Message from Interim Chair, Sue Schwager

I hope you all enjoy a little respite next week during Spring Break. The AAHPERD National Convention is rapidly approaching and some of us will be in Tampa presenting, networking, and engaging in a variety of professionally enriching activities.

My role on the Board of Governors as the 'Governor from NASPE' necessitates my absence from campus for this convention from March 27th through April 5th. I will be accessible via email and I will be checking in with Angel & Ed on a daily basis. In addition, Dr. Desi has graciously agreed to cover the office in my absence should you need to speak with someone face-to-face.

For those of you attending AAHPERD (or other conferences or meetings for that matter) I urge you to consider posting lecture notes and/or power point slides and conducting class discussions via Blackboard. If you are not yet sufficiently Blackboard literate to be able to pull this off, I’d be happy to show you how.
The Department Strategic Plan will be forwarded to the Dean on Friday, March 13th. The almost final draft has been distributed to full time faculty. Please review and forward changes, corrections, or additions to me ASAP.

The University Gen Ed Committee approved PEMJ 227 Social Problems in Sport as a K3 – Social Science course at their March 10th meeting.

The Department Adult Fitness Committee presented a curriculum review and proposed curriculum revisions to the Dean on February 25th. The Dean was very complimentary to the committee on their careful review and well thought out proposal for curriculum revisions. Congratulations to Dick Tobin, chair, and committee members: Michele Fisher, Bill Sullivan, and Rob Horn for a job well done. Now on to developing new course proposals!

Faculty Happenings

We look forward to Carolyn Masterson’s return from medical leave on April 6th and I know Carolyn is looking forward to getting back to her classes and her students.

Congratulations to Dr. Desi and Dr. Gilbert who were both honored at the NJAHPERD Convention Honor Awards Banquet on February 23rd.

Dr. Desi received the NJAHPERD Distinguished Leadership Award and Dr. Gilbert received the Outstanding Teacher in Higher Education Award. Tim Sullivan, Michele Fisher and Carolyn Masterson were in attendance to support our department colleagues.

In the fall of 2007, Drs. Gubacs and Horn introduced a sporting event as a means for faculty and students to
develop a sense of community and raise funds for charity. This initial event has evolved into an "annual happening" with bragging rights and many fun filled experiences for both faculty and students. Rumor has it that Horn’s “Black Devils” will have a tough time defending bragging rights against Gubacs “Gladiators”. All are invited to this fall’s happening.

Last fall’s event raised six hundred dollars for the Doug Flutie Foundation for Autism.

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**Adjunct Happenings**

**Meet Sharon Phillips:**

Sharon Phillips has been an adjunct faculty member with our department for the past 2 years. Currently, Sharon is a doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University and expects to complete her Ph.D. I first met Sharon when she enrolled in two curriculum classes I teach for Teachers College during the Fall semester two years ago.

Sharon distinguished herself in those classes with her passion for excellence in teaching and curriculum in physical education and with her abilities to link theory with practice. I could not be more pleased that Sharon has joined our staff. To date, she has taught two sport modules, Dance in the Schools, and the Winter Session Ski class.

Sharon also served as the VP for Dance in the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance where she met a couple of our veteran faculty members who acknowledged her expertise and energy and helped send...
Sharon in our direction. Sharon’s hobbies and interests include participating in adventure sports and traveling.

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Meet Daniel McBride:

Daniel McBride, who also goes by the name DALIEN, has been an adjunct faculty member with our department for the past 7 years. I met Daniel when he introduced himself to me at the beginning of the semester and was fascinated by his story and his work. Daniel teaches PEGN Yoga for us but his life’s work spans some pretty amazing careers and projects. I encourage you to visit his website: http://www.13hands.com and learn more about his work.

A student once described DALIEN's teaching style as “a modern day Swami Satchinanda meets Robin Williams and John Lennon”. He integrates Iyengar, Anusara-inspired, Restorative, Vini and Chakra based Yoga sequencing with a “realistic” approach. With a joyful sense of humor and life insights from his “near death” life journey, he weaves the ancient teachings as to make them applicable for modern living.

In Daniel’s words: “Once enough personal challenges and land mines keep going off in your life, it’s nearly impossible not to slow down, reassess everything you have been doing and make some serious life changes. Hopefully, what can reemerge is a more grateful and authentic person. A person who is compassionate, never takes anything for granted, humble and wields a strong sense of self-worth and purpose in the world with a wide open heart.”

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Staff Happenings

In addition to his advisement activities, Ed has been gathering some data to support the new faculty line request I am currently preparing. Ideas and insights welcome for how to make this request compelling.

In addition to managing the office, Angel has been doing some of the behind-the-scenes preparations for the Panzer Honor Convocation on April 21st

Upcoming Dates of Interest
March 25th – Department and College Meetings

April 1st – 4th – AAHPERD Annual Convention in Tampa, FL

April 21st - 3:00 – 5:00 PM - Panzer Honor Award Convocation in the Student Center Ballrooms

Graduate Ass't Highlight

Meet Courtney Cunningham

Courtney is from Garden City, NY. She played basketball and lacrosse while majoring in Political Science (minor in Business Management) at Drew University. She is currently an assistant coach for the women’s basketball team here at Montclair. After graduating from the MAT program, Courtney would like to teach and coach. She would also like to pursue her Ph.D. and teach at the college level. As a graduate assistant, Courtney has been teaching two sections of PEGN 262 - Tennis. In addition, she assisted Dr. Desi in preparations for the Teacher Education Interviews conducted in February and has been assisting Dr. Masterson with her research.