



No foul or faux pas

By Stephanie Trifone, Arts senior and editorial intern

Moya Baylis, CIPA '93, knows that pursuing excellence on the college basketball court requires more than practicing free throws.

As a forward on the Marquette women's team from 1989-93 she learned what it takes to be a successful NCAA Division I athlete. So when her 14-year-old daughter Brittney decided she, too, wanted to wear the blue and gold uniform someday, Baylis began searching for a program to develop her daughter's skills — on and off the court.

When she couldn't find one that taught life skills and lay ups, Baylis and Kiesha Oliver-Hayes, Comm '00; Ebony Gurdy (Williams), Arts '01; and Tierra Shirley, Comm '07, established the Wisconsin Basketball Academy. WBA Prestige offers girls ages 12-16 the chance to improve their game while learning character-building skills. "There are a lot of programs out there that may not focus on the total person," Baylis says. "But when you're an athlete on a college level, you have to understand that the way you carry yourself is important."

Service to others is one of the critical lessons WBA Prestige drives home to the girls. "We learned volunteerism at Marquette, and we've instilled it in our program," Baylis says.

She stays connected to Marquette as president of the Marquette Ethnic Alumni Association. Plus, she works nearby at WISN-TV, Milwaukee's ABC affiliate.