GRADUATION RECEPTION AT STUDENT-ATHLETE SERVICES PLANNED

All staff members are invited to a graduation reception on Sunday, May 14 at the Academic Support Center. The continental breakfast reception to honor our graduating student-athletes begins at 8 a.m. and will last until the ceremony begins at Kenan Stadium at 9:30. Dress is casual and families are welcome.

STUDENT-ATHLETES HONORED AT ALL-SPORTS BANQUET

Student-athletes, coaches and athletic department administrators joined together to celebrate the Tar Heels’ 2005-06 seasons and honor the winners of department, university, conference and NCAA honors at the annual All-Sports Banquet on April 24 at the Smith Center.

“This banquet lets us recognize some of our most outstanding student-athletes, particularly seniors who have represented North Carolina so well for the last four years,” said Dick Baddour, Director of Athletics at UNC. “It also gives us the chance to say thank you to all of our student-athletes for their hard work all year. They continue to make us proud with their academic, athletic and community service achievements.”

Pablo Durana and Laura Gerraughty, both members of the track and field team, were announced as recipients of this year’s Mildred McCaskill Awards, which are presented annually to one male and one female senior student-athlete at UNC who excel in athletics, scholarship and service to the community.

Gerraughty also received the John Lotz Award, which recognizes a student-athlete who has demonstrated a passion to succeed under adverse circumstances, overcoming difficulties while maintaining a positive attitude. The award is named in honor of the former UNC men’s basketball assistant coach and assistant athletic director.

Durana, who also competes for the cross country team, was honored as the winner of the Tatum Award, given in memory of former football coach Jim Tatum to a student-athlete who has performed with distinction in his or her sport and contributed to the community through outreach activities.

Jennifer Kling and Steven Piantadosi, both members of the fencing team, were named the winners of ACC Senior Scholar Awards, which go to two student-athletes at each conference school.

Emily Dondero (rowing), Michael Dore (men’s fencing), Kendall High (football), Katy Tran (field hockey), Dave Werry (men’s lacrosse) and Durana received ACC Top Six for Service Awards, which are given to six student-athletes at each conference school who have shown a commitment to community service and outreach programs.

Those at the banquet also paid tribute to the recipients of several honors previously announced. Tran was honored for earning an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, and she and gymnast Courtney Bumpers were recognized as winners of Atlantic Coast Conference Weaver-James-Corrigan Postgraduate Scholarships. Gerraughty was the recipient of an ACC Jim and Pat
Tar Heel Spotlight on Mike Pope

On Christmas night, most people are gathered around the table having a big turkey dinner with their family. Parents are off from work; children are off from school. All is peaceful and calm on Christmas night. Well, all is usually peaceful and calm except when it’s December 25, 2002, your name is Mike Pope and it’s your job to do travel arrangements for the University of North Carolina’s men’s basketball team.

“The team was on its way to play in the ECAC Holiday Festival in New York City,” explains Pope with a big smile. “It was Coach Doherty’s second year. I get a call at Christmas dinner, and it’s Coach calling from the Raleigh airport going, ‘They’ve canceled our flight because of weather in New York. It’s snowing all up the eastern seaboard; we can’t get there.’

Can’t. Mike Pope does not know the word ‘can’t.’ So he leaves his Christmas dinner and prepares to find a way to get the basketball team to Madison Square Garden.

“We looked around for multiple options and there was nothing to be found,” Pope continues. “So we thought, what about a bus? I had the bus driver’s number so I called him on Christmas night and said, ‘You need to go home; you need to quickly pack; you need to pick up the team again from the airport and drive to New York.’ And they did. It stormed all the way up, and they were stopping along the way to pick players up who were at home for Christmas break, but couldn’t get out originally and meet the team at the airport. So that was a little bit of stress. I was thinking, ‘It’s Christmas night, who am I going to be able to reach now?’ But it worked out and the team got there.”

For the past five years, it’s been Pope’s job to make sure that Carolina’s varsity teams get to their respective destinations. Pope works for Anthony Travel, a Dallas-based travel organization that in addition to providing travel accommodations for Carolina’s athletic department, also has on-campus sites at Notre Dame, Stanford, Purdue, and Indiana, just to name a few.

“Our primary responsibility is to handle basically all the travel arrangements for all the varsity sports here. That encompasses, predominantly air transportation, but the needs also vary depending upon the sport,” explains Pope. “We work with the individual coaches or assistants for team travel that may relate to buses or hotels. When they have coaches’ recruitment travels, when they have prospective athletes visiting campus, we work that out. So it’s pretty broad in scope. If it has to do with travel we can do it here.”

Before Pope and Anthony’s Travel, many of the coaches or teams would make their own travel arrangements through their own travel agents, which made things very complicated and disjointed. Therefore five years ago, the athletic department thought it would be in its best interest if they brought travel coordination in-house. Besides being a convince factor, an on-campus travel agency was wanted to provide the athletic department with an awareness of what all the sports were doing, especially for reporting capabilities. Thus the athletic administration decided an on-site agency would be beneficial. After putting out a search for such an agency, Anthony Travel was chosen in part because of their background and presence on a number of college campuses around the country.

To help handle arranging the travel accommodations for all of the varsity athletes, Pope has the aid of Cindi Atwater. Atwater joined the team two years ago when Anthony Travel became the official travel partner of the Educational Foundation. Therefore, in addition, to organizing travel for the athletic teams, Pope also assembles regular season and postseason football and basketball trips for the Rams Club.

“I opened the office when Anthony Travel first secured the contract, but before that I already had a relationship with the University,” says Pope. “I’m an alumnus for one—graduated in 1973. Before this, I ran and operated hotels, then got involved in the development side of hotels and then started in the travel business with a company in Raleigh. That company in Raleigh at the time had a relationship with the Rams Club, and we handled a lot of the Rams Club and boosters’ travels for postseason games and regular season football or basketball games. Doing that job helped reconnect with many of the people at UNC.”

Over in his office at Kenan Fieldhouse, Pope tends to stay very busy. Though the normal office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., there is no real downtime for Pope. When it comes to planning regular season travel, he’s found that the individual varsity teams are very predictable, and all have their travel patterns and their restrictions. However, the real challenges come in terms of coaches’ travel, in particular for recruiting. Because recruiting is already a challenging and stressful aspect for the coaches, Pope’s job is to make sure not to complicate things further for them. All he aims to do is to get the coaches what they need, get them where they need to be, when they need to be there.

“Travel activity is not 8 to 5,” explains Pope. “Coaches are out at all hours and times of the day particularly in recruiting periods for football and basketball. We tend to make ourselves available pretty much around the clock during those periods because plans change. Many times, I get a call at home, and a prospective athlete that a coach was going to see has committed somewhere else or they found out it wasn’t quite what they were looking for, so instead of going to Chicago the coach needs to change and now he’s going to Miami. So you have to make spur of the moment changes on the fly and those are the kind of things that occupy a day, as well as planning for the regular season travel for a team.”

Although the double major in business and history, never quite expected he would end up where he is now, Mike Pope says that he has found a passion in the travel industry and would not change a thing about his job.

“My job is really a great merger of my two loves, travel and college athletics. So that’s much of the appeal and certainly connecting to my alma mater is a bonus,” says Pope. “Plus the quality of the people here within the department and the coaching staffs from top to bottom is the absolute best. I’m very lucky.”

Thacker Postgraduate Scholarship, and Lindsay Tarpley, a member of the women’s soccer team, was recognized as the winner of a Weaver-James-Corrigan Honorary Award. MRSA-WHAT COACHES NEED TO KNOW

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of bacterial infection resistant to the normal antibiotic medicines that are routinely prescribed.
by physicians. While primarily occurring in the hospital setting, these skin infections caused by MRSA are more frequently being identified in the athletic setting, including sports such as fencing, football, field hockey, volleyball, and wrestling. There have been reported incidents in the collegiate setting, as well as in the professional sports arena. The St. Louis Rams had a well publicized outbreak in 2003 that required the intervention of the CDC to assist in the control of the outbreak.

Signs and symptoms of a skin infection include redness, warmth, pain, and increased swelling around the infected area, fever, and drainage from infected site. MRSA infections often look similar to a pimple, pustule, or boil. MRSA diagnosis requires laboratory testing of a culture of the infected area. Treatment of MRSA is centered on prescribing the appropriate antibiotic to combat the infection. The infected area may also need to be surgically opened to allow for drainage and cleaning of the infection.

The spread of MRSA has been linked mostly to person-to-person transmission through contact with secretions from infected skin lesions, nasal discharge, or spread via the hands. In the athletic setting, MRSA can even be spread through the sharing of equipment or clothing between teammates. Prevention of MRSA transmission cannot be left to one singular approach. The following guidelines are recommended to decrease the risk of spreading infections:

1. Frequent hand washing for greater than 15 seconds with antibacterial soap or an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
2. Covering exposed skin infections with sterile wound dressings.
3. Protecting yourself by wearing gloves when caring for another person's wounds.
4. Cleaning potentially contaminated areas (bathrooms, locker rooms, weight lifting machines) and equipment/clothing with an antibacterial wipe/solution frequently.
5. Avoid sharing towels, razors, and daily athletic gear.
6. Encourage immediate showering following activity.
7. Being proactive about being seen by a physician or athletic trainer to determine appropriate management of potential infections.
8. Excluding athletes with open wounds from hot and cold whirlpools.

Prevention of MRSA and other infections needs a team approach from the coaches, athletic trainers, team physicians, and equipment staff. Continual encouragement and enforcement of proper hygiene habits with our teams is an important role that the coaches can play in the prevention efforts.

For more information, please go to the National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement at: www.nata.org/publicinformation/docs/MRSA_Statement.pdf.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PICNIC

The Annual Athletic Department Picnic will be held on Friday, May 19. We will continue the evening at the Bosh as the Heels take on Boston College. Please join us for great food, fun and comrades!! Look for information in your mailboxes soon!!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE

Congratulations to Christy Suits and Kent Pennington, recipients of the Information Technology Award, one of three technology teams on our campus to with this award for outstanding informational technology support.

SPRING FLING JINGLE BELL JOG INFORMATION

Date: Friday, May 5
location: Brick courtyard between Fetzer and Woollen Gym
time: Registration and check-in: 11:30 am–noon
3 Mile Run & 1 Mile Walk start: 12:15 pm
prizes: All participants will be eligible for prize drawings
• An award will be given to the team with the most participants.
• An award will also be given to the team with the most creative costumes
celebrating the spring season.
• Collections will be made for two charities this season:
  Non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food bank.
  Non-perishable PET items to be donated to the local animal shelters (besides food, old blankets, leashes, bowls, collars, etc, are all welcome).
• Refreshments will be provided for participants after the event.
• Jingle Bell Jog/Spring Fling t-shirts will be on sale the day of the event for $10.

go to www.heelsforhealth.unc.edu to register

Birthdays

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<td>Hector Espinca</td>
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<td>Jayne Barrwell</td>
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