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## **EMBA Candidate at KSU Wins Medals in International Water Ski Competition**

### **Disabled BellSouth Employee Juggles Work, School, Competitive Sport**

Kennesaw – Aric Fine is not only a full-time BellSouth employee and an Executive MBA Candidate at the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University, but he is also an award-winning water skier. Fine, a paraplegic, recently won five medals at an international competition.

The event was the Disabled Water Ski World Championship, which he refers to as the World Cup of water skiing. It was held September 8-11 in Schoten, Belgium. Fine is a member of the USA Water Ski team, which won a silver medal. He also won silver individually in the overall and slalom categories, and bronze in the jump and trick competitions.

Fine is an associate in the BellSouth/Cingular Executive MBA program at the Coles College. For eight years, the Coles College has delivered its world-class Executive MBA program to more than 250 employees of BellSouth and Cingular. The students in this unique partnership with BellSouth work together as teams on projects throughout their studies, with classes meeting once a month onsite at BellSouth locations.

An account manager at BellSouth, Fine says that learning teaming skills has been one of the most important aspects of the program. He says it has helped both at work, and in his competitive sport.

“The students and instructors really put forth a team effort,” he said. “In this team environment, I’ve learned how to work with others to accomplish shared goals. And it’s already helped me in my job.” In addition to improving the work environment, the program’s flexibility has allowed him to pursue his avocation while pursuing his MBA.

“He is a remarkable person, athlete and student,” said Dr. Rodney Alsup, Ph.D., the Senior Associate Dean at the Coles College. “He’s obviously balancing it all very well.” Fine will graduate from the program in December 2006.

Kennesaw State University is a comprehensive, residential institution with a growing student population of 18,000 from 129 countries. The third largest university in the state, and a member of the 34-institution University System of Georgia, KSU offers more than 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

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