



Alumni Newsletter

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St. Thomas University | Sports Administration

Spring 2009



The Fernandez Center in May 2009 – Scheduled to open in September 2009

Director's Message to the Alumni:

I cannot believe another school year has come to an end let alone the fact that this is the 24th time I am trying to believe this. Twenty-four years ago I was still in Philadelphia at Temple University applying for everything for which I was even remotely qualified. I found St. Thomas and STU gave me an opportunity to grow. For 24 years, STU's "natural laboratory setting" has helped me grow and develop professionally. Every year has been significant, but none more so than this past year. From the dedication of the Carnival Cruise Lines Science and Technology Building to our successful sports teams, this year has been special. As we continue to "explore" membership

into the NCAA Division II, we are looking forward to the dedication of the Fernandez Family Center for Leadership & Wellness. With this new building, our indoor sports teams finally have a real home. The changes on the campus during the past 5-6 years make it unrecognizable to many of you who have not been back for so many years. I invite you back. Stop by so I can show you the campus. Just give me a little advanced warning so we can make it happen. I continue to be so grateful to have the best alumni any program could ever have. Thank you!

Jan Bell

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Edited by Dr. Jan Bell
Compiled by Cassi Lee

Please visit our web pages (www.stu.edu – School of Business) and also spo-ad's database at: [ALUMNI DATABASE](#). The information we keep in our database (although it is not all visible on the www) includes – name, degree, year, title, organization, work and home addresses and phone numbers, email address, etc. Please let us know if you're not listed and/or if the information is not correct. Email us the correct information and we'll get it corrected as soon as we can. And, remember - the information there is only as good as you keep us informed about AND our process to get the changes made. As always, we appreciate your support and involvement.

Alumni Updates

Where are our “more recent” graduates?

Mark Green (MBA '09) is with the Town of Surfside Parks and Recreation working as a Recreation Leader.

Giovanni Hernandez (MS '09) has been working with the Detroit Tigers as an International Scouting Intern. He is learning a great deal of knowledge and excited about the future with the organization holds.

Cicely Nash (MBA '08) is working with the Nat Moore Foundation and the Miami Dolphins.

Christopher Belmont (MS '08) recently accepted a position with the Tampa Bay Rays as a Ticket Sales Representative.

Valerie Miyares (MS '07) is the Athletic Director at West Broward High School; however, undertaking the challenge of opening a new public high school was a challenge. While the experience has been challenging it has allowed her to learn and network in a new environment.

Cesar Florin (MBA '07) has taken an internship with the Tampa Bay Rays as Cultural Assimilator where he will be working with the Rays Latin rookie ball players. This is a new position and if all turns out as planned this internship could lead to a full time position for him.

Chris Cunningham (MS '07) was recently named the new head football coach at Monarch High School and will be leaving his teaching position at Pembroke Pines Charter School at the end of this school year. He wrote,

–“I cannot tell you how heartwarming it was to hear from you. I have an immense amount of respect for you, and to read your words really reminded me why I loved the Spo Ad program so much. As you well know, being a head football coach at the high school level has been a dream of mine for a long time, and I know that the things I learned in that program helped me achieve that dream and will help me be successful at it in the future.”

Have an Alumni Update? Send it to: spo-ad@stu.edu



Pictured from left to right: Giovanni Hernandez (MS '09), Christopher Salamone (JD/MBA '09), Calder Hynes (MS '09), Dr. Jan Bell, Amar Patel (JD/MS '10), James Topor (MS '09)

Baseball Winter Meetings (2008): As many of you know, Dr. Bell took 10 graduate students (Seamus Barron (NY), Amar Patel (SC), Chris Salamone (FL), Mike Singer (NY), Marc DiGiore (NY), Kate Gladfelter (MN), Calder Hynes (AZ), Giovanni Hernandez (AL), Cassi Lee (MN), and Jim Topor (IL)) with her to the Baseball Winter Meetings in Las Vegas, NV at the beginning of December. We were the Operations Staff at the annual job fair. While the city of sin has multiple temptations for all, we focused on the work at hand and the job fair was a great success with about 500 job seekers and around 500 job postings. We attended banquets, galas and receptions, giving us the opportunity to network with many different names in the baseball industry. A good productive time was had by all. I think Dr. Bell was proud to take ownership of the students that attended. We have been invited back next year as the 2009 meetings will take place in Indianapolis, IN. – Cassi Lee



Alumni Updates



Baby News and More!

Paul Resnick (MS '03) is back at UM teaching their Introduction to Sports Administration class for the Spring Semester. He and his wife were blessed with the birth of their son, Dylan Angel Resnick, on October 16, 2008.

Braulio Hernandez (MS '03) was promoted to Athletic Director at Florida Bible Christian School in Miramar, FL. Braulio and his wife welcomed a healthy baby boy, Alejandro Braulio Hernandez, on January 22nd.

Elizabeth Creighton-Diaz (MS '01) and her husband Alex, welcomed their baby girl, Olivia Rose Diaz, at 10:08AM, April 23rd. She was 8lbs 8oz and 21 inches tall. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

Angela Petropoulos (MS '95) and her husband welcomed a healthy baby girl, Julia Anne Love, to the world on March 2, 2009.

Brian Schutz (MS '98) left WQAM to work for the Florida Marlins as their Manager of Broadcast & Corporate Sales.

Lorne Marcus (JD/MS '05) is teaching at Dominican College as well as also teaching a course at Rockland Community College. He was just recently named the Assistant Coach for Track and Field (Sprint Coach) at St. Thomas Aquinas College in NY.

Craig T. Chindemi (BA '82) is the Associate Director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and also teaching the graduate Fundraising class as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University.

Alexandro Iliopoulos (MBA '06) is living in Greece, working for "01 Plioroforiki" company which translates in English to "01 Informatics" as an Account Executive while also working as a Public Relations Administrator member of a new Political Party, www.Greekliberals.net.

Michael C. Godoy (BA '95) is now the Executive Director of Operations for SMG in Philadelphia.

Jeremy Fullerton (MS '01), with The Topps Company, Inc., is a Hobby Sales Administration Coordinator who is now also in charge of creating the brand for Ultimate Fighting Championship trading cards. Topps recently signed an exclusive multi-year deal with UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) to produce the trading cards. They have created a website that has photos and videos as well as a blog that Jeremy facilitates. www.topps.com/ufc

Jim Keenan (BA '89) is the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Lower Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts. They serve the entire Lower Merrimack Valley in order to fundraise in all the communities.

Chad Coe (MS '01) is teaching Sports Administration at Namseoul University in South Korea.

Lee Pagan's (MS '97) store, Campus Town, in Palm Beach Gardens seems to be a hit with the Florida Gators winning the BCS Championship. He was mentioned in both the Sun Sentinel as well as the Orlando Sentinel.

Jeremy Sturgeon (JD/MS '04) lives in New Jersey with his wife Ricki whom he married in July of 2006. He and his wife welcomed their first child, Paige Arianna Sturgeon, on January 11, 2008 and bought their first home in March, 2008. He is still working as an attorney, mainly practicing Family Law, at the same law firm since November 2006.



Pictured on the left: Al Avila (MS '86) Assistant GM for the Detroit Tigers and Giovanni Hernandez (MS '09) International Scouting Intern with the Tigers

A Special Thanks to ALL of Dr. Bell's Guest Speakers during the Spring:

***Danielle LoPata** — President, Owner, CEO | The Sports Book, Inc

***Ivan Marin** - Vice President | Complete Ticket Solutions

***Bob Agramonte** — Regional Vice President | Learfield Sports Partners

***Manny Colon** — Player Development Assistant | Florida Marlins

***Laura Courtley-Todd** — Director of Athletics | St. Thomas University

***Nancy Olson** — Executive Director | Florida Marlins Community Foundation

***Michael J. Marcil** — Commissioner | Sunshine State Conference

Joe Kanefsky — Regional Sales Representative | Henry Schein

Matt Fillioe — Director of Sales & Operations | Complete Ticket Solutions

Seth Levit — Executive Director | Jason Taylor Foundation

Eric Reid — Play-by-Play Broadcaster | Miami Heat

Lenore Prado — Associate Director of Human Resources | St. Thomas University

Dr. Mary Carter-Waren — Professor | St. Thomas University

Dean Villamil — Dean of the School of Business | St. Thomas University

*Denotes St. Thomas University Sports Administration Alumni

Alumni Updates

Laura Courtley-Todd (MS '95) has been named to the Miami-Dade Sports Commission and was recognized for her dedication and hard work to collegiate sports in an announcement published by the board. "Laura Courtley-Todd has been the Athletic Director at St. Thomas University since 2000. Honored as the 1999-2000 Florida Sun Conference Female Administrator of the Year as well as the 1999-2000 Region XIV Athletic Director of the Year by the NAIA, Courtley-Todd has made her mark by showing her true commitment to make St. Thomas University a learning laboratory for the athletes and students."

Aaron Hall (JD/MS '02) has moved home to be closer to his family in Oregon. He has signed with a local real estate company while also utilizing his law degree in commercial real estate and property management.

Mike Torres (JD/MS '08) is doing corporate law on the transactional side.

Cheryl Feeney (MS '93) is still in Charlotte, NC as the Athletic Director of a 3rd year school, Ardrey Kell High School.

Charly Schwartz (MS '95) is still working with LeadDog Marketing group in New York City. To learn more about LeadDog please visit www.leaddogmarketing.com.

Janette Rodriguez (MS '06) recently moved to Charlottesville, VA – home to the University of Virginia where she works with Triple Crown Sports as their Rising Stars Tournament Director. Rising Stars, with whom she worked in South Florida, merged with Triple Crown Sports and she was hired full time to run the Rising Stars softball tournaments as well as the other tournaments they host.

Carl Moretti (MS '85) is Vice President of Boxing Operations for Bob Arum's company, Top Rank. He brings with him a wealth of experience as well as a reputation for unparalleled honesty and integrity to one of the leading promotional companies in the world.

Barbara Nieves (BA '98) works with Randstad USA, a Dutch staffing company, handling high level administration and industrial positions. She covers the Miami, Miramar, and Pembroke Pines area. She is involved with Captured Glory, a Promotional Branding company, working in corporate branding and consulting.

**"WHATEVER
IT TAKES!"**

Alumni Updates

Sylvia Pozo (BBA '05) recently moved from Florida International University to work for Preferred Care Partners, Inc. as their Marketing Manager.

Tony Lopez (BBA '02) has been elected to serve on the National Recreation and Parks Association's National Forum. The Forum provides grassroots leadership opportunities, brings state and regional issues to a national focus group, and handles programmatic issues of NRPA.

Jim D'Arecca (MS '00) is back with Florida International University Athletics working with ticket sales and sponsorship.

Derick Thornton (MS '07) is in Niagara, NY at Niagara University as the Assistant Director of Athletic Communications.

Marvin Julich (MS '94) has started a new position at Samford University with their Advancement Team in University Relations. This new position will allow him to have an impact on the University as a whole as well as the Athletics department.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
Annual Sports Administration Graduate Student Reception August 12 th	Fernandez Family Center For Leadership and Wellness Dedication September 10 th	Baseball Winter Meetings – Indianapolis December 6 th – 9 th

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