Helping our student athletes excel
Academic advisors are coaches in the classroom for students

A Day in the Life of an Admissions Officer

BY DALE BARBOUR
The Bulletin

William and Catharine Booth College professor Matthew Kwok might not be spiking a ball but he's still helping the Bison men's volleyball team succeed and across the court University of Manitoba law professor Darcy MacPherson is doing the same with the women's basketball team.

For the basketball team, it's not a voluntary program, rookies are required to take part in a two hour study hall every week to work them into their new study habits. "Working with them like that also shows them that somebody cares about how they're doing academically," MacPherson said.

Arguably, the results have been showing. The basketball program has been enjoying high levels of success when it comes to having students named Academic All Canadians – which means they've earned at least a 5.5 GPA over the course of the academic year. But MacPherson said what's really happened is that academic achievement has become a target for the athletes, in the same way that winning games on the court is.

Over on the volleyball court, Kwok has similar goals. "I work with all levels and abilities, because there are different techniques that everyone can use to study more effectively," Kwok said. "They might already be new study habits.

Kwok and MacPherson's work. "We're hoping it shows in the students' grades."

What Kwok and MacPherson are unique in offering aport-based advising at this point.

However, University 1 student athletes can also tap into the academic advising program offered through U1. The program includes a Bison-focused version of the introduction to university course that Kwok taught while working on his PhD.

"We have a special section for Bison student athletes," Dufresne said. "The goal of that course is to help them bridge the gap between high school and university where they are facing demands that are much higher than they have ever been before."