The fall semester has consisted of 29 sport clubs. The participants included: Archery, Cricket, Disc Golf, Dodgeball, Elite Beauty, Euphoria Dance, Equestrian, FIFA, Fencing, Fishing, Fusion Dance, Men's Bowling, Men's Lacrosse, Men's Rugby, Men's Ultimate, Men's Volleyball, Mixed Martial Arts, Paddling, Paintball, Roller Hockey, Running, Softball, Sportsman’s, Tennis, Water Polo, Women’s Rugby, Women’s Ultimate, Women’s Volleyball, and Wrestling. This fall we have had the privilege of hosting numerous sport club events. Some of the clubs that have hosted home tournaments include: Fencing, Water Polo, Men’s Ultimate, and Men’s/Women’s Volleyball. Men’s/Women’s Rugby and Men’s Lacrosse have played games here at Vince Grady Field.
A Look into a New Club: Elite Beauty

Elite Beauty Dance Organization is a student organization. We tend to look at ourselves as more than just an organization, but as a family. We strive at all instances to exhibit noble and respectable characteristics in relation to being elite and beautiful.

We work extremely hard on a regular basis. We practice three times a week for three hours. In addition, we either practice or work out on alternating Wednesdays at the Recreation Center. We all work diligently to prepare for upcoming events because we all believe in “practice makes permanent and not perfect!”

We’ve performed at the variety show, the talent show, and we look forward to any new opportunities to express our love in any way. Currently, we are preparing for our very own upcoming show next semester.

We are honored to be one of the many faces on the campus of Western Illinois University and will continue to make our Leathernecks proud!

Go Purple and Gold!

Our motto: “Redefining passion with confidence, poise, and individuality!”

--Written by: Raven Reynolds, Elite Beauty President

Sport Clubs Volunteering

The Equestrian Club volunteered for the Colchester Fire Department’s Haunted House this Halloween. They turned the fire house into a haunted house from October 26 until October 31. Each day (excluding Sunday), the Equestrian Club participated in the haunted house by issuing tickets and being a part of the haunted house. Our members dressed up in masks as well as painted their faces to look like ghouls in attempts to scare people within the house. This helped the Fire Department raise money to pay for the first response ATV ever purchased.

Members involved in helping include: Heath Baker, Juan Acosto, Catherine Amaro, Stephanie Regalado, Rachel Hope, Diego Montoya, Josh Einspahr, Josh Oesterich, Mihai Tudoreanu, Joel Clasuing, and myself. We are all glad that we had a chance to do this.

Written by: Erin Moran, Equestrian Club President

The Leatherneck Running Club had the opportunity to do Trick the Town this fall. I must say it was very rewarding because people who are fortunate had a chance to donate to the less fortunate. We had to go house-to-house and collect food donations from people’s front porch. We also helped volunteer our time to help with the YMCA haunted run and homecoming run.

Members involved in helping include: Heath Baker, Juan Acosto, Catherine Amaro, Stephanie Regalado, Rachel Hope, Diego Montoya, Josh Einspahr, Josh Oesterich, Mihai Tudoreanu, Joel Clasuing, and myself. We are all glad that we had a chance to do this.

Written by: Sarah Gatza, Running Club President

Members DeSiree Dye, Ashley Sterger, and Shyenne Horras of the Women’s Club Volleyball team have spent the last four weeks volunteering at the local YMCA teaching 3rd through 6th graders the fundamentals of volleyball. We are excited to say that these students have brought nothing but excitement and enthusiasm and have shown much improvement. With a short three weeks left, we look forward to seeing how eager these students are to learn more about the game.

Written by: DeSiree Dye, Women’s Volleyball Club President
Men’s Bowling is Rolling

The Men’s Bowling Club got off to a “rolling” start at the beginning of the semester. The returning members had to step into a larger role as we lost two 190+ average bowlers from last season. After also losing our coach, former member Richard Sample II was able to fill the role. His presence at practices and his knowledge of the game has made everyone’s work ethic stronger.

After three weeks of practice to start the year and get the newer members acquainted to the program, we traveled to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin on October 5 and bowled at the Midwest Collegiate Tournament. We were off to a strong start the first day, but we finished in 35th place out of 42 teams. October 19 we traveled to Peoria, Illinois and competed in the Kegel/ISBPA Collegiate Classic finishing 21st out of 28 teams.

After finishing 15th out of 21 teams at the Boilermaker Classic, the Men’s Bowling Club was off to Davenport, Iowa to host the Leatherneck Classic. One of the popular tournaments in collegiate bowling, top schools like Robert Morris University-Illinois, Webber International University and Wichita State University made their presence known by placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, respectively. Our team finished 22nd out of 30 teams. We were also able to raise $1,902 in fundraising efforts with the help of our parents.

On our schedule we have the Warhawk Classic December 1-2 and our big trip to Allentown, Pennsylvania December 27-30. We’re hoping that by bowling in the two biggest tournaments out east during Christmas break that will boost our 117th national ranking, according to collegebowling.com.

Written by: Brock Prunty, Men’s Bowling President
Men's Rugby: Playoff Time

Men’s Rugby joined a new conference this year, which is called the WIIL. This conference features teams from Wisconsin in the North Division and Illinois teams in the South Division to make up a total of 12 teams in the conference. The top four teams in each division went to the conference playoffs which were held in Chicago. Captains Shane Hornibrook, Erik McShane, Mike Jennrich, and Mark had the team practicing three days a week to prepare the new and old players for the tougher conference.

The men’s rugby team had an odd start to the year with two cancelled matches against Peoria and EIU. After that the team got back up to speed with a convincing win over Loyola University to start off their season. The rugby team then fell to ISU, their only loss of the season. They got back to their winning ways once again with victories over University of Illinois-Chicago, Northwestern University, and a forfeit win against University of Chicago. With these wins the team owned the rank of 2nd in the South Division and would produce a playoff berth for the first time in two years for WIU.

Unfortunately, the team fell to the 3rd ranked University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the playoff match. This WIU rugby team had an incredible season and is on course to make school history next year by winning the first playoff match.

The rugby club will also be having a season in the spring time as well and are looking for new recruits.

Written by: Shane Hornibrook, Men’s Rugby President

Women’s Club Volleyball Finds Success

The women’s club volleyball team is off to a great start this season. On October 13, the ladies traveled to Augustana where they took home first place. A month later on November 3, they went to St. Louis University and competed against 22 teams, taking home third place. Western has only lost one match this season against the University of Illinois in the semi-finals at St. Louis University. The girls put up a good fight, but the University of Illinois came out on top.

On the weekend of December 1, the girls hosted their first home tournament which they are trained hard for. Through all of their hard work and dedication this season, they have really grown to be a close team and even a family. [Note: WIU won their home tournament.]

Written by: DeSiree Dye, Women’s Volleyball President
From Player to Advisor: Pat McGrath

When I arrived on campus this summer, I was excited to start my position as Assistant Director of Aquatics and Outdoor Pursuits. I was soon offered an opportunity that would add to my experience here at WIU: Advisor to the Men’s Lacrosse Club. As a former lacrosse player, I am excited to offer the leadership and guidance that my own experiences as a player and club president at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado taught me.

Working with a club in the new role of advisor continues to be a great experience. Stepping away from the role of playing on a team every day made me miss the sport, so I am grateful for the current team that lets me suit up on occasion and re-live the glory days. While I cannot deny my desire to keep playing, I now get equal joy from sharing my knowledge and skills with the current athletes on the team. I am honored that the team has invited me to further pass on my knowledge by serving as a part-time coach of the team.

For the members of our campus community who are unaware of what our sport club program has to offer, I urge you to take time to find out more. Clubs are offered in a broad spectrum of activities from dance to fencing to rugby. Even if you do not participate, there are always home events to watch. Our athletes are out almost every weekend representing WIU and their efforts deserve our support.

Written by: Pat McGrath, Lacrosse Club Advisor

From the Sport Club Director’s Chair…

Wow! Where did the time go? This fall went really fast. I am very proud of the volunteer efforts of all the sport club programs this fall. I would like to thank the Women’s Volleyball Club for volunteering at the McDonough County YMCA and teaching volleyball skills to kids after school. The Equestrian Club held a successful riding clinic in October at Swan Creek Stables in Avon, Illinois. The Fishing Club held a fundraiser to donate to a program called Fishing for Heroes. This club also visited the Cuba High School Fishing Team in September to assist them in practices. I received a very nice e-mail from the high school coach applauding their efforts.

This spring we will have a new sport club staff member, Ben Blodgett. Ben will be working with the sport club department as an intern. Ben is a graduate student in the Sport Management program here at WIU. Ben played Junior College Baseball at Jefferson Davis Community College in Florida as a first baseman/catcher from 2007-09. He then transferred to Florida State University from 2009-11 where he studied sport management and minored in communications. Ben worked in Campus Recreation his junior year as a flag football, softball, and soccer official. After his junior year, he moved up to a facility supervisor and helped run intramurals, sport club tournaments, and special events. Ben is a member of Phi Beta Psi honor society.

Written by: Nick Knowles, Sport Clubs Director