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FITNESS & RECREATION SPECIAL EDITION 2025

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CONDITIONING MIND
AND BODY
**AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI'S HERBERT
WELLNESS CENTER**

ADA ESSENTIALS FOR
ACCESSIBLE AQUATIC
FACILITIES
**WHY ACCESSIBILITY
MATTERS**

HOW RECOVERY
FACILITIES
SHAPE ATHLETIC
RECRUITMENT
**FROM COLD PLUNGES
TO HOT SPAS**

CIRCULARITY IN
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Editor's Letter

FALL SPECIAL EDITION 2025

If you've ever wondered where the real energy on campus comes from, it's not the coffee shop (though that's a close second). It's the fitness and recreation center—the heartbeat of every college community. Whether it's an early-morning spin class, a pickup basketball game, or the quiet rhythm of someone logging miles on the indoor track, these facilities keep the campus alive and moving—in every sense—especially during exams and looming deadlines.

This special Fitness and Recreation Edition comes straight from the requests of our readers—facility directors, planners, and administrators who know just how important these spaces are. Fitness and recreation aren't just “nice-to-haves” anymore; they're part of the modern college identity. They help students stay healthy, relieve stress, and form connections that last far beyond graduation. And let's not forget the faculty and staff who are putting in their own miles (often in between grading papers or committee meetings). A well-designed recreation center offers everyone, from the freshman swimmer to the sociology professor, a place to recharge.

But beyond the treadmills and yoga mats, there's strategy here too. When prospective students tour a campus, the fitness and recreation facilities often make a crucial first impression. Shiny equipment, bright spaces, and thoughtful design speak volumes about a college's commitment to student life. It's no coincidence that the campuses investing in these facilities are seeing higher recruitment and retention numbers. Students simply want to be part of an active, engaging community that supports their well-being.

In this edition, we dive into the design, planning, and maintenance behind the most impressive fitness and recreation facilities in private higher education. You'll find examples of campuses that have made health and recreation central to their culture—and the measurable benefits that follow. So grab a protein shake (or maybe that coffee after all) and enjoy this special issue made possible by your requests. We love hearing from you, our readers, because it's your ideas that shape our pages and keep us moving forward, one elliptical stride at a time.

Thanks for letting *Private University Products and News* be part of your campus community. Here's to keeping every campus—and everyone on it—fit, focused, and just a little more fun.

Ed Bauer

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CONDITIONING MIND AND BODY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S HERBERT WELLNESS CENTER

BY DAVID VINSON, PhD

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ADA ESSENTIALS FOR ACCESSIBLE AQUATIC FACILITIES: WHY ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS

BY ED BAUER

Most campus pools unintentionally break ADA rules every day—and leaders don't even know it. Accessible aquatic spaces aren't just a legal requirement; they're a lifeline for mobility, therapy, and inclusion. Before your next renovation or inspection, here's what every facility director needs to know.



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BY ROSALIND FOURNIER

Student athletes, especially those being recruited by multiple schools, are in a position to compare and contrast what each campus has to offer in terms of training facilities. Increasingly, this includes cold plunge tanks and hot spas for recovery. We've broken down the what, why, and how of investing in cold plunges and spas for your sports teams.

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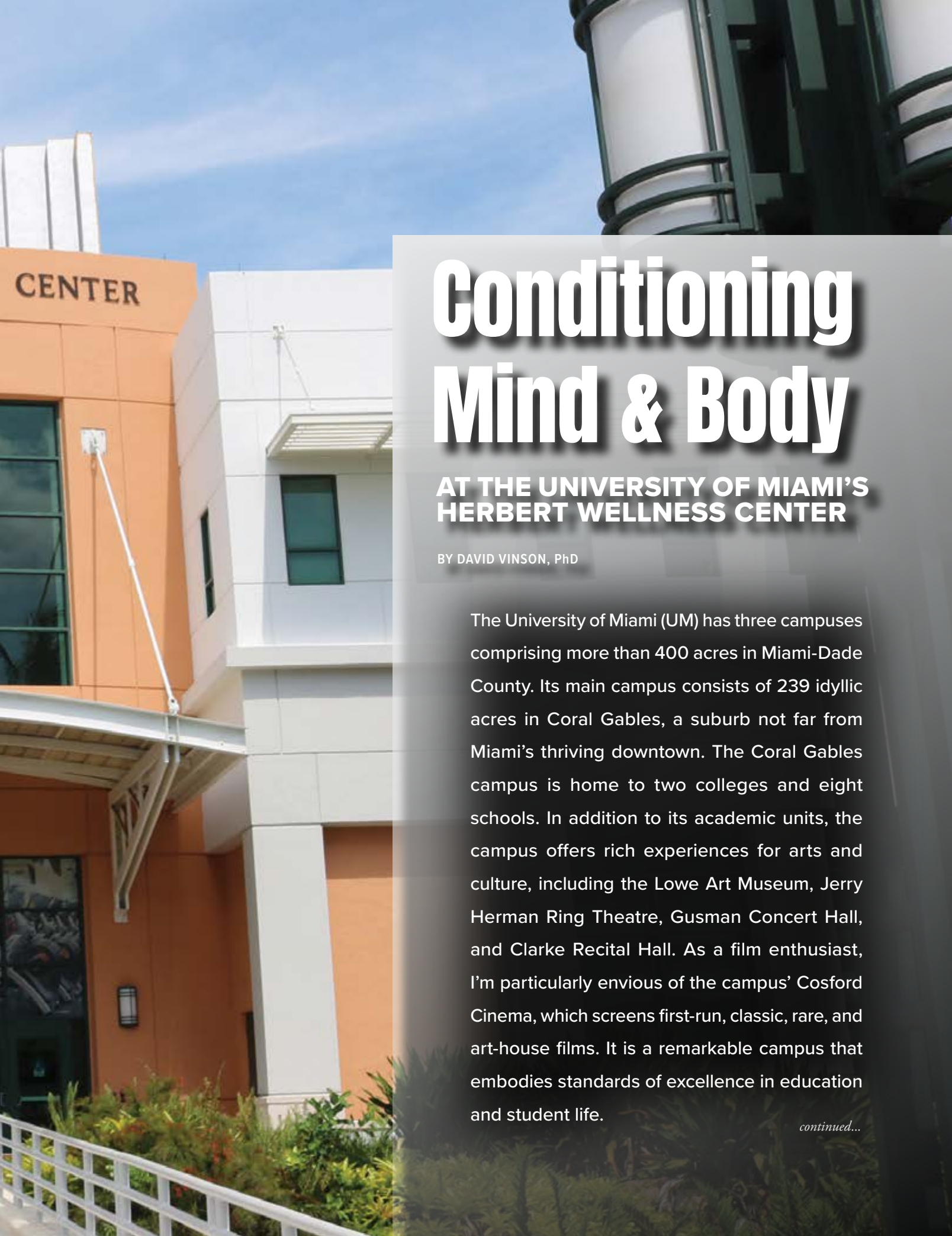
CIRCULARITY IN MOTION: ECORE'S TRUCIRCULARITY™ PROGRAM POWERS SUSTAINABLE RUNNING TRACK RENEWAL

BY ECORE ATHLETIC

When St. Scholastica Academy learned its aging track could be reborn—not discarded—it sparked a sustainability story far bigger than one school. Through Ecore's TRUCircularity program, 30,000 pounds of used track became new high-performance surfacing, proving that athletic facilities can champion both performance and the planet.

PATTI & ALLAN HERBERT WELLNESS

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Conditioning Mind & Body

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S HERBERT WELLNESS CENTER

BY DAVID VINSON, PhD

The University of Miami (UM) has three campuses comprising more than 400 acres in Miami-Dade County. Its main campus consists of 239 idyllic acres in Coral Gables, a suburb not far from Miami's thriving downtown. The Coral Gables campus is home to two colleges and eight schools. In addition to its academic units, the campus offers rich experiences for arts and culture, including the Lowe Art Museum, Jerry Herman Ring Theatre, Gusman Concert Hall, and Clarke Recital Hall. As a film enthusiast, I'm particularly envious of the campus' Cosford Cinema, which screens first-run, classic, rare, and art-house films. It is a remarkable campus that embodies standards of excellence in education and student life.

continued...



Amid all its offerings, though, it's the Patti & Allan Herbert Wellness Center that serves as a focal point of campus life. There's a magnetic effect of the building itself, beginning with its façade: pristine design; clean lines; a bright white awning and an expansive entryway; and thoughtful, lovely fenestration. With its aesthetic vision—both inside and out—in addition to the scope of its offerings, UM's Herbert Wellness Center is recognized as one of the finest centers in the nation for recreational sports, fitness, and wellness education programs.

The indoor facility spans nearly 20,000 square feet of cardiovascular and weight equipment, not to mention a gymnasium with multiple basketball courts that can be converted for volleyball or badminton. It also

houses a smaller gymnasium with rounded walls that makes an ideal fit for indoor soccer, floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, or badminton. Students can reserve racquetball and squash courts or enjoy the indoor track.

For those who prefer aquatics, the center has a 25-yard, six-lane pool available for swimming and water exercise classes. Students can unwind with a spa and two saunas. Other amenities include a juice bar, instructional kitchen, fitness lab, studio cycling room, four multi-purpose rooms for group exercise, martial arts, and Pilates.

Really, I'm only scratching the surface of what the Herbert Wellness Center offers. The outside facilities at the center allow students to revel in the sunny weather and

coastal breeze of Miami, whether relaxing or taking advantage of the four outdoor basketball courts, six tennis courts, and five intramural playing fields.

Campus Trends in Student Engagement and Wellness

I had the opportunity recently to speak with Dr. Anthony Musto, executive director of Wellness and Recreation at the university, about student engagement and wellness trends in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"I've noticed that students today are becoming more engaged and intentional about their physical activity," he says. "Years ago, exercise was often driven by cosmetic goals. Now, there's a growing appreciation for its broader benefits—especially mental health, cognitive function, and sleep quality."

Musto sees a strong link between these trends and the experience of living through the pandemic. "I believe the COVID era played a significant role in this shift. With limited options for entertainment and socializing, many people began exercising independently and discovered how much better they felt, both physically and mentally."

Musto describes other significant shifts in student fitness trends: "There's been a clear rise in resistance training and a noticeable decline in traditional cardiovascular workouts," he says. "More women are lifting weights, and there's increased interest in free weights across the board. We recently had to renovate our fitness space to reflect this shift—our weight training area was overcrowded, while only half of our cardio machines were being used. This is a complete reversal from what we saw 15 to 20 years ago."

Our conversation shifted to the strategies adopted by leadership to support student mental health through physical activity. "Most of our efforts focus on education, outreach, and awareness," Musto says. "We're working to help students understand that physical activity benefits not

just the body but [also] the mind." He cites the coordinating efforts of Wellness and Recreation with the student outreach program of UM's Counseling Center. "[They] do an excellent job of promoting physical activity. This is especially impactful because students often seek out peer-led mental health resources—and in doing so, they are introduced to the importance of movement and self-care." There is recognition, too, of the temptation for students to skip exercise when stressed. "We're trying to reinforce the message that taking 30 to 60 minutes for exercise pays dividends in terms of anxiety reduction, mindfulness, cognitive function, and overall mental health." Musto also stresses the value for students to stay active throughout the day, whether it's walking across campus or choosing movement-based breaks.

Ensuring inclusivity and accessibility at the Herbert Wellness and Recreation Center is of utmost importance to Musto. "We ensure our facility offers a wide variety of equipment to meet diverse needs. For example, we provide two lines of selectorized weight training machines, one designed for simplicity and ease of use, and another with more advanced features for experienced users. Our floor fitness staff is thoroughly trained to modify all equipment for individuals with special needs, [securing] accessibility and safety for all. Beyond the equipment itself, we offer programming at multiple levels of engagement."

The university's fitness-assessment program, CHAMP, is geared towards beginners. "It provides students with an initial evaluation and general recommendations to help them get started," Musto says. "For those seeking more personalized guidance, we offer one-on-one personal training. And for students who thrive on competition, we host a variety of fitness challenges throughout the semester to keep them motivated and engaged. All our fitness professional staff have degrees in exercise physiology, so they are always available to assist those that might need some more technical advice or specific needs."

"I've noticed that students today are becoming more engaged and intentional about their physical activity," he says. "Years ago, exercise was often driven by cosmetic goals. Now, there's a growing appreciation for its broader benefits—especially mental health, cognitive function, and sleep quality."



Musto notes the university measures the success of its fitness and recreation programs by tracking both total participations and unique participants. “In Spring 2025, we welcomed approximately 13,000 unique students into our facility—representing roughly 65 percent of our total enrollment. While our undergraduate population is around 13,000, they make up the majority of our users. For our educational programs, we also assess knowledge outcomes. We want to know: Did students actually learn what was intended during the presentation or assessment?” He uses the CHAMP fitness assessment as an example: “After completing [the assessment], students receive a follow-up questionnaire that includes knowledge-based questions to gauge learning. Ultimately, that’s what matters most—not just physiological outcomes, but whether students gained insights that support their long-term health and well-being. This year, we began analyzing data from club sports and intramural participation to explore their impact on retention and GPA. In both cases, we saw a positive effect. Notably, club sports participants had a 100 percent retention rate from

Fall 2023 to Fall 2024. That’s not surprising, given the level of commitment required to be part of a club sport.”

My final question for Musto concerned any recent challenges faced by leadership and how these were addressed to better serve students. A central challenge, he notes, is related to space: “As the university continues to grow and interest in exercise increases, nearly every area of our facility experiences high traffic—including the fitness room, tennis courts, basketball courts, and intramural fields,” he says.

“Our main challenge is finding ways to operate efficiently while meeting the needs of our members and making the best use of the space available. So far, we’ve repurposed two racquetball courts: one now serves as a functional training area, and the other has been converted into a stretching zone. Relocating the stretching area freed up valuable space in the fitness room, allowing us to add more resistance training equipment. We have repurposed a pool office to make space for a cold plunge and recently

upgraded our saunas. What we can do with space we are trying to make up for with ‘bells and whistles.’”

With the commitment of Musto and his capable team, the University of Miami aspires to make student enthusiasm around holistic wellness the norm so prospective and current students alike can look forward to conditioning both mind and body at the Herbert Wellness Center.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. David Vinson has a PhD in English with specializations in transatlantic literature and cultural studies. He is a committed scholar, teacher, and dad. If you ever meet David, avoid the subject of soccer. His fandom borders on the truly obnoxious.



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FACILITIES &
MAINTENANCE

ADA Essentials for Accessible Aquatic Facilities: Why Accessibility Matters

BY ED BAUER

Aquatic access is more than compliance—it provides freedom of movement, therapeutic benefits, and a sense of inclusion for students and staff with mobility challenges. Ensuring full access protects both student well-being and institutional reputation.

Core ADA Requirements (Since 2012)

Accessibility must extend to:

- Parking & walkways
- Locker rooms & restrooms
- Route to the pool deck
- Accessible entry into the pool

Pool Entry Rules:

- **Under 300 linear ft.:** 1 accessible entry (lift or sloped entry).
- **Over 300 linear ft.:** 2 accessible entries—preferably different types.

Lift Essentials:

- Must be **installed and operational whenever the pool is open.**
- Users must be able to **operate from deck & water levels independently.**

- **Clear deck space** required for wheelchairs/scooters.
- **300 lb. minimum capacity** (higher recommended).

Official Standards: Access Board ADA Guidelines, Chapter 10.

Choosing a Pool Lift: Two Main Options

Battery-Powered Lifts

- Higher lifetime cost
- Batteries require **daily charging & frequent replacement**
- Electronic components prone to corrosion
- Multiple moving parts that require scheduled maintenance
- Increased staff labor

Water-Powered Lifts

- **No operating expense**
- Minimal maintenance: clean & inspect
- Highly reliable—runs as long as the city water system does
- Eco-friendly; can support **LEED certification**

Best Fit for Colleges:

Water-powered lifts generally offer the strongest long-term value for institutional settings with high usage and limited maintenance staffing.

Maintenance Snapshot

Battery-Powered

Charge main & backup batteries daily
Replace batteries regularly
Maintain remotes, actuators, gears, contacts, and lubricated parts
Avoid overheating—often requires staffing to move batteries in/out

Water-Powered

- Turn on water each morning
- Cycle lift up/down to bleed air

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Common Misconceptions

“We’ll activate the lift if someone asks.”

Incorrect—ADA requires lifts to be **installed and functional at all times** the pool is open.

“Accessibility equipment won’t get used.”

Many students rely on warm-water movement for **therapy, rehabilitation, and mobility**, even if they do not disclose it.

“Any lift meets ADA requirements.”

Devices must be usable **independently**, have proper **deck clearance**, and match actual facility conditions.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. He worked on the staff at Mount Union College.

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HOW RECOVERY FACILITIES SHAPE ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT

FROM COLD PLUNGES TO HOT SPAS

BY ROSALIND FOURNIER

The recruitment process for student athletes presents its own set of unique opportunities and challenges for private universities and colleges. Of course they want to see the traditional campus highlights—residential halls, dining options, lively quads that provide a sense of campus life. But most student athletes, especially those being recruited by multiple schools, are in a position to compare and contrast what each campus has to offer in terms of training facilities and support systems—and they want to know they'll have the resources they need to excel.

continued...



Pool Rules

- 1. No running or rough play in the pool area.
- 2. No diving in shallow water.
- 3. No glass or sharp objects in the pool.
- 4. No food or drink in the pool.
- 5. No swimming alone.
- 6. No swimming after alcohol consumption.
- 7. No swimming if you are ill.
- 8. No swimming if you are pregnant.
- 9. No swimming if you have a heart condition.
- 10. No swimming if you have a medical condition.
- 11. No swimming if you are on medication.
- 12. No swimming if you are a child without a parent.
- 13. No swimming if you are a child without a teacher.
- 14. No swimming if you are a child without a lifeguard.
- 15. No swimming if you are a child without a teacher.
- 16. No swimming if you are a child without a lifeguard.
- 17. No swimming if you are a child without a teacher.
- 18. No swimming if you are a child without a lifeguard.
- 19. No swimming if you are a child without a teacher.
- 20. No swimming if you are a child without a lifeguard.

0.9M - NO DIVING



PHOTO COURTESY NATARE POOLS

“Schools that play major, high-level sports definitely need to use whatever they possibly can to gain a recruiting advantage,” says Joshua Albertson, sales manager for Natare Pools. “Facilities are a big part of it.”

Increasingly, this includes things like cold plunge tanks and hot spas for recovery. “Whether it’s football, swimming, basketball, baseball or another sport, the athletes want to know if they go to this school, it has the proper equipment and training so they’ll be set up for success and have the potential to move up to the next level,” Albertson, says. “Recovery is a huge part of that, and that’s really what cold plunges and hot spas are for after an intense workout or as part of rehab or therapy, so they can get ready for the next day, the next practice, the next game.”

Come on in—the Water’s Freezing

“Cold for centuries: a brief history of

cryotherapies to improve health, injury and post-exercise recovery,” an article available from the National Institutes of Health’s National Library of Medicine, points out that cold plunges—immersing the body in freezing water—represent an ancient tradition, but the authors trace the study of cold plunges for post-exercise recovery to the 1960s. According to another article published by the Mayo Clinic, research now shows that cold-water immersion helps reduce muscle damage after intense exercise, reducing inflammation and soreness to “help restore physical performance the next day.”

Albertson says that in college and university settings, “the cold plunge phenomenon has really taken off,” with major investments being made in state-of-the-art cold-plunge tanks for their athletic teams.

Beyond Luxuriating

For most of us, soaking in a hot spa can be relaxing, social, and generally a nice way to unwind. For athletes, though, it can have specific therapeutic benefits, including relief from muscle pain. According to an article posted by the Cleveland Clinic, “A hot tub makes sore, tired muscles feel better because heat increases blood flow and helps loosen tense muscles; buoyancy in water takes pressure off joints; and immersing your body in water could help prevent muscle damage from exercise.” The article goes on to mention that time in a hot tub can even improve sleep, though, admittedly, it’s hard to imagine college athletes needing much help nodding off after a long day of arduous training sessions.

Investing in Cold Plunges and Spas: What to Consider

Recognizing the importance of including cold plunges and spas in your training facilities—for the wellness of athletes, team performance, and athlete recruitment, and retention—is the beginning, but for schools ready to make the investment, there are a lot of practical considerations.



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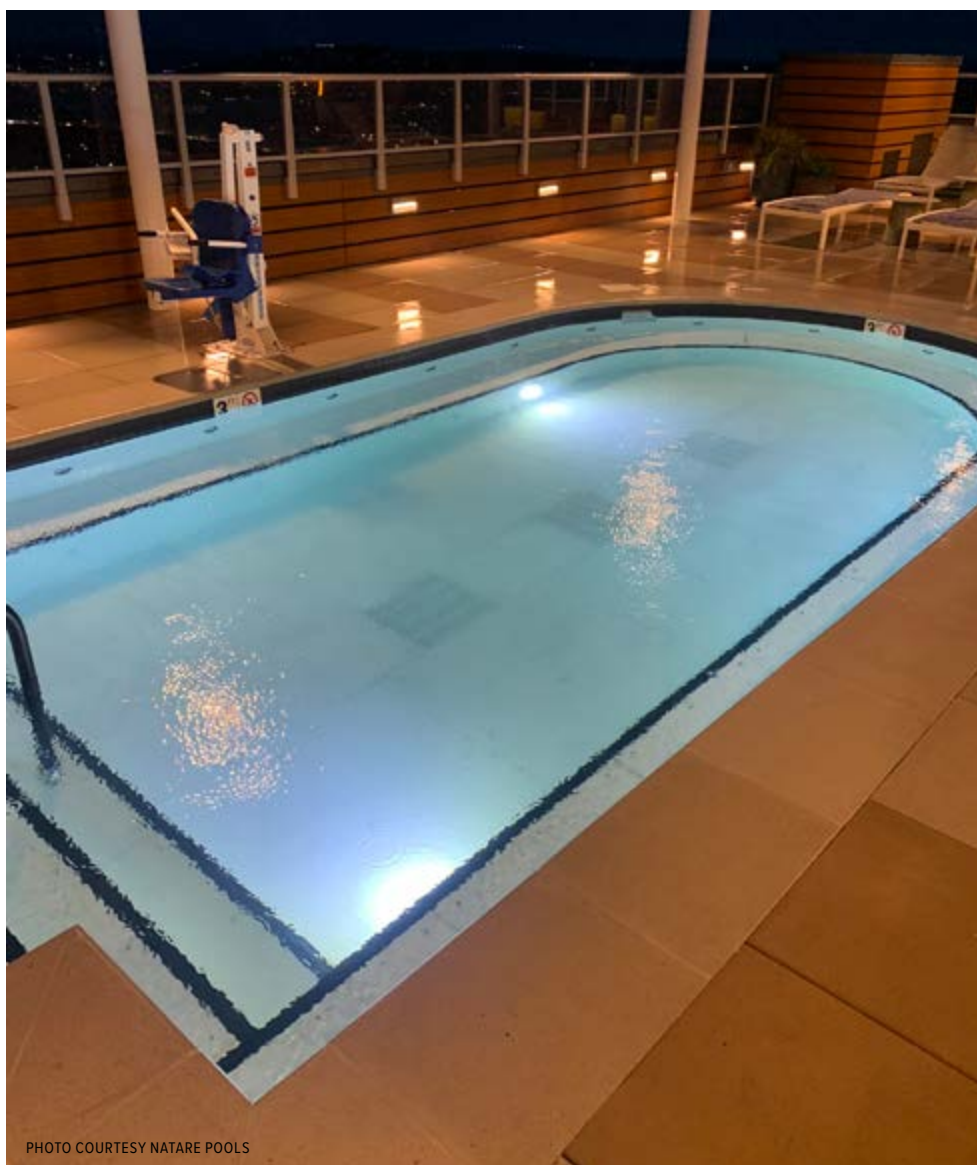


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For big colleges and universities, the question isn't "if" so much as "how many."

"I can't think of a university sport that wouldn't take advantage of a therapy routine that involves a spa or cold plunge," Albertson says. "That becomes tricky, because if you think about it, a football team alone—that's 100 kids. So the real trend is in sports-specific therapy spaces, where only football players use one area; only basketball players use another, etc. And in those facilities, the recovery spaces are there."

Designing for Scale and Impact

The next consideration is evaluating the space available and making choices accordingly.

Natare specializes in custom designs, which offers several benefits. The first is that schools can invest in whatever size they want or can fit. Albertson says the company has built spas as large as 25 feet for one client and cold plunges as small as 2' x 2'. "It depends on the customer, what their needs are, and the space and budget they have. If they want room for 25 bathers, we can do that; if they want a lot fewer, we can do that, too. That's where we shine—when a project is tricky or unique, we're capable of helping."

He says the investments can range from the six figures into the millions. "It depends on all the bells and whistles and how creative the contractors need to get to satisfy what the university wants. It can get pricey if they want

something that's totally custom and branded with the university logo and colors, those are out there. And when an athlete walks into that recovery space and sees the university name, colors, logo, and all sorts of branding, that can be powerful."

The other benefit Natare can offer is the ability to deliver a unit in parts to navigate difficult entry points. "For some projects, that is a big reason why we're involved," Albertson says. "If a college or university needs to get a spa or cold plunge through a three-foot door and down a hallway, obviously a big vessel isn't going to fit unless they want to do a lot of demolition. We're able to do more welding and installation on site, which allows for an easier installation." Albertson says Natare works hand-in-hand with the design team. "Sometimes it's really straightforward—they design it and we can do it. Other times they have questions and want to make sure we can really do what they're trying to accomplish, so we address those concerns. We are a customer service-driven company, and we know how important it is to create that connection; if we can help somebody on the front end, there's a good chance we're going to be there to meet all their needs throughout."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Rosalind Fournier is a



freelance writer/editor in Homewood, Alabama where she lives with her husband and kids. She loves to read and looks forward to March Madness every year, though her bracket is usually a disaster.





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MEASURABLE IMPACT ACROSS CAMPUS

With energy-generating cardio equipment, plug-and-play simplicity, and a company-wide commitment to sustainability, SportsArt empowers campuses to lead with purpose, engage students, and see measurable results. Here's why more schools are choosing SportsArt, and what your campus stands to gain.

5 Tangible Benefits of Purpose-Driven Fitness

1. Expanded Participation

Purpose attracts more than athletes. Eco-conscious students and student orgs engage when fitness aligns with activism.

2. Enhanced Recruitment & Retention

Parents and prospective students are increasingly evaluating colleges based on alignment with their values. From climate action to community engagement, they want to see that your institution isn't just talking about the future, it's building it. Sustainability-focused equipment sends a powerful signal on every campus tour.

3. National Recognition & Donor Engagement

Campuses using SportsArt often land media features and sustainability recognition, further boosting institutional reputation. When your rec center shows data-backed impact, it becomes a showcase for mission-aligned giving from alumni and philanthropic supporters.

4. Measurable Energy Savings

Power and energy concerns are impossible to ignore and can have a dramatic effect on operations. Feed power back into the grid, reduce electricity costs, and move closer to your campus climate goals.

5. Low-Maintenance, Long-Term ROI

Operators appreciate how reliable and intuitive SportsArt machines are - built for daily student use and long-term performance. Focused on building and maintaining customer confidence and satisfaction, SportsArt has a dedicated service team and best-in-class warranty. Create ongoing value by generating energy, supporting sustainability, and deepening student connection year after year.

Ready to create impact you can measure?

Whether you're refreshing your facility, launching new programming, or looking to align with your campus sustainability goals, SportsArt offers a uniquely powerful solution. It's fitness with a future, and impact you can measure. And this fall, there's even more reason to act: the 3rd SportsArt Campus Challenge begins October 1 with two entry paths and one mission: to move your campus, and the world, forward.

Learn more and enter beginning October 1 at www.gosportsart.com/campuschallenge



FACILITIES &
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Circularity in Motion: Ecore's TRUcircularity™ Program Powers Sustainable Running Track Renewal

BY ECORE ATHLETIC

When St. Scholastica Academy, a private all-girls high school in Covington, La., moved forward with plans to renovate its outdoor running track, the project also became an opportunity to support a more sustainable future. Behind the scenes, Ecore activated its TRUcircularity™ program to reclaim and recycle a portion of the existing track material—demonstrating how athletic surface renovations can contribute to a truly circular economy.

Developed by Ecore, a global leader in performance flooring and surfacing solutions, TRUcircularity is a closed-loop reclamation and recycling program designed to divert used rubber flooring, turf and track systems from landfills. Instead of being discarded as waste, eligible materials are recovered, transported, processed and re-engineered into new high-performance surfaces—including underlayments, shock pads and other functional layers used in sports and fitness facilities.

A Model Circularity Project in Covington

For St. Scholastica Academy, the opportunity to participate in the TRUcircularity program came through an established partnership between Ecore and a trusted regional athletic track contractor. When the school's running track reached the end of its life, the contractor coordinated with Ecore to reclaim a portion of the existing surface—an environmentally conscious alternative to traditional disposal.

Approximately 30,000 pounds of used track material were reclaimed and shipped to Ecore's York, Pa., facility for processing, marking a significant contribution to the circular economy. The project provided a valuable opportunity to refine and advance Ecore's processes for outdoor track reclamation, helping to establish a scalable model for future initiatives.

"When we learned the old track material would be recycled instead of sent to a landfill, it really resonated with our values as a school," said Sister Mary Elizabeth, Principal of St. Scholastica Academy. "We're proud to have contributed to a sustainable solution and to provide our students with a beautiful new track that supports both their performance and the planet."

Over 30,000 pounds of old track material were reclaimed and repurposed through Ecore's TRUcircularity™ program—diverted from landfills and reborn as high-performance surfaces.

By transforming millions of pounds of post-consumer rubber each year, Ecore is helping schools and institutions turn renovations into real sustainability wins.

This isn't just about athletic upgrades—it's about redefining what circular economy solutions can look like in the built environment.

30,000+ LBS
OF OLD
MATERIAL
RECLAIMED





What is TRUcircularity?

Ecore's TRUcircularity program is grounded in three principles: responsible recovery, efficient processing and purposeful reuse. The process begins when an existing athletic surface—such as a track, turf field or rubber flooring—is scheduled for removal. Working with facility owners, contractors and installation partners, Ecore coordinates the takeback of eligible material, which is then shipped to one of the company's state-of-the-art recycling and manufacturing facilities.

There, materials are cleaned, ground down and reprocessed using proprietary technologies that transform them into new raw materials used in the production of Ecore's performance surfacing products. These products are engineered to provide advanced ergonomics, impact absorption, slip resistance, sound control and durability, with performance characteristics tailored to the specific needs of athletic, wellness and commercial environments.

"TRUcircularity allows us to take real ownership over the full lifecycle of our products," said Steve Hayes, vice president

of Strategic Partnerships at Ecore. "Instead of sending used surfacing to a landfill, we're giving it a second life—reducing waste and conserving natural resources while continuing to deliver high-performance flooring solutions."

With circularity at the core of its business model, Ecore reclaims and transforms more than 430 million pounds of rubber waste annually, turning what was once destined for a landfill into high-performance surfaces used in sports, fitness, wellness and commercial environments.

Creating a New Standard for Sustainable Sports Facilities

This track reclamation project reflects Ecore's growing momentum in transforming waste into performance. As a company, Ecore upcycles millions of pounds of post-consumer rubber—primarily from used truck tires—every year, converting it into resilient flooring products used around the world. TRUcircularity extends that sustainability mission into the built environment, providing schools, universities, gyms and other institutions with a practical way to reduce their environmental impact during renovation and replacement projects.

"St. Scholastica's project is a great example of how even partial reclamation of track material can have a meaningful impact," Hayes added. "Each initiative helps us refine the process, expand our reach and bring us closer to a future where no usable material ends up in a landfill."

As Ecore continues to develop and expand the TRUcircularity program, the company is actively collaborating with facility owners and contractors across the country to bring more reclaimed materials back into the supply chain. For schools like St. Scholastica Academy, participation offers not only an opportunity to do the right thing for the environment but also a chance to be part of an innovative movement shaping the future of sustainable athletic spaces.

"Our students love the new track," added Sister Mary Elizabeth. "Knowing we were part of a program that's making a real difference gives it even more meaning."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ecore International **ECORE** is a 150-year-old circular-economy leader that transforms over 430 million pounds of commercial tires annually into innovative reclaimed-rubber products, serving 76 countries with 650+ team members committed to sustainable impact. Learn more at <https://www.ecoreintl.com/>





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At a major university residential expansion project in the Southeast, collaboration and cooperation among the construction management firm, window and door manufacturer, and installation contractor resulted in a several stunning projects recreating the look of the surrounding century-old buildings. All totaled, Hope's Windows, Inc., supplied over 1,200 unique windows made from custom hot-rolled steel profiles and nearly 100 high traffic and fire-rated door assemblies made from 10 and 12 gauge cold-rolled steel.

According to Sean Farrell, senior project manager at Layton Construction, establishing collaborative relationships is key to successful construction projects. One of the best examples of this maxim is a multi-phase university project for which Layton Construction is serving as construction manager. Layton, part of the STO Building Group, is a nationally-ranked commercial contractor with ten offices around the United States. The firm specializes in healthcare, industrial, warehousing, and higher education projects. As construction manager, Layton hires the sub-contractors and manages and oversees the project as part of a team.



“Since we were building windows and doors to make a brand new college, we needed a company with the methodology to produce the product like it was done 100 years ago.”

— Sean Farrell, Sr Project Manager
Layton Construction

Hope's Brian Whalen, Vice President of Sales, acknowledges that the project was a real test of Hope's capabilities. He is especially proud that they Hope's was able to expedite the schedule even in the face of design changes and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The shop drawing approval process – including preparation of blueprints of windows and doors with all setting conditions, sizes, customized designs, and required testing – took longer than normal. Changes were made along the way that might have pushed back the delivery schedules for some, but Hope's made adjustments during the production process to deliver all materials on time. Whalen gave a nod to Joey Riggan and the team at Alexander Metals, the frame and glass installer team, saying the overall project went extremely smoothly once the frames were on site.

Says Whalen, “It was a fantastic collaboration among all the parties. Hope's worked closely as the manufacturer to fulfill the architect's design vision, and then the installer worked closely with us to make sure everything was installed executed properly.”



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Hope's® Windows, Inc., is a business based on 100 percent customized work design and manufacturing. Hope's provides a specialized skillset to assist clients in design and production of unique window and door assemblies. Meeting the expectations of Layton Construction in combination with the aesthetic vision of the client and architect was definitely a challenge. The overall experience was a testament to the quality standards of the university and an honor to be a part of. In business since 1912, Hope's had the global experience to make it happen.

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