Alumni Profile: Sunny Erfan...

December 2012 Baylor Sport Management graduate From Vancouver, British Columbia

What drew you to Baylor for your graduate studies?
I was looking for an accredited sport management program near Dallas, Texas, and Baylor met both requirements. Knowing of Baylor's athletic reputation, I was drawn to apply to the school.

What was your best experience during your time at Baylor?
My Graduate Assistantship as a teacher within the HHPR department was the most rewarding experience I had at Baylor. I taught a number of activity courses including aerobic dance, volleyball, and weight training. This opportunity allowed me to feel part of the Baylor HHPR family immediately and I received a lot of support from the department staff. Interacting with students enriched my time at Baylor and I was proud to be teaching them new skills.

How would you describe the teaching and learning environment in the program?
The small classroom numbers allowed for an optimal learning environment. Our professors built relationships with each one of us individually and were able to provide specialized support and recommendations which helped us become better students. As students, we were encouraged to engage in discussions and learn from each other. This is the type of experience I expected from a graduate program and I was pleased to see that this was a big part of the program.

What did you do for your internship field experience for your master's degree?
I completed a marketing internship at the XL Center in Hartford, CT. I assisted in promoting a number of events including concerts, AHL hockey games, and family shows. One of my main responsibilities was to manage the social media outlets for the organization.

What is your current work and future career aspirations?
I currently work as Soccer Development Administrator for Vancouver Whitecaps FC. It has been my career objective to get involved in sport development, so my current role is likely to be the foundation for my career. Having said that, I think being open to opportunities that may present themselves and keeping an open mind to all aspects of the sport industry is important as you never know where you might start, and where you might end up.

What advice or encouragement would you give to future graduate students in the Baylor Sport Management program?
Study hard, because hard work pays off, both in the classroom and outside of the classroom. Once you graduate, your future managers will notice hard work and even if you start off with a job that is not ideal, you are likely to be recognized and recommended for another position in due time. Don't rush the process, it will happen, but make sure you put in the work.