2005-06 Year in Review

A look at some of the continuing contributions of the Colonial Athletic Club to RMU Athletics:

*Contributed $4500 in scholarships that benefited three student-athletes
*Paid for all of the following: volleyball serving machine, soccer team benches, Athletic Hall of Fame Plaques, men’s soccer banners, women’s basketball large television, video equipment for track and women’s ice hockey teams, men’s hockey MVP locker room plaques, and All-Sports Banquet awards
*Contributed $1,627 for the National Girls and Women in sports Day Hospitality
*Provided $1,433 for Joe Walton Stadium weightroom equipment purchase
*Donated money for cheerleader bus for men’s basketball NEC tournament game and men’s soccer trainer services on European trip

Liz Jones to Leave RMU after 10 - Year Stay

Head Women’s Crew coach ready to explore other possibilities

In August 2006, Robert Morris University women’s crew will be losing the only head coach the program has ever known. Liz Jones, who started the crew program at RMU in 1997, will be moving to Idaho in September to start a new career in recreational program development. “Even though the thought of setting sail from such a great port is very scary, I have the urge and opportunity to explore other harbors while I’m still healthy and energetic,” Jones said. “Twelve-hour days come with a three-hour break to enjoy ski slopes, mountain biking, golfing, or lake fun. I think I’ll be able to tolerate that very well.”

During her nearly 10-year coaching career at RMU, Jones led two teams to national championships in 2000 and 2002. The 2000 team was also given the opportunity to represent the United States at the Henley Royal Regatta in England, just three years after the program began.

Although Jones says that she will miss everything about this job, she will be able to carry some very precious memories with her to Idaho. When asked about her most memorable moment with RMU crew, Jones recalled an incident where her team was awarded a gold medal after a first-place finish. Michigan team was disqualified over a bizarre technicality. “The RMU women accepted the medals on the awards podium then walked over to the Michigan women and placed the medals on their necks. The crowd whistled and cheered for both RMU and Michigan, and we walked away the biggest winners. It was an awesome thing to witness, and to this day, Robert Morris Crew is remembered in the rowing community for that display of sportsmanship.”

Q & A with RMU Assistant Athletic Director for Student Services,

Sean Simmons

Two years after leaving the University of Virginia to fill the position of Assistant Athletic Director for Student Services at RMU, Sean Simmons has become a vital member of the department and a great mentor for the student-athletes. Here’s a quick look at some of Mr. Simmons’ responsibilities:

Q: What are some of your main duties?
A: “Mainly I serve as the liaison between the faculty and the coaches. I find out how the student-athletes are doing in the classroom then communicate that information to their coaches. For those who may be struggling, I help them set up tutoring or study hall sessions, whichever one will help them have more success in their courses.”

Q: How does your position benefit the student-athletes?
A: “I do my best to keep the student-athletes on track academically. I try to make the role of a student-athlete that much easier because it can be a really stressful role to play. I also help them plan out their long-term goals so they know what they’re working towards. I try to provide them with a path to follow that will ultimately lead to a successful collegiate career both on and off the field of play.”

Q: In addition to your role as Assistant A.D. for Student Services, what other roles do you play in the athletic department?
A: “Part of my responsibilities is to assist with sport operations. Right now I supervise men’s and women’s lacrosse, volleyball, and men’s and women’s track and field/cross country. I try to resolve any issues that may arise between players and coaches on those teams, and I deal with budgetary issues with those sports.”

Q: Now that you’ve held your position for two years, what do you think can be done in your area to further assist the student-athletes?
A: “I think that having our own tutoring services for the student-athletes would benefit them. I also think that we could try to pull our tutors from the graduate program. The current tutors do a great job, but I think more specialized assistance for the student-athletes would really improve the program.”

NCAA Rules Refresher ...

By being a member of the Colonial Athletic Club, you are a “representative of athletics interests” for Robert Morris University. In Division I, boosters cannot contact prospective student-athletes for purposes of recruiting, provide prospects with any benefits or special consideration or talk to prospects about RMU athletics. A prospective student-athlete is a person who has begun classes for the ninth grade and remains one until the first day of fall classes or the first day of fall practice, whichever comes first.

It is important for boosters to understand this so that student athletes can maintain their eligibility and RMU athletics can remain competitive. Always remember:

ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!

If you have any questions please contact the compliance office at 412-262-8431.
Robert Morris University Athletics Gets a "Revolutionary" Identity

Department set to implement new logo and mascot in Fall 2006

Robert Morris University Athletics will have a different look starting in the Fall of 2006, when the department introduces a new logo and mascot to RMU students, faculty, staff and fans. The new look will be a Colonial wearing a red-corner hat. The colors of the logo will be navy blue, red and gray. According to Marty Galosi, Associate Athletic Director for Marketing and Sales, the new logo represents perfectly the mission of RMU Athletics. "The image is of someone who is up and coming. He's strong, confident and moving forward, all of which are characteristics that we want to instill in our student-athletes."

The logo will replace the current dome-shaped logo that is derived from the University’s logo. The selection process began in November 2005 when the Department of Athletics recognized the need for a change. "The current logo doesn’t really fall in line with traditional athletic logos," Galosi said. "We wanted to adopt a new look that would be embraced by the student-athletes, coaches and administrators, as well as the University community as a whole. We wanted to give them something exciting to rally around."

Rickabaugh Graphics, which is based out of Columbus, Ohio, was awarded the task of creating this new identity.

After Rickabaugh’s initial marks, the final examples were chosen by a 25-person selection committee comprised of student-athletes, student leaders, faculty, staff, coaches and alumni. The images were also shown to 55 focus group members who helped administrators reach the final decision on the mark.

The logo will be placed in athletic facilities, on team apparel and uniforms, signage and athletic department letterhead and stationery over the next three years. However, general merchandise bearing the new look will be available immediately following the official late-summer unveiling.

Part of the new look will be a colonial mascot who will be named in an upcoming contest.

"It’s time we brought some consistency to the face of RMU Athletics," Galosi said. "We want something that people can look at proudly and say ‘That’s our logo!’"