TRSM Alumni Spotlight: Addison Staples

Gainesville, FL -- It is always great to see a former Gator giving back to the local Gainesville community. Addison Staples serves as the Executive Director for Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association (GACTA) as well as the Program Director of Aces in Motion (AIM). He received his Masters of Science Degree from the University of Florida (2011-2013) specializing in Parks & Recreation with a minor in Nonprofit Management from the Family, Youth and Community Science Department.

Aces in Motion is a non-profit after-school tennis program for under privileged youth that mostly reside on east side of Gainesville. The goal of the program is to instill life skills in an active positive location. Staples is a USPTA Certified Professional and has been coaching tennis for the past ten years. He uses tennis to create a platform to address larger social issues like academic performance and important life skills.

Staples admits to having a troubled past growing up, but used tennis as his outlet of expression and looked up to his coaches as mentors. He hopes to affect the lives of the 100+ children in his program by being a mentor and supporting them to make positive decisions. “Showing support and that you care is sometimes what is needed for people to make that next step.”

When Staples isn’t bringing tennis to the local Gainesville community, he also serves the impoverished communities in Guatemala through another program that he founded called Sports in Motion. This program is under the non-profit organization Hearts in Motion and their mission is to change the lives of the people in these communities through the power of sport. They renovate and build sport facilities in local communities so that the community has a safe place to play.
Staples is currently an adjunct lecturer for the University of Florida, teaching courses in Sport Management (International Sport for Development) and Family, Youth, & Community Science (Nonprofit Management and Leadership). For more information about any of Staples’s organizations please visit their websites: Ace in Motion, Sports in Motion, and Gainesville Area Community Tennis Association.

The Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management is committed to national and international excellence in the generation, dissemination, and communication of knowledge in tourism, recreation and sport management. The Department is also dedicated to excellence in the preparation and training of future industry and academic professionals, and providing relevant outreach to stakeholders.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Michael Sagas (Department Chair) at msagas@ufl.edu (352.294.1640) or Arielle Gousse (Marketing and Public Relations) at agousse@ufl.edu (352.392.3992).