

Letter from our Director

Student Recreation Center Sees 10 Years Come and Go with New Changes and Opportunities

To our Campus Recreation Community:

July 10, 2009 – does that date ring a bell? Well, for us in Campus Recreation and the extended family of ISU, it was a game-changing date! It was the dedication date of the Student Recreation Center. Our facility changed the culture of our campus. The award winning facility gave us the opportunity to positively impact the wellness of our university community in a real and positive manner. Research even provided us the data to suggest that the higher frequency of rec center visits by students resulted in students who were more engaged thereby resulting in higher GPA and better retention figures. The SRC is now 10 years old! Plans are being made to celebrate the event during our Welcome Week in January. Keep your eye out for more details to follow.

Campus Recreation has had a busy summer of changes with more to come this academic year. On the personnel front, the administrative staff is back to full capacity for the first time in a year. The new staffing plan resulted in a reorganization as well. Following a national search, our Assistant Director of Membership Services, Brittani Lee, was elevated to Associate Director of Operations. Associate Director of Competitive Sports and Facilities, Hollie Power, has had her role revised as her new title is Associate Director of Programs. Following another national search, we are happy to introduce Nick Horton as Assistant Director of Operations. His role will be concentrating on facilities management, custodial supervision, station attendant staff and all fitness center physical needs. Nick comes to us following two years as Assistant Director at the University of West Georgia. Finally, Chelsea Dolly, our Assistant Director of Aquatics has had the fitness programming areas of GroupX and Personal Training added to her responsibilities changing her title to Assistant Director of Programs.

As for the SRC facilities we were able to complete a couple of important projects. In the late spring we were able to replace the benches and floor in the sauna. This summer we were very excited to be able to replace the old blue carpet in the fitness center with a performance fitness floor that has already made a huge difference in the feel – and smell – of the room! We coupled that with the removal of the fitness center's supervisor's counter allowing for a much more open floor plan. Nick Horton has already shown his skill by reorganizing a number of equipment placements allowing for more effective user interfaces. Finally, we had the fitness center repainted.

We just received word that we have been provided funds to build a bouldering wall on the first floor. The wall will be located where the table tennis tables have been located. A bouldering wall provides space for climbing at low heights so as to avoid the need of belaying ropes and supervisory staffing. The project has yet to go out for bid but it is hoped that we will have a bouldering wall before the end of the fall semester. The table tennis tables will be relocated in the former juice bar area. It will be called the Rick H. Spear Gathering Place. Another great addition will be the completion of the renovated tennis courts and pickleball courts. It is hoped that at least some of the tennis courts will be available by the end of the first week of classes with the remaining two tennis courts and six pickleball courts completed within another 2-3 weeks.

All of the above are great additions to the Campus Recreation program but we have also encountered budgetary woes. The most significant revenue provided for the Student Recreation Center is via a dedicated student fee - the Rec Center Fee. Since revenue is dependent upon enrollment, any negative enrollment trend significantly impacts the SRC budget. With that being said, ISU is expecting an enrollment drop. It will likely be enough to cause the SRC to lower its revenue projections. Therefore we have had to take the necessary precaution of decreasing facility hours. The greatest difference will be seen on Saturdays where the building will close at 5:00 pm instead of the usual 8:00 pm. There will be a couple of other changes as well, such as opening at 6:00 am instead of 5:45 am and opening at 1:00 on Sundays instead of Noon. Patrons may see some holiday and break schedules altered slightly as well. However, we have coupled the Saturday early closing schedule with providing student organizations more opportunities to reserve facilities for special events and functions.

The final budget reduction measure has been to cancel our GroupX BodyPump contract with Les Mills. Although we will continue to offer a class very similar to Body Pump it will not be named as such and we will not be licensed to teach "BodyPump."

Our summer has been filled with a lot of positives and we look forward to keeping Campus Recreation on the cutting edge of campus recreation programs and facilities. We look forward to a great year as we celebrate 10 years of the Student Recreation Center.

Yours in Fitness and Rec,

John Lentz

Director