As seven of us stepped onto our planes to Japan, we were all filled with anticipation and excitement of the two weeks to come. We were about to begin a journey that would leave long memories and a great educational experience. LT 23’s Jen McElroy, Mary Wilson, and Abbey McNamara, LT 24’s Adam Simon, Lyndsay Eden, and Rebecca Lamas, and Undergrad Ismael Enciso spent two weeks studying abroad in Sendai and Tokyo, Japan, experiencing sports, culture, and food.

The trip had a strong focus on Japanese culture, specifically in sport. We were taught a lot about baseball, as well as soccer, sumo, kendo, and many other athletics. Many of the sports were compared to American culture, and how they are similar, different, and are growing throughout Japanese society. We had the privilege of attending a professional soccer and baseball game while in Japan. Additionally, we were given instruction on cooking and the martial art of Kendo. One of the highlight’s of our trip was the opportunity to listen to the Olympic bid presentation, as Japan was a candidate (now the successful one) for the 2020 Olympics.

During our two week stay, we were able to do some touring of Japan as well. We visited Matsushima and a part of Japan that was devastated by the tsunami. Our group was hosted by President Taiji Hozawa and Vice President Marty Kuehnert of Sendai University and joined by our Dean Kenneth Millar and CFO Doug Butler.

As Sport Management master’s students, this was a great opportunity to see how another country and its culture experience sports.

By: Jen McElroy
Alumni Chris Wilson (LT 20) far left) works for the New Orleans Pelicans NBA team and is pictured here at the NBA league office with NBA commissioner David Stern and NBA Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver.

Alumni Tori Willis (LT 18) was recently recognized by the College of Continuing and Professional Education. Tori is currently a Marketing Specialist for the San Francisco 49’ers and has excelled in her post Graduate Professional life. [Click here](#) to read more about Tori.

Alumni Richard Fernandez (LT 3) Serena Boykin (LT 7), Shantel Fair (LT 22), Brandon Adachi (LT 11) and Bill Shumard, advisory board chair & CEO of Special Olympics Southern California, were all present at the SOSC Open House event as dedicated employees.

On August 7th, 2013 we celebrated the achievements of LT 22 and welcomed a new wave of students with LT 25. We rocked The Pointe, in the Walter Pyramid with over 240 students, guests, faculty, and advisory committee members in attendance. The new students experienced first hand what the culmination of their studies would result in with sample Capstone posters and Outstanding presentations given by Eunice Park and Shantel Fair of LT 22.

Our graduates and incoming students were fortunate enough to take a few pointers from Keynote Speaker Todd Harman, *The President of Cleveland Golf*. He spoke to our students about his experiences in the industry and gave tips on what has helped him be successful. Todd began his career where many of our students are just now beginning and he is a great portrayal of how hard work and persistence pays off.

Above is the result of what two GPSM alumni, Sei Furutani (LT 14) and Dedan Brozino (LT 12/Faculty) did for the LBSU brand and exposure with the new court design they created. Ranking #1 in Best Court Designs in College Basketball! —according to Bleacher Report

While attending the 2013 International Society for the History of Physical Education & Sport (ISHPES) conference in Taipei, Taiwan in mid-August CSULB Graduate Program in Sport Management faculty member Alison Wrynn met up with former student Conrad Kiang (LT 11). Conrad, who is a resident of Taipei, contacted Dr. Wrynn when he read online that she would be giving a keynote lecture at the conference which was held at National Taiwan Normal University (the alma mater of another of our GPSM alumna Dr. Jean Chen!). Dr. Wrynn was invited to Taipei to give the ISHPES Scholar Award lecture. It was great catching up with Conrad who is working in the Business School at National Taiwan University.

Michele Himmelburg, advisory committee member, was featured on the ESPN Nine for IX series episode “Let them wear towels” She was the first female allowed in the 49er locker room!

[Click here](#) to watch a clip of the episode!

AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Student: Arielle Moyal
Bill Shumard’s Beach Pride Award: Shantel Fair
110% Award: Erin Morey
Outstanding Capstone Presentations: Eunice Park, Shantel Fair
4.0 Awards: Federico Barone, Karlie Carlson, Shantel Fair, Todd Greenbaum, Robbie Matz, Christian Moore, Erin Morey, Arielle Moyal, Nicole Rothert, Stephanie Scheele, Andrew Sinatra
Outstanding Capstones: Federico, Justin, Raul, Todd, Erin, Arielle, Nicole, Stephanie, Andrew, Carleigh Smith, Aaron Woodard

GPSM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARTICLES

[Click here](#) to read more about Tori.

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STUDENTS IN THE BIZ

LT 23’s Jenny Higgs and Aiyana Welsh at the AT&T National Golf Tournament in Washington D.C. as ambassadors of their internship with The Tiger Wood’s Foundation.

Below: Travis Roberts (far right LT 24) with his co-workers of the USC Trojan Athletic Fund.

Right: Alumnus Nicole Rothert (second to the left LT 22) with her coworkers at In Motion, Inc.

GTAM OF CARLSBAD

Right: LT 24’s, Juan Covarrubias and Lisa Chow working at World Series of Beach Volleyball.

Below: LT 24’s, Ben Nguy, Ashley Cabrera, and Dan Nelson at the WSOBV with Kerrie Walsh.

Left: Aiyana Welsh (LT 23), Adam Tarifi (LT 22), Alisha Rosen (LT 24), Ashley Bennett (LT 23) & Cynthia Lilavois (LT 21) working at the 2013 ESPN X-Games LA.

Above: Erin Morey (LT 22) and Garrick Chaffee (LT 23) at their internship with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

ALUMNI UPDATES & NEW JOBS

Aaron Ariza Arak (LT 18) is now the Director of Ticket Sales for the Ontario Reign Hockey Club.

Jason Gross (LT 19) is now the Director of Marketing and New Media for Angels 4 Our Troops.

Kristen Welch (LT 20) accepts a position as Inside Sales Executive for the Los Angeles Clippers.

Gisele Schaaf (LT 22) accepts a position as Event Coordinator for Run Racing.

Jeffrey Paneda (LT 22) accepts position of Women’s Track & Field/Cross Country Asst. Coach and adjunct professor for Modesto Junior City College.

Eunice Park (LT 22) accepts position as Director of Officials for National Junior Basketball.

Nicole Rothert (LT22) is now the Marketing Communications Coordinator for In Motion, Inc.

Arielle Moyal (LT 22) is now the Social Media Manager for Fitness Center.

Shauna Johnson (LT 22) is the Athletic Coordinator and Head Varsity Softball Coach at Campbell Hall HS.

Jon Palmer (LT 23) accepts position as Manager at HYLETE.

Ashley Cabrera (LT 24) accepts position as Partnership Activation, Account Executive for the LA Galaxy.

Below: LT 24’s, Juan Covarrubias and Lisa Chow working at World Series of Beach Volleyball.

Right: LT 24’s, Juan Covarrubias and Lisa Chow working at World Series of Beach Volleyball.

Below: LT 24’s, Ben Nguy, Ashley Cabrera, and Dan Nelson at the WSOBV with Kerrie Walsh.

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Above: Erin Morey (LT 22) and Garrick Chaffee (LT 23) at their internship with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

FEATURE ARTICLE #1: ANDREW SINATRA

Alumnus Andrew Sinatra (LT 22) wrote a game preview for the WNBA Los Angeles Sparks game against the Seattle Storm on August 20, 2013. The article was featured on The official site of the Los Angeles Sparks titled “Preview: Sparks seek to stretch streaks in Seattle.”

CLICK HERE to read his article!

GPSM BUSINESS ARTICLE PICK!

This article in Forbes magazine titled “20 Things 20-year-olds Don’t Get” is a interesting read that applies to most current students and alumni.

Take a minute and CLICK HERE to read the article!

FEATURE ARTICLE #2: DANIEL NELSON

Daniel Nelson (LT 24) wrote an article for Long Beach State Athletics titled “Former 49er All-American Thrower Jon O’Neil Continues to Excel at Highland Games.” The article is featured on the official site of Long Beach State Athletics.

CLICK HERE to read his article!