The CSULB Graduate Program in Sport Management has had a long standing relationship with the Los Angeles Clippers organization. Current Clippers President Andy Roesser is also a member of our Advisory Committee. To this date we have two alumni and one current student working for the LA Clippers this season. Below are their stories. It goes to show the importance of internships and how they can transition to full-time positions. We congratulate all three women on their current positions.

I started during the lockout as a game night community relations intern and within two months became the lead paid, full time intern. At the end of the season when my paid internship ended I was hired on in the Operations Department for a seasonal position that did not exist before I took on the role. 10 months later I was put on salary and became the Team Operations Assistant. In this role, I handle day to day operations for players and front office executives. I had a hand in planning the 2012 NBA China Games, Wives and Children events and I just recently planned and executed an NBA wide GM and Coaching clinic that had speakers such as: Phil Jackson, Brett Brown and Doc Rivers. I handle all team scout credential requests and all operations for the Clippers Training Facility.

— Ali Mitchell, LT 21 (middle)

I got my start with the Clippers as a communications game night intern during the 2012-13 season. The Communications Assistant position opened up as we were heading into playoffs in April and I was asked to step in and take over the position. My responsibilities include assisting with team’s yearly publications, writing for Community Relations events for Clippers.com, maintaining and organizing the Clippers photo archives, compiling statistical information for the media. Additionally, I maintain and supervise the media check-in operation during games and assist with in-game and post-game statistical production and distribution of written material.

— Aubrey Freckman, LT 23 (far right)
GUEST SPEAKER EVENT— 10/21

Monday, October 21st we had the privilege of hearing from Bryan Burns, President & CEO of The Forward Direction Group. Prior to starting his own company, Mr. Burns spent 16 years in baseball. He began his baseball career with the Kansas City Royals and was then recruited by Commissioner Bowie Kuhn to be MLB’s Director of Broadcasting. Then when Peter Ueberroth became commissioner, Mr. Burns was asked to run the entire business side of the MLB as the Senior Vice President of Strategic Business Planning and Development for ESPN. Since leaving ESPN and starting his own company Mr. Burns enjoys giving back and speaking to university students. He shared his story and professional insight with our current students. Mr. Burns invoked confidence in all the students with his message of “If I can do it, you can.”

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Kristen Welch, (LT 20 and current Inside Sales Executive for the LA Clippers) manning the Clippers sales booth at the 2013 Red Bull Flugtag in Long Beach, CA.

GPSM Welcomes New GA’s and Says Farewell to LT 22’s Eunice Park & LT 24’s Ashley Cabrera!

Eunice Park’s time as the GA of LT 22 came to a close as she became a graduate of the Graduate Program in Sport Management in August. She had served as the GA for the program since August of 2012. Eunice has taken a position with National Junior Basketball as the Director of Officials. Congrats and good luck Eunice!

Ashley Cabrera has stepped down from the GA position after accepting a full-time position as Partnership Activation, Account Executive for the LA Galaxy. She began her role with the Galaxy in September after interning with the team previously. She has served as the GA of LT 24 since she began the program in February of this year. All the best to Ashley!

Brandon Urry takes over as the GA of LT 24. He earned his undergraduate degree at California State University, Fullerton in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish. Prior to CSUF, Brandon also spent two years at Fullerton College where he played football. He began the Graduate Program in Sport Management in February 2013 as a member of LT 24. In his time in the program Brandon has interned with the Fullerton College football team, The Rose Bowl, USC’s Camp Kiffin, Pac-12 Football Media Day, as well as coach at BYU’s football summer camp. Brandon also currently works as the Cypress College Sports Information Director. He is married and he and his wife have two active young boys.

Earl Declet is the new GA of LT 25. He earned his undergraduate degree at UC Santa Barbara in Philosophy with minors in Sport Management and Asian American Studies. During his undergrad, Earl competed with the UCSB Bowling Team and worked with UCSB Recreations Sports as their Intramural Bowling Coordinator. As a member of LT 25, Earl is currently interning with USA Beach Volleyball and has worked at venues such as the Olympic Training Center, LA Live, and the Rose Bowl in his short time in the program.

ALUMNI RETIRES FROM ENDURANCE RACING WITH A HUGE VICTORY

Tracy Thomas, of LT 2, has been hooked on running since her days on the 9th grade girls basketball team when they had to run 2-miles for each day they were off for Thanksgiving Break. Fast forward to 2013 and Thomas has not stopped running. She first found out from a friend about the Long Beach Marathon 25 years ago and a few years later she began racing in 100-Mile endurance races as well as multiple day races, including one five-day race across Tennessee. She recently took first place overall, “beating all the guys”, in her last 100-Mile Endurance Challenge. This was her third time being an overall 100EC winner and calls it “a nice way to ‘retire’ from 100s.” From now on she is going to stick to marathon’s where she’s taken first place in her division many times including the Surf City Marathon, the Gay Games Marathon and most recently the Long Beach Marathon. Thomas credits the Graduate Program in Sport Management for helping her to gain the organizational, financial, and business planning aspects to start her own businesses, BodyMeChanic Fitness LLC as well as her own Ceramics Studio. In her spare time Thomas enjoys coaching running.
The Three Questions People Always Forget to Ask in an Interview

To be able to sell yourself in an interview it is important to take control and ask as many questions as the interviewer. Here are three questions you should always try and ask:

1. What qualities are you looking for in the person you are hoping to appoint?
2. What scope is there for personal development at your company?
3. Is there anything you have seen in the other people on the shortlist that you have not seen in me?

CLICK HERE to read more.

ALUMNI UPDATES & NEW JOBS

Crisitini Scotti (LT 14) accepts position as Budget and Finance Manager for CIF Los Angeles City Section.

Nick Crawford (LT 17) was recently promoted to Broadcast Assistant for NFL Network.

Zach Murshed (LT 18) accepts position as Associate Manager of Team Administration for LA Galaxy.

Sean Pellerin (LT 20) is now the Intramural Coordinator at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Jacquelyn Herkins (LT 23) becomes Premium Services Coordinator with the Anaheim Ducks Hockey Club/Honda Center.

Zach Stiffel (LT 24) is now the Player Program Coordinator for American Youth Soccer Organization.

Mariana Patraca Dibildox (LT 23) accepts position as Community Relations/Softball Instructor for MLB Urban Youth Academy, Softball Program.

Brandon Urry (LT 24) accepts position as Sports Information Director at Cypress College.

UPCOMING SPORT EVENTS

Ivy Sports Symposium
- November 22, 2013 at Harvard Law School
- CLICK HERE for more info

PBEO – Professional Baseball Employment Job Fair
- December 8-11, 2013 in Orlando, FL
- CLICK HERE for more info

IEG Annual Sponsorship Conference
- March 23-26, 2014 in Chicago, IL
- CLICK HERE for more info