

# Alumni Profile: Chris Buford...

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**Christopher Buford: May 2012 Baylor Sport Management graduate from Arlington, TX**

## **What characteristics do you most like about Baylor University as a whole?**

Baylor fosters a caring community of staff and educators that prioritize learning in an environment that is conducive in order to produce leaders in today's world. I enjoyed the opportunity to complete my undergraduate and graduate studies with a prestigious, spiritual institution; that is nationally recognized for its educational experience and athletic programs.

## **Describe the caliber of your Sport Management professors and their teaching style.**

The professors are very approachable and concerned with your overall well-being as a person, both inside and outside of the classroom. They are willing to work with you any way they can in order to help you complete your journey through the program. I was fortunate to have individuals in my corner to help me up when I stumbled, and see me through to the end of my studies. The professors are qualified and have had real life experiences as leaders in real world sport settings. They utilize group project, discussions, and developmental assignments that help you get a better understanding of the processes that are utilized in sports organizations today.



## **What professional development opportunities did the graduate program provide?**

I took full advantage of the opportunity to present research at the College Sport Research Institute, where my teammates and I successfully completed our first professional presentation amongst peers from other institutions. Friendships were formed, and many opportunities to network with individuals from various sporting organizations were present.

## **What did you do for your internship?**

I worked closely with the athletic program as an assistant to the Director of Operations for the Football Team. Being a former player, it was extremely gratifying to see guys that I competed with be successful and reach their goals after working extremely hard all year around. Credit should go to the coaching staff in Art Briles, strength and conditioning with Kaz Kazadi, and the Baylor Athletic administration as a whole including everyone else in between. I am truly thankful for the opportunity they presented me with in helping them with their extraordinary 2011AlamoBowl Championship season.

## **How did the Sport Management graduate program prepare you for your current profession?**

I was able to network and land a great opportunity to work for the Miami Dolphins Scouting Department as an Assistant Scout. With the knowledge I obtained through the coursework as well as the knowledge obtained as a student athlete, I feel extremely prepared to be successful in my new role with the Dolphin organization. I believe my writing skills is what benefitted the most, which is important because I will be getting well acquainted with writing reports on future prospects for our team and the NFL.

## **What advice or encouragement would you give to future graduate students in the Sport Management program?**

Be great at what you do and strive to always finish what you start. Build relationships with people, because at the end of the day, it's WHO you know that will get your foot in the door, but WHAT you know will take you as far as you possibly can go. NETWORK!! NETWORK!! NETWORK!!