PhD students sustain four-year winning streak for major research award

Second-year PhD student Christine Wegner recently won the North American Society for Sport Management’s 2014 Student Research Competition, one of the most prestigious awards for sport and recreation management research.

Wegner’s winning paper, titled Black Girls Run: Identity Creation Within a National Running Group for Black Women, was based on a survey conducted by the Sport Industry Research Center on members of Black Girls RUN!, an organization that aims to fight obesity by promoting healthy lifestyles and running events among African-American women. Wegner studied how members of Black Girls RUN! identify with the organization and with running and how the identifications change over time.

“I think that my research is important,” Wegner said. “I’m glad that it can be shared with others at this level, because it’s something that has to get out there.”

Wegner’s award marks the fourth consecutive year that an STHM PhD student has received this top honor. Prior winners are Mikihiro Sato, Steve Swanson and Yuhei Inoue.

—Alexis Wright-Whitley

AH&LA named national Student Chapter of the Year

Beating out 16 other colleges and universities, the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management’s American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) student chapter was nationally recognized as the Student Chapter of the Year by the Stars of the Industry Awards program.

“Receiving this award and having national recognition is just the beginning for making our chapter into a more developed and distinguished student chapter,” said Rebecca Krick, chapter co-president.

The chapter, which has more than 30 members, has focused on raising money to send students to events, including two students to AH&LA’s Legislative Action Summit and 16 students to the International Hotel, Motel + Restaurant Show, where they had opportunities to network with prominent industry players.

Krick’s co-president, Parker Schroeder, said they really owe the chapter’s success to its former president, Jenna Anderson. “Jenna revamped and