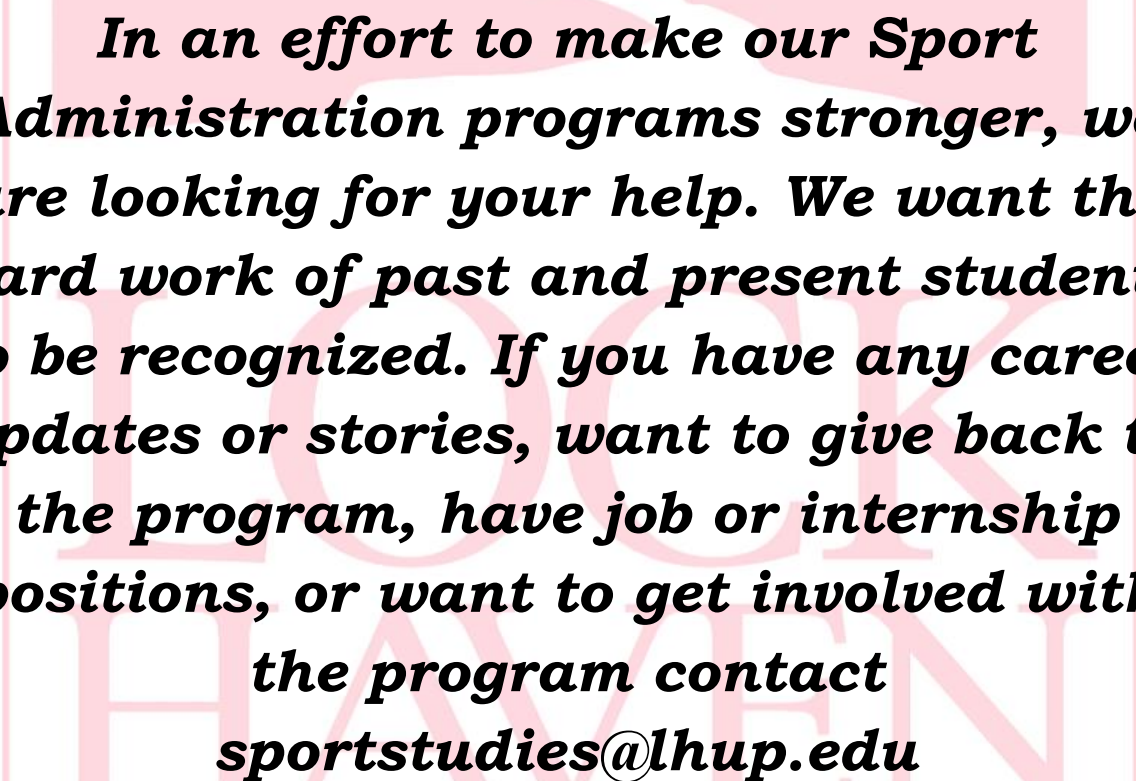




Michigan. I currently work with Michigan's cross country, track and field, men's basketball and women's lacrosse programs. It has been a great move for me both professionally and personally, as I live and work in one of the best college towns in the country!

5. **What made you get involved in athletic communications?** During my sophomore year, I helped organize a conference as a member of the Sport Administration Society at LHU and Sports Information Director, Doug Spatafore, was one of the featured speakers. Listening to him speak sparked my interest in the field and I began working in the Sports Information Department about a month later.
6. **What would you say is your favorite part of your job?** The best part of my job is watching collegiate student-athletes mature and grow throughout their careers and helping to promote their individual and team accomplishments.
7. **What are some of the negative aspects of your job?** The hours are long but watching our student-athletes succeed and achieve their goals on and off the field makes it all worth it. I enjoy coming to work every day.
8. **What advice would you give to anyone trying to make it in college athletic communications?** Take advantage of every opportunity to get experience in several different areas and learn from every experience, whether it's positive or negative. Some of my most important lessons came from negative or difficult experiences.
9. **If you could describe working in collegiate athletics in one word what would that word be?** Rewarding





***In an effort to make our Sport Administration programs stronger, we are looking for your help. We want the hard work of past and present students to be recognized. If you have any career updates or stories, want to give back to the program, have job or internship positions, or want to get involved with the program contact [sportstudies@lhup.edu](mailto:sportstudies@lhup.edu)***