

# Alumni Profile: Leeann Lower...

May 2011 Baylor Sport Management graduate from Cincinnati, Ohio

## **What characteristics do you like about Baylor?**

I attended a private, Division III school for my undergrad degree and was looking for similar community and connectivity. Baylor offers the opportunities and prestige of a DI school, while fostering a student focused, spiritual atmosphere. The campus is absolutely beautiful, look for the steeples!

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

The professors are very personable. They are always available for questions, assistance, and friendly conversations. The Sport Management faculty are highly qualified; they create structured courses that incorporate discussion, group collaboration, and professional development opportunities. I appreciate the professional insight incorporated in their lectures to make the curriculum translatable to the professional sport field.

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

The program offers exciting experiential and research opportunities. Through the program, I have published a law review in an academic journal (JOPERD), participated in two graduate case-study competitions (2010 – 2nd place, 2011 - 1st place) at a national conference, and lead my first professional presentation at a national conference. While attending the College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) conference with Dr. Petersen, I made a significant networking connection with a faculty member at The Ohio State University which created the opportunity for me to be accepted into their PhD program.



## **Briefly describe Dr. Petersen in relation to the program he is building.**

Through working with Dr. Petersen on multiple projects, research studies, publication submissions, professional presentations, and competitions, he has become my professional mentor and friend. He has invested a lot of time and effort into my development and success. Through his encouragement, motivation, guidance, and dedicated assistance I have been able to accomplish more than I ever anticipated. That's the type of quality you can expect from this program.

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

I wrote a thesis on the goal orientation impacts upon the perceived benefits of campus recreation programs. I chose to write a thesis instead of an internship because I became interested in pursuing doctoral work while at Baylor. My thesis was a great learning process which has prepared me for writing a dissertation in the future. My study also created several opportunities for professional presentations and publications

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

I am starting a PhD program at The Ohio State University the fall of 2011 and actually feel prepared for doctoral work because of what I learned through Baylor's Sport Management program. The program taught me how to research and how to write. My critical thinking has improved as well as my communication abilities. Because of Baylor's program, I am entering PhD work having already published and presented professionally – a HUGE advantage.

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

- a) Choose Baylor, you will be thankful for that decision!
- b) Look for a graduate assistantship; it will help you finish your graduate studies without incurring more debt.
- c) Take advantage of the opportunities the program provides; opportunities create opportunities.