Editors’ Welcome

Dear magnUM family, friends, and alumni,

Welcome again to the magnUM Every-So-Often. Here in Ann Arbor, we are hard at work trying to put the finishing touches on our ultimate skills, physical fitness, and team play as Nationals in Columbus, OH quickly approaches (May 26-28).

We are excited for this installment of our newsletter, and we hope you are excited to hear some magnUM family news.

We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know what is on magnUM’s horizon. During the summer months, we will embark on our second fundraising campaign to continue the rookie scholarship that you all helped start last year. That story to follow…

With that award, we were able to attract a record number of outstanding athletes to come join our program. Next fall, we hope to attract an even larger pool of athletes to join our already talented younger players as they look toward future seasons.

In addition, we’re always trying to reach more and more of the magnUM’s family. If you know of any other players out there, or if your parents might want to receive future newsletters, please send us their email and their address by writing us at ultimate@umich.edu.

If you would like directions to Nationals so you can come cheer us on, or even if you just want to say hello, feel free to drop us a line—we love hearing from our out-of-town family.

Please check out our website at www.umich.edu/~ultimate/magnUM, and keep your eyes open for a post-Nationals update. Finally, we hope you enjoy the Every-So-Often; we look forward to hearing from you, and try not to get broken on the mark.

Sincerely,
David Branson
Armand Conti

Coaches’ Corner

By Richard “Ricky” Eikstadt
(Ricky has been magnUM’s head coach since 1999, leading the team to five top-ten finishes at Nationals in six seasons.)

“Master/Blaster: The tale of magnUM’s multi-headed leadership machine”

Intense winds. Bitter cold. Horizontal rain. Miserable conditions for ultimate. And magnUM faces five straight elimination games to earn a bid to ultimate's most hallowed tournament. One captain is contemplating how we'll get upwinders in these conditions. The coaches are talking about the “according to Hoyle” way to play in the driving wind. The other captain’s eyes get very big, and a smile comes across his face as we enter the final huddle. It's the kind of look that brings confidence to everyone on the roster. It's the kind of look that a wreckless pirate uses when he addresses the crew as they face impossible odds and a ship quickly drawing water. His eyes are practically spinning in their sockets, “This weather sucks! Those guys don't wanna be here. Let's go out there and have fun! Let's get crazy out there!”

Players are taking to the mud like ducks to water. We storm the field on each upwinder. magnUM wins. magnUM wins. magnUM wins. Next stop? Columbus, OH and UPA College Nationals.

If anyone ever saw the film Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome, you’ll remember that there was a brainy dwarf (Master) who rode around on the shoulders of a brawny giant (Blaster). Together they challenge Mad Max by combining brains and brawn to make a pretty tough
combination. Each year, magnUM combines one part sound, cerebral captaining with another part wild, rah-rah, off-the-handle cowboy. Yet somehow, it works—year after year. The “Master” captain is always talking to coaches and thinking about ultimate tactics. The “Blaster” captain taps into the fact that the best way to energize 19 year-old boys entails using a lot of attitude and a liberal application of jokes and profanity. However, I doubt “Blaster” consciously realizes this at all.

In magnUM’s past trips to Nationals, the “Master/Blaster” combination has looked something like this: 2000-2001, Tim/Hales; 2001-2002, Hales*/Rook; 2002-2003, Craig/Max; 2004-2005, Craig/Slovan; 2005-2006, Mugatu/DC. This dynamic provides the kind of good tension that is an annual recipe for success. Thanks to this year’s captains and for continuing in the “Master/Blaster” tradition, and I can’t wait to see who fills DC’s shoes next year! (And congratulations to Hales for being magnUM’s only captain to be “Blaster” one year and “Master” the next.)

Fall/Spring Update
By Aaron Bozicevich

magnUM posted another landmark campaign in 2005-2006. Your boys from Ann Arbor established team records in non-College Series tournament victories (4) on their way to a second consecutive trip to UPA College Nationals. Richard Eikstadt’s favorite college buddies (second time around) accomplished much this past year and stand poised again to earn another strong finish at Nationals.

The fall season’s results were a novel occurrence for magnUM, namely because we were shooting a cool 75% in winning entered tournaments. In the midst of beating Indiana, Illinois, and ourselves (elaboration later) magnUM won three out of four tournaments in Fall 2005.

The Best of the Midwest (or BAMF) was a nice exercise in Michigan superiority. Alumni who haven’t had their intellect corroded by trips abroad may remember that BAMF serves to solidify our roster for the coming season; ergo magnUM split squads into the inspired entities of Team Spaghetti/Suck and Team Cobra/Mongoose. In a spirited contest, Team Cobra/Mongoose took home the tournament victory (other teams that magnUM dominated as “Pack Leader”: Illinois, Notre Dame…it wasn’t a riveting tournament).

From the friendly confines of Ann Arbor to the utter depravity of Columbus, OH for our next tournament, Ohio State Fall Championships. As was the custom, we rolled through our competition (Vanderbilt, Ohio U, Ohio State) and defeated Indiana 13-11 for the tournament victory.

Our next victory was to be earned in Columbia, MO at Missouri Loves Company. We once again cruised to victory, with Sunday victories over Kansas, Oklahoma, and finally Illinois marking a tournament that served to educate: 1. How bad Illinois had gotten 2. How sweet it is to win tournaments that refund your tournament fee if you win such.

Classic City Classic has long been the crown jewel of the fall Ultimate season, and this year was no different. magnUM, in the face of true competition, awoke to find where the competition had been hiding. magnUM went a disappointing 3-4 for the weekend. While posting gutsy victories over Kansas and William and Mary, magnUM lost to regional rivals Indiana and Ohio State and to
Southern powerhouse Georgia. A small positive was that Boz was able to make it through CCC with both ACLs intact, a moral victory, but a strong victory nonetheless.

Winter Break came, and second semester followed... the Spring Season. magnUM shook off the CCC doldrums and represented well at the Queen City Tune-Up, hosted ever cordially by the Charlotte-local Brodhags (JB a distinguished alum and former coach, also attended Law School at Michigan in addition to playing Ultimate). Our tournament victory was marked by terrible weather (a phenomenon that accompanied magnUM on a regular basis this past year), victories over the entire state of North Carolina (UNC, NC State, Wake Forest) and breakfast with Charlotte’s finest waitresses encouraging magnUM to another tournament victory.

magnUM had a mixed showing at our next tournament, Mardi Gras. Tough losses to Indiana and Kansas served as motivation for your favorite “Awesome Saucer” aficionados to reevaluate the season in Clear Water Beach, FL for Spring Break 2K6. It was fun, Craig Frankland was there. Terminus followed and we posted an immaculate first day, including a victory over Michigan State 11-10 after trailing 10-8. We had high hopes for Sunday but unfortunately suffered a tough 11 – 15 loss to Georgia in Sunday’s semi-finals leading to...

CENTEX! The spring’s best tournament (sans Nationals) saw a concerted, albeit streaky, magnUM effort. We posted our best finish ever (10th place) and beat the defending National Champions, Brown, as well as perennial contenders like Carelton and smart, unfortunate looking kids from Harvard (we took their best player both in aesthetics and in abilities—Terry Shih—for this year and until he gets his MD). We suffered tough losses to UCSD, Stanford, and Wisconsin, all by 3 points. The games were all hallmarked by resilient comebacks, a trait that served us well going into the series.

Sectionals was tough; we dominated the field including a few Canadian teams, but lost to Michigan State in the final. Essentially, we played a little tight and were a bit too eager to play State’s game (blade-like hucks) and not ours (patient dump-swing all day). We were able to break State only once, and lost 9 – 15. With Sectionals over, we focused all our efforts on the coming Regional tournament—only a few weeks off.

2006 Regionals Recap
By David Branson

Regional. To ultimate players across the nation, Regional tournaments represent the climactic moments of intense elimination where teams gauge the success or failure of their seasons based on a single weekend. This year was no different. The long September to April season had culminated in a two-day tournament in Naperville, IL with magnUM seeded 2nd and poised to strike.

While the boys of magnUM strive to shun the pressures and stings of national pundits, one critic said that Michigan “should hope for a monsoon” at Regionals. Mother Nature responded in kind when April temperatures dropped to the mid-40s (Fahrenheit), spring winds climbed to 30 miles per hour, and torrential rain pounded into the many teams.

In spite of the weather, Michigan came out strong against intra-state rival Central Michigan. Wind and rain, while present, never factored into the first game, and the team cruised to a 15-6 victory. Michigan’s next opponent was Indiana, and between games the team huddled under a shade-tent to avoid the elements.

In one of the most memorable warm-ups in magnUM’s history, the team not only paraded around the fields with a burning torch but also ceremonially burned a make-shift plaque with the letters “IU” written on it. As excited as we were going into the game, the team played below expectations. Indiana proved the more patient and

Three Claps For...

...Dave Collins, Colin McIntyre, and Alex Kaulins
Dave and Colin were voted to the 2006 Great Lakes All-Region Team, while Alex was voted the 2006 Great Lakes Co-Freshman of the Year.

...Jonathan Brodhag
Last year’s assistant coach and one of the sport’s most devoted enthusiasts provided hotel accommodations for the team at Regionals. Rookies are forever in his debt for the beds they slept in that weekend.

...Parents and Siblings
The team attended tournaments across the country, as is the tradition, but a record number of parents and siblings appeared at each tourney site.

...Erica Baller
Erica’s contribution to the team has been generally intangible, but she could not go unnoticed. If you see her, thank her for all of us.
consistent team, never trailing and defeating Michigan 10-8.

magnUM fortunately had little time to lick its wounds and moved on to play Bowling Green while the weather’s importance shifted from the periphery to the forefront. Wind and rain now dictated the flow of this and successive games, and defeat of the elements became essential to defeat of the opposition.

Michigan’s athleticism and experience led to a crushing of BGSU, 15-3. Facing Illinois in the next game, magnUM began using the cold and rain, as well as the upwind/downwind dynamic, as a veritable teammate. Through grit, several key coaching decisions on defense, and spectacular play from many of the team’s younger members, magnUM defeated rival Illinois 15-8 and ended a tough Saturday, ready for the most trying Sunday of the team’s career.

That night, the team nursed its fingers and toes back to body-temperature and hung hats, gloves, shoes, socks, shirts, and shorts from every available hook in the Naperville Days Inn. Complex carbohydrates and a less-complex award ceremony rounded out an evening where time couldn’t move fast enough as minds focused on Sunday’s prize. Sunday morning. As we arrived at the fields, we saw the remnants of our abandoned shade tent and several teams trying to warm up, both looking equally helpless. People would throw discs in one direction only to find them spiraling out of control 50 feet up and disappearing in the opposite direction. So would be Sunday, for many, many teams.

The first game against Notre Dame would truly test the “according to Hoyle” methods of playing in the upwind/downwind game. We forced the Papal Rage to throw flicks, with the assumption that two fingers couldn’t win a game with cold and rain factored in. The strategy proved correct as magnUM earned an early and crucial upwind/downwind break, taking half 8-6.

While the rain came and went, the temperature hovered near 40 degrees and the wind whipped along in the 30-40 mile per hour range, and the occasional lulls allowed Notre Dame to break Michigan upwind and downwind late in the game, culminating in a 12-12 double game point. The second half was dictated by spectacular catches and heated debates as both teams fought tooth and nail for every inch of ground when heading upwind. Ultimately, Michigan prevailed and won 13-12. (Continued on page 5)
By beating Notre Dame, Michigan earned the right to play Indiana one last time. Both teams had lost on Saturday and the winner of this game would be playing for a shot at 2nd place and attending Nationals. The Indiana team huddled under umbrellas and protective gear while magnUM screamed and frolicked, almost willing the elements to get worse. While Indiana had bested Michigan a whopping three times in the Spring (including the day before), magnUM cruised to victory on the backs of Captain Blood’s “crazed” strategy and impressive upwind backhand throws from Colin McIntyre and Mike Bauerly. Indiana’s season ended with an 11-14 loss to our heroes, and magnUM prepared to face Ohio State in the final game on Sunday.

The Ohio State team calls itself Leadbelly but only during the College Series. Not a better word could describe the team that lost to Michigan State 16-15. Without any rest for the wicked, Ohio State moved to face magnUM, who took the first offensive point and prepared to play defense. Continuing with the strategy of the previous games, magnUM stifled the Ohio State offense and prepared for the defensive battle.

Defensive cutters like Jon Western and Alex Kaulins made catch after catch from the backhand side of the field, and as Bauerly squeezed a break-mark backhand to Colin, Colin did what Colin does and launched his backhand into the wind. It settled in the air, and as Western closed faster than anyone could have predicted, he caught the disc, earning the upwind break and an explosion from the magnUM sideline. The team defended its break to take the lead 3-0. While Ohio State worked the disc impressively on offense and frequently came close to evening the score, the first half ended with magnUM ahead 8-3, although no one could have told you the score at that moment.

While Ohio State broke magnUM in the second half both upwind and downwind, that would be as close as Leadbelly would come in terms of points, although they were inches from scoring upwind goals on numerous counts, but Tyler Kinley made several spectacular catches to help stop Ohio State while also carrying the offensive effort. Senior handlers Ryan Purcell and Dave Collins lead the patient disc movement and mud-ridden defenses, trading points with Ohio State in a battle of attrition where magnUM would triumph.

Victory finally arrived when Dave Collins connected with James Batey (such was the norm) for the final goal, giving magnUM a victory 15-11, a second place finish in the Great Lakes Region, and a berth to Nationals in Columbus, OH. Facing five straight elimination games, magnUM never faltered in the face of adversity or the stifling conditions but came together as a team in one of the most spectacular runs in the team’s history.

Rookies’ Corner

By Matt Marcum

Writing as the rookie representative in this newsletter, I would like to take some time to thank the magnUM Ultimate family for all of the support it has shown the team and me throughout the season. It was because of this support that our team was able to attract one of the largest turnouts for our fall tryouts ever, as well as give out this year’s $1,000 rookie award which I was fortunate enough to have received.

As a rookie, I have found that transitioning from the high school sports scene to college level club sports has been as seamless as possible here at the University of Michigan. That’s not to say that the transition has been easy, but I have found that being a part of magnUM is a lot like being a part of a large family. There are a lot of different personalities from various backgrounds, but every time the team is together we
function like a group of brothers. To make sure the team is as close and comfortable as possible with each other, the team is constantly getting together outside of practice and tournaments to learn more about each member and really develop the deep bonds that are found in all families. 

Since the team functions so much like a family, it really doesn’t matter that most of the players selected for magnUM have little experience playing ultimate before coming to college. The leadership that is in place makes it very easy to approach the older members of the team for help in developing the skills necessary to succeed at the sport of ultimate. Also, thanks to the fall season, rookies are able to see a lot of playing time to further develop their ultimate skills. Mistakes on the field are never looked at as a negative, but rather as a tool for improvement and a means to learn from different game time situations. I know I have made many mistakes on the field, but those mistakes have always been followed up with words of encouragement from my teammates and tips for future situations.

Joining the University of Michigan Men’s Ultimate team has been one of the best decisions I could have made since coming to the university. The commitment, friendships, and responsibilities of playing ultimate have really enhanced my college experience up to this point, and I expect this trend to continue. Thanks to the magnUM family for creating the environment that the team loves and for getting people like me to join the team.

magnUM in History:

2003 Regionals

By Jason Zhang, with memory gaps filled by David Branson

The weekend weather in Oberlin, OH was nearly perfect. The sun was shining; there was slight breeze but nothing that would ruin the day. Much like past years Regionals, this weekend was to be an intense battle among all sixteen teams, but only four to five teams had a real shot at making the big dance: Nationals in Austin, TX.

In the Great Lakes Region, Ohio State, Illinois, Michigan State, and Michigan are perennial contenders, but other programs will have great seasons and be looking to break into top echelon.

The 2003 regular season was filled with many disappointments. It seemed like everyone in the region had our number. In addition to losing to Northwestern, we lost to Illinois twice, Ohio State once, and most painfully to Michigan State, an amazing five times! The losses to Michigan State were especially disheartening because it was the first through fifth times in magnUM history that we had lost to State. It was a tough feeling for players like me who had only known Michigan’s dominance of Michigan State.

Entering Regionals, we received the five seed and most people in the region had written us off as Nationals contenders. After winning the first game, we faced Northwestern; the game was marked by both teams’ intensity and the close point margin, but, in the end, we pulled out the tough victory and advanced to face the top seeded Illinois. On the other side of the bracket, an upset Ohio State dominated Michigan State to reach the finals.

Sunday was shaping up to be a day to remember, as with every Sunday at Regionals. This year, the Great Lakes would send three teams to Nationals and, in the finals, Ohio State pulled out a stunning upset over Illinois and took first place in the Region, the first team headed to Nationals. Meanwhile, in the backdoor bracket, we played Michigan State early on Sunday for the chance to play Illinois in the 2nd place game. Unfortunately the “MSU complex” continued and we lost, putting us in the bracket for 3rd place. Before that though, we faced a rematch with Northwestern. In this game our depth was evident as we pulled out an easy win and ended Northwestern’s season.
The win over Northwestern put magnUM in the game-to-go for the final spot to Nationals. As fate would have it, a determined Illinois team had defeated Michigan State for 2nd place, setting the 3rd place match-up: Michigan versus Michigan State.
magnUM had qualified for every Nationals since the redrawing of the regions (part of sports legislation that dates back to the Eisenhower administration), and the boys in blue had become a fixture at College Nationals. While the 2003 magnUM team didn’t want to end that streak, Michigan State had many dangerous weapons in Aaron Bongard, Luscious n’ Delicious, and Israel Vasquez, all who had our number the entire year.

The game started out very even, with both teams holding serve. After two grueling days, both teams were tired but neither team willing to back down. The beginning and middle of the game was a haze of amazing goals, conserved sprinting, aggressive defense, and mounting tension. Everything came into focus however when we found ourselves ahead 14-13, game-point for magnUM and pulling to State.

Expecting to play hard defense and try to get a shot to win the game, we put on our best “D” line. State settles under the pull ready to start their offense, when the unexpected happens: Scoops, one of State’s most reliable handlers, mishandles the pull and turns the disc over one yard away from the endzone, one yard from a trip to Nationals. Not wanting to ruin this golden opportunity, Ricky calls to sophomore Sam Cohen for a timeout to organize a set play. After talking it over, we decide to run “10 seconds of hell”.

We put Craig Frankland on the block and let him go to work. But Craig can’t shake his man, and, as he tried and tried to get open, the entire field and sideline were zoned in on the disc, waiting to see where it would go.

In a desperate move for the goal, Dan “the Danimal” Everson makes a dash for the front end-zone cone, but he’s well covered. The marker’s voice is getting louder and louder, and everyone hears the stall count at “6… 7… 8…” Making a desperate attempt to get open on the break side, I start sprinting towards the far cone. Sam sees me and, on stall 9, puts a break backhand into the air. The disc shoots out of his hand, flying low and fast to the break side. I dive forward and try to meet the disc before the grass does…

My left hand got under the disc just before it hit the grass, and I made the catch. Instantly, I’m up and running around the end-zone with the disc. Some people can’t figure out if I caught it or if I’m angry that I dropped it, but as the giant Nick Slovan tackles me, the celebration begins. magnUM is heading to Nationals in the most unlikely fashion, by beating a team that had beaten them six times earlier in the year, and once earlier that day. With the monkey off our backs, magnUM basked in the glory of returning to College Nationals, ready to make some noise.
Who are we? magnUM!

#0 – Aaron Bozicevich
Junior, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr. on magnUM
Nicknames: Patches, Boz
Stat: Performs a cost-benefit analysis before his every action

#1 – Colin McIntyre
Senior, 3\textsuperscript{rd} yr.
Nicknames: El Presidente, C-Mac
Stat: Recently released from the Betty Ford Clinic for Chocoholics

#2 – Jason Zhang
Grad student, 5\textsuperscript{th} yr.
Nickname: JZ
Stat: Spent the winter sleeping on the couch because his bedroom temperature never exceeded 35°

#4 – Jay Meyers
Sophomore, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: The Garbage Man
Stat: Has logged more hours running than Forrest Gump

#5 – Mike Akresh
Junior, 3\textsuperscript{rd} yr.
Nickname: Aflak
Stat: Gladly gives up his mattress to sleep under the stars

#6 – Dave Branson
Senior, 4\textsuperscript{th} yr.
Nickname: DJBRAN
Stat: Holds the World Record for most consecutive sarcastic remarks

#7 – Darren Galligan
Grad student, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: D-Rock
Stat: Third time’s a charm; broken fingers and class conflicts kept Darren from playing in ‘04 and ‘05

#8 – Terry Shih
Med student, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: T-Shih
Stat: Worked as an EMT between Harvard undergrad and UM Med School

#9 – James Batey
Senior, 3\textsuperscript{rd} yr.
Nickname: Moist
Stat: Has yet to discover that some hats are made without plastic mesh

#10 – Mike Bauerly
Grad student, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: Old Man Bauerly
Stat: Can be entertained all day with a bottle of prune juice and a book of big print crossword puzzles

#11 – Jon Western
Junior, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr.
Nickname: JPW
Stat: Favorite albums list includes ‘N Sync’s Home for Christmas

#13 – Dave Fumo
Sophomore, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr.
Nickname: Fumes, Pope Euges
Stat: Was thrilled to be cut less than half as much this season as last

#14 – Matt MarcUM
Sophomore, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: Kojak
Stat: Can be found livin’ the dream wherever he travels

#15 – Dave Collins
Senior, 4\textsuperscript{th} yr. (Captain)
Nickname: DC, Cowboy
Stat: Spent last off-season working on improving people’s first impression of him

#16 – Jeff Siddiqui
Grad student, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr.
Nickname: Bandit
Stat: Can relate Ohm’s Law to any real-life situation – try him

#18 – Tyler Kinley
Grad Student, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: TK
Stat: Starred on the Tulane Ultimate team before coming to magnUM

#19 – Ryan Winks
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Stat: Seems awake only in moments of peak excitement

#21 – David Zhang
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: DZ
Stat: Likes doing the same things as other people, but at the same speed

#22 – Alex Kaulins
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: AK
Stat: Drives a minivan from the 24\textsuperscript{th} century

#23 – Evin Major
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Stat: 5’9” and can nearly dunk

#33 – Craig Sanford
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Stat: Has uncanny similarities to our last Craig…

#44 – Tom Haynes
Freshman, 1\textsuperscript{st} yr.
Nickname: Beaker
Stat: Favorite Muppet character, ironically, is Bunsen

#54 – Armand Conti
Senior, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr.
Nickname: Mundo
Stat: Kept around for his ability to recite the jersey numbers of everyone on the team

#66 – Pat Senatore
Sophomore, 2\textsuperscript{nd} yr.
Nickname: Senator
Stat: Is far and away magnUM’s most talented rock spray painter

#90 – Vitaly Volberg
Grad student, 4\textsuperscript{th} yr.
Nickname: Vittles
Stat: Finds more UPA eligibility loopholes than crochet enthusiasts