

"Devine Weekend" Planned as Tribute to Judy Devine

The House of Representatives of the 123rd General Assembly of Ohio was pleased to extend special recognition to Judy Devine," said Ann Womer Benjamin, representative for Ohio's 75th District, of the commendation that she requested to honor Devine, Kent State University's recently retired associate director of athletics, on June 20. "Through unsurpassed efforts, like Judy's, our nation has grown and prospered and our state has continued to offer some of the finest educational opportunities and athletic programs in the nation. Because of her exemplary work, we salute her as one of Ohio's finest citizens."

The honor of this commendation, along with being granted emeritus status by the Kent State University Board of Trustees and receiving special service awards from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Mid-American Conference (MAC), has graced the weeks following **Judy Devine's** June 30 retirement from the university — after 31 years of service. And, more accolades are forthcoming — during the Devine Weekend Celebration, scheduled for Friday, Sept. 15, through Sunday, Sept. 17.

"We were looking for a fitting tribute to Judy, who has spent 31 years at the same institution, the last 25 of those years as an athletic administrator," said **Lain Kennedy**, director of athletics at Kent State. "That kind of commitment and loyalty to one institution from a senior athletic administrator is unheard of. As a result, we wanted to have a major recognition. The idea of a Devine Weekend just took off."

Members of the university community, surrounding communities, and current and former student-athletes are encouraged to attend the weekend's events, which will include:

- Welcome Reception, MAC Center Lobby, **Sept. 15**, 3 to 5 p.m.;
- Football Game Reception, Dix Stadium Tailgate Area, **Sept. 16**, 4 to 6 p.m.; and
- Field Hockey Game Reception, Varsity K Room, Dix Stadium Press Box, **Sept. 17**, 11 a.m.

After the Sunday reception, Devine will serve as the honorary field hockey coach during the game against St. Louis. This opportunity will allow her to reconnect with her early beginnings as a field hockey player.

"I was a five-sport athlete," said Devine. "I played field hockey, volleyball, basketball, softball and track. I came from a very athletic family. They never told me I couldn't do something because I was a girl. And, I grew up in a neighborhood with all boys, so that must be when I developed my original interests in sports." As Devine grew up in Cheyenne, Wyo., so did her love of education and sports.

"I had a marvelous high school physical education teacher, Chloe Childers, who honed my interest in pursuing a career in sports, which at that time meant becoming a teacher," said Devine. And so, she pursued

that route. After earning her bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Colorado State University, Devine applied to Kent State because of its outstanding exercise physiology graduate program. The rest, as they say, is history and a rich one at that.

Devine's curriculum vitae tells of her days as a graduate assistant, 1969 to 1970; physical education instructor, 1970 to 1973; assistant professor in health and physical education, 1973 until retirement; associate director for

Judy Devine, recently retired associate director of Kent State's athletics program, received these special service awards from the NCAA and the MAC.



Photo by Gary Harwood

women's athletics, 1975 to 1981, and the associate athletic director for academic and student services, 1981 until her retirement. It also tells of her days as a coach.

"I coached basketball from 1969 to 1977 and field hockey from 1969 to 1981," said Devine. "A lot of that coaching time was prior to Title IX. It was a time during which kids did not get scholarships and coaches did not get paid. They played for the love of the sport, and we coached to provide them with the opportunity to play. In spite of what we didn't have, it was a marvelous time. It was very, very pure."

"I think back to the 1970s, when women's intercollegiate athletics, at most, consisted of a volleyball court and an intramural program," said Kennedy. "Here, at Kent State, Judy is a part of what I consider to be the founding pillar in advancing the cause of intercollegiate athletics

for women." It was a time, according to Devine, that she and her colleagues across the country fought the fight to slowly change attitudes and barriers surrounding the concept of women in sports.

"I came here in 1994 believing in equal opportunity for men and women in sports," continued Kennedy. "I said that I needed a champion of this cause who was ready, willing and able to dig in — Judy said 'I'm it' and she believed it with her heart and soul. We worked as a team in developing, proposing and implementing the plan we are now moving along on — the strategic plan for gender equity." However, Devine's support of student-athletes spanned all sports, cultural backgrounds, academic majors, grade point averages and both genders.

"There was no question of Judy's passion for all sports," said Kris Ewing, Ed.D, assistant director, Intergroup Relations Center, Arizona State University, former field hockey student-athlete and coach at Kent State. "She was committed to the development of all student-athletes. As such, she became the voice for women athletes, as well as athletes who participated in some of the men's sports that were treated inequitably."

By investing heart, soul, sweat and endless hours of time, Devine served as a mentor to many, including Ewing, and earned the respect of numerous other Kent State student-athletes, as well as colleagues at the university, regional and national levels.

"During the course of her tenure at Kent State, Judy has probably served on almost every significant MAC committee," said Rick Chryst, MAC commissioner. "She played a leadership role among our senior administrator group and the entire joint committee, not just by the formal position she held on committees, but also by the strength of her character and her perspectives." Her Kent State peers echo the strength of her character.

"In my opinion, Judy was the consummate professional for these reasons: her communication, honesty, trust and major loyalty," said Kennedy. "I don't yet know everything I will miss about her; I'm already thinking back to her sense of humor." That sense of humor will still be tapped. Kennedy hopes to keep Devine involved with the athletic development council, the Hall of Fame selection committee and the Varsity K alumni committee. Chryst, too, claims that Devine is "not off the clock."

"I have been so fortunate and privileged to have been at Kent State during this time," concluded Devine. "It is a tremendous place to work. Very few people ever enjoy such satisfaction. I am so appreciative."

Undoubtedly the many well-wishers who attend the Devine Weekend will say the privilege has been theirs.

— Lin Daines



Briefs

\$2.1 Million Federal Grant Awarded to Kent State's College and Graduate School of Education

Dr. **Harold Johnson**, professor and director of the College and Graduate School of Education, received confirmation of a \$2.1 million federal grant for a program titled "Improving the Quality of Cultural Realities of Hearing, Deaf, and Effectively All Web Representations of Science and Technology." The grant is part of the National Science Foundation's "Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Deaf-Hearing" program.

Ameritech Grant In July, the Ameritech Teacher Series technology grant will enable School Net, as Jacqueline F. V. We are excited

Campus Update

- The Department of Public Safety
- The Personnel Human Resources associate vice president during the last brings her experience
- The Instructional Resources Center (IRC) moved the main office to room 211, White Hall. The Curriculum Materials Lab, a part of the IRC which is based in room 221 of White Hall, has changed its name to Technology Services Lab.

Dear Lin,
I am absolutely thrilled with the article you wrote in "Inside Kent State". Numerous people have commented that it is by far the best written article covering my retirement. You write with warmth, sensitivity and understanding. These are traits few people have developed, much less incorporated into a writing style! Thank you for being a good listener and a caring composer! Your story takes front page in my memories book. Kent State is fortunate to have

of Education, received a PT3 grants supporting the ways for ability that has a deafness is not a lack by efficiently and ate. In this way, the tucky University, are ania; University of University, Washington, Deaf, American Society of Educational