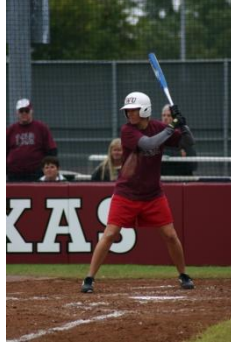


MAKE IT A REUNION

TWU Alumni Connection was on-hand at the Softball Alumni-Student Game on October 10 on the Denton campus to meet some former athletes and enjoy a wild and crazy game.



Pictured on the right are long time TWU Softball team supporter and team “mom” Tina Arnold and her daughter, Amanda. **Amanda, 2008, Kinesiology**, played first base for the Pioneers. Now Mom is a TWU student and daughter is back for her Masters in PT. Both will graduate in May 2010. Following are the comments of Tina and Amanda:

Tina Arnold-

TWU Alumni Connection asked “What was your motivation for returning to school at TWU?”

“My motivation for returning to school was a desire to change careers. I was dissatisfied with my job in the corporate world and felt very stuck. Watching Amanda pursue her dreams of playing college softball, gain her education and become a physical therapist inspired me to chase my own dreams. Now I am becoming a licensed counselor.”

Connection: “Do you have a favorite memory of your time as a TWU Softball mom?”

“Oh, where do I stare? I have so many memories. The ones that come flooding back are scenes of the team on the field supporting one another, communicating their defensive strategy and working together. It was one of the most positive, supportive environments I had ever witnessed. If someone made a mistake, the others would shout words of encouragement to keep each other from giving up. On a different note, I also remember making late night Taco Bell runs when the team was out of town. I would take phone orders which usually started with “Hi Mom – we’re hungry...” and then make deliveries to the hotel. It was fun!”

Connection: What will you do to celebrate your graduations next May?

“To celebrate our graduations, we are planning to have a combined celebration party at home – kind of a drop in with lots of food and lots of friends and family. “

Amanda Arnold-

TWU Alumni Connection asked: How did you come to enroll at TWU?

“I was recruited by Coach Diane Baker to play softball for the university. Playing collegiate softball had been driving goal of mine from the first time I stepped on a ball field as a child. Year round travel ball teams and a multitude of softball camps provided the experience and exposure I needed to realize my goal. I was 13 years old the first time I attended one of Coach Baker's summer softball camps. The lessons I learned and the friends I made kept me coming back year after year. When it came time to choose a college and continue my academic journey, TWU was a logical choice. TWU's Kinesiology Department was well known, respected and provided the foundation I required to pursue a more advanced degree. I planned to attend graduate school upon the completion of my undergraduate work. My field of choice was physical therapy.”

Connection: What was one of your favorite TWU memories – softball or otherwise

“I have so many memories that include TWU it would be difficult to narrow them down to even a list of ten. One in particular was during off season one year, the field, and most of the university had frozen over, and outdoor practice was undoubtedly cancelled. We, the team, figured we would spend the next few hours of our lives running all over Pioneer Hall doing God knows what. Coach always managed to find a way to have practice. We showed up to the field and were subsequently informed that we had the day off! Everybody started running around, sliding into non existent bases and throwing snowballs at each other. Our Canadian pitcher taught some of us how to make a real snowman. It was somewhat of a foreign concept to us. We finished the day with sled rides on metal signs down the drive way in front of Old Main. The group was red faced and freezing but had a marvelous time!”

Connection: What do you think about Mom now being a student?

“I think it's awesome! I am really proud of all that she has accomplished and will accomplish in the future. The family has always said that Mama would make a phenomenal therapist and I do believe our prediction was accurate. She seems to really be in her element pursuing a graduate degree in counseling and development. Her current GPA is higher than mine!”

More Softball Reunion photos...



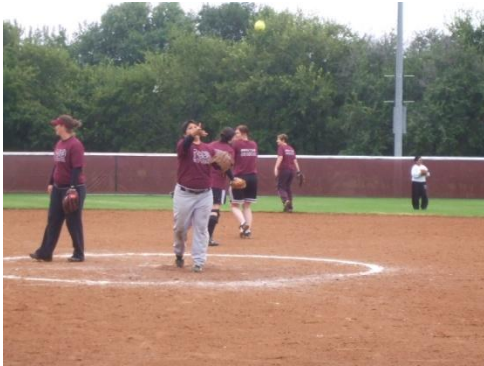
The Alumni Team is introduced to the crowd



The Alumni Team gets ready to take the field



The Alumni Team in action



A future Pioneer?